



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



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

Here and Now When the Lord was baptized, a voice came from heaven saying “This is my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” There could hardly be a more important message than this identification of Jesus, could there?

But why did this important message come through a voice from heaven? A voice from heaven can be heard only by those who are *there then*. What about everybody else? Surely, it is important for all human beings to know that Jesus is God’s beloved Son.

And the same sort of puzzle arises from the [First Reading](#). It says that the Messiah will open the eyes of the blind, and the Gospels testify that Christ really did so. But he opened the eyes of only a few blind people, those blind people who were *there then*. What about all the other blind people, in other places, in other times? Why didn’t Jesus just heal all blindness everywhere with one impersonal command: let all the blind people of the world be healed?

And so here is one thing we can learn from these Readings. In the voice from heaven, in the miracles of Christ, God shows that he is committed to the good of particularity. God does not send the news about the Messiah as an impersonal message directed impartially to all humankind. He identifies Jesus as his Son by a voice from heaven heard by particular people at a particular time. Similarly, Christ does not issue an impersonal decree about nameless blind people taken as a group. Christ heals some particular blind people who happened to be at a particular place at the particular time when Christ was also there.

So you might feel that you are just an unnoticed member of your company or an invisible one of the many ordinary people in your town. But you stand out as the particular person you are, where the Lord is concerned. God does not deal with people as faceless members of a collective. He calls, and he heals one particular person at a time, as each individual comes to him.

But then you yourself—not your Church or your group, but *you*—need to come to the Lord, to face him, to know him, to love him, and to let him heal you. Come as yourself, as you are, *here and now*.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 21 #2 **Baptism of the Lord, January 12, 2019**

Schedule of Masses

Sun	Jan 12	8:00 am	SFD	For Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Frank & Mary Wojnowski
Tue	Jan 14	9am, 11am		Shawnee, Vienna DOC masses
Wed	Jan 15	5:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Fri	Jan 17	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Jan 19	8:00 am	SFD	For Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Robert Jones

Birthdays

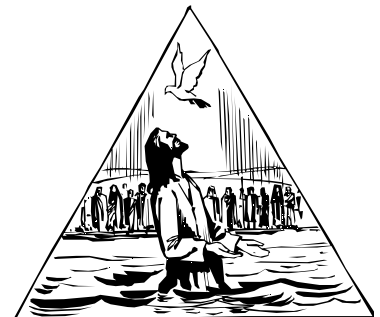
Jan 15 Christine Deaton
Jan 19 Preston Brown

<p>Sun, Jan 12, 10 am Server: C & M Bergmann Lector: Mitch Miller Gifts: K Retz, C Ross Usher: *F Dueker, P Widowski M Palmer, D Bishop E Minister: A Dueker S Belske, Beth Palmer Greeter: Bill & Billie Porter</p>	<p>Sun, Jan 19, 10 am Server: E Zmuda, M Bergmann Lector: Steve Pobst Gifts: Children Liturgy Usher: *L Hinton, R Stoerger J Bergmann, D Zmuda E Minister: C Kruep V Anderson, L Givens Greeter: C & M Ouerrev</p>	<p>Sun, Jan 26, 10 am Server: C & M Bergmann Lector: Arlene Dueker Gifts: Jon, Madonna Slife Usher: *S Widowski, S Pobst Joe Nelson, Jeremy Nelson E Minister: M Nelson Peg Widowski, M Slife Greeter: M & L Miller</p>
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<p>Sun, Jan 12, 8 am Server: Christine Deaton Lector: LaVonne Herbert Gifts: F Deaton- D Parks Usher: Stan Treat E Minister: Cecilia Parks</p>	<p>Sun, Jan 19, 8 am Server: Cecilia Parks Lector: Mary Treat Gifts: L Herbert/ M Cole Usher: Fred Deaton E. Minister: Christine Deaton</p>
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun Jan 12	End of the Christmas Season-Take down Decorations
	St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
	Affirmation vote on Parish Council members
	Distribution of 2019 Contribution statements
	St Paul Mass & Blood Pressure cks..... 10:00 am
	Council of Catholic Women Mt..... 11:00 am
	125 th Committee Mt..... 11:00 am
	PSR Classes..... 11:00 am
Tues Jan 14	R.C.I.A session..... 5:00 pm
Wed Jan 15	Ministerial Alliance Mt..... 12 noon
	Merged Parish Council Mtg..... 6:00 p.m.
Thu Jan 16	Eucharistic Adoration..... 4pm-7:30pm
	Faith Alive Workday..... 9am-3pm
Fri Jan 17	Faith Alive Workday..... 9am-3pm
Sat Jan 18	Faith alive Workday..... 9am-12 pm
Sun Jan 19	St Francis DeSales Mass 8:00 am
	St Paul Mass & Children Liturgy 10:00 am
	PSR Classes..... 11:00 am



BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS will be offered before and after mass this weekend.

