



**Pastor : Rev Thomas Barrett**

**Phone (618) 658 – 4501**

**E-mail: [spccil@frontier.com](mailto:spccil@frontier.com)**

**Website: [www.stpaulvienna.org](http://www.stpaulvienna.org)**



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

**Here and Now** When the Lord was baptized, a voice came from heaven saying “This is my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.” There could hardly be a more important message than this identification of Jesus, could there?

You stand out as the particular human being you are, where the Lord is concerned.

But why did this important message come through a voice from heaven? A voice from heaven can be heard only by those who are there, then. What about everybody else? Surely, it is important for all human beings to know that Jesus is God’s beloved Son.

And the same sort of puzzle arises from the First Reading. It says that the Messiah will open the eyes of the blind, and the Gospels testify that Christ really did so. But he opened the eyes of only a few blind people, those blind people who were there, then. What about all the other blind people, in other places, in other times? Why didn’t Jesus just heal all blindness everywhere with one impersonal command: let all the blind people of the world be healed?

And so here is one thing we can learn from these Readings. In the voice from heaven, in the miracles of Christ, God shows that he is committed to the good of particularity. God does not send the news about the Messiah as an impersonal message directed impartially to all humankind. He identifies Jesus as his Son by a voice from heaven heard by particular people at a particular time. Similarly, Christ does not issue an impersonal decree about nameless blind people taken as a group. Christ heals some particular blind people who happened to be at a particular place at the particular time when Christ was also there.

So you might feel that you are just an unnoticed member of your company or an invisible one of the many ordinary people in your town. But you stand out as the particular human being you are, where the Lord is concerned. God does not deal with people as faceless members of a collective. He calls, and he heals, one particular person at a time, as each individual comes to him.

But then you yourself—not your Church or your group, but you—need to come to the Lord, to face him, to know him, to love him, and to let him heal you, whatever your needs and sufferings are. Come as yourself, as you are, here and now.

Eleonore Stump



**CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS** will be taken down following the 10 am Mass this weekend. Any available hands to help will be appreciated.

**CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS FOR 2020** will be available on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Any contributions for 2020 must be delivered by January 10<sup>th</sup>. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr Finance Report will be included with statements.

**PARISH COUNCIL NOMINEE DISCERNMENT** 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. An informational flyer will introduce nominees. An affirmation vote will be held on January 17.

**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. Discussions by chapter are planned. A bulletin insert will be made available to guide your reflection.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** will be offered this Thursday, January 14, 4 – 7:30 pm. Those participating are encouraged to sign the schedule on the bulletin board.

**COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN** will have bi-monthly meeting next Sunday following the 10 am mass in the parish hall. All women of the parish are encouraged to take part. A collection will be taken up following the mass for support of their ministries.

**COPY OF DIOCESAN MESSENGER** is available for parishioners in bulletin rack

#### **THANK YOU.....**

...to the Three Kings who after honoring Jesus, presented practical gifts to mass attendees

...to all the volunteers who assisted with operating the Faith Alive Thrift Store this week.

...to the musicians and song leaders who elevate our voices to prayer

...to the faithful volunteers who greet, seat, and sanitize for us to continue mass attendance

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Jan 20 Parish Council Meeting in hall...6:00 pm

Jan 22 Day of Penance and Reparation for Sanctity of Human Life

Jan 24 Emergency Preparedness talk – Fire... after mass

Jan 31 Liturgy Committee Mt...9:00 am

Feb 7 Messenger Renewal Sunday

**VOCATION CORNER** “Though I was raised in a Catholic family and blessed with good priests throughout my life, the priesthood did not attract me when I was young. In fact, during college, I didn’t even practice the faith. The Lord eventually led me back to the Church, and when he began to call me to the priesthood, I was both terrified and excited. He was asking me to sacrifice my will and to trust and follow him. This meant breaking up with the girl I was dating and placing my desires for fatherhood and family into his hands. Had I been called when I was younger, I wouldn’t have been mature enough in my faith to answer with the generosity and trust that let me to the priesthood.”

Father Jonathan Schnobrich, Diocese of Burlington, Vt. *Columbia Magazine*  
October 2020

# Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 42:1-4,6-7; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-38; Mark 1:7-11

There is a danger that baptism and confirmation may become merely status encounters for us if we take pride in our relationship with the Holy Spirit but refuse to release the Spirit for others. Today's readings see the Spirit as a catalyst for aiding the down-and-out, not as a private gift for cushioning our own ego. Here, the Holy Spirit's power energizes the powerless. In the first reading, the spirit-imbued servant looks to the good of the despiritualized community. Without resorting to violence, he witnesses to God's glory on earth by empowering the powerless. For Isaiah, to receive God's spirit is to respond to the task of reviving and transforming the brokenhearted and discouraged.

Luke, the author of Acts, shows in the second reading that salvation does not depend on being a Jew. It is sufficient to fear God and practice righteousness. Luke looks back to the baptism preached by John and the ministry of Jesus. For Luke, Jesus' reception of the Spirit propels Jesus to do good works.

Mark links the baptism scene with the prophetic career of Jesus. Like the servant in the first reading, Jesus will accomplish his mission by reaching out to the hurting. To this end Mark shows the consequences of the baptism by showing Jesus curing the demoniac, Peter's mother-in-law, and a leper.

Small gestures and few words often go a long way in alleviating the pain of those hurting. A visit to a shut-in is much more than spending an hour with an elderly or sick person. It is a release of God's Spirit to offset the aches of loneliness and isolation. A word of encouragement to a struggling child or a grief-stricken adult is much more than the formulation of several sentences. It is the sending forth of God's Spirit to counteract the hurts of discouragement and despair. These are but two examples of the myriad ways in which the modern believer can confront evil. Such ways clearly announce that the Holy Spirit's power energizes the powerless.

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

1997, Liguori Publications / Liguori, MO 63057-9999

## The Baptism of the Lord, January 10, 2021

Isaiah 55:1-11. Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6. 1 John 5:1-19. Mark 1:7-11.

**God Shows No Partiality.** Saint Peter speaks the truth. God is impartial. For everyone who acts uprightly is acceptable. Everyone. Politics may be partisan at times, but Christians can never be. Indeed, Baptism makes us all alike – with differing gifts and charisms – but all in the image of Christ whose name we bear. God says to us as well: “I am well pleased.”

- ◆ Because of Baptism, how will I cherish even those not like me?
- ◆ What will I do today to bear the image of Christ?

To whom will I say, because of this \_\_\_\_\_, I am well pleased?

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, January 17, 2021

1 Sam 3: 3b-10, 19; Psalm 40; 1 Cor 6: 13c-15a, 17-20; John 1:35-42.