



Pastor : Rev Thomas Barrett
Phone (618) 658 – 4501
E-mail: spccil@frontier.com
Web: www.stpaulvienna.org

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

Who Knew? Who knew the Messiah was born as the baby Jesus in Bethlehem in that wintertime?

In this Gospel Reading, a lot of people came to figure it out.

The chief priests and scribes knew where the Messiah would be born because they could interpret the parts in the Old Testament that predicted the Messiah's birth. The magi from the East knew that the Messiah had been born because they could interpret the presence of the star in the sky. When the magi followed the star to Bethlehem to see for themselves, Herod the King ordered them to come back and tell him too.

The shepherds may have been poor and simple, but they were trusting and open-hearted

For all these people, there was a way to know the birth of the Messiah. The priests could interpret Scripture, and the magi could read the stars. King Herod had the political power to command their knowledge and wisdom for his own purposes.

But what about people who lack the advantages of the priests and magi and who have no power to command others? How are they to know? Does God make provision only for the fortunate?

Consider the shepherds. They lacked the money needed for education, and so they lacked the ability to use Scripture or stars to know the birth of the Messiah. They had no power to command others to share the fruits of their education with them either.

But it isn't powerlessness or poverty that keeps a person from knowing the birth of the Messiah. In the end, it was not the shepherds but the powerful and wealthy King Herod, with his evil-hearted intentions, who didn't know the baby Jesus was the Messiah. The magi didn't tell him, because God warned them in a dream not to. And so Herod the King didn't know.

In spite of their lack of all worldly advantages, the shepherds in fact outranked the king and all the others. They were by the side of the Messiah first, and they didn't have to figure it out for themselves either.

The shepherds may have been poor and simple, but they were trusting and open-hearted, too. And so they knew Christ Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem that cold winter night because they heard the angels sing.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 20 # 1 Epiphany, January 6, 2019

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST

Sun	Jan 6	8:00 am	SFD	Daniel Drone
		10:00 am	SP	Rosemarie Zawacki
Tue	Jan 8	9:00 am	No	Shawnee-Vienna DOC
Wed	Jan 9	6:30 pm	SP	No Mass
Fri	Jan 11	12:00 pm	SP	No Mass
Sun	Jan 13	8:00 am	SFD	Daniel Drone
		10:00 am	SP	Kayla Elliott

St Paul, Vienna IL

Birthdays

Jan 6 Ruby Widowski
Jan 11 Alan Stachowiak

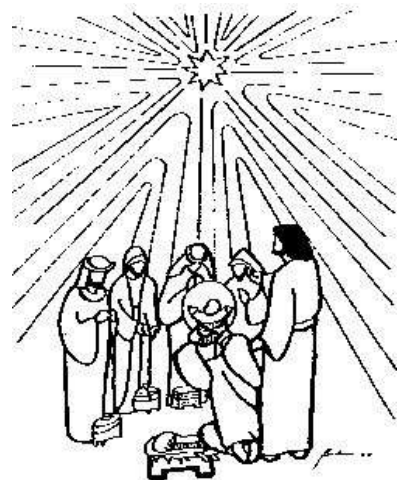
<p>Sun, Jan 6, 10 am Server: R Slife, L Slife Lector: Zach Garrett Gifts: Children Liturgy Usher:*J Bergmann, D Bishop J. Slife, Mt Slife E. Minister A Dueker F Dueker, B Palmer Greeter Janet Hacker</p>	<p>Sun, Jan 13, 10 am Server: L Slife, M Bergmann Lector: Joe Nelson Gifts: Christine, Gabe Ross Usher:*P Widowski, G Tesina R. Stoerger, L Stoerger E. Minister S Widowski P Widowski, Md Slife Greeter Katie Pobst</p>	<p>Sun, Jan 20, 10 am Server: R Slife, C Bergmann Lector: Joan Galey Gifts: Children Lit of Word Ushers*S Pobst, D Zmuda M Palmer, L Hinton E. Minister M Nelson D Bishop, B Bishop Greeter Vickie Anderson</p>
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St Francis DeSales, Stonefort IL

<p>Sun, Jan 6: 8:00 am Server: Cecilia Parks Lector: Mary Treat Gifts: D Parks, M Hustedde Usher Fred Deaton E. Min: Myron Cole</p>	<p>Sun, Jan 13: 8:00 am Server: Christine Deaton Lector: Marietta Moore Gifts: F Deaton, D Parks Usher: Stan Treat E. Min: Myron Cole</p>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

