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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

The Building is God's By the time of the First Reading, David is King. He has won a lot of victories, and he is rich and prosperous too. His house is built of wood and stones. But the ark of God is housed only in a tent.

David thought about the fact that God had only a tent while he, the King, had a real house; and so he made a decision to build a house for God too. He made it his responsibility to take care of God, you might say.

God wants our love, but he does not need our protection.

And God laughed at him. God told David, “I will build you a house!” And so he did. The Son of God, born of David's lineage, is that house. The kingly line of David's lineage finds its everlasting fulfillment in Christ. And every Christian finds a home there, too, in the body of Christ that is the Church.

David's son Solomon did eventually build a house for the ark of God in Jerusalem, and it was magnificent. But any earthly building, even the great temple in Jerusalem, is puny by comparison with the house that God built for David and for all God's people in Christ the Lord.

David did well to revere the ark of God, just as we do well to revere the Church. But it was foolish of David to feel that it was his responsibility to care for God. God wants our love, but he does not need our protection. Without our help, God is still, himself, Lord of heaven and earth.

Like David, we can love the holy things of God, and we can give our service to God's Church. But it is not our responsibility to make the Church big, strong, and successful. If we think that God's church, or anything built for God, will lose and go down without our building it up, we will be as foolish as David in the first Reading.

The building is God's.

Eleonore Stump

Schedule of Masses

Sun	Dec 20	8:00am	SP	For the Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Albion Scislowicz
Tues	Dec 22	11:00 am	SP	General Intention
Wed	Dec 23	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Thr	Dec 24	6:00 pm	SP	For the Parishioners
Fri	Dec 25	10:00 am	SP	General Intention
Sun	Dec 27	8:00am	SP	For the Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Joan Klenk

Birthdays Dec 23 Gary Hacker Fred Deaton

Liturgical Ministry Schedule - Lector

St Paul.....Dec 20 8 am	Arlene Dueker	Dec 24 6 pm	Joe Nelson	Dec 27 8am	Open
10 am	Madonna Slife	Dec 25 10am	Open	10am	Open

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING Dec 13, 2020

Envelope \$ 1285.00 (21), Loose 142.00, Mass Int 30.00, Holydays 220.00, Ret Religious 95, Flower Memorials 30.00, Christmas Book Reimb 65.00, Bld & Maint 195.00, SEIEC Reimb 27.69

Total \$2089.69

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 20	Sunday Mass at SP.....	8:00 am
		Sacrament of Reconciliation.....	9:15-9:45 am
		Sunday Mass at SP.....	10:00 am
		Decorate church for Christmas....	after 10 am Mass
(Recorded Mass available on facebook, St Paul Youtube channel)			
Mon	Dec 21	Flower Memorial Deadline at parish office	
Tue	Dec 22	Weekday Mass.....	11:00 am
Wed	Dec 23	Sacrament of Reconciliation..church...5:30-6:15pm	
		Weekday Mass.....	6:30 pm
Thr	Dec 24	Christmas Eve hymns. 5:30pm.....	Mass... 6:00 pm
Fri	Dec 25	Christmas Day Mass.....	10 am
For reservations at Christmas and Dec 27 masses, contact the rectory by phone or e-mail			
Sun	Dec 27	Holy Family Sunday	
		Sunday Mass at SP.....	8:00 am
		Sunday Mass at SP.....	10:00 am



REMAINING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION are, Sunday Dec 20, 9:15 – 9:45 am, and Wednesday, Dec 23, 5:30-6:15 pm.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS will be put up following the 10 am mass this Sunday. All are welcome to assist.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES are available at mass this weekend by the worship aid table.

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

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR DIOCESAN NEEDY A special collection is annually taken up in parishes of the diocese on Christmas to provide resources to assist requests of needy households in the diocese. The distribution of the funds are managed through the Catholic Urban Program supervised by Joe Hubbard. Envelopes for the collection are in the boxed set.

PARISH CHRISTMAS GIFT BOOK is I Heard God Laugh by Matthew Kelly. He offers guidance and insight on how to make daily prayer central to a person's life. Household labeled books will be passed out to those with reservations at Christmas Masses. Copies will be delivered to other parishioners who aren't able to attend Christmas Mass. Discussions by chapter are planned. Your input on most beneficial format is needed—bulletin insert or facebook or Zoom virtual meetings, in person sharing before or after mass.

CHILDREN GIFT BAGS, prepared by the Ladies CCW, will be distributed at Christmas Masses.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Dec 27 Holy Family Sunday; Jan 1, 6:30 pm at SP- Mary Mother of God Holyday; Jan 3 Epiphany with Home Blessing



**BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO
ALL OF ST PAUL PARISH**

Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-11,16; Psalm 89; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Redemption would seem to be a divine enterprise. Generally we imagine ourselves as cast in a minor role on the stage of salvation history. To imagine the all-powerful God calling to say "I need you" doesn't quite fit. What could we possibly contribute to such an awe-inspiring production?

Today's readings take a different approach. We are not marionettes manipulated by a puppeteer; we are free, grace-filled participants in the drama of salvation. The Davidic king, Mary, and Paul have leading roles. God says to them "I need you."

The 2 Samuel excerpt focuses on Yahweh establishing a succession of Davidic kings to rule God's people. This is a royal gift with no strings attached -- the house will last forever. Ideally the Davidic king was to seek the welfare of the people, symbolizing God's effort to provide for the people's needs. The king would ensure justice and bring about peace. In these duties the king represented God.

The second reading is a doxology, an expression of praise that speaks of God strengthening Christians in their faith and leading Gentiles to faith. This happened because Paul proclaimed the gospel about Jesus Christ. The journey to faith was originally hidden, but it had now, through Paul's preaching, come to light.

Luke's account of the Annunciation to Mary follows a pattern found in the Hebrew Scriptures: an angelic appearance, fear in the recipient, the message and its problem, a resolution, and a sign to confirm God's intent. Mary says "yes" in total openness, the ideal disciple who hears the word and acts upon it.

God has urgent need for us, just as for the Davidic king, for Paul, and for Mary. We are God's instruments of consolation, of peace, of mercy. We announce God's saving presence! What better season than Christmas to be needed by the Messiah?

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

.1997, Liguori Publications / Liguori, MO 63057-9999

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.

How Can This Be? Words of a visiting angel: Do not be afraid; God has this plan; you are full of grace. Mary speaks aloud what we all are thinking: "How can this be?" God makes it possible because God makes us holy!

- ◆ What should I stop fearing?
- ◆ What is God's plan for me just for this day?
- ◆ What will I do this week as God's holy person that benefits someone else?

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph – 27 December 2020

Genesis 15:1-6; 21: 1-3. Psalm 105. Hebrew 1:1-8, 11-12, 17-19. Luke 2:22-40.