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Mission: Live Catholic teachings,  
Participate in Sacramental and Liturgical Celebrations, Serve our Community

### **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

**Go Away** In the Gospel Reading Jesus says that some people will come to him confidently but he will say to them, “I don’t know where you are from. Depart from me, all you evildoers!”

This must be one of the most frightening passages in the gospels.

But if we get fearful and ask, “Ok, then, what do I have to do in order not to be sent away,” we are on the wrong track entirely.

If you accept God’s gift of his forgiving love, then you are in Christ

God does not hate anything that he has made; he loves it.” (John 3:16). So you don’t have to rush out to bring sandwiches to the poor or do anything else whose purpose is to work your way into God’s love and forgiveness. The gift of God’s love and forgiveness are already there for you.

But then why are those people in the Gospel passage sent away? If the gift is already there, then why don’t these people get it?

Well, no gift can be given unilaterally. Successful gift-giving takes two: one to offer the gift, and one to receive it. If you refuse the gift God offers you, the gift cannot be successfully given, can it?

So maybe the whole problem with these people who are sent away is their determination to do the right stuff in order to be part of the in-group. If you want to achieve for yourself what God is offering as a gift, you are in effect refusing the gift, aren’t you?

And maybe that’s why Jesus says to these people, “I don’t know where you are from.” If you accept God’s gift of his forgiving love, then you are in Christ; and the spirit of Christ is in you. You don’t have to come from anywhere to him. You are your beloved’s, and he is yours, as the Song of Songs says (Song 6:3).

So what you have to do in order not to get sent away is nothing. Just receive the gift, open to the Lord, let the Holy Spirit of Christ in. Then you might bring food to the poor, or write a book, or compose a symphony. But however you share your gifts, you will do so by first having opened to God’s love, which is his gift to you.

Eleonore Stump

# Vol 20 # 33 **Twenty-first Sunday of the Year, August 25, 2019**

## Schedule of Masses

Sun	Aug 25	8:00 am	SFD	For Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	For Parishioners
Tue	Aug 27	9, 11 am	Shawnee	DOC Mass
Wed	Aug 28	11:30 am, 1 pm		Marion Penitentiary
		6:30 pm	SP	Fr Eugene Kreher
Fri	Aug 30	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sat	Aug 31	5:30 pm	SP	For Parishioners
Sun	Sept 1	8:00 am	SFD	For Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Caryn Zmuda

<p><b>Birthdays</b> Aug 27 Michael Retz</p>
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### St Paul, Vienna

<p><b>Sun, Aug 25, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> Curtner Bergmann  <b>Lector:</b> Mitch Miller  <b>Gifts:</b> J Galey, J Hacker  <b>Usher:</b>* J Nelson, G Tesina                  J Nelson, J Bergmann  <b>E. Minister</b> L Miller                  S Belske, L Stoerger  <b>Greeter</b> Matt, Rhi Slife</p>	<p><b>Sun, Sept 1, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> L Slife  <b>Lector:</b> Joan Galey  <b>Gifts:</b> Lonnie, Cathy Hinton  <b>Usher:</b>* P Widowski, P Kalicki                  R Beanland, L Hinton  <b>E. Minister</b> A Dueker,                  S Widowski, V Anderson  <b>Greeter</b> Sandy Belske</p>	<p><b>Sun, Sept 8, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> Mady Bergmann  <b>Lector:</b> Zach Garrett  <b>Gifts:</b> H &amp; X Gruszczyk  <b>Usher:</b>* D Zmuda Sr, L Givens                  R Stoerger, J Slife  <b>E. Minister</b> P Widowski,                  F Dueker, Md Slife  <b>Greeter</b> Cathy Kruep</p>
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### St Francis DeSales

<p><b>Sun, Aug 25: 8:00 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> Christine Deaton  <b>Lector:</b> Cecilia Parks  <b>Gifts:</b> Hustedde Family  <b>Usher:</b> Myron Cole  <b>E. Min:</b> Brenda Morse</p>	<p><b>Sun, Sept 1: 8:00 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> Christine Deaton  <b>Lector:</b> Myron Cole  <b>Gifts:</b> Hustedde Family  <b>Usher:</b> Arnold Morse  <b>E. Min:</b> Cecilia Parks</p>
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### THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun Aug 25	St Francis DeSales Mass .....	8:00 am
	St Paul Mass .....	10:00 am
	125 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary /history Mt.....	11:00 am
Tue Aug 27	Mass at Shawnee & Vienna DOC.....	9.& 11 am
	September calendar info deadline	
Wed Aug 28	Masses at Marion Penitentiary.....	11:30am, 1 pm
	Weekday mass at SP.....	6:30 pm
	Information meeting on RCIA..hall.....	7:15 pm
Fri Aug 30	Weekday Mass at...SP.....	12:00 pm
Sat Aug 31	Last Saturday mass of summer at St Paul....	5:30 pm
Sun Sept 1	St Francis DeSales Mass .....	8:00 am
	St Paul Mass & Fulkerson Baptisms.....	10:00 am
	First Sunday Social in hall.....	11:00 am



**PARISH ADDRESS DIRECTORY/EMERGENCY CONTACT** Each parish household is ask to review your household information on the parish directory sheets in the entrance of church. If correct, just initial; otherwise make changes. Also please indicate how you wish to be contacted with emergency information ie phone, e-mail or text message.