2019 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS will be available this Sunday.. You're encouraged to pick up your household record envelope.

PARISH COUNCIL BALLOT Candidates for the parish council are included in the insert in today's bulletin. There will be an affirmation vote of support in the foyer at this weekend's mass. We thank Becky Bowers, Zachary Garrett and Cathy Kruep for their willingness to serve on the parish council for the next three years. We also offer gratitude to Vickie Anderson and Joan Galey who have completed their terms on the council.

COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN MEETING is scheduled for Jan 12, 11 am in the parish hall. All women of parish are encouraged to attend. Questions? Contact Pam Shallenberger 217-714-4568. An offering for their ministry will be taken up after mass.

125th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE will be meeting following mass this Sunday in the prayer room of the parish center..

MERGED PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will be held this Wednesday, 6 pm at St Paul Parish Center. Council members are asked to pick up agenda for the meeting at mass this weekend.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION has been scheduled for Thursday, Jan 16, 4-7:30 pm. A schedule is on the bulletin board to indicate if you will be present during any of the scheduled time.

FAITH ALIVE THRIFT STORE OPERATION will be staffed by St Paul this week, Jan 16-17, 9am to 3 pm and Jan 18, 9am-12pm. Volunteer are needed and can sign-up on list on church Bulletin board.

SAVE THE DATE The opening Liturgy of St Paul Parish 125th Anniversary will be January 26, 10 am at St Paul church..

DAY OF PRAYER January 22 will be observed throughout the US as a day of prayer for full restoration of legal guarantee for the right to life, and penance for violations to the dignity of human persons committee through acts of abortion.

CATHOLIC SERVICE & MINISTRY APPEAL which funds fourteen of the pastoral and educational departments working in the diocese is still \$32,000 short of meeting the allotted amount for those ministries that conclude in February. If you have not supported the CS&MA in the past year, your assistance is very much needed in any amount you can offer. Support may be made through St Paul parish or directly to CS&MA.

NO PARTIALITY..Saint Peter declares this truth: God shows no partiality. God may be my God, but God does not love me – or only mine – the best. God is not only on my side. God is on every side. God loves everyone and everything. On this day recalling the Baptism of Jesus, we cherish our own Baptism into him. Baptism calls us to discipleship and to mission. How will I, like Jesus, go about doing good this day? How will I, like Jesus, bring forth justice – even in some small way? How will I be at peace?

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-38; Matthew 3:13-17

The private believer is a public servant. Because of separation of church and state, we North Americans may choose to make faith entirely personal and in no way communal. But today's readings tell a different story.

The vocation accounts in today's readings are not accounts of specially chosen people who experience a calling merely for themselves. Rather, these people are inextricably bound up with the needs of the community.

Around 540 B.C. an anonymous prophet (whom we call Second Isaiah) exhorts his exiled community in Babylon to respond to God's call to return to the land of Israel. He speaks of the Servant, that is himself, and all those believers who are willing to participate in this new but daring challenge. It is the task of this prophetic royal Servant to demonstrate Yahweh's power to Israel and indirectly to the entire world.

Luke, the author of Acts, points out that salvation is for everyone. Luke then substantiates this by citing the early Christian proclamation concerning Jesus who, like the herald of Isaiah 52:7, brought good news to Israel. Luke demonstrates Jesus' exercise of his calling by noting his good works and healings.

Matthew makes Jesus' baptismal scene a public event. For Matthew, Jesus is clearly the Servant of the Lord, who has received God's Spirit to provide for the needs of the people. In the baptism, Matthew shows not only the intimate relationship between Father and Son but also the consequences of that relationship. The private believer is a public servant.

In receiving the life of the Church, the Christian is called upon to sustain the life of the Church. Faith, therefore, implies concern for others. Like the Servant in Second Isaiah, the believer is to replace darkness with light. Like the Servant in Matthew, the believer is to replace pain with healing. Far from being purely a private gift, faith is a public responsibility.

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

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION The main objective of the Chosen One is to bring God's salvation to the ends of the earth. How does Isaiah say he will accomplish this mighty enlightening of the world? How does the Church help to accomplish it today?

We see God's universal plan of salvation on the banks of the Jordan clearly for the first time. Do you always know the full extent of God's plan for you? Discuss the possibility of the Spirit making different truths known at different times to different groups of people.

Was the Trinity present at the baptism of Jesus? Do you think the Father and Holy Spirit were with Jesus throughout his entire earthly life even when he was on the cross? Do you think they are with you even when you feel as though they are absolutely not?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Third Sunday of the Year Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6, Psalm 40, 1 Corinthians 1:1-3, John 1:29-34