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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

Peace, Consolation, and Glory In the Gospel Reading, Simeon is waiting in the Temple, because the Holy Spirit has revealed to him that he will meet the Messiah there. When Simeon does finally see Jesus, the Gospel tells us, Simeon had been waiting for a long time.

Waiting can be so hard. Think of the young mother waiting for lab results about her cancer, or the old lady waiting for news about her son in Afghanistan. Think of the aspiring novelist waiting to hear if the press will accept his manuscript or the scientist waiting to know if his life's work will be honored with a great prize. Peace is so often lost by such a wait.

As the Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon, this baby is God's consolation for all his people.

While a person is waiting, he is anxious—what if the thing he is waiting for never comes? And he is sad or sorrowful, because he does not yet have the thing he wants and is waiting for. Then there's the undeniable humiliation of having to wait. A person who waits knows that what he wants depends on things outside his own control. Having to wait brings home to him his vulnerability and neediness.

And so look at what Simeon says when his wait is finally over and he sees Jesus.

Seeing this baby, Simeon says, lets me die in peace. This baby overturns anxiety and brings peace—not a theoretical kind of peace which has no purchase on a person's emotions, but real peace, the kind that brings with it easy breathing.

And why peace? Because, as the Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon, this baby is God's consolation for all his people. If God himself gives a person consolation, he will have God's peace as well.

And, finally, this peace is not the kind of peace that makes a person ready with resignation to accept defeat. No, on the contrary: it makes a person rise to glory. That is why Simeon says in his prayer that this baby brings glory to God's people.

And so here is the thing for us to think about at Christmas. In our anxieties, in our sorrows, in our defeats and humiliations, can we turn and look at this baby? No matter what anxiety, sorrow, or defeat the world has given us, nothing can take this baby away from us. Our consolation, our peace, and our glory lie with him.

Eleonore Stump

A FAMILY BLESSING will be offered this Sunday invoking that families not only meet a standard of being well adjusted, but that they truly become holy.

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD HOLYDAY will be celebrated Friday, January 1. The holyday mass at St Paul will be 6:30 pm on Friday.

FIRST SATURDAY MASS AND DEVOTIONS will be held on January 2, 8:30 am at St Paul Church.

FINANCE COUNCIL AND BUILDING AND GROUNDS has scheduled its annual survey of the buildings and grounds for needed repair and preventive maintenance beginning 7:30 am on Saturday, Jan 2.

EPIPHANY HOME BLESSING KITS will be made available January 3 for families to mark their home threshold and to be mindful of making their home a place of welcome and hospitality.

FAITH ALIVE THRIFT STORE will be staffed by St Paul Parish volunteers on January 7-9th. Any member of the parish is welcomed to participate. A sign-up sheet is available on the church bulletin board or you may call Arlene Dueker 559-7803 or Madonna Slife 967-5164

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. Copies not picked up at Christmas are available in household labeled envelopes in the prayer room of the parish hall (door on left facing main entrance, which is always unlocked). Discussions by chapter are planned. A survey sheet is on the bulletin board for your input on most beneficial format—bulletin insert or facebook or Zoom virtual meetings, in person sharing before or after mass.

THANK YOU...to the Council of Catholic Women for preparing treat bags for children
....to all who remembered family members by making Flower Memorial Donations.
....to the musicians and cantors who lead our sung worship esp for the Christmas masses
....for the support ministry of hand sanitizers, seating and disinfecting the church each mass
....to parishioners for the Christmas gift to Fr Tom

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.

VOCATION CORNER Today we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Each of them was called to in a unique way to love and serve their family, but the power of their love within also *went out* to the world. The Gospel story tells of Jesus being presented in the temple as per the law. They are already “sharing” their Son with the world as acknowledged by Simeon and Anna. Can we, as family, support one of our family members who might be discerning a call to the religious life? Joseph and Mary made that ultimate sacrifice.

Feast of the Holy Family

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3. Psalm 105: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 7-19. Luke 2:22-40.

Family life and community life go together. Family life is not just the intimate, private relationship we sometimes imagine. The joys and sorrows, the successes and failures of family relate directly to the achievements and disasters of society at large. Today's Scripture sees the smaller unit of family as having a vital impact on the larger unit of community. The activity within the home transcends the environs of family to embrace all humankind.

Psalm 128 is a wisdom psalm that shows the consequences of walking in God's ways. The family will enjoy prosperity. According to verse 4, job and family are great blessings in themselves. The psalmist links the blessing of the God-fearing family with the prosperity of Jerusalem and the peace of Israel. Family life and community life go together.

The author of Colossians presents general principles for life in Christ and specific applications for the Christian home. Love is the quality that binds all the others together and brings them to perfection. Christians are members of the one body that is Christ himself (see 1 Corinthians 12:12-31) and that applies to the Christian home as well.

Luke presents Mary and Joseph as the latter-day Hannah and Elkanah, who presented their son Samuel in the Temple in Shiloh (see 1 Samuel 1 and 2). Luke singles out Mary as the one who will suffer pain when Israel fails to respond. Mary's destiny is bound with the destiny of her people. Responsibility means that we give as well as receive; respect implies that we honor each person's innate dignity; and concern suggests that we look to the good of others as well as ourselves. These are but three of the domestic virtues that affect the community.

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

1997, Liguori Publications / Liguori, MO 63057-9999

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

Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3. Psalm 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9. Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 7-19. Luke 2:22-40.

This Child. Every parent knows a child is a blessing who is filled with innocence and wonder and grace. Grandparents know this, too, perhaps in renewed and deeper ways. It is their hope that every child will grow strong, be wise, and be favored.

- ◆ How will I care for a child today even if not related to me?
- ◆ How can I help children be holy?
- ◆ How will I be holy because of the blessedness of children?

Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God – Friday, 1 January 2021

Numbers 6:22-27. Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8. Galatians 4:4-7. Luke 2:16-21.

The Epiphany of the Lord, – 3 January 2021

Isaiah 60:1-6. Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13. Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6. Matthew 2:1-12.