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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

The Way Things Are In the Gospel Reading God sent the Magi by means of heavenly signs to the baby Jesus. In the end, the signs in heaven were not enough; but there was a special revelation about this child that added the missing element. When they did find the child, the Magi left him rich gifts. And then God warned the Magi in a dream not to return to King Herod to tell him where the baby was. Because of that dream, the Magi went home another way, and the baby was kept safe from Herod.

Just look at all the things God does for this one child! Signs in heaven, miraculously helpful strangers, special messages from God, rich gifts, and warning dreams, divine protection against powerful bad people.

God will call his people and shepherd them—but he will not force them.

How many children die who might have been saved if even one of these things had been done for them? A sign that brings help from afar, a special instruction from God, huge amounts of money, a dream that protects from bad guys—these things are not enough to keep all children from early death, but surely many children could have been saved by any of these means.

Why does God give all these things to Jesus? Why doesn't God give even some of them to all children?

The answer to both questions is the same, I think.

The first thing that happens after the Fall is that Abel, one of the children of Adam and Eve, dies at the hand of Cain, their other child. God could have protected Abel from Cain by any of the means God used to help Jesus—but God doesn't do so. From the very beginning of our post-Fall world, God establishes the following policy: he will not force anybody to do what is good or omit what is evil. God will call his people and shepherd them—but he will not force them. And so countless children die because of the evil of other human beings.

But the powerless baby Jesus is God's best hope of healing human evil. Jesus is God's call of love. And that is why God's power can be used to keep Jesus from dying as a baby. He needs to die on the cross. That death is the last, most powerful call of love.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 21 #1 Epiphany of the Lord, January 5, 2019

Schedule of Masses

Sun	Jan 5	8:00 am	SFD	For Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Philip & Leola Barrett
Tue	Jan 7	9am, 11am	Shawnee, Vienna DOC	-no masses
Wed	Jan 8	6:30 pm	SP	No Mass
Fri	Jan 10	12:00 pm	SP	No Mass
Sun	Jan 12	8:00 am	SFD	For Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Frank & Mary Wojnowski

Birthdays

Jan 5 Morgan Bishop
 Jan 6 Ruby Widowski
 Jan 11 Alan Stachowiak

Sun, Jan 5, 10 am

Server: E Zmuda, M Palmer
Lector: Steve Widowski
Gifts: Children Liturgy
Usher: *M McMahan, P Kalicki
 R Beanland, Geri Tesina
E Minister: B Bishop,
 F Dueker, L Miller

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

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 Sr
E Minister: C Kruep
 V Anderson, L Givens
Greeter: Chuck, Monica Ouerrev

Sun, Jan 5, 8 am

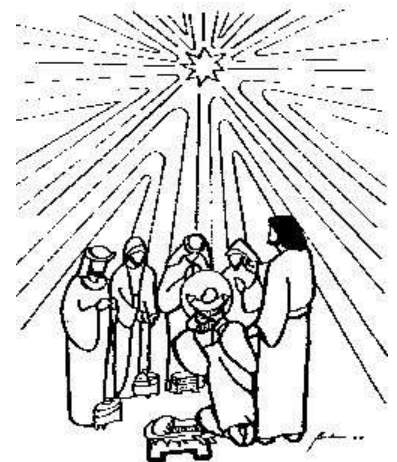
Server: Christine Deaton
Lector: Myron Cole
Gifts: Treat Family
Usher: David Parks
E. Minister: Cecilia Parks

Sun, Jan 12, 8 am

Server: Christine Deaton
Lector: LaVonne Herbert
Gifts: F Deaton- D Parks
Usher: Stan Treat
E Minister: Cecilia Parks

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun Jan 5	Feast of Epiphany of the Lord – Home Blessing Kit
	St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am
	St Paul Mass & Children Liturgy of Word...10:00 am
	First Sunday Social at SP.....11:00 am
	PSR Classes.....11:00 am
	Parish Council Member Discernment Session 11:30am
Mon Jan 6-10	Fr Tom on clergy retreat
Sat Jan 11	Faith Alive Board Mt.....10:00 am
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



EPIPHANY HOME BLESSING KIT will be offered to parishioners this Sunday, encouraging families to mark the home entrance with symbol, dedicating home to the work of the Good News of God.

