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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

Comfort In the First Reading, the prophet reports a command given by God: ‘Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God!’ In the sorrows of life, who does not long for comfort? Who would not melt with gratitude at the tender comfort of God?

But what is comfort?

To give comfort to someone is to lend him some of your strength.

Sometimes what we want is just what the good shepherd gives his lost sheep. We don’t want to walk along the road of our life to the Lord. We want God to carry us.

But a child that is carried all the time will never learn to walk, to leap and run. That child, weak enough already to have to be carried, will get only weaker as the carrying goes on.

And comfort isn’t a matter of giving weakness. It’s a matter of giving strength—strength for walking, even over very rough roads.

In fact, the “-fort” in “comfort” comes from the Latin word for “strong.” The “com-” in “comfort” is from the Latin word for “with.” To give comfort to someone is to lend him some of your strength. He is more able to stand on his own feet and walk because you are with him.

But what is the comfort of God? Where is it? How do we find it?

The Gospel says that Christ baptizes his own with the Holy Spirit. Because of this baptism, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within each person who comes to Christ.

That is why no one who comes to Christ and receives his baptism of the Holy Spirit walks the wild and rocky road of life alone. God is so much with him that, in the person of the Holy Spirit, God is within him. If God is for us, even within us, who can be against us? This is strength indeed.

And so no wonder that the other name for the Holy Spirit is “the Comforter.”

Eleonore Stump

Schedule of Masses

Sun	Dec 6	8:00am	SP	For the Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	Bill Kinkead
Tues	Dec 8	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Wed	Dec 9	6:30 pm	SP	General Intention
Fri	Dec 11	12:00 pm	SP	General Intention
Sun	Dec 13	8:00am	SP	For the Parishioners
		10:00 am	SP	William Anderson

Birthdays
Dec 7 Derek Trovillion
Dec 10 Felix Cain
Dec 11 Kathy Hupe Laurie Coleman

Liturgical Ministry Schedule - Lector

St Paul.....	Dec 6	8 am	Joe Nelson	Dec 13	8 am	Open
		10 am	Open		10 am	Open

STEWARDSHIP OFFERING Nov 29, 2020

Envelope \$ 985.00 (17), Loose 20.00, Mass Int 70.00, Funeral 100.00, Candles 3.00
 Thanksgiving 135.00, CCHD 10.00

Total 1323.00

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 6	Sunday Mass at SP.....	8:00 am
		Sunday Mass at SP.....	10:00 am
		Distribution of 2021 Calendars & Contribution Env	
		(Recorded Mass available on facebook, St Paul Youtube channel)	
Tue	Dec 8	Holyday of Immaculate Conception.....	6:30 pm
Wed	Dec 9	Weekday Mass.....	6:30 pm
Thr	Dec 10	Eucharistic Adoration at St Paul.....	4:00-7:30 pm
Fri	Dec 11	Weekday Mass.....	12 pm
		For reservations at Dec 13 masses, contact the rectory by phone or e-mail	
Sun	Dec 13	Sunday Mass at SP.....	8:00 am
		Sunday Mass at SP.....	10:00 am
		Deadline to Return Advent Angel Gifts	

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



2021 CHURCH CALENDARS AND CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES are available this weekend. If you are missing your set, please notify the parish office.

ADVENT SEASON Booklets to prepare for the season are available in the foyer. The Sunday Scripture readings will be taken from the Cycle B selections. Dynamic Catholic is again offering **Best Advent Eve** a daily e-mail video reflection. There is no charge. Available at DynamicCatholic.com.

FIRST SUNDAY SOCIAL has been put on hold until warmer weather allows outside gatherings

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

PARISH ADDRESS & EMERGENCY CONTACT DIRECTORY is available.. Check the box in the church foyer for a copy with your household name on it.

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.

HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION, IMMACULATE CONCEPTION will be celebrated on Tuesday, December 8, 6:30 pm at St Paul

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION will be offered December 10th. Please consider signing up on the schedule on the bulletin board.

SECRETARY/OFFICE MANAGER POSITION is available at St Paul Church for 12-18 hours a week. Entails use of e-mail, word processing, spreadsheets and database skills. Compensation beginning at \$12 hr. For job description or questions, contact Fr Tom.

ANNUAL ADULT CHILD PROTECTION REFRESHER COURSE for 2020-21 is now available at <https://safeandsacred-diobelle.org> Anyone with regular contact with children in ministry who seeks to be certified may now participate in the initial Child Protection training online. Please contact Fr Tom if you need assistance..

CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL Among many special solicitations this time of year, the CS&MA is asking support to meet the annual goal. Especially if you haven't been able to support the appeal earlier, they welcome your contribution.

THANK YOU....to all who supported the Food Drive during November for Vienna Pantry
.....to the faithful ministers who greet, seat, and sanitize for our weekend masses.
.....to the liturgical ministers, musicians and song leaders who support our liturgies.
.....to the liturgy committee for decorating our worship space for the Advent season

VOCATION CORNER – “The priestly vocation is essentially a call to sanctity, in the form that derives from the Sacrament of Holy Orders. Sanctity is intimacy with God; it is the imitation of Christ, poor, chaste and humble; it is unreserved love for souls and self-giving to their true good; it is love for the Church which is holy and wants us to be holy, because such is the mission that Christ has entrusted to it. Each one of you must be holy also in order to help your brothers pursue their vocation to sanctity.” – St. John Paul II, October 9, 1984

Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11; Psalm 85; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

At times, the hurried pace of our lives may obscure even the most dramatic reality -- for example, the gift-giving presence of our God. Today's readings speak of God's nearness in our daily lives. The Scriptures capture moments when people were challenged to react to God's presence. First they had to become aware of God's gifts, then they had to respond.

Around 540 B.C., Second Isaiah, the anonymous prophet of the exile, spoke to his despairing community. His opening words of comfort and tenderness reveal a God who, forgetting the past, offers the grace of the present moment. There had to be a march through the desert to the land of Israel; this trek would manifest God's presence, to the utter amazement of the people. Even then, the people had to become aware of the moment!

In Psalm 85, the community asks for God's presence. Putting aside all hesitation the psalmist announces that God proclaims peace to the people. To enjoy God's gift of peace, however, the community must keep its covenant with Yahweh. It is just such a response, culminating in kindness, truth, and justice, that ushers in the blessing of the harvest.

Mark begins his gospel with the image of the desert. He quotes Second Isaiah to tell us that John the Baptist announces God's unexpected gift of salvation in the desert. Like the ninth-century prophet Elijah, John wears a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt (see 2 Kings 1:8). God's presence in the Baptist demands a response of radical conversion and of repentance.

God's gifts appear not only in extraordinary events such as a return from exile or the coming of Jesus but also in ordinary, day to day occurrences. The grace of friendship, the devotion of a spouse, the comfort of co-workers -- all these manifest God's gifts. Our awareness of giftedness moves us to a personal response where love, support, and consolation is given as well as received.

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

1997, Liguori Publications / Liguori, MO 63057-9999

Second Sunday of Advent – 06 December 2020

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11. Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14. 2 Peter 3:8-14. Mark 1:1-8.

What Sort of Persons? In this Advent time of looking to the future while living in the now, Saint Peter's question is the right one: "What sort of person ought you to be?" Saint John the Baptist offers a good response and better example. He is not full of himself. He knows his minor place. He points to the One who is both with us now and is also coming.

- ◆ How will my waiting on the Lord make me more humble?
- ◆ What full-of-myself behaviors can I change, can I let go?

Works of Mercy take the focus off me for the benefit of another. What will I do?

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.