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ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

2020 State Rte 146 E, Vienna, IL – 62995

Sun - 10:00 a.m.

Weekdays – Wed 6:30 pm & Fri 12 pm

Parish Council Chair: Steve Pobst

Trustees: Matthew Slife, Jared Bergmann

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CHURCH

Mulberry Street, Stonefort, IL – 62987

Sunday - 8:00 a.m.

& First Saturday – 8:30 am

Parish Council Chair: Mary Treat

Trustees: Myron Cole, Stan Treat

The End of The Story Each person has a life story. It begins when a person is born, helpless and naked, infinitely valuable to his mother maybe but not of much account in the world at large. From that beginning on, each person is trying to get somewhere, to be something. At every stage, he is hoping that if he could only—only what? Well, only ride the bike, win the girl, finish the degree, land the job, buy the house, get the raise—then, oh, then, he would have gotten what he wanted to have. He would be what he wanted to be.

But what is it we really want to have and to be? What is the point of anything we strive for in our lives? When all is said and done, none of us is getting out of this world alive. And when we face that fact, what difference does anything make? Each chapter of a person's life leads inexorably to the next, until it leads to death. As we face death, will we care at all anymore about all those things that we struggled to have and to be during any of the earlier chapters of our lives?

Even if a person ended the earthly story of his life with only seeds of faith, hope, and love, he will reap the fruit of those seeds with rejoicing in the world to come.

It can be that we will. A person can write the story of his life in such a way that the main theme is the Lord and the things of the Lord. Those things last through death, into the world that is the everlasting last chapter for the lives of the Lord's people.

This week's Psalm illuminates that last chapter brilliantly. In that world, on the other side of death, all the failures, all the sins, all the pains—everything that caused tears in earthly life, will be redeemed into joy. Even if a person ended the earthly story of his life with only seeds of faith, hope, and love, he will reap the fruit of those seeds with rejoicing in the world to come. At that time, each of the Lord's people will look at what he has gotten and think he must be dreaming. He will look at what he himself has become and find it so hard to believe and so good that he bursts into laughter of joy.

This end of the story is what is worth living for.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 19 # 47 Second Sunday of Advent, December 9, 2018

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	Dec 9	10:00 am	SP	Kayla Elliott
		12:00 pm	SFD	For Parishioners
Tue	Dec 11	9am, 11am	DOC Mass	Shawnee, Vienna
Wed	Dec 12	6:30 pm	SP	Philip & Leola Barrett
Fri	Dec 14	12:00 pm	SP	Fr Louis Koehr
Sun	Dec 16	8:00 pm	SFD	Daniel Drone
		10:00 am	SP	Tim Reeder

Birthdays

Dec 11 Gabe Ross
 Laurie Coleman
 Brody Deaton
 Kathy Hupe
 Dec 14 Frank Dueker
 Amanda Zmuda
 Dec 15 Ethan Morse

St Paul, Vienna

<p>Sun, Dec 9, 10 am Server:R Slife, C Bergmann Lector: Joan Galey Gifts: Steve, Katie Pobst Ushers*J Nelson, G Tesina J Slife, M McMahan E. Minister A Dueker S Widowski, F Dueker Greeter Bill, Billie Porter</p>	<p>Sun, Dec 16, 10 am Server:L Slife, C Bergmann Lector: Steve Widowski Gifts: Children Liturgy Ushers*M Slife, S Pobst P Widowski, J Bergmann E. Minister B Palmer Z Garrett, D Bishop Greet Monica, Chuck Querrey</p>	<p>Sun, Dec 23, 10 am Server: M Bergmann, R Slife Lector: Madonna Slife Gifts: Bill, Billie Porter Usher:*L Hinton, F Dueker S Widowski, M Palmer E. Minister D Hopkins V Anderson, P Kalicki Greeter Geri Tesina</p>
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St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

<p>Sun, Dec 9: 8:00 pm Server: Mary Treat Lector: Marietta Moore Gifts: D Parks, M Cole Usher Fred Deaton E. Min: Cecilia Parks</p>	<p>Sun, Dec 16: 8:00 am Server: Cecilia Parks Lector: Myron Cole Gifts: R Drone, D Parks Usher: Stan Treat E. Min: Christine Deaton</p>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun Dec 9 Collection – Retirement Fund for Religious
 Calendar and contribution envelope distribution
 St Paul Mass10:00 am
 SP Christmas Eve choir practiceafter mass
 St Francis DeSales Mass & Potluck.....12:00 pm
 PSR Class.....11:00 am
 Liturgy Committee Mt..SP.....11:00 am
 Tues Dec11 Mass at Shawnee & Vienna..DOC....9am, 11 am
 Parish Reconciliation Service–St Joseph, Marion.6pm
 Wed Dec12 Weekday Mass at SP.....6:30 pm
 Thr Dec 13 Eucharistic Adoration at SP.....4-7:30 pm
 Fri Dec 14 Weekday mass at SP.....12:00 pm
 Sun Dec 16 St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 pm
 St Paul Mass & Blood Pressure cks.....10:00 am
 Christmas Pageant and Potluck meal at SP.11:00 am
 Christmas Church decorating.....after potluck



RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS Aging religious need your help. Senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests ministered for years for little to no pay. Their sacrifices now leave their religious communities without adequate retirement savings. Your gift to this Sunday's collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious helps to provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. Please be generous.

