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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

Trustees: Myron Cole, Stan Treat

Trust After Heartbreak In the Gospel Reading, the risen Jesus appears to ten of his apostles. Thomas is missing. The ten are convinced; but when Thomas rejoins them after Jesus has vanished, Thomas is highly skeptical.

A week later, Jesus appears to all eleven of them and invites Thomas to make good on his skeptical challenge. Jesus tells him, Put your finger in my wounds and believe! And then, without so much as touching Jesus, Thomas believes.

Actually, then, all Thomas did was see Jesus and his wounds, and then he believed. But, of course, that is just what the other ten apostles did in the first appearance of Christ, when Thomas was absent.

So why didn't Christ make his first appearance to the apostles at a time when Thomas was there too? Why did Christ first appear when Thomas was absent? Why single Thomas out in this way?

When heartbreak is so powerful, it can need space to breathe.

Thomas had trusted Jesus and believed he was the Messiah. But then the Romans killed Jesus; and when they did, they also killed the hope in Jesus that Thomas had. How much Thomas trusted before the crucifixion can be understood by the way Thomas hardened his heart against trust in the aftermath. "The bigger they are, the harder they fall," we say. And the bigness of Thomas' heart and the greatness of his trust in Jesus can be seen by how hard Thomas fell when he thought his trust was betrayed.

Thomas thought he had made a fool of himself by believing in Jesus, and he was not going to let his heart be broken again. And so when he heard the other apostles express their belief, he scoffed. In scoffing, Thomas protected himself against further heartbreak by turning his back on Jesus and all that Jesus meant to him.

And maybe that is why Jesus left Thomas out of his first appearance to the apostles. When heartbreak is so powerful, it can need space to breathe, to let its pain come to fruition. Maybe if Thomas had not been able to move all the way from heartbreak to skepticism, he would not have been able to move back to Jesus so powerfully either.

Without any more evidence than any of the other apostles had, Thomas says to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

Eleonore Stump

Vol 20 # 17 **Second Sunday of Easter, April 28, 2019**

Schedule of Masses

Sun	Apr 28	8:00 am	SFD	For the Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Inez Ross
Tue	Apr 30	9, 11 am	Shawnee, Vienna DOC	Masses
Wed	May 1	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Fri	May 3	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sat	May 4	8:30 am	SFD	For Reparation of Sin
Sun	May 5	8:00 am	SFD	For the Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Inez Ross

Birthdays
Apr 28 Xennia Gruszcyzk
Apr 29 John Zawacki
Melanie Hustedde
May 2 Jo Ann Brown
May 4 Lonnie Hinton

St Paul, Vienna

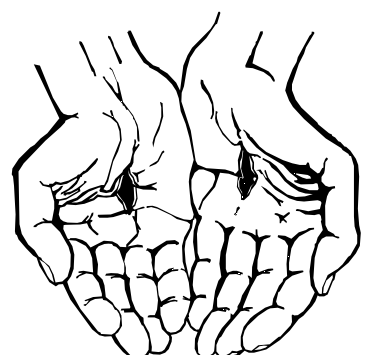
<p>Sun, Apr 28, 10 am Server: M, C Bergmann Lector: Rhi Slife Gifts: PSR Usher:*Mt Slife, R Beanland S Widowski, M Palmer E. Minister C Kruep S. Belske, L Stoerger Greeter Vickie Anderson</p>	<p>Sun, May 5, 10 am Server: Laney, Riley Slife Lector: Zach Garrett Gifts: E Taylor, G Tesina Usher:*M McMahan, P Kalicki L Hinton, L Givens E. Minister B Palmer A Dueker, Md Slife Greeter Bill, Billie Porter</p>	<p>Sun, May 12, 10 am Server: C & M Bergmann Lector: First Communicants Gifts: 1st Communion Class Usher:*S Pobst, D Bishop J Slife, R Stoerger E. Minister M Nelson, V Anderson, P Widowski Greeter Matt & Rhi Slife</p>
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St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

<p>Sun, Apr 28: 8:00 am Server: Brenda Morse Lector: Mary Treat Gifts: Deaton Family Myron Cole E. Min: Cecilia Parks</p>	<p>Sun, May 5: 8:00 am Server: Mary Treat Lector: Myron Cole Gifts: Deaton Family Usher: Arnold Morse E. Min: Benda Morse</p>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

- Sun Apr28 Catholic Home Mission Appeal
 - St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
 - St Paul Mass & Closing PSR celebration...10:00 am
 - Emergency Plan review- Earthquake
 - PSR & Parish Picnic.....11:00 am
- Mon Apr 29 Celebration of Confirmation..OLMC, Herrin .7 pm
- Tues Apr 30 Mass at Shawnee and Vienna DOC.....9.& 11 am
- Wed May 1 Weekday mass.....6:30 pm
- Thr May 2 National Day of Prayer at United Methodist...6 pm
- Fri May 3 Weekday Mass at...SP.....12:00 pm
- Sat May 4 First Saturday Mass & Devotion at SFD.....8:30 am
 - Faith Alive Board Mt.....10:00 am
- Sun May 5 Time & Talent Survey
 - St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
 - St Paul Mass & May Crowning.....10:00 am
 - Ministry Fair and 1st Sunday Social.....11:00am



“Do not doubt but believe.”
 Jn 20:27

CATHOLIC HOME MISSION APPEAL will be taken up next Sunday. Now over 40 percent of dioceses in the United States are considered home mission territory because they are unable to fund the essential pastoral work needed in their communities. Your support of this appeal helps ease the struggle of these dioceses. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this collection.

