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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

Parish Council Chair: Steve Pobst

Trustees: Matthew Slife, Jared Bergmann

Sundays – 8:00 am, 10:00 am

Weekdays – Tue 11 am, Wed

6:30 pm & Friday, 12 pm

Joy in the Lord “I rejoice heartily in the Lord,” the prophet says in the First Reading. And why wouldn’t he? He has glad tidings. The poor will be taken care of, the brokenhearted will be healed, the captives will be freed, and the prisoners will be released. Who wouldn’t rejoice in these things?

How can Mary maintain the words of the Magnificat even at the foot of the cross?

As the winter dark and cold encroach on our days, and the birth of the baby Jesus draws near, we hear these beautiful words everywhere. But the problem is that, for many people, this is a time of depression, not of joy.

And why? Well, because the poor are still poor; people are broken-hearted; and the captives and prisoners are not released. The bank forecloses on the house of a person who has lost his job; a friend is treacherous; a spouse succumbs to alcoholism. What has happened to the promise of the beautiful words? How is joy possible?

The answer lies in Mary’s words in the Magnificat. “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior,” she says. Does anyone think that she took these words back when she stood by the cross as her son was crucified?

How can Mary maintain the words of the Magnificat even at the foot of the cross? The answer is that the greatest love of the Lord was there. The words of joy that Mary spoke, before the Lord was born, are only more true in the suffering she bears at his cross. His love doesn’t take away her suffering at his crucifixion. How could it? But her suffering is enveloped in his great love, and so it is transfigured.

Joy in the Lord is compatible with waiting for the final redemption from our suffering and our sin because Christ is Emanuel, God with us. Even now, because his love suffuses all our suffering, our souls can proclaim the greatness of the Lord, and our spirits can rejoice in God.

Our Lord transfigures the suffering of our lives in his love

Eleonore Stump

Schedule of Masses

Sun	Dec 13	8:00am	SP	For the Parishioners
	10:00 am		SP	William Anderson
Tues	Dec 15	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Wed	Dec 16	5:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Fri	Dec 18	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Dec 20	8:00am	SP	For the Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Albion Scislowicz

Birthdays

Dec 14 Amanda Zmuda
 Frank Dueker
 Dec 19 Elizabeth Zmuda

Liturgical Ministry Schedule - Lector

St Paul.....	Dec 13	8 am	Mary Treat	Dec 20	8 am	Arlene Dueker
		10 am	Arlene Dueker		10 am	Madonna Slife

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING Dec 6, 2020

Envelope \$ 1110.00 (20), Loose 55.00, Mass Int 30.00, Funeral 100.00, Holyday 70.00
 Flower Memorials 205.00, Christmas Book Reimb 85.00

Total \$1655.00

Note: No offering basket is passed around at masses due to the Covid-19 restrictions. Instead a canister marked 'Envelopes' is on the gifts table for the collection or envelopes may be delivered through the mail. Thank you to all who have faithfully continued your envelope contributions.

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

Sun	Dec 13	Religious Retirement Collection
		Sunday Mass at SP.....8:00 am
		Parish Council Nomination Committee Mt 9:10 am
		Sunday Mass at SP.....10:00 am
		Deadline to Return Advent Angel Gifts
		(Recorded Mass available on facebook, St Paul Youtube channel)
Tue	Dec 15	Weekday Mass.....11:00 am
Wed	Dec 16	Weekday Mass.....5:30 pm
		Parish Council Mt....hall.....6:00 pm
Fri	Dec 18	Weekday Mass.....12 pm
		For reservations at Dec 20 masses, contact the rectory by phone or e-mail
Sun	Dec 20	Sunday Mass at SP.....8:00 am
		Sunday Mass at SP.....10:00 am
		Decorate church for Christmas....after 10 am Mass

If anyone has been unable to attend mass and desires to receive communion, please contact Fr Tom for an arrangement



RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS “Every dollar makes a difference in covering our expenses”, says a Trappist abbot. Hundreds of US religious communities struggle to provide for aging members because most senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests served for little pay. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps those communities bridge the gap, offering support for medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.

ADVENT ANGEL GIFT TREE gifts for children and families in the area need to be returned with the ornament attached by December 13th.