**MERGED ST PAUL/ST FRANCIS DESALES PARISH COUNCIL MT MINUTES** for Aug 21<sup>st</sup> are available in the bulletin rack

**125<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY/HISTORY COMMITTEE MEETING** for committee and interested parishioners will be held in the hall following the 10 am mass today.

**PARISH PICNIC** The annual joint parish picnic is set for Sunday, Sept 8, following the 10 am mass at St Paul. Grilled Pork Steaks will be provided. Participants are encouraged to bring a vegetable, salad or dessert. A check list is on the bulletin board.

**HERITAGE FESTIVAL PARADE FLOAT** entry on Sat, October 5<sup>th</sup> is planned. All who are interested in working with the float are asked to contact Matt Slife 618-534-6978.

**DRAW-DOWN PARTY** October 19<sup>th</sup> Tickets are available for \$100.00 that may be shared by up to ten people. Early Bird Drawing for \$100 will be Sept 15<sup>th</sup>. Tickets available from Steve Widowski, Dolly Hopkins, Madonna Slife, Matt Slife, Marsha Nelson or after mass. Consolation prizes are needed. Parishioners are encouraged to solicit Gift cards and certificates for services of various businesses. Ideas and donations for Theme baskets are welcome. Sign-up sheet on bulletin board

**PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION REGISTRATION FORMS** have been distributed to families whose children participated last year. Extra forms are available or call the rectory.

**PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION TEACHERS NEEDED** St Paul Religious Education program is seeking adults to be a part of preparing today's youth to be tomorrow's active adult participants. The PSR classes will begin Sept 15th. If you would like to find out more about opportunities, please contact Fr Tom at rectory.

**CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT** is making grants available to address education about and causes of poverty. For more information see church bulletin board.

**LAY LEADERS OF PRAYER TRAINING** will be offered by the diocesan Office of Worship on November 15-16 at St Luke Church, Belleville. Anyone who is interested should contact Fr Tom for registration forms.

**BEING SAVED.** Here is the truth: many, and not just a few, will be saved. We believe it even though we do not always behave like we do believe! Jesus says today that the threshold to heaven is a narrow gate. Jesus says this passing through it is constant striving. Jesus says many will come from all directions and places to enter and dine at heaven's table. How will I work hard to be human and Christian? How will I rely on God's power and strength to enter the Kingdom of Heaven? How can I be like God and embrace everyone from everywhere?

## **Twenty-first Sunday of the Year**

Isaiah 66:18-21; Psalm 117; Hebrews 12:5-7,11-13; Luke 13:22-30

A major credit card company has built an ad campaign on the slogan "membership has its privileges." Like it or not, the image portrayed is one having to do with exclusivity; everyone may be equal, but some are more equal than others. Ours is a class conscious world. There's even a clothing line called "Members Only". Nationality, creed, color, gender, and age count.

The Scriptures for this weekend confront us with the problem of exclusivity. The challenge is to embrace as God embraces. God is an unconditional God and universal in love.

The verses found in today's first reading are later additions to that part of Isaiah called Third Isaiah (Chapters 56-66), composed about 500 B.C. This excerpt proclaims God's all-inclusive vision: "I am coming to gather all nations and tongues" (66:18). Not only does God welcome the Gentiles (non-Jews) but actually invites them to be missionaries on God's behalf, "... and they shall declare my glory among the nations" (Isaiah 66:19). The Gentiles are even entitled to be priests and Levites. Luke, in both his gospel and Acts of the Apostles, insists that Jesus' message encompasses Jews and Gentiles alike. Matthew limits the genealogy of Jesus to Israel (Matthew 1:1-16); Luke extends it to make Jesus a son of Adam (Luke 3:23-38).

Jesus explains that association with him is not enough. The narrow door makes the point that salvation comes through more than talk; committed action is required. The closing lines of today's gospel again emphasize universalism: "People will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God" (Luke 13:29). Watchfulness, not election, is the basis for entrance into the kingdom.

Access to God is unrestricted. The Lord yearns to be shared with all people. Our lifestyle must testify to the dignity and worth of each individual as the handiwork of the Creator.

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

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### **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION**

The Israelites were the chosen people. They remain so. But God extended the same "closeness" to others. How has this worked out through the ages? Have Christians honored their ancestors, the Jewish people? Do you think God would like your involvement in unity of all humankind? What can you do?

The Second Reading says that we should "strengthen our drooping hands and our weak knees." What happens to athletes who don't exercise? Can you become spiritually "flabby"? Do you ever "work out" spiritually on your own? How? What good does St. Paul say will come from this "discipline"?

"We ate and drank in your company." Is membership in a particular way of life an automatic "opening" of the narrow gate? Is this narrow gate an entrance for all humankind? Can people of all religions receive grace? If God is always creating you, moment to moment, do you think God ever stops offering you moments of grace?

**NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Twenty-second Sunday of Year** Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Psalm 68; Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a; Luke 14:1, 7-14