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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

**Root Causes.** Today's Gospel shows John the Baptist clashing with the Jewish religious authorities. We are told that the Pharisees and Sadducees were stepping forward to be baptized by John.

These people “did not believe him” ([Mt 21:32](#)), but they came forward anyway, boasting of the claim that “Abraham is our father.” John recognized them for what they were, people of privilege. Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance,” he told them ([Mt 3:8](#)). He did not object to their coming forward; he objected to their lack of concern for real change in society.

In his brief discourse to the Pharisees and Sadducees, John described the action that was taking place: “Even now the ax is laid to the root of the tree ([Mt 3:10](#)).” Every tree that is not fruitful will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

John's message was about justice, about social change. He challenged the people of Israel to get down to the root causes of problems, to uproot unfruitful trees.

The changes that are called for in Advent are fundamental and far-reaching; they are structural. In this new church year, we are challenged to work for a better society, different from the one we now have.

*The uniqueness of the Christian message does not so much consist in the affirmation of the necessity for structural change, as it does in the insistence on the conversion of people which will in turn bring about this change.*

*We will not have a new continent without new and reformed structures, but, above all, there will be no new continent without new people, who know how to be truly free and responsible according to the light of the Gospel.* Quoted by Bishops of Latin America, in Medellin Documents.

-Gerald Darring

# Vol 20 #48 Second Sunday of Advent, December 8, 2019

## Schedule of Masses

Sun	Dec 8	12:00 pm	SFD	For Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Robert Jones
Mon	Dec 9	6:30 pm	SP	Immaculate Conception
Tue	Dec 10	9am, 11am		Shawnee, Vienna DOC masses
Wed	Dec 11	11:30am, 1 pm	BOP	Masses at Marion
		6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Fri	Dec 13	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Dec 15	8:00 am	SFD	For Parishioners
		10:00 pm	SP	Frank & Mary Wojnowski

<b>Birthdays</b> Dec 11 Laurie Coleman, Kathy Hupe, Gabe Ross Dec 14 Frank Dueker, Amanda Zmuda, Ethan Morse
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**Sun, Dec 8 10 am**  
**Server:** C Bergmann  
**Lector:** Joan Galey  
**Gifts:** Marsha, Joe Nelson  
**Usher:** \*D Zmuda, D Bishop  
 M McMahan, R Stoerger  
**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, Geri Tesina  
**E Minister:** S Belske,  
 Palmer, P Widowski  
**Greeter:** C & M Querrey

**Sun, Dec 22 10 am**  
**Server:** C Bergmann, M Palmer  
**Lector:** Leslie Miller  
**Gifts:** Marc, Beth Palmer  
**Usher:** \*J Nelson, Jm Nelson  
 J Bergmann, F Dueker  
**E Minister:** V Anderson,  
 D Hopkins, Lee Givens  
**Greeter:** Cathy Kruep

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

**Sun, Dec 15, 8 am**  
**Server:** Christine Deaton  
**Lector:** Mary Treat  
**Gifts:** Parks Family  
**Usher:** Stan Treat  
**E Minister:** Myron Cole

### THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

- Sun Dec 8 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent
  - Retired Religious Collection
  - St Paul Mass & Blood Pressure Checks .....10:00 am
  - PSR Classes.....11:00 am
  - Christmas Choir Practice .....11:00 am
  - St Francis DeSales Mass & Advent Party ..12:00 pm
  - Angel Tree Ornaments available
- Mon Dec 9 Immaculate Conception Mass at St Paul ..6:30 pm
- Tue Dec 10 Shawnee & Vienna DOC.....9 & 11:00 am
- Wed Dec 11 BOP Masses.....11:30-1 pm
- Weekday Mass at St Paul.....6:30 pm
- Thu Dec 12 Eucharistic Adoration.....4:00 pm-7:30 pm
- Fri Dec 13 Weekday Mass at St Paul.....12:00 pm
- Sun Dec 15 St Francis DeSales Mass ..... 8:00 am
- St Paul Mass & Children's Liturgy .....10:00 am
- St. Paul Christmas Pageant & Potluck.....11:00 am



**RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS** Support Aging Religious. Our second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious. Many senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests served for little or no pay. Today, religious communities often do not have enough savings to meet retirement needs. Your gift helps provide medications, nursing care, and more for tens of thousands of elderly religious. It also helps ensure younger members can continue the good works of their elders. Please be generous.

