



**Pastor : Rev Thomas Barrett**  
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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

**The Blind Man Who Wanted for Nothing** The [Psalm](#) says, “The Lord is my Shepherd. There is nothing I shall want.” But the [Gospel](#) Reading tells the story of a man born blind. How is the Psalm supposed to be made consonant with the Gospel Reading? Doesn’t the man born blind have something that he lacks?

The disciples of Jesus are anxious about this blind man too, and they try to ally their anxiety by finding some explanation for his blindness. “Why was this man born blind?” they ask Jesus. “Did this man sin or was it his parents?” If it was *anybody’s* sin, then they can reasonably hope that such suffering won’t come to their families, at least it won’t come if they all try hard not to sin. But this is an appalling way to think about suffering, isn’t it? It is terrible to suppose that all suffering is punishment for sin. What kind of God inflicts blindness on a newborn as a punishment for sin? Jesus dismisses their attitude entirely. This man’s blindness has nothing to do with the sins of anyone, Jesus says. It’s something about the future—not something about the past—that explains his blindness. God let this man be born blind that the works of God might be manifest through him. So that is Jesus’ explanation for the man’s blindness, but it looks at least as bad as the thought of the disciples, doesn’t it? What kind of God inflicts blindness on a newborn so that the works of God can be manifest in him later?

But think about that blind man himself.

At the outset of the story, he is an impoverished outcast, a beggar, a nobody. Then the mighty works of God are manifest in him, and he takes the Lord as his Shepherd. The result is that he himself becomes glorious. When the story ends, he has become an icon of faith and courage. He has stood up to the worldly power of the leaders of his community and witnessed to the goodness of God in very challenging circumstances. He has become an example to us all.

Who would not want to be like him? And that is why it was true for him that the Lord was his shepherd, even though he was born blind. In the end, the Lord was his Shepherd, and there was nothing the blind man lacked, just as the Psalmist says.

Eleonore Stump

# Vol 21 #12 Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 22, 2020

## Schedule of Masses

Sun	Mar 22	8:00 am	SFD	No Service
		10:00 am	SP	For Parishioners
Wed	Mar 25	6:30 pm	SP	Rev Richard Mohr
Fri	Mar 27	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Mar 29	8:00 am	SFD	No Service
		10:00 am	SP	For Parishioners

<b>Birthdays</b> Mar 27 Lee Givens Mar 28 Lynn McMahan
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**Liturgical Ministry Schedule is suspended until further notice**

<b>Sun, Mar 22, 10 am</b> <b>Server:</b> M Palmer, C Bergmann <b>Lector:</b> Arlene Dueker <b>Gifts:</b> G Tesina, P Kalicki <b>Usher:</b> *S Widowski, G Tesina J Nelson, Jr Nelson <b>E Minister:</b> C Kruep S Widowski, V Anderson <b>Greeter:</b> Sandv Belske	<b>Sun, Mar 29, 10 am</b> <b>Server:</b> M Palmer, E Zmuda <b>Lector:</b> Joe Nelson <b>Gifts:</b> Paul, Amanda Widowski <b>Usher:</b> *S Pobst, P Kalicki R Stoerger, L Stoerger <b>E Minister:</b> Zach Garrett B Palmer, L Givens <b>Greeter:</b> Janet Hacker	<b>Sun, Apr 5, 10 am</b> <b>Server:</b> M & C Bergmann <b>Lector:</b> Z Garrett, S Widowski <b>Gifts:</b> Children Liturgy <b>Usher:</b> *P Widowski, L Hinton M McMahan, L Given <b>E Minister:</b> D Hopkins, P Widowski, L Miller <b>Greeter:</b> Bill & Billie Porter
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## STEWARDSHIP OFFERING March 15, 2020

SP - Envelope \$3185(17), Loose \$20.50 ; Mem Flower \$103 **Total....\$3308.53**

SF – Envelope \$180.00 , Loose 40.00; Mem Flowers \$40; CS&MA \$170 **Total ..\$430.00**

## THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun Mar 22	Catholic Relief Services Collection	
	Stations of the Cross .....	cancelled
	St Francis DeSales Mass.....	cancelled
	St Paul Mass (private).....	10:00 am
	PSR Classes.....	cancelled
Tue Mar 24	R.C.I.A session.....	5:00 pm
Wed Mar 25	Weekday Mass SP.....	6:30 pm
Fri Mar 27	Lenten Abstinence	
	St Francis DeSales Cemetery Clean-up.....	4:00 pm
	Parish Fish Fry.....	cancelled
	Weekday mass at SP.....	12:00 pm
Sat Mar 28	Sacrament of Reconciliation SP.....	5:00-5:30pm
Sun Mar 29	Stations of the Cross .....	cancelled
	St Francis DeSales Mass.....	cancelled
	St Paul Mass .....(private).....	10:00 am
	St Paul Parish Reconciliation (General Absolution).....	4 pm



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** at public celebrations are postponed until further notice.. Private and home celebrated Stations of Cross are encouraged.

