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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: Lee Givens
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

Light for the World In today's Gospel Matthew applies to Jesus the prophetic oracle of Isaiah: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone." In like manner, the psalmist's assertion that the Lord is my light is echoed in Jesus' words: "I am the light of the world; the man who follows me will have the light of life."

Christianity is about light. Just as Jesus is light to the world, so his church is to be light in a world of darkness. Light enables the beauty of things to be seen, and we are called to make the beauty of the world shine. But we are not to call attention to ourselves: if you are aware of the light in a room, it is too bright. Our vocation is for others, not ourselves.

Surrounded by discrimination, oppression and war, Christians are challenged to "be united in mind and judgment," and they are directed by God's love to "bring humankind to unity and peace." The light we bring to the world should lead in time to an end of all the world's darkness: the alienation and oppression of peoples, the attacks on human life and dignity, and disrespect for God's creation. "A people living in darkness has seen a great light."

The Church ... serves as a leaven and as a kind of soul for human society as it is to be renewed in Christ and transformed into God's family. ... the Church not only communicates divine life to men, but in some way casts the reflected light of that life over the entire earth.

Vatican II, Constitution on the Church in the Modern World,
1965: 40

Gerald Darring

Vol 21 #4 **Third Sunday of Year, January 26, 2019**

Schedule of Masses

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|-----|----------|---------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Sun | Jan 26 | 8:00 am | SFD | For Parishioners |
| | | 10:00 am | SP | Philip & Leola Barrett |
| Tue | Jan 28 | 9am, 11am | Shawnee, Vienna DOC masses | |
| Wed | Jan 29 | 11:30am, 1 pm | Marion BOP Masses | |
| | 6:30 pm | SP | General Intention | |
| Fri | Jan 31 | 12:00 pm | SP | General Intention |
| Sat | Feb 1 | 8:30 am | SFD | Reparation for Sin |
| Sun | Feb 2 | 8:00 am | SFD | For Parishioners |
| | 10:00 am | SP | For Parishioners | |

Birthdays

Jan 29 Anthony Kolb
Arnold Morse
Feb 1 Susan Ward
Cathy Hinton

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| <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> | <p>Sun, Feb 2, 10 am Server: M Bergmann E Zmuda Lector: Joe Nelson Gifts: Children liturgy Usher: *P Widowski, Pat Kalicki, R Beanland L Givens E Minister: D Bishop Steve Widowski, Pat Kalicki Greeter: H & X Gruszczvk</p> | <p>Sun, Feb 9, 10 am Server: C & M Bergmann Lector: Joan Galey Gifts: E Speletich, J Starratt Usher: *M Palmer, D Bishop M McMahan, R Stoerger E Minister: A Dueker L Stoerger, Z Garrett Greeter: S & P Widowski</p> |
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| <p>Sun, Jan 26, 8 am Server: Mary Treat Lector: Christine Deaton Gifts: S Treat -F Deaton Usher: David Parks E Minister: Myron Cole</p> | <p>Sun, Feb 2, 8 am Server: Christine Deaton Lector: Myron Cole Gifts: C Parks, L Herbert Usher: David Parks E. Minister: Mary Treat</p> |
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THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

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| Sun Jan 26 | St Francis DeSales Mass | 8:00 am |
| | St Paul Opening Mass of 125 th Anniversary | 10:00 am |
| | PSR Classes..... | 11:00 am |
| Tues Jan 28 | Shawnee, Vienna DOC masses..... | 9:00 am, 11 am |
| | R.C.I.A session..... | 5:00 pm |
| Wed Jan 29 | Masses at Marion BOP..... | 11:30am, 1 pm |
| | Weekday mass at SP..... | 6:30 pm |
| Fri Jan 31 | Weekday mass at SP..... | 12:00 pm |
| Sat Feb 1 | First Saturday mass and devotion at SFD.... | 8:30 am |
| Sun Feb 2 | Annual Messenger Subscription Renewal Weekend | |
| | Blessing of Throats in honor of St Blaise.after masses | |
| | St Francis DeSales Mass | 8:00 am |
| | St Paul Mass and Children Liturgy of Word | 10:00 am |
| | Blood Pressure checks | before and after mass |
| | PSR Classes..... | 11:00 am |
| | First Sunday Social at SP..... | 11:00 am |



125th ANNIVERSARY OPENING MASS Have you reflected on why we should commemorate the 125th Anniversary of St Paul Parish? Is it just for a party, or to fill the calendar schedule with activities? Who we are as a parish has been influenced by the lives, choices, efforts, and vision of those who have preceded us. As well, the future of the parish will be influenced by what we do or don't do in the present time. Please take part in Sharing the Past, Anticipating the Future. A Refrigerator magnet on the Anniversary is available for each household this Sunday.