**ANGEL TREE ORNAMENTS** are available in the church foyer today. Please record your tag and plan to return it with wrapped gift and ornament attached **by Dec 15<sup>th</sup>**.

**BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS** are available this Sunday before and after Mass.

**CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE** today following Mass.

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

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION HOLYDAY** Mass is transferred from Sunday, Dec. 8 this year to Monday, Dec 9. The Immaculate Conception is the patroness of the United States. This is not an obligatory holyday but all are encouraged to attend.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** is offered this Thursday from 4:00-7:30 pm. Participants are encouraged to sign up on the foyer bulletin board schedule.

**ST PAUL PAGEANT AND CHRISTMAS POTLUCK** is Dec. 15. Meat will be provided. Participants are asked to bring a covered dish or dessert.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR RECONCILIATION** at St. Mary, Anna on Friday, Dec. 13, 7 pm.

**ST FRANCIS DESALES** Noon Mass & Advent potluck this Sunday. All parishioners welcome.

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** -Merged Parish Council Meeting Dec. 18; - Deadline for Christmas flower memorials Dec 20;- Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Paul 5:00-6:00pm; Dec 22 ;Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Francis DeSales Dec 22 at 7:15 am.

**A Changed Mind Fosters a Changed Life.** Who would want to be accused of being part of a brood of vipers? Appearing to be good is not good enough. When the Lord comes again, justice and faithfulness will reign supreme from top to bottom. Won't that be grand? We don't have to wait. Though there will be a Second Coming, Christ is also with us now! Justice and faithfulness, hope and harmony are part of our lives already. Saint Paul, in the Romans reading, urges three things:

- 1) Heed the instruction: Everyday, how will I let Scripture guide me?
- 2) Pray in one voice: Everyday, how will I pray alone and with others?
- 3) Welcome each other: Everyday, how will I live in harmony with others as the Lord does with me?

## Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10. Psalm 72. Romans 15:4-9. Matthew 3:1-12

Leadership is solidarity with those who are led, a focus on the needs of the governed. The readings today address the challenges inherent in the exercise of authority.

The first nine verses of Chapter 11 of the Book of Isaiah may come from a coronation ceremony. The crowning of a new king gives people hope that this leader will be genuinely interested in their plight. The reading pleads for peace. The king's zeal for peace is so great that even predatory animals are no threat. Such a ruler could bring international security in place of military oppression.

Psalm 72 was probably recited on the occasion of a coronation or its anniversary. Borrowing from the court style of the ancient Near East, it emphasizes justice, peace, long life, and a worldwide kingdom. Like the first reading, it expresses the deep aspirations of the governed that the king will be concerned about their problems. Peace is much more than the cessation of hostilities. It embraces the celebration of life because people's needs are met.

Matthew presents John the Baptist as the first Christian preacher. Wearing the clothes of a latter-day Elijah (see 2 Kings 1:8), John solemnly proclaims that God is undertaking a new involvement with humankind.

John's is a baptism of repentance requiring the convert to adopt a new way of thinking and acting. The unlikely combination of Pharisees and Sadducees in this passage is evidence of this desire to reform. Calling upon Abraham is not enough; one must live according to the demands of the coming King. This King embraces the hurting: "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28).

Baptism is a share in the royal messianic mission of Jesus. Anyone who shares this mantle also shares royal responsibilities, in particular, care for the afflicted and the hurting.

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

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**QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION** In baptism you receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, mentioned in this reading: wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence, wonder and awe in the presence of God. How do these relate to the peace in your heart?

There are people with whom you disagree. How easy is it to "think in harmony" with them? Why think in harmony instead of just going along with them, or being nice, or acting like you agree with them?

Judging by John's appearance (clothing of camel's hair, a leather belt around his waist, eating locusts and wild honey) would you guess his cry was lukewarm, or was it a cry from his heart that called for life-altering change? How would you respond to him? Is the fire within you a conflagration or does it look more like a pilot light? What can you do during Advent to gather some kindling for your fire?

**NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Third Sunday of Advent** Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10. Psalm 146. James 5:7-10. Matthew 11:2-11.