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

ST. PAUL 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

Left Behind In the Gospel Reading, Christ gives a warning about his coming again. Stay awake and wait for me, he says, or else it will be for you the way it was for the people left behind in Noah's time.

Those people watched Noah build his big boat on dry land, and they must have laughed at him. They weren't worried. They ate their dinners and held their weddings just as always. And then the flood came. In one day, it swept them all away.

Physical death is the end of the line as far as chances for salvation go.

It will be like this when I come again, Christ says. Those who weren't waiting for me will be left behind when I return.

These are puzzling words. Are we supposed to expect Armageddon any day now, for every day of our lives? Will we be left behind if we don't?

Well, look at Noah's flood. Human beings had gotten so evil that it began to look as if God had made a mistake in creating them. So, in the flood, God did something like an autologous bone marrow transplant on the human race. God sifted through the bad cancerous lump of humanity and found a few human beings who looked morally and spiritually healthy. The idea was to reproduce those spiritually healthy human beings after the flood, when the evil people were gone. By this means, the human race could have a rebirth.

The people who laughed at Noah's boat were so evil that they could be waked up to their spiritual peril only when the water rose. Their only chance of salvation came in the catastrophe of the flood when the fear of death may have prompted them to turn to the Lord for salvation. There are things much worse than physical death.

But physical death is the end of the line as far as chances for salvation go. Those who will not turn to the Lord before they die will just be left behind, without the Lord, as Christ says. They will have missed the boat permanently.

So Christ isn't directing us to keep an anxious eye out for Armageddon's advent. Any day now—who knows when—we may die. What we need to be waiting for while we live is Christ. If we live in expectation of the Lord's coming for us, we will not be left behind on that day.

Eleanore Stump

Vol 20 #47 **First Sunday of Advent, December 1, 2019**

Schedule of Masses

Sun	Dec	1	8:00 am	SFD	For Parishioners
			10:00 am	SP	Bill Kinkead
Tue	Dec	3	9am, 11am	Shawnee, Vienna DOC masses	
Wed	Dec	4	11:30-1pm	BOP	Marion mass
			6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Fri	Dec	6	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sat	Dec	7	8:30 am	SFD	Reparation of Sin
Sun	Dec	8	10:00 am	SP	Robert Jones
			12:00 pm	SFD	For Parishioners

Birthdays

Dec 2 Knox Fulkerson
 Dec 5 Kyle Givens
 Dec 7 Derek Trovillion

Sun, Dec 1 10 am
Server: M Bergmann, M Palmer
Lector: Steve Widowski
Gifts: Steve Pobst, K Pobst
Usher: *M Palmer, P Kalicki
 R Beanland, L Givens
E. Minister: B & D Bishop
 L. Miller
Greeter: Geri Tesina

Sun, Dec 8 10 am
Server: C Bergmann,
Lector: Joan Galey
Gifts: Marsha & Joe Nelson
Usher: *D Zmuda, D Bishop
 M McMahan, R Stoeger
E Minister: F & A Dueker
 C Kruep
Greeter: S & P Widowski

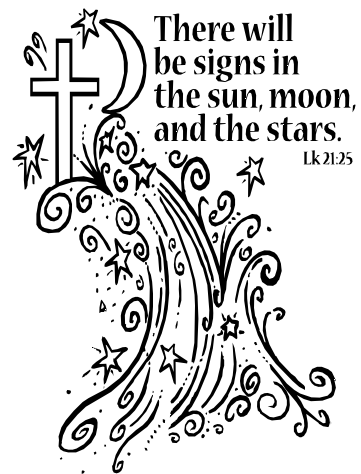
Sun, Dec 15 10 am
Server: M Bergmann, E Zmuda
Lector: Zach Garrett
Gifts: Mitch, Leslie Miller
Usher: *J Slife, D Zmuda
 S Widowski, G Tesina
E Minister: S Belske, B Palmer
 P Widowski
Greeter: C & M Querrey

Sun, Dec 1, 10 am
Server: Mary Treat
Lector: LaVonne Herbert
Gifts: M Cole, D Parks
Usher: Fred Deaton
E Minister: Christine Deaton

Sun, Dec 8 ,12 pm
Server: Cecilia Parks
Lector: Myron Cole
Gifts: S Treat, F Deaton
Usher: David Parks
E. Minister: Mary Treat

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun Dec 1	1 st Sunday of Advent
	St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
	St Paul Mass & Children's Liturgy10:00 am
	Angel Tree Ornaments available
	First Sunday Social in the Parish Center.....11:00 am
	Parish Reconciliation Service at St Paul.....6:00 pm
Tue Dec 3	Shawnee & Vienna DOC.....9 & 11:00 am
Wed Dec 4	Weekday Mass at St Paul.....6:30 pm
Thu Dec 5	Faith Alive Volunteer Appreciation.....5:00 pm
Fri Dec 6	Weekday Mass at St Paul.....12:00 pm
Sat Dec 7	First Saturday Mass & Devotions at SFD.....8:30 am
	Shrine Way of Lights Trip.....lv.....2:00 pm
Sun Dec 8	Retired Religious Collection
	St Paul Mass & Blood Pressure Checks.....10:00 am
	PSR Classes.....11:00 am
	St Francis DeSales Mass & Advent Party.....12:00 pm



ANGEL TREE ORNAMENTS are available in the church foyer on Dec. 1 Please record your tag and plan to return it with wrapped gift and ornament attached by Dec 15th.

