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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

Presenting Jesus They bring Jesus to the temple to be “presented to the Lord,” for he is “the Anointed of the Lord.” One way of responding to this event is to reflect on our own ‘presentation of the Lord.’

How do we present Jesus Christ to others? Is the Jesus we present to others a convenient cover for a life of personal misbehavior and social indifference, or is he “the king of glory” whose person and teachings should govern us individually and collectively? Do we present Jesus to others on such a pedestal that people can dismiss his example as unreasonable expectation, or is he “like his brothers in every way,” one of us, a brother human whose love of justice and peace can and should be imitated? Is the Jesus we present to others an indictment of them, or is he God’s “saving deed displayed for all the peoples to see,” the Messiah who rescues us from our personal and social sinfulness?

Is the Jesus we present to others a support for our dealings with death, our wars, abortions, and death penalties, or is he “a lamb without blemish (offered) for the life of the world”? Is the Jesus we present others a special ‘god’ for the privileged, or is he “the light of all peoples,” including people who are weak and outcast?.

God’s Word, through whom all things were made, was himself made flesh and dwelt on man’s earth. Thus he entered the world’s history as a perfect man, taking that history up into himself and summarizing it. He himself revealed to us that ‘God is love’ (I John 4:8) and at the same time taught us that the new command of love was the basic law of human perfection and hence of the world’s transformation. To those, therefore, who believe in divine love, he gives assurance that the way of love lies open to men and that the effort to establish a universal brotherhood is not a hopeless one.

Vatican II, *[Constitution on the Church in the Modern World](#)*, 1965: 38

Gerald Darring

Vol 21 #5 Presentation of the Lord, February 2, 2019

Schedule of Masses

Sun	Feb 2	8:00 am	SFD	For Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	General Intention
Tue	Feb 4	9am, 11am	Shawnee, Vienna DOC masses	
		6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Fri	Feb 7	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Feb 9	8:00 am	SFD	For Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	For Parishioners

Birthdays

Feb 3 Deborah Retz
Paul Widowski
Feb 5 Ron Beanland
Feb 7 Ken Retz

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, F Dueker
Greeter: H & X Gruszczuk

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

Sun, Feb 16, 10 am
Server: M Bergmann E Zmuda
Lector: Leslie Miller
Gifts: Children liturgy
Usher: *D Zmuda Sr, S Pobst
 S Widowski, G Tesina
E Minister: A Dueker
 L Stoerger, Z Garrett
Greeter: Geri Tesina

Sun, Feb 2, 8 am
Server: Christine Deaton
Lector: Myron Cole
Gifts: C Parks, L Herbert
Usher: David Parks
E. Minister: Mary Treat

Sun Feb 9, 8 am
Server: Cecilia Parks
Lector: La Vonne Hebert
Gifts: M Cole, M Treat
Usher: Stan Treat
E Minister: C Deaton

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun Feb 2	Annual Messenger Subscription Renewal Weekend Blessing of Throats in honor of St Blaise.after masses St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am St Paul Mass and Children Liturgy of Word 10:00 am Blood Pressure checksbefore and after mass PSR Classes.....11:00 am First Sunday Social at SP.....11:00 am
Tues Feb 4	Shawnee, Vienna DOC masses.....9:00 am, 11 am R.C.I.A session..... 5:00 pm
Wed Feb 5	South Vicariate Clergy Mt..Harrisburg..... 12 pm Weekday mass at SP.....6:30 pm
Fri Feb 7	Weekday mass at SP.....12:00 pm
Sun Feb 9	St Francis DeSales Mass8:00 am St Paul Mass10:00 am Chili & Dessert Cook-Off.....11:00 am PSR Classes.....11:00 am



CHILDREN LITURGY OF WORD is the 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month. Children age 3 through fourth grade are invited to accompany an adult leader after the opening prayer of mass to listen and reflect on the scripture as a group, then rejoin the Eucharistic celebration at the preparation of the gifts. Parents who feel that their child may be a little shy are welcome to sit in and be with us.

125th ANNIVERSARY MASS APPRECIATIONS. Special thanks to our choir under the direction of Zach Garrett and Pam Shallenberger. Thanks to Father Tom for preparing the banner and magnets. Thank you to Frank for preparing our introduction to the year. Thank you to our 125th Anniversary Planning Committee. Thank you for Lonnie Hinton and Zach Garrett for their work in getting the pictorial history booklet finished and printed. Commemorative magnets (one per household) are still available if you missed getting yours last week.