- Sun Jan 6 Epiphany – home blessing kit
- St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
- St Paul Mass & Children Liturgy of Word...10:00 am
- SP First Sunday Social11:00am
- PSR Classes.....11:00 am
- Parish Council New Member Discernment .12-1:30pm
- Mon –Fri Fr Tom on Clergy Retreat
- Fri Jan 11 SP Finance Council Mt.....5:30 pm
- Sun Jan 13 Take down Christmas Decorations after mass
- St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
- St Paul Mass10:00 am
- SP Parish Council Member affirmation b/a mass.
- CCW Ladies collection and Meeting.....11:00am
- PSR Classes.....11:00 am



EPIPHANY HOME BLESSING Parishioners are invited to continue a custom of blessing the entrance of your homes on Epiphany with the year and initials of the Magi as a dedication to recognizing Jesus presence in those who live there and welcome to visitors. A prayer guide and piece of chalk have been prepared for each household.

CHILDREN LITURGY OF WORD is offered to youth of the parish during the Sunday Mass this weekend. Youth will be accompanied by an adult after the opening prayer to lead them in hearing and reflecting on the Sunday scriptures until the Preparation of Gifts.

FIRST SUNDAY SOCIAL welcomes all to share time with new and old parishioners with light refreshments in the parish hall following mass this Sunday.

NEW PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER DISCERNMENT PROGRAM will be held this Sunday, 12 – 1:30 pm in the parish hall. Nominees and anyone open to serving on the Parish Council are welcome to participate.

COPIES OF WORDS OF GRACE, Daily Scripture Reflection booklets for Jan-March are available in the church foyer.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION has been moved to the 3rd Thursday of January. Participants are encouraged to sign up for times on the bulletin board schedule.

CLERGY RETREAT Fr Tom will be attending the clergy retreat at Kings House this week. In emergency you can contact him at 618-759-1707

CHRISTMAS SEASON ends with Feast of Baptism of Our Lord next Sunday. Hands are welcomed to take down the church Christmas decorations after mass.

LAY LEADERS OF PRAYER IN ABSENCE OF PRIEST Bishop Braxton has requested that at least three Lay Leaders of Prayer be prepared to provide Sunday services in anticipation of priest shortage. Only one person is currently trained for this role. The diocese will offer a training program Feb 1 & 2, 2019 in Herrin. Potential people are encouraged to register by Jan 18th. See Fr Tom for form.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS will be distributed January 20th. Any missed contributions for 2018 must be in by January 13th.

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).

EPIPHANY – A STRIKING APPEARANCE. This is truly a seven-way amazing day. (1) Easterners fix on a star. (2) Those Magi follow yet lose their way. (3) Magi ask for help to get to the right place. (4) They honor God. (5) They give away riches. (6) They pay attention to [God speaking in] dreams. (7) They go a new way. For what, for whom am I looking? What help do I need? Am I brave enough to ask? What am I willing to give away?

Liturgy Breaking of the Bread

Giving orders looks easy until we have to do the ordering. The person in charge quickly discovers that barking directions and shouting instructions do not always work. If people are not persuaded, there will be no response.

Jesus' awareness of this truth is evident in the Gospel of John: "Those who love me will keep my word Whoever does not love me does not keep my words" (John 14:23-24). Jesus does not command with empty words; he challenges us to love "as I have loved you." This makes all the difference.

In every Mass, after the sign of peace, there is the breaking of the bread, a reminder that Christ's own body was broken and suspended between heaven and earth in an act that changed forever the balance of power between God and the people.

During World War II, General Eisenhower visited front line troops, hoping to lift their sagging spirits. The day was wet and miserable as the general spoke from a makeshift platform. Sensing that his soldiers were respectful but unmoved, Eisenhower quit the speech. Moving to the edge of the platform, he began descending the muddy steps, only to slip and land face first in a puddle. Shrugging off the laughter, the commander said, "That fall did more for morale than any speech I could ever give."

On the platform, the general could not help but speak down to the servicemen. The mud on his face changed everything; he was one of them. Jesus looked down from the cross to become one with us. Jesus gave us everything, even a share in his own divine life and the eternal inheritance that it promises.

At the breaking of the bread, we recall the cost of redemption: "Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us ... grant us peace." All of us at times are called to work for peace in our homes, our neighborhoods, our world. To offer such gifts always requires that we sacrifice something of our own status. Often the price is being broken in both body and soul. But broken is not the end, for in giving, our spirits are raised and we are brought back to life, forever and ever.

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Did Jerusalem have any light of her own? Were nations coming to her or to the light? What do you think draws people to the Church today?

Just what was this mystery that Paul said "was made known to me by revelation"? How does God's Grace enter in?

God sent the Magi a message and they rode their camels across the known world. What would cause you to put forth this kind of effort? What made the search worth it for them?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Baptism of Our Lord Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72; Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6; Matthew 2:1-12