



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



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

The Greatness of Mary In the Gospel Reading, in a dream, God tells Joseph to marry Mary, even though Joseph had discovered she was pregnant.

According to Jewish law, premarital sex is punishable by death; and, in the ordinary course of things, pregnancy doesn't occur without sex. So, Mary's pregnancy out of wedlock exposes her to the penalty of death. Even apart from legal penalties, Mary's pregnancy jeopardizes her flourishing. As Joseph's own attitude shows, in Mary's society, no one wants to marry a woman who looks like a sinful woman and has an illegitimate child to support.

How shaming for Mary to be thought a little liar as well as a sinful woman!

It is clear, then, that Mary's pregnancy exposes her not only to legal penalties but also to suffering and shame in her society.

It is noteworthy too that Joseph needs to hear from God himself that God, and no man, is the father of Mary's child. Presumably, Joseph had already asked Mary how she came to be pregnant, and Joseph didn't believe her when she told him. That's why God had to confirm Mary's story for Joseph.

How shaming for Mary to be thought a little liar as well as a sinful woman! Why would God put Mary through this?

As the First Reading indicates, it helps us to recognize Jesus as Emmanuel—God with us—to know that Jesus did not have a human father; and we are helped towards that view by knowing that Mary was pregnant before she was married.

But why didn't God protect Mary from the shame and suffering of being an unmarried pregnant woman by having the conception of Jesus result from some great public miracle involving Mary, so that everyone knows Mary's pregnancy stems only from the miraculous workings of divine power? God doesn't have to expose Mary to humiliation to make her pregnant, does he?

Well, here's one way to think about the matter. Mary's steadfastness and trust in God even in the trouble of being an unmarried pregnant woman are a training for her and a sign for us, aren't they? Mary will eventually find the greatness of soul to love God and her son at the foot of the cross, in the shame of having her son die a shaming death. And, from watching Mary standing by the cross we learn that human greatness has at its core fidelity through shame and suffering, don't we?

And so the greatness of Christ on the cross is foreshadowed by the greatness of this small woman, pregnant, shamed, and faithful.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 20 #50 Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 22, 2019

Schedule of Masses

Sun	Dec 22	8:00 am	SFD	For Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Agnes Schwartz
Tue	Dec 24	9am, 11am	Shawnee, Vienna DOC masses	
		5:30 pm	SP	For Parishioners
Wed	Dec 25	8:00 am	SFD	For the Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	General Intention
Fri	Dec 26	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Dec 29	8:00 am	SFD	For Parishioners
St Paul		10:00 am	SP	Robert Jones

Birthdays

Dec 22 Gary Hacker
Fred Deaton
Dec 24 Nick Black
Dec 27 Sarah Black
Dec 29 Cecilia Parks

Sun, Dec 22 10 am
Server: C Bergmann, M Palmer
Lector: Steve Pobst
Gifts: Children Liturgy
Usher: *J Nelson, Jm Nelson
 J Bergmann, F Dueker
E Minister: V Anderson,
 D Hopkins, Lee Givens
Greeter: Cathv Kruep

Sun, Dec 24 6:00 pm
Server: M Bergmann,
Lector: Joe Nelson
Gifts: Marc, Beth Palmer
Usher: *S Widowski, J Slife
 F Dueker, L Hinton
E Minister: Md Slife
 D Bishop, M Nelson
Greeter: Marc. Beth Palmer

Sun, Dec 25 10 am
Server:E Zmuda, C Bergmann,
Lector: Joan Galey
Gifts: Volunteers
Usher: *D Zmuda, L Givens
 M McMahan, R Beanland
E Minister: P Kalicki,
 S Belske, V Anderson
Greeter: Janet Hacker

St Francis DeSales

Sun, Dec 22, 8 am
Server: Mary Treat
Lector: LaVonne Herbert
Gifts: M Cole, F Deaton
Usher: Fred Deaton
E. Minister:Christine Deaton

Sun, Dec 29, 8 am
Server: Cecilia Parks
Lector: Christine Deaton
Gifts: S Treat-D Parks
Usher: Fred Deaton
E Minister: Mary Treat

Sun, Dec 29 10 am
Server:M Bergmann
Lector: Madonna Slife
Gifts: Monica, Chuck Querrey
Usher: *S Pobst, P Widowski
 L Hinton, L Givens
E Minister: M Nelson,
 S Widowski, P Kalicki
Greeter: Laurie Coleman

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun Dec 22	Christmas Decoration of Church
	St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
	St Paul Mass & Children Liturgy of Word..10:00 am
Tue Dec 24	Shawnee & Vienna DOC.....9 & 11:00 am
	Christmas Eve Music Program & Mass at SP.5:30 pm
Wed Dec 25	Christmas Day mass at St Francis DeSale.....8:00 am
	Christmas Day mass at St Paul.....10:00 am
Thu Dec 26	January calendar info deadline
Fri Dec 27	Weekday Mass at St Paul.....12:00 pm
Sun Dec 29	Holy Family Sunday
	St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
	St Paul Mass10:00 am



CHILDREN LITURGY OF WORD will be offered during the mass this Sunday.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE today follows the Sunday Mass in church.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATION will follow mass on December 22. Helping hands will be appreciated.

