

A photograph of two women embracing outdoors. The woman on the right, with curly dark hair, is smiling broadly and wearing a black top with white lace sleeves. The woman on the left has long dark hair and is wearing a white off-the-shoulder top. They are in front of a light-colored wall and greenery.

31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

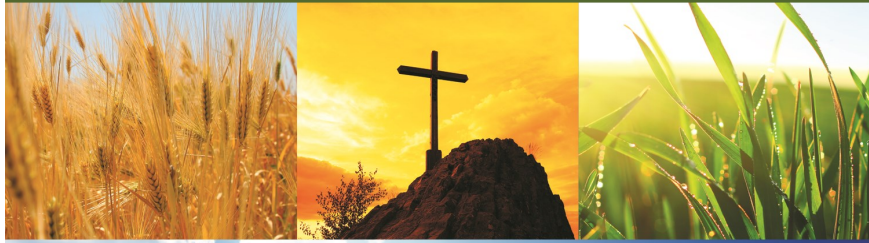
FORGIVENESS

When he reached the place,
Jesus looked up and said,
“Zacchaeus, come down quickly,
for today I must stay at your
house.” And he came down
quickly and received him
with joy. - Lk 19:5-6

ST. PATRICK PARISH & SHRINE

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Stewardship



ST. PATRICK CHURCH

3285 Mills Road
Taylor Mill, Kentucky 41015
Phone (859) 356-5151
Fax (859) 344-7042

www.stpatrickchurch.us/

Stay connected through social media resources: Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, which can be found at the bottom of the page on the parish website or on parish APP.



Download our app today at: myparishapp.com or search your phone's app store for **myparish**.

Parish Support

Stewardship Thank you for your almsgiving as we have much to do for further development of ministries and maintenance here!

Offertory Program \$7,068.00
Pledge Amount:

Regular Weekly \$6,263.94
Offertory Last Week

Building Fund—Repairs \$ 710.00

Loan Balance \$630,149.17

As of 9/30/19

† STEWARDSHIP ✉
What value do we place on our membership in the community of the church?

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Adoration Chapel

Open 24 hours a day,
7 days a week.

Parish App Feature-of-the-Week



Mass Times

- Mass times for the week
- Always know next Mass
- Reminder to silence your phone before Mass

Learn more or download our parish app at myparishapp.com

*Available on Apple and Android Phones.

Sacraments

Baptism: For more information, please visit the parish website. Baptism classes are generally held at 10am on the first Saturday of every month. Please call the office to register for class or register on-line.

Eucharist, Confirmation, & Sacrament of the Sick: Contact the parish office.

Reconciliation: Every Saturday 12-1 pm or contact Fr. Jeff anytime for an appointment.

Holy Orders: Contact Father Andrew Young at (859) 392-1500.

Matrimony: You must contact the parish at least six months in advance to the desired date. Please complete a Wedding Registration form to schedule a wedding. It is a good idea to confirm the date with the parish first before reserving a reception hall. For more information, please visit the parish website under sacraments at the bottom of the home page.

WORSHIP MINISTRY:

The new schedule is available. **Deadline for cannot serve dates for the next Schedule is: Sunday, December 1, 2019**

Contact Paul Washnock if you need a printed copy

Please input your cannot serve dates, so we do not have issues filling the positions. If you cannot serve unexpectedly, please request a sub. We know schedules change, but sometimes it is difficult to find someone to fill in last ten minutes before Mass starts. Please help us by inputting. *Thank you for your commitment to the Lord & His Sacrifice.*

Weekly Mass Schedule

Secretary:	Coleen Hamilton	(859) 356-5151 x 10
Hospital/Nursing Home Visit:	Fr. Jeff VonLehmen Coleen Hamilton Paul Washnock	(859) 356-5151 x 18 (859) 356-5151 x-10 (859) 356-5151
Preschool Administrator & VIRTUS Coordinator:	Pam Nunneley	(859) 344-7040 (859) 356-5151 x-16
CCD Religious Education Administrator:	Coleen Hamilton Mallory Hamilton	(859) 356-5151 x-10 (859) 356-5151 x-11
Acolyte, Worship Ministries, Sick & Homebound:	Paul Washnock	(859) 356-5214
Youth Ministry Coordinator:	Mallory Hamilton	(859) 356-5151 x-11
Bereavement, Welcome Committee & Altar Society:	Mary Ann Wilson	(859) 356-6498
Deacon: St. Elizabeth Full Time	Carl Ledbetter	(859) 356-5151
Joyful Noise Choir:	Joe Ising	(513) 616-4463
Parish Hall:	Coleen Hamilton	(859) 356-5151 x-10
Pastor, Spiritual Direction, Adult Formation	Fr. Jeff VonLehmen	859-356-5151 x-18