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULES for January and February are available in foyer and **Parish Council Minutes** from Dec 18th are also available.

PARISH SOCIAL On the first Sunday of the new year, all are invited to an after mass social in the parish hall. Time to know one another leads to more ready cooperation and understanding opportunities and needs of the parish community.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION CLASSES resume Sunday, Jan 5th, 11 am. A suggested New Year's Resolution – make regular participation a high priority. Catechists role is made difficult when students miss out on prepared sessions that build on earlier material. Parents can also assist with review and discussion of class topics with children.

PARISH COUNCIL DISCERNMENT A session for those considering serving on the Parish Council will be held at St Paul beginning 11:30 am on January 5. It will conclude no later than 1 pm.

CLERGY RETREAT Fr Tom will participate in annual clergy retreat at Kings House, Belleville Monday through Friday of this week. In an emergency, he may be reached at 618-759-1707.

2019 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS will be available Sunday, Jan 12. Any offering to be included on the statement must be made by January 5th.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION normally on the second Thursday of month has been rescheduled to the third 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.

THEOLOGY OF THE BODY Christmas books are still available if you missed receiving a copy over the Christmas celebration. If you have your copy, but haven't ventured into reading it, please reserve some time. Its message is a profound answer to a society that tends to treat people as objects.

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.

THRIFT STORE OPERATION by St Paul Jan 16-18. Volunteer sign-up list on B.B.

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

WELCOME NEWLY REGISTERED PARISHIONER Allen and Donna Irby who live in the Glendale area.

TRAVELERS. The Magi brought gifts with them. Although King Herod was greatly troubled, Jesus and his parents did not fear these travelers. God was with them all. And God is with us and everyone even to this day. Whom do I fear? How can I be like Jesus and his parents and the Magi to accept everyone? What will I do to assure pathways of peace for migrants, travelers, refugees, and aliens?

Feast of the Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72; Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6; Matthew 2:1-12

Revelation is the sharing of values. We often imagine God's revelation to be much more complicated than that. We think of difficult doctrines, of theologians pouring over dusty tomes, of solemn pronouncements from the Vatican. Today's Scriptures deal with concrete situations in which God reveals the Divine viewpoint on reality -- God's system of values that gives a new world view.

The author of the first passage is trying to console the despondent people of Jerusalem. The exile is over, but only a trickle of God's people have returned home. The people are doubting their own worth and esteem. Was God still interested? The prophet answers by describing Jerusalem as a city bathed in light because Yahweh resides there. This light is so brilliant that exiles and gift-bearing Gentiles converge on the city, making clear the value of all people in God's eyes.

The author of Ephesians communicates a facet of God's plan for salvation. This new revelation is that the Gentiles are in communion with Israel. The Gentiles thus are coheirs and partners in salvation. The wall of separation between Jew and Gentile is destroyed (see Ephesians 2:14). Dignity is realized by sharing the inheritance with Israel.

Matthew writes at a critical moment in the life of his community. Many Gentiles were entering the community, but many Jews were leaving it (see Matthew 21:42). In order to show that the admission of the Gentiles is part of God's plan, he tells the story of the astrologers. The pagan astrologers are the first to pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews; the Jewish leadership rejects this King. The faith of the gentile astrologers is meant to challenge the Jewish defectors.

The central revelation in Christianity is the belief that God has spoken God's greatest word in God's Son, Jesus. The Incarnation is a value judgment about humanity: All have dignity because Jesus became one of us. All are to be respected.

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

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION Did Jerusalem have light of her own, apart from God? Were nations coming to her or just to the light? What do you think draws people to the Church today, power or tenderness?

Paul says that a revelation was given him by the Spirit. He said that Christ's life was too great to be limited to its starting place. His life was for all generations and not only the Jews but the Gentiles as well. All are "coheirs, members of the same body.

God sent the Magi a message that caused them to ride camels half way across the known world. What would cause you to put forth this kind of effort? These wise men were responsive to revelations from God and their openness brought them to Bethlehem. They were not disappointed. Is there a lesson here?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: **Baptism of our Lord** Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7;. Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-38;. Matthew 3:13-17