ANGEL TREE GIFT wrapped with ornament attached needs to be returned by December 9. If you missed this deadline, please deliver gifts to prayer room in hall no later than Wed.

2019 CATHOLIC CALENDARS AND CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES are available in church entrance this weekend. Please share our appreciation to Bailey Funeral Home for sponsoring the calendars.

ADVENT NOON MASS, POTLUCK HISTORY COLLECTION AND CAROLING AT CARE HOME All who attend mass are also welcome to join in the Advent Potluck at the Stonefort Community Center. After eating, and sharing recollections for parish history, we will sing Christmas Songs at Carrier Mills Care Home and present resident gifts..

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK FOOD sign up is posted this Sunday on the bulletin board for Sunday, Dec 16th. We're encouraging parishioners to wear their least flattering Christmas sweater to the potluck. There will be a prize for the sweater deemed most ugly.

LITURGY COMMITTEE MEETING will be held in the parish hall at 11am following the mass this Sunday. Meeting is open to any interested parishioners.

PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE will be held at St Joseph Church, Marion on Tuesday, Dec 11 beginning 6 pm..

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION will be offered Thursday, Dec 13, 4-7:30 pm. If you are able to participate, you're encouraged to check a time listing on the schedule on BB.

LOOKING FOR ADVENT INSPIRATION? Try dynamiccatholic.com/BestAdventEver for daily video reflection and prayer.

THANK YOU....to volunteers who worked at the Faith Alive Thrift Store this week
....to all who participated in the Angel Tree Gift program

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE God knows where we are – and comes. This is divine revelation: God coming, God showing, God being with us. Always! Let us, therefore, wear the cloak of justice and the hat of God's glorious splendor. That is, let us still dress like Christ – just as we were first clothed in him at Baptism – and radiate his presence – just as we were first illumined by him in that sacramental bath. John the Baptist calls us, today, to conversion. What will I do? How can I wear mercy like a comfortable cloak, a well-worn hat? How can my daily life shine in more merciful ways?

PARISH HISTORY. Consider helping with an updating and expanding the history of the parish. and other preparations for the anniversary. Parishioners with any old photographs or accounts are asked to share them with Lonnie Hinton or the parish office. Photos will be scanned and promptly returned to owners.

OUR PARISH FAMILY MINISTRY This ministry provides meals during time of family illness and assists with transportation to doctor appointments. Contact Frank Dueker (618-559-1405) or Pat Kalicki (618-658-1500).

UPCOMING... Christmas mass schedule this year will be Christmas Eve 6:00 pm (choral music program begins 5:30 pm) at St Paul, and Christmas Day 8:00 am at St Francis DeSales, and 10:00 am at St Paul..

Liturgy Preparation of the Gifts

In the preparation of the gifts the priest receives the bread and wine "which earth has given and human hands have made." These are signs of our effort to create a better world. They will be blessed (offered), broken, and shared. The gifts, transformed by God, transform our world, as well, into a new creation.

In preparing the cup, the priest (or deacon) pours a drop of water into the wine. He quietly prays, "By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ, who humbled himself to share in our humanity." These words remind us of water and blood flowing from the side of the crucified Christ. The mingling of the water and wine symbolizes the union of Jesus with his people.

The collection is an important part of the gathering of gifts. It includes monetary offerings from the congregation to provide the basic necessities of community life, such as heat and light and salaries for the staff. There might also be food offerings, such as the collection of canned goods for the poor. Only the bread and wine will be transformed, but all the gifts are taken by the presider for the benefit of all the community.

Once the altar has been prepared and the gifts received, the presider prays over the paten and chalice. During the prayer, the offerings will be held just slightly above the table. The purpose of this gesture is not to offer the bread and wine, but rather to show them to the people so that our focus is clear.

People work hard to achieve their goals: longer hours for more money, strenuous exercise for fitness, reading to be more learned. Union with God is not won by working harder. God has done the work, offering Christ for our salvation.

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

God gave Jerusalem the name "the Peace of justice, the glory of God's worship." How does this name fit the Church today? If poorly, what would you do to make it fit? What would you like God to name your parish, your community, you?

As you remain on the path, or The Way, St. Paul says that "the one who began a good work in you will complete it." Who is the instigator of the good work in you? Who do you trust, yourself or God to complete your good works?

"All flesh shall see the salvation of God." What are the implications for humanity in this saying? Is the entire world included in this plan? What are the implications for you? Do you watch all year round for God's coming? What are some of the ways God comes to you everyday?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Third Sunday of Advent Zephaniah 3:14-18a; Psalm 12; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18