Sunday Masses	
Saturday	4:30 PM
Sunday	8:30 AM
	11:00am
For Holy Day Mass schedule see inside of bulletin	
Daily Masses	
Monday-Wednesday & Friday 7:35 am	
Wednesday (Evening Only) 7:00 pm	
First Saturday of the Month every month 8 am	
New Secretary's Office Hours	
Mon, Tue, Wed & Fri	
9am-5:15pm	

Fr. Jeff & Spiritual Direction

Fr. Jeff will be available in the church at certain times for Spiritual Direction. In the case of youth, please bring another person along. If you have a time scheduled, please feel free to come to the church. He is available for about 20-30 minutes per person. However, he will make himself available for longer if needed. Spiritual Direction is a way to help an individual discern how the spirit is leading the person. The role of a spiritual director is not to direct attention to oneself, rather it is to help the directed focus on Christ and sort out confusion or obstacles. Confession is also available during these times. Please contact Fr. Jeff if you would like to schedule a time to meet with him contact the parish office.

St. Brigid's Pantry

**Next Donation
will go to
Madonna House:**



Please say the following prayer when assembling your donation:

A Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Thank you Lord, for making my life free of serious want. Protect those in need with food this day. Give me a chance to nourish the poor through my compassion. Help me to see the hungry and never turn away. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sick & Homebound

If you know of someone in our parish that is: in the hospital, nursing home, sick and/or is homebound, or is in need of the sacrament of the anointing of the sick, please notify us by calling the parish office or email the secretary. Due to privacy laws we are no longer automatically notified unless someone tells us. Please help us serve our fellow brothers and sisters in the parish that are in need of this ministry. Your help in serving them is welcomed and greatly appreciated!

*Thank you and Christ's Peace,
Fr. Jeff*

Parish Ministry & Programs

Addiction to Drugs or Alcohol...There is Help: Doug Witt, a parishioner and recovering addict would like to talk with you about healing. Please contact him for help at: (859) 630-3972.

Ladies Altar Society: Meets at 7:00 pm every fourth Tuesday each month in the Parish Hall.

Healing Hearts is a confidential support group for anyone struggling with grief, illness, loss or change. It's also helpful for caretakers or the times when we need a little support as we go through life's many ups and downs. The group offers practical, creative and prayerful ways to cope with and heal all types of change and loss. We meet twice a month on the first and third Saturday in the Mercy Risen Bldg (formerly Old Rectory across the street) at 9:30 a.m. Please contact the parish office or Debra Martin with your confidential interest.

Ministry for Alternatives to Contraception and Women with Irregular Cycles : Work with Dr. Kim Sanders. Call the office for more information.

Parish Nurse Ministry Blood pressure screenings first weekend of each month. Call the office to contact Judy Schneider if you are interested in volunteering.

Project Rachel—God's Greatest Desire is to Forgive: If you have ever had an abortion experience, the Catholic Church wants to reach out to you and offer healing and reconciliation through Project Rachel, a confidential ministry for women and men. For more information, please call our Project Rachel confidential telephone number at: (859) 392-1547.

31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



**Starting at
12:00 am
Sunday
November 3rd**



31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME--NOVEMBER 3RD, 2019

SUNDAY'S READINGS

Mon	7:35am	Repose of Karl Nageleisen
Tue	7:35am	Repose of Rev. Tim Ryan
Wed	7:35am	Kristine Sexton
	7:00pm	Repose of Dorothy Kleindl
Fri	7:35am	Dorothy Phirman
Sat	4:30pm	Repose of Betty Dollenmayer & People of the Parish
Sun	8:30am	Thanksgiving for Fr. Jeff VonLehmen
	11:00am	Repose of Cathy Lee Dreyer

First Reading:

For you love all things that are and loathe nothing that you have made. (Wis 11:24a)

Psalm:

I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God. (Ps 145)

Second Reading:

We always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and powerfully bring to fulfillment every good purpose and every effort of faith. (2 Thes 1:11)

Gospel:

"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost." (Lk 19:10)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

The English translation of Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



Please Pray For: Ella, Dorothy Crawford, Brian Lauer, Ed Gripshover, Willis Family, Linda Mardis, Dottie Carneal & Family

Repose of: Robert Carneal, Michael McGuire, Derrick Arlinghaus

CCD ENROLLMENT