ST BLAISE BLESSINGS are offered at today's Mass as a sacramental blessing of throats. This opens us to deepening our faith in God's presense and activity. All our welcome to take part in the blessing following the Mass.

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL WEEKEND is TODAY. 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.

NEXT SUNDAY IS Chili and Dessert Cook-off will held at St Paul Hall on Sun, Feb 9th following the 10 am mass. Cash Prizes and medals for winning submissions. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board for entries. Bingo and door prizes are part of this fun event. You can be a cook or a taster or both. Everyone welcome. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the church foyer.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION will be held on February 13 from 4 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sign up sheet is available on the bulletin board in the church foyer.

VOCATION CORNER THANK YOU! Yes, a big THANK YOU to all those who have accepted God's call to serve in the vocation of Consecrated Religious Life. Today is the World Day for Consecrated Life (February 2nd, Candlemas Day). Let us make it a point to begin saying "THANK YOU" to our Sisters and Brothers who have made sacrifices for us. Let them know how important they are in the life of our church and how they help you to honor and pray to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

RETURN YOUR OLD PALMS. We encourage you to bring your old palms and place them in the container in the church entrance. These will be burned for Ash Wednesday.

CHRIST IS PRSENT. Hebrews announces what we know: Jesus Christ had to become like us in every way (be human) in order to be high priest (like us in all things but sin). We light and bless candles today to remember that Christ our Light illumines everything and everyone. We listen to Simeon and Anna sing his praise.

- ◆ How will I carry the Light who is Christ with me from Mass today?
- ◆ To whom will I let it shine?
How will I sing his praise?

Presentation of the Lord

To present a firstborn child in Jesus' days meant the purification of the mother, which in turn demanded a sacrifice. The Book of Leviticus gives the prescription for purification: killing of a year-old lamb, or another animal. Poor people such as Joseph and Mary could not afford a first-born lamb, so they were allowed to sacrifice just a pigeon or a turtledove.

For much of history, the realm of the gods was considered something far off from the daily world of earth. In our world there was suffering, death, sin, warfare, uncleanness. In the godly realm there was none of this, or at least not much. So, might there be a way to disconnect something from here and send it somehow as a peace offering into heaven? The gift would have to be of high value, of course, so it should be the "first fruit," or the first born lamb, etc., which would mean it was "pure." How was it sent to the heavenly realm? By putting it to death. This part of the ritual would release its final binding to our world and send it into the heavens. "Priests" were set aside from ordinary life to preside, separated, so they could be understood as disconnected from this world.

This notion of sacrifice developed through the ages, and it came to be applied to Jesus and to Christianity.

God's self, his Word, came among us as a tiny human babe, the firstborn child of the Divine. If this firstborn were to grow up and become a sacrifice, then never again would anyone think that the doors to God were closed and locked, at least if they understood through faith who Jesus was. He, the Word of God, would participate in everything earthly (except sin). "Since the children share in blood and flesh, Jesus likewise shared in these things," St. Paul says in the Second Reading. His crucifixion could then be seen as the death prescribed in sacrifice.

In the temple, Simeon rejoices in the following beautiful scene from Sunday's Gospel:

My eyes have seen your salvation. Simeon hints at a further sacrifice to come. "This child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel," he says, "and to be a sign that will be contradicted—and, [speaking to Mary,] you yourself a sword will pierce."

Sacrifice includes suffering and it includes death. But in the very act of dying Jesus would show that Godliness, in its essence—which is love—survives death. And that such a life can dwell within each of us.

But in Jesus, God came to participate in this world. He took the whole bundle into his two arms and he embraced it and made it good. John Foley, SJ

QUESTIONS FOR Pope Francis reminds us that being Christian ultimately means, not so much doing new things, but allowing ourselves to be re-newed by the Holy Spirit. Do you think that the "messenger of the covenant" promised by God in this reading would have been filled with the Holy Spirit?

God is all knowing. God is love. Do you think God also wants to be known and loved? Is it easier to love God, who understands your needs, in the flesh, or God in the heavens?

Simeon and Anna were not part of the formal temple personnel. How was it that they recognized Jesus as the "light for revelation to the Gentiles." Were they listening to the Holy Spirit?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: 5th Sunday of the Year Isiah 58:7-10, Psalm 112: 1
Corinthians 2:1-5, Matthew 5:13-16