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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:

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 Good Shepherd The most comforting of the Psalms begins with the line, “The Lord is my shepherd.” It ends with this line: “Goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.”

Goodness and mercy, in the person of the good shepherd, have to follow the sheep, because it is lost and the shepherd is heading out to seek it. That sheep is leading the way, and that is why it is lost. A shepherd is the one who knows the way and ought to be leading, but this shepherd has to follow because that one sheep got out ahead of the shepherd and so got astray.

Knowing a person is a matter of personal relationship, with all the risks and vulnerabilities that personal relationship entails.

In the Gospel Reading, Jesus says that his sheep follow him. Those who belong to him know his voice and so they are willing to follow him and let him lead the way.

Of course, the sheep don’t know the voice of the shepherd unless they know the shepherd. The difference, then, between being one of the lost sheep who have to be followed by the shepherd and being one of the faithful sheep who are led by the shepherd is a matter of knowing the shepherd.

Now the shepherd is a person. And knowing a person is a matter of personal relationship, with all the risks and vulnerabilities that personal relationship entails.

So the faithful sheep are in a personal relationship with their shepherd and love him. That is why these sheep know the voice of the shepherd and follow him.

Here is the good news, then. Whether a person is faithful or lost, he will be surrounded by the love of the good shepherd. Either the shepherd will lead him, or the shepherd will follow after him to find him when he is astray.

And so St. Patrick’s prayer is right: Christ before me, Christ behind me. And, either way, Christ with me.

Eleonore Stump

Vol 21 #18 Fourth Sunday of Easter May 3, 2020

Schedule of Masses

Sun	May 3	8:00 am	SFD	No Service
		10:00 am	SP	For Parishioners
Tues	May 5	11:00 am	SP	For Parishioners
Wed	May 6	6:30 pm	SP	For Parishioners
Fri	May 8	12:00 pm	SP	For Parishioners
Sun	May 10	8:00 am	SFD	No Service
		10:00 am	SP	For Parishioners



Liturgical Ministry Schedule is suspended until public mass is resumed.

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING April 26, 2020

SP: Envelope \$565.00 (6), Catholic Home Mission 10.00, Bld & Maint 15.00 **Total....\$590.00**

SF: No report

Thank you to all who have continued your envelope contributions.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun May 3 St Paul Mass(private)..... 10:00 am
(Mass will be recorded and uploaded to Youtube by 2 pm)
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCh6kIQloQxLwZfOXW9DlqBQ>
World Day of Prayer for Vocations

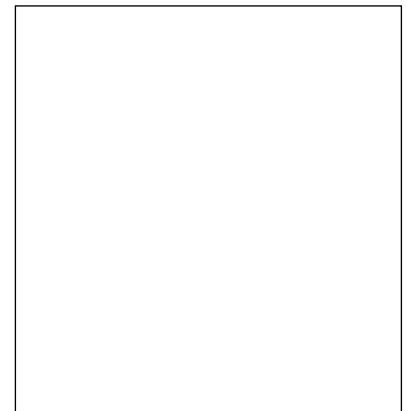
Tue May 5 Weekday mass SP.....11:00 am
R.C.I.A session...(by Skype).....5:00 pm

Wed May 6 Weekday Mass SP.....6:30 pm

Fri May 8 Weekday Mass SP.....12:00 pm

Sun May 10 St Paul Mass(private).....10:00 am
Mothers' Day Recognition

While public gatherings are restricted, spiritual or physical needs may be assisted on an individual basis with proper precautions. Contact the parish office for any requests.



UPDATED GOVERNMENTAL AND CHURCH DIRECTIVES According to most recent announcement of extending shelter in place through the end of May, public church services and group meetings will not be permitted through the month of May.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER This prayer service sponsored by the Ministerial Alliance was originally scheduled to be hosted by St Paul on Thursday. Though the event has been cancelled as a public event, please include individual prayer for governmental and civic leaders.

SOUTH VICARIATE COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN SPRING MEETING that had been rescheduled for Saturday, May 16 at Holy Spirit Parish, Carterville has been cancelled. Members are encouraged to continue to keep track of hours of service for later summary report.

