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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

**Mercy or Moral Idiocy** In the First Reading, the Israelites, who have just been freed from slavery in Egypt by spectacular miracles that God did for them, those same Israelites have made molten metal into the statue of a calf and declared that the calf is their God who brought them out of Egypt.

God is very angry at the people in consequence. This people is hopeless, God says to Moses; I ought to destroy them and make a new Israelite people out of you, Moses. But God means to be merciful to the Israelites, and he is inviting Moses to be merciful by first showing Moses the evil of the people. If you don't see the evil in what others are doing, you aren't merciful. You are just a moral idiot.

In response to God's anger at the Israelites, Moses is merciful; and he wants God to be merciful too. And so the reply of Moses to God's anger teaches us something about mercy.

Moses does not try to see what the Israelites are doing as not so bad, as somehow acceptable or excusable. If he did, then Moses really would be a moral idiot. But he doesn't. Rather, Moses entreats God to be merciful by reminding God of the past history of the Israelites. Don't you remember Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Moses asks God? They were your servants and so pleasing to you! For the sake of what the Israelite people were in the past, have mercy on them now!

The Second Reading is about mercy too. Paul explains that he once was a persecutor of God's people. He doesn't gloss over his own evil then or make himself a moral idiot, any more than Moses did. But Paul says that he obtained mercy from God anyway, because God could see the man that Paul could become. For the sake of the man Paul could be in the future, God had mercy on him.

Here is one moral of the readings then. You must not be a moral idiot. When you look at the conduct of your father, or your friend, or your boss, if that person is being sinful, then you need to see clearly that he is. But what you see when he is evil is not all there is to him. There is what he was in the past, the small boy his mother loved, for example. He wasn't always the sinner he is now. And then there is what he could become. Maybe like Paul, who once was the chief of sinners, your sinning friend could become glorious in the service of the Lord in the future.

So, see clearly the evil in your neighbor now, but remember that what you see is not all there is to him. Like the Lord in the readings, have mercy on him, for the sake of all the rest of him, the person that he once was and the person that he can still be.

Eleonore Stump

# Vol 20 # 36 **Twenty-Fourth Sunday of the Year, September 15, 2019**

## Schedule of Masses

Sun	Sept 15	8:00 am	SFD	For Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Philip & Leola Barrett
Tue	Sept 17	9am, 11am	Shawnee, Vienna DOC masses	
Wed	Sept 18	5:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Fri	Sept 20	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Sept 22	8:00 am	SFD	For Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Charles & Mary Querrey

### Birthdays

Sept 16 Carolyn Johnson  
 Sept 17 Bill Johnson  
 Sept 20 Alex Ross

### St Paul, Vienna

<p><b>Sun, Sept 15, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> C &amp; M Bergmann  <b>Lector:</b> Steve Widowski  <b>Gifts:</b> Children Liturgy  <b>Usher:</b>* M McMahan, M Palmer, D Bishop, S Widowski  <b>E. Minister</b> M Nelson, P Kalicki, L Miller  <b>Greeter</b> Dolly Hopkins</p>	<p><b>Sun, Sept 22, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> L Slife  <b>Lector:</b> Arlene Dueker  <b>Gifts:</b> Lonnie, Cathy Hinton  <b>Usher:</b>* Mt Slife, S Pobst G Tesina, J Bergmann  <b>E. Minister</b> C Kruep, B Bishop, D Bishop  <b>Greeter</b> Laurie Coleman</p>	<p><b>Sun, Sept 29, 10 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> C &amp; M Bergmann  <b>Lector:</b> Rhi Slife  <b>Gifts:</b> Children Liturgy  <b>Usher:</b>* F Dueker, Joe Nelson Jmy Nelson, L Hinton  <b>E. Minister</b> L Givens Z Garrett, L Stoerger  <b>Greeter</b> Chuck, Monica Querrey</p>
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### St Francis DeSales, Stonefort

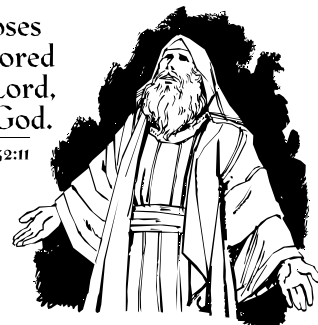
<p><b>Sun, Sept 8: 8:00 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> Christine Deaton  <b>Lector:</b> Cecilia Parks  <b>Gifts:</b> R Drone, M Cole  <b>Usher:</b> David Parks  <b>E. Min:</b> Brenda Morse</p>	<p><b>Sun, Sept 15: 8:00 am</b>  <b>Server:</b> Brenda Morse  <b>Lector:</b> Mary Treat  <b>Gifts:</b> Hustedde Family  <b>Usher</b> Fred Deaton  <b>E. Min:</b> Christine Deaton</p>
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### THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun Sept 15 Retired Diocesan Priest Collection  
 St Francis DeSales Mass .....8:00 am  
 St Paul Mass and Children Liturgy of Word..10:00 am  
 Early Bird Drawing for Draw-Down..after mass  
 Council of Catholic Women Mt..hall.....11:00 am  
 Parish School of Religion Families Mt.Church..11 am  
 Mon Sept 16 Blood Drive at Fellowship Baptist Hall.....12-6 pm  
 Tue Sept 17 Mass at Shawnee & Vienna DOC.....9 & 11:00 am  
 Wed Sept 18 Ministerial Alliance Mt.....12 pm  
 Weekday Mass.....5:30 pm  
 Merged Parish Council Mt..at SP hall.....6:00 pm  
 Fri Sept 20 Weekday Mass at...SP.....12:00 pm  
 Sat Sept 21 Diocesan Liturgy Workshop...DuQuoin..... 8:30 am  
 Sun Sept 22 Presentation on Parish Merger Timeline  
 St Francis DeSales Mass .....8:00 am  
 St Paul Mass .....10:00 am  
 PSR Meeting.....11:00 am  
 Council of Catholic Women Mt..Ridway.....1:00 pm