2ND QTR BUDGET/FINANCE REPORT is included in today's bulletin. Any questions should be directed to Jared Bergmann, Matt Slife, or Fr Tom.

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL WEEKEND is February 2, 2020. Please stay "connected" through a subscription to The Messenger. Payments can be made in The Messenger envelope or on-line at www.bellevillemessenger.org Subscription rates are \$25 for newspaper, \$25 for digital copy or \$30 for both editions.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION SPONSORS are needed to accompany participants Jeff and Nikki McGill and Chris and Megan Cain participating in current sessions. If interested or want more information, contact Fr Tom.

UPCOMING EVENT Chili and Dessert Cook-off will held at St Paul Hall on Sun, Feb 9th following the 10 am mass. Prizes for winning submissions. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board for entries.

LADIES RETREAT for women is scheduled at Kings House in Belleville April 17-19. Get included before reservations fill up. For information or registration contact Vickie Anderson, 579-3748

REMEMBER IN PRAYER David Hannan, former parishioner of St Paul, who died Jan 19. Visitation will be Jan 30, 4-7 pm at Aikens-Farmer-Loftus-McManus Funeral Home, 70 Jon St, Metropolis with Life service beginning 7 pm.

VOCATION CORNER Today's Gospel is the story of Jesus beginning His Church on earth. He calls Peter and Andrew to be "fishers of men". He likewise enlists James and John to follow Him. We are ALL called to be fishers of men, women and children through the example of our daily lives. We are charged with helping each other live the vocation we've each been uniquely called to. We need to minimally pray each day for an increase in vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Religious Life.

THE WORD OF GOD LIVING AMONG US. The Word is first spoken in Jesus who is, in fact, the very spoken Word of God. And when this Word himself speaks, things happen. Hear the gospel today: Jesus invites; Peter and Andrew follow right away. James and John immediately do the same. We also believe this: Jesus not only spoke long ago; when Scripture is read aloud in prayer, Jesus speaks today? What does Christ say to me in these Sunday readings? What "darkness" needs dispelling by his word? What word that I hear will I proclaim? To whom? When?

Third Sunday of Year

Isaiah 8:23--9:3; Psalm 27; 1 Corinthians 1:10-13,17; Matthew 4:12-23

"It is better to light one little candle than to curse the darkness." Light and darkness symbolize tension in human living: presence and absence, hope and despair, love and hate. Today's readings present the human and divine experience of light and darkness. They reveal a God whose first biblical words are "Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3). They challenge us to be producers of light, not architects of darkness.

Isaiah, in the passage from the Hebrew Scriptures, is preaching between 733 and 725 B.C. The prophet predicts that things will get worse before they get better. But there is also a message of hope: Yahweh will provide an ideal Davidic king. Once again there will be joy. The former captives of the neo-Assyrians who walked in darkness will now witness a great light (Isaiah 9:1). Yahweh dispels darkness and gloom.

Psalm 27 is an individual lament. Enemies are afflicting the psalmist. The author's greatest fear is the absence of God. The image of light suffuses the psalm. Yahweh is the psalmist's light who vanquishes fear. The psalmist longs for Yahweh's house where the author will gaze unimpaired on Yahweh's beauty. The psalmist is also confident about seeing God's goodness in the land of the living.

Matthew uses the text of the first reading for his own theological purposes. For example, in the first reading "sea" refers to the Mediterranean: in Matthew 4:13 it refers to the Sea of Galilee. Matthew also uncovers in today's passage the beginning of Jesus' mission to the Gentiles. This is important for Matthew because his own community is made up of both Jews and Gentiles. Matthew uses a prophetic text in which the pagans overcome darkness by experiencing the light emanating from Jesus' message.

Darkness is a constant companion in our world. The poor, ill, hurting, and depressed lose the capacity to hope for light. Our Christian mission is to echo Genesis, entering this darkness with our personal "Let there be light."

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

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone." This famous saying from Isaiah is quoted by Matthew in our Gospel passage. Can you see the darkness in the world today? How can you help bring the "light" into darkness?

There will always be disagreements. What are some ways to handle disputes so that good or growth could come out of them?

"At once they left their nets and followed him." Do you think Jesus also needed friends? How long did it take Peter and Andrew to respond to his invitation of a personal encounter? What do you think was going on in their heads and hearts? Could they have been excited by the mission of communicating life to others?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Presentation of the Lord Malachi 3:1-4, Psalm 24: Hebrews 2:14-18, Luke 2:22-40