THEOLOGY OF BODY, title of the Christmas book presented to parishioners, may have a new life if you benefit from a free online virtual conference that is being offered worldwide May 8, beginning 11am central time through May 10, 11 pm. To register or for more information, <https://www.tobvirtualconference.com/free-registration>

CATHOLIC SERVICES AND MINISTRY APPEAL Thank you to the 23 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 (18) \$2774.00 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 the church entrance. You may also make an online pledge at diobelle.org under Catholic Service & Ministry Appeal.

PROJECT RACHEL is a support ministry that accompanies or counsels people who have been involved in an abortion and seek healing. The contact number is 618-722-5068. A confidential e-mail address is also available for men and women who may wish to reach out and aren't free to talk at projectrachel@diobelle.org

REMEMBER IN PRAYER Bishop elect Michael McGovern. He will be making a retreat in preparation for ordination June 8-12. If you would wish to send a note of welcome or support, his address is 40000 North US Hwy 45, Old Mill Creek, IL 60046

OUTCOME OF PAY IT FORWARD DONATION BY ST PAUL IN 2019 The spring issue of Catholic Extension featured an article on St Luke Parish in Warren, Arkansas who with their fundraising and support of three partnering parishes were able to complete renovation of old Farmer Coop building and celebrate the new church's dedication in November 2019. Perhaps you might be interested in learning more and celebrating with them by looking at the article on page 22 of link <https://www.catholicextension.org/digitalmag/ce-spring-2020/>

HISTORY QUIZ- What was the name of the first Catholic pioneers to live in Johnson County? What was the name of the first Catholic family to live in Vienna? In 1854, John and Ellen McCabe moved to Reynoldsburg PO (about 1 ½ miles south of current town of New Burnside). Within a year, his parents and siblings moved to farmland close-by. In 1858 Dennis Dwyer with family moved to the Vienna area, but continued to travel to Reynoldsburg PO for opportunities to attend mass when a priest was available. A daughter, Julia, married Christian Bengert, from whom the land on which the first church in Vienna was built.

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14,36-41; Psalm 23; 1 Peter 2:20-25; John 10:1-10

Sometimes, it seems that followers are expected to put the needs of the leader first. The people are the means to an end: the leader's pleasure. Shepherds are first, sheep last. The emphasis in today's readings is on the sheep and their welfare. The shepherd is the means to ensure the end: the well-being of the flock. Sheep are first, shepherds last.

In the Bible and the ancient Near East, "shepherd" was a political title that stressed the obligation of kings to provide for their subjects. The title connoted total concern for and dedication to others. In today's famous psalm of confidence, the author speaks of Yahweh as his shepherd. Yahweh is loyal to the sheep, the people of Israel.

There is also the image of host. Shepherd and host are both images set against the background of the desert, where the protector of the sheep is also the protector of the desert traveler, offering hospitality and safety from enemies. The rod is a defensive weapon against wild animals, while the staff is a supportive instrument; they symbolize concern and loyalty. The sheep need not experience fear; the shepherd is watching.

The second reading offers advice to Christian slaves who, because of the economic system, suffer more than anyone else. The author draws upon the example of the suffering Christ. Borrowing from the Suffering Servant Song of Isaiah 53, he speaks of Jesus as one who did no wrong, who returned no insult and did not counter with threats, and who brought healing through his wounds. In 1 Peter 2:25 the shepherd is guardian of our souls, reinforcing the shepherd's role of concern.

John's gospel portrays Jesus as the life-giving shepherd. Our "sheep" may be found in our homes, in our places of employment, in our social setting, in our faith community. Do we see ourselves primarily as the beneficiary of these relationships? Or do we view ourselves as the conveyor of understanding and empathy? Whatever title we bear, the rod and staff we carry must be symbols not of oppression but of dedication.

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

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Fourth Sunday of Easter – 03 May 2020

Acts 2:14a, 36-41. Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6. 1 Peter 2:20b-25. John 10:1-10.

“I Am the Gate.” Doorways and gates can protect those within. This is the image of Jesus today – gate and protector, shepherd and guide. Let Psalm 23 fill our prayer every day this week.

- ◆ Because I am protected by the Good Shepherd, whom will I protect this week? How will I do it?
- ◆ On what right paths will I let myself be guided?
- ◆ What goodness and kindness will shine through my thoughts and actions this week?

NEXT SUNDAY SCRIPTURES Fifth Sunday of Easter – 10 May 2020

Acts 6:1-7. Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19. 1 Peter 2:4-9. John 14:1-12.