CLOSING PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION MASS AND PICNIC The formal religion classes will conclude this year with youth participation in the liturgical ministries at this Sunday's mass, followed by a picnic for youth and all parishioners. Everyone is encouraged to participate. Our gratitude to the catechists Amanda Zmuda, Beth Palmer, Arlene Dueker, and Marsha Nelson; to substitutes Steve Widowski, Rhi Slife, Madonna Slife; and to all students and parents.

EMERGENCY PLAN REVIEW-EARTHQUAKE held at end of mass this Sunday

PARISH FINANCE AND BUDGET REPORT for the 3rd Qtr of fiscal year is included in this weekend's bulletin. Any questions should be directed to Jared Bergmann, Matt Slife or Fr Tom.

PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES of the April 17th meeting are available in the bulletin rack.

CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION for the three young members of St Paul, Talon Bishop, Gabriel Ross and Riley Slife, will be on Monday, April 29, 7 pm at Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church, Herrin. Please support candidates in your prayer and encouragement. A special thanks to Marsha Nelson who has guided their preparation over the past two years.

LITERACY PROGRAM MATERIALS Buy a Raffle ticket to change inmates lives forever. Grand prize \$5,000 plus 11 other cash prizes. To purchase ticket go to bit.ly/inmateshelpinginmates.

MINISTRY FAIR & PARISH SOCIAL will be hosted by the Liturgy Committee in the hall at SP on May 5th, 11 am. Visit tables set up by representatives of different liturgical ministries, learn about their role and what is involved in preparation to serve ministry.

TIME AND TALENT SURVEY In conjunction with the ministry fair, a Time and Talent Survey sheet will be distributed to all parishioners 4th grade and older, asking that you would indicate your interests in ministries both within and beyond the parish community. Completed forms may be returned in the collection or in marked container in foyer.

OUR PARISH VOCATION CORNER Easter is our greatest feast of the Liturgical year. Our redemption has been accomplished and Jesus has overcome death and sin. This is what we commemorate through each celebration of the Eucharist which allows us to receive our Lord in Holy Communion. We must pray, encourage and work to promote more priestly vocations so that we can continue to have the opportunity of receiving Holy Communion. Look this week to encourage a young man to consider entering the seminary to discern a priestly vocation.

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).

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy)

Acts 5:12-16; Psalm 118; Revelation 1:9-13,17-19; John 20:19-31

To accept the message of Jesus is no easy matter. The gospel's challenges are unrelenting for the believer and seemingly ridiculous for the nonbeliever. Today's readings suggest how our faith response can counteract our fear and hesitancy to follow Christ wholeheartedly.

Luke, the author of the Acts of the Apostles, provides a summary of the Christian faith. Luke's portrait is idyllic, yet it clearly shows a faith community growing in the face of formidable obstacles.

The Book of Revelation, source of the second reading, stems from a persecution in Asia Minor. Christians, toward the end of the first century, feared the consequences of refusing to worship the emperor. Revelation's message is that Jesus' Resurrection has destroyed death, fear is useless, and faith is victory.

The gospel passage also focuses on the very real human experience of fear. The disciples seek the security of secret rooms and locked doors. Only the presence of Jesus is able to calm their anxieties and enable Thomas to profess: "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28). We are all strengthened by his proclamation!

Twentieth-century believers do not rest their faith against the signs and wonders found in the Acts of the Apostles, nor are we tested by persecution. Yet we do know fear. Each of us has our personal secret room and locked doors. We may be afraid of challenges. We may not want to look to the faith needs of others. We may not want to be labeled as overly pious. All of us are at least distant relatives of Thomas; we are victims of fear.

The doubting Thomas within us must be touched. We are asked to respond to the wounds within ourselves and others. Even in our weakness, we are urged to breathe forth the Spirit so that the wounds may be healed and our fears overcome. Faith will free us!

-- John Craghan, Th.D., S.S.L.

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Discuss the effectiveness of the apostles' missionary efforts in the light of "Power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Cor 12:9-10, 13:14) Do you want Christ to use you on behalf of others? What are the implications?

In this reading, John says he fell down "as though dead." Christ, who "once was dead, but now am alive," touched him and raised him up. Could this vision give you strength to do good things? Are you part of what, in Christ's words, "will happen afterwards?"

Why do you think Jesus breathed on the disciples when he gave them the Holy Spirit? "The Lord God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life ... " (Genesis 2:7). What effect did this gift have on the disciples' fear? How about your fear, in various aspects of your life? What do forgiveness of sin and resurrection have in common?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Third Sunday of Easter Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41; Psalm 30; Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19.