ADVENT MATERIALS are available this Sunday in the church foyer. Consider signing up for free daily Advent reflections at Dynamic Catholic Best Advent Ever , dynamiccatholic.com/best-advent-ever

FIRST CHOIR GATHERING for Christmas Eve Mass is scheduled for 11:00 beginning in the parish hall, Dec 1. Anyone interested in being part of that evening's music liturgy, please grab refreshments and drink at the parish social and meet at a table together. Or contact Pam Shallenberger at 217-714-4568

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Advent invites all Christians to focus on what is most valuable in our celebration of Christmas. Our parish will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation this Sunday, 6 pm at St Paul, to begin our advent preparation for Christmas. An additional priest will be available for confession after a communal preparation service..

SHRINE WAY OF LIGHTS Trip is being organized for Sat, Dec 7, lv 2 pm. See sign-up sheet on bulletin board.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS Give in Thanksgiving! "The nuns left lasting impressions on me," writes a donor. "I shall always be grateful for my Catholic Education." Please join in thanking the thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who worked tirelessly to educate the young and serve those in need. Next week's second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious , which helps hundreds of religious communities care for aging members. Please give generously.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS will be available next Sunday before and after Mass.

2020 CALENDARS AND CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES Please check in the foyer for a household religious calendar for the new year, and contribution envelopes

THANK YOU.....to all who donated food for the November collection for local pantry
...to CCW ladies for refreshments and to all who joined the Community Thanksgiving Mt
...to Pat Kalicki and CCW for purchase and delivery of rolls for Eagle House Meal.

UPCOMING EVENTS: -St Francis DeSales Advent Mass & party on Dec. 8 at 12 noon;
and St. Paul Pageant and Christmas potluck on Dec 15 after Mass.

VOCATION CORNER This past week we celebrate a National day of Thanksgiving. We, Catholics, give even greater thanks for all the gifts God has bestowed on us and for us to share. Each one of us has been given a unique calling to Holiness. Each one is to serve the Lord in her/his own "called" way. A vocational calling is asking us to surrender our talents to God so that they may be sanctified and produce fruit for the Kingdom

COMING THAT IS CERTAIN YET UNKNOWN. We begin a new liturgical year today, focusing on the *parousia*, the "end time", the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. We **know** it's coming is certain. Jesus says, however, we just do **not know when**. How, then, shall we behave? As if that coming is today! Since Christ is light (Isaiah and Creed), how will my merciful behaviors shine with his radiance? Since Christ is near (Romans), how will I behave with sobriety, loving-kindness, and generosity? I will stay awake for the Second Coming of Christ by _____?

First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:37-44

Time is central to the Christian celebration of Advent. This season reminds us that the mystery of faith is not complete until Jesus' Second Coming (the Parousia). We are in-between people, caught between the time of Resurrection / Ascension / Pentecost and the time of the Parousia. How do we deal with the issue of time?

Isaiah says that future security comes from following divine wisdom today; success will not be found in our own designs. This reading pictures a pilgrimage of nations. They are asking Yahweh to settle their disputes once and for all. The instruments of war will be refashioned into peacetime implements of agriculture -- swords into plowshares. The renouncing of war and aggression will take time, but the believer knows that tomorrow must begin today.

The Romans must give daily witness to their faith. Paul says that it's time to wake up, the dawn of salvation draws near. An urgency about time moves Paul to confront those living in darkness, challenging them to "put on the armor of light."

The question of the Parousia also comes up in the excerpt from Matthew's gospel. Vigilance is demanded because the Second Coming has no "estimated time of arrival." Lest anyone become indifferent about the need to prepare, three short parables are offered.

Noah's contemporaries were so caught up in everyday affairs that they failed to take precautions against the flood. The two pairs of workers appear the same, but the Final Judgment will bring out such great differences that one will be chosen and the other left behind. The thief does not announce his arrival; in the same way the Parousia will be sudden and unexpected.

The readings challenge us to adopt a timetable in which the seemingly distant Parousia impinges on the present moment. Be aware of responsibilities and see to their fulfillment! Attend to relationships, reach out to the needy, and make time for prayer. The Second Coming thus becomes an event that gives purpose and energy to our every breath and pulse now.

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

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION Advent means that we look forward once more to Christ's coming at Christmas and anticipate his next coming. Does Christ come also everyday? How? When? "He is the image of the invisible God. All things in heaven and earth were created in him, through him and for him." How can we heal, in him, the wounds of the environment?

Facing the fight against poverty is a way of "staying awake" and "being prepared," according to Pope Francis, and as Jesus suggests in the Gospel? How ready are we for this fight?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Second Sunday of Advent Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72; Romans 15:4-9; Matthew 3:1-12