FLOWER MEMORIALS FOR CHRISTMAS may be made through the envelope in your contribution box. If no special intention is recorded, it will be listed as family. Deadline to be included in program is December 21st.

RESERVATIONS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES Mass schedule for Christmas at St Paul will be Dec 24, 6 pm (Music program begins 5:30 pm), and Dec 25, 10 am. To remain compliant with Covid-19 restrictions, seating will be by reservation only. A reservation sheet will be available at church or anyone may call or e-mail the parish office

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will be this Wednesday, 6 pm in the Parish Hall. Council members are asked to pick up agenda at mass this weekend.

OPPORTUNITY FOR SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION will offered Sat, Dec 19, 4:30-5:30 pm, Sunday Dec 20, 9:15 – 9:45 am, and Wednesday, Dec 23, 5:30-6:15 pm.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATION will be undertaken following the 10 am mass on December 20th. All help welcome.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & POTLUCK The Parish Council decided that we could not carry out our Christmas Pageant and Potluck in the usual way and be compliant with the Covid restrictions. Treat bags for children will still be distributed at Christmas by the Council of Catholic Women.

PARISH COUNCIL NOMINATIONS Three positions will be open on the Parish Council in January 2021, two three-year and one one-year terms. A discernment process on January 10 will be used to select new council members. If you are contacted by the nominating committee, please give prayerful thought to accepting a nomination.

THANK YOU....to all who provided Angel Tree Gifts for recipients of the community.

REMEMBER IN PRAYER **Chris Ray**, former member of St Paul, who passed away on December 2 in Dresden TN.

VOCATION CORNER – Our vocation starts as an indwelling, with the quiet whisper of God’s pull on our heart. It’s often personal and difficult to describe to others and often takes much prayer and discernment to see clearly. Are we to become another John the Baptist - that “voice of one crying out in the desert”? St. Francis de Sales reflected on this individual nature of our call, “We all have a vocation. We believe that God has placed us in this life to fill a special need that no one else can accomplish.”

Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11; Luke 1:46-54; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8,19-28

"Who am I?" The question of identity touches the most profound depths of our personhood. The pursuit of personal needs and goals can have a suffocating effect. As we prepare in Advent for the Second Coming of the Lord, we are reminded in the liturgy that we must meet the Lord as a community, not as a collection of isolated individuals.

The prophet we call Third Isaiah, cared for the hurting community in Jerusalem around 500 B.C. As God's specially anointed spokesperson, he identifies with the brokenhearted. As a sign of hope he describes the joy of a renewed marriage between Yahweh and Jerusalem. The drab clothing of the past will be replaced with a robe of salvation and a mantle of justice. Yahweh will bring forth justice and praise in the presence of the Gentiles.

In the responsorial, Luke presents Mary's response to Elizabeth who has recognized Jesus in Mary's womb. Mary sings of her God and God's community. She finds the basis of her joy not within herself but within God. Placing herself within the framework of Israel's history, Mary unequivocally replies to the question: "Who am I? I am yours."

The two opening verses of today's gospel describe John as witness to the light and Jesus himself as the light. The Baptist seeks his own identity in relation to the Lord. John explains that he is not one of the traditional figures of the end of the world (the Messiah, Elijah, or the prophet). He is, however, the herald spoken of in Isaiah 40:3. John's baptism of water envisions the coming one, the Messiah.

Identity begins with family, then we look to community. We must support positive programs for the good of all our neighbors. Allegiance to Church and our brothers and sisters in faith are essential. In all these and similar situations we are encouraged to respond: "Who am I? I am yours."

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

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Third Sunday of Advent – 13 December 2020

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11. Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24. John 1:6-8, 19-28.

Who Am I? As we long for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, let our Advent be perfectly holy.

To help us, Saint Paul reminds us of these basic Christian attitudes: (1) rejoice always, (2) pray without ceasing, and (3) always give thanks.

- ◆ In whom or in what will I rejoice this week?
- ◆ How will I pray every day this week?
- ◆ For whom and for what am I thankful? What will I do because of this thanksgiving?

Fourth Sunday of Advent – 20 December 2020

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16. Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29. Romans 16:25-27. Luke 1:26-38.