Moses  
 implored  
 the Lord,  
 his God.

Ex 32:11



**COLLECTION FOR DIOCESAN RETIRED PRIEST** will be taken up this Sunday, Sept 15<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds help meet needs of priests nursing home care, insurance and special medical events.

**CHILDREN LITURGY OF WORD** for fall begins this Sunday. Children age 3 through fourth grade are invited to accompany an adult leader after the opening prayer of mass to listen and reflect on the scripture as a group, then rejoin the Eucharistic celebration at the preparation of the gifts.

**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.

**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 after mass 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

**COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN** at St Paul will have collection for their ministries following mass today, and invite all women of parish to take part in the meeting in the parish hall at 11 am .

**PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS** are asked to pick up agenda at mass for the meeting 6 pm this Wednesday at St Paul hall

**PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION FAMILY MEETING** St Paul Religious Education program needs adults to be a part of preparing today's youth to be tomorrow's active adult participants. Parents and youth are asked to gather in church following the 11am mass this weekend

**SOUTH VICARIATE CCW FALL MT** Sept 22, 1 pm. St Kateri, Ridgway. See bulletin board sign up or Contact Pam Shallenberger for details or ride sharing 217-714-4568

**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.

**THANK YOU....**To Jared Bergmann for picnic meat grilling, Madonna Slife for food supplies, Cake Walk donations, Arlene Dueker for children's Pinata, Craig Levesque for power washing pavilion and tables, all who brought food dishes and all offered presence.

**WELCOMING SINNERS AND EATING WITH THEM.** Some will be shocked at whom we are called to hang around. Lost sheep. Ungrateful children. Sinners, the less than perfect, the prodigal. People just like us, if truth be told. The Church is not a place for the perfect. We are charged to be perfect, true. But perfection is found in God alone. That is why we hang around those who hang around Jesus and strive to be like him. Whom will I welcome? What lost sheep will I go after? What seemingly ungrateful person will I look for, welcome back, and embrace?

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

Exodus 32:7-11,13-14; Psalm 51; 1 Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 15:1-32

Sin is a reality that cannot be denied. Occasionally people will say that sin isn't spoken of much anymore. Perhaps today we simply talk about the reality with a different vocabulary. All three readings today confront sinfulness: Israel sinfully worshiping the golden calf, Paul confessing his former blasphemy and arrogance, and the scribes and Pharisees murmuring that Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Exodus tells of the Israelites' impatience with Moses' prolonged absence on Mount Sinai. Angry at God, they persuade Aaron to make them another god, the golden calf. An emotionally charged bargaining session follows. Moses presents reasons why Yahweh should not destroy this "stiff-necked people": They are Yahweh's people; the Egyptians would mock a God who destroyed the very people God had just saved; destruction would break God's own promise of a great nation and many descendants.

God's mercy is bestowed, the same mercy that is highlighted in the second reading. Paul speaks of the great sinner he was before his conversion; yet in Jesus he received overflowing grace. Paul is an example for every Christian. Conversion is Christ's doing, not ours. It is an ongoing process rather than something completed at baptism. If there had been any doubt about God's patience, there can be none remaining with the gift of Jesus as Savior.

When the gospel says there is more joy in heaven over one repentant sinner than over ninety-nine righteous persons, it does not mean we might as well go out and sin. The point is that those who are ever faithful to the Lord experience a joy that overflows onto the one returning from the exile of sin. Sin is a reality, but the Church wants to proclaim salvation. All three readings speak of separation from God and ultimate reunion. This is the heart of the gospel of Jesus: those lost and found, those strayed and returned, those who have sinned and been forgiven.

-- Daniel Welte

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### **QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION**

What does this reading tell you about God's mercy? What is it about the covenant that lets Moses convince God not to destroy the Israelites with wrath? In a covenant do both parties have a say? Do you try to talk God into doing things?

Paul goes from foremost sinner to foremost preacher. How does his conversion demonstrate God's forgiveness and mercy? Is God patient today with whole countries? With the Church? With you? In the story of the prodigal son we hear that "While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him." Was the father thinking about the son everyday and waiting for him to come home? Was the son thinking "warm bed and food" or sorrow, having hurt his father? Does the father's forgiveness depend on the son's repentance? Why would Jesus tell us this parable?

**NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Year** Amos 8:4-7; Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-8; Luke 16:1-13.