2020 CALENDARS AND CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES Please check in the foyer for a household religious calendar for the new year, and contribution envelopes. Additional calendars are available for those who want them. If you have an opportunity, thank Bailey Funeral Home for sponsoring our church calendars.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS will be printed and distributed with the mass program for Christmas

CHRISTMAS EVE CAROLS AND MASS will be celebrated at St Paul on Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 5:30 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS is Dec 25. Mass at St. Francis DeSales is at 8:00 a.m. and at St. Paul at 10:00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR DIOCESAN NEEDY A special collection is annually taken up in parishes of the diocese on Christmas to provide resources to assist requests of needy households in the diocese. The distribution of the funds are managed through the Catholic Urban Program supervised by Joe Hubbard. Envelopes for the collection are in the boxed set.

THANK YOU.....

....to Marsha Nelson, catechists and PSR youth or presentation of the Christmas Pageant

....to Madonna Slife for coordinating the Potluck meal and decorations, Jamie Starratt for the lasanga and all who brought food on Dec 15th, and Cathy Kruep who arranged for the pictures to be colored for delivery to Hillview residents.

....to all who made donations for memorial flowers for church decorations at Christmas

....to Craig Levesque who made arrangements to deliver and pick up newly painted statue of Mary from St Louis.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Dec 29 Holy Family Sunday; Dec 31, 7 pm at SF-Jan 1, 6:30 pm at SP-Mary Mother of God Holyday; Jan 5 Epiphany with Home Blessing

TO DREAM AND TO ACT. The promised Second Coming of Christ is assured in the reality of the first. This birth of Jesus, promised by an angel to Mary and dreamed by Joseph, results in God-with-us, Emmanuel. How will my life be a sign that God is indeed with us now? How will God's grace spill this week into these mercy works: How will I trust God and exorcise from my life whatever keeps me fearful?



**BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO ALL OF
ST PAUL & ST FRANCIS PARISH.**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 24; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-24

To believe is to accept and acknowledge the presence of God in one's life. How often we assume that faith is primarily doctrine and law, a list of dos and don'ts to which we must subscribe. We thus fail to see that faith involves a person.

Today's readings deal with the reality of faith. Isaiah gives us a negative example, Matthew a positive one. Paul develops the notion of personal commitment as the underpinnings of faith. All three see belief as acceptance of God's presence.

Ahaz, the Judean king, realizes that the Israelite and Aramean kings are seeking to overthrow him. Isaiah urges Ahaz to remain calm, to ask for a sign from Yahweh. The ruler rejects this notion and so reveals his impiety. Isaiah gives a sign anyway: The wife of Ahaz will bear a child to ensure the integrity of the Davidic dynasty. The child's symbolic name defines faith -- "Immanuel," that is, "God is with us."

Paul addresses the Christian community of Rome. He speaks about Christ who has conferred on him the office of apostle. Paul views his task this way: "To bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name" (Romans 1:5). For Paul, acceptance of salvation is marked by faith-filled obedience.

The gospel passage intends to explain the irregular genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:1-17). If Jesus does not have a human father, how can he be called "son of David"? Matthew's solution is to have Joseph accept legal paternity for the Child, ensuring his Davidic ancestry. Joseph's openness to God's will makes possible the "God with us" that is at the heart of all belief.

Our celebration of this time must reflect a deep and total acceptance of Christ and his message of peace on earth and goodwill toward all people. As Advent closes and Christmas dawns, we look to the Person born again in our hearts, the Person who is "God with us."

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

.Copyright 1997, Liguori Publications / Liguori, MO 63057-9999

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION Isaiah said, "A virgin will bear a son and name him Emmanuel." How long had God planned for Jesus' birth? From the beginning of time? After Adam? If the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us, was the plan from the beginning of time, what does that tell you about God?

Can the "grace of apostleship" be different for everyone? Could everyone be "called to be holy"? Name some ways that you can take Christ into your work, home, parish, today.

List the obstacles God encountered in bringing Jesus into the world. Is anything obstacle-free? How can good come out of obstruction? John Shea made a statement about Joseph's hesitancy to take Mary into his home. "This foreshadows the tension of all who will be drawn to Jesus. Is he a scandal to be rejected, or a manifestation of the Spirit to be welcomed?" (Shea, 45) "When Joseph awoke ..." Did Joseph wake up in more than one way?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Holy Family Sunday Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14. Psalm 128
Colossians 3:12-21. Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23