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION** This Sunday our parish will take up the Catholic Relief Services Collection. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to all people here and abroad. Please give generously to the CRSC and help Jesus in disguise. Learn more about the collection at [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief).

**PSR** Since regular sessions of the Parish School of Religion for youth has been halted by requirements of social distancing, parents are asked to continue lessons at home. Student books will be made available. Lesson plans for parents can be accessed on the Our Sunday Visitor website <https://calltofaith.osv.com/parish> clicking on Call to Faith at Home then choosing the desired grade level and lesson #. The website also offers a variety of supplemental options like lesson and unit quizzes, family activities and the Sunday scripture readings and reflections on the readings

**CATHOLIC SERVICES AND MINISTRY APPEAL** Thank you to the 19 households who have already pledged to support the mission of the Church to teach, preach, minister and serve in the name of Jesus through their financial support of the Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. So far (14) \$2274.00 has been pledged of SP goal of \$4430.00 and(5) \$500 of SF goal of \$918.00. If you have not yet responded, please make every effort to do so. Additional pledge envelopes are in church entrance. You may also make an online pledge at [diobelle.org](http://diobelle.org) under Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal.

**ST FRANCIS DESALES CEMETERY CLEAN-UP** has been set for 4 pm on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. Directions to the cemetery in New Burnside may be found on the parish website [www.stpaulvienna.org](http://www.stpaulvienna.org) under Location, St Francis DeSales Cemetery.

**ST PAUL PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE** will be March 29 at 4 p.m. incorporating social distancing, Bishop Braxton has granted permission for General Absolution during pandemic (while observing the requirements for preparation for the sacrament and use of opportunity to individually confess and receive absolution at an occasion when the emergency has passed).

**SPRING VICARIATE CCW MT** that was to be hosted at Holy Spirit Church, Carterville on Sat, March 21, 9am – 1 pm. has been canceled and rescheduled to May 16 at 9 p.m.

**CRS RICE BOWL** is Catholic Relief Services' Lenten faith-in-action program. It offers opportunities for your family to engage daily with the spiritual pillars of Lent: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. And it's an opportunity for us as a parish/PSR to come together as a community and reflect on what it means to live out our Gospel call to go out and encounter those most in need. CRS Rice Bowl offers an app to accompany your Lenten journey? You can download it.

**VOCATION CORNER** Today's first reading from the Book of Samuel recounts one of the great "calls" in our Church history – the anointing of King David. He was the youngest son of Jesse, tending the sheep during Samuel's visit. But he is the one the Lord wanted anointed. Jesse sent for his son to fulfill God's plan. God has a call for each of us to follow, even the youngest. Encourage everyone to be attentive to their vocation – their call - for it is from the Lord.

**FOOD DRIVE DONATIONS FOR CAIRO DAYSTAR** will run through Lent. Your donations are very much appreciated.

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a. Psalm 23. Ephesians 5:8-14. John 9:1-41.

Each day we are bombarded with facts about local, national, and international events. The media tell of murders, revolutions, natural disasters. All of this fashions our world view. Today's Scripture also confronts us with reality and provides an opportunity to reassess our priorities and retest our standards. Are the decisions we make really Christian decisions?

David's rise to royalty is described in the first reading. The story of Israel's youthful hero teaches that we should not judge by mere appearances. Samuel, in reviewing the sons of Jesse, must have regarded David as the least likely candidate. Yet the shepherd boy is ultimately chosen, proving again that God's Spirit can also rush on the lowly. David's good looks were not the decisive factor: humans "look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (vs. 7).

Ephesians uses images of light and darkness to contrast pagan and Christian ways. Believers are light in the Lord, they are to live as children of light. Such an existence produces goodness, justice, and truth.

The same imagery carries into the gospel passage from John. The blind man progresses from darkness to light: He regards Jesus as a man, then a prophet, and finally confesses that he is the son of God. The Pharisees first appear to accept the blind man's healing but then begin to doubt and finally deny Jesus' heavenly origins. They end up refusing to see -- rendering themselves blind.

Christians look beyond appearances. Only eyes of faith will see the helpless, the indigent, and the derelict as brothers and sisters in Jesus. Those who radiate the light of Christ will see the good in wayward members of the family. Faith's vision enables us to evaluate the policies and programs of both church and state: Are they right because they have the endorsement of authority or do they genuinely benefit all God's people? It all depends on your point of view.-

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

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### QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION Fourth Sunday of Lent –March 22, 2020

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a. Psalm 23. Ephesians 5:8-14. John 9:1-41.

**Seeing Christ.** Even the blind man in today's gospel sees Christ – and does what he is told by him. Listening and then doing – even in the face of opposition – brings sight and insight.

- ◆ How will I look for Christ in every person and in every action this lenten week?
- ◆ What is God asking me to do? How will I do it?
- ◆ How will I be a sign of Christ's light and life for the elect preparing for Easter Baptism?

### NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES: Fifth Sunday of Lent –March 29, 2020

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a. Psalm 23. Ephesians 5:8-14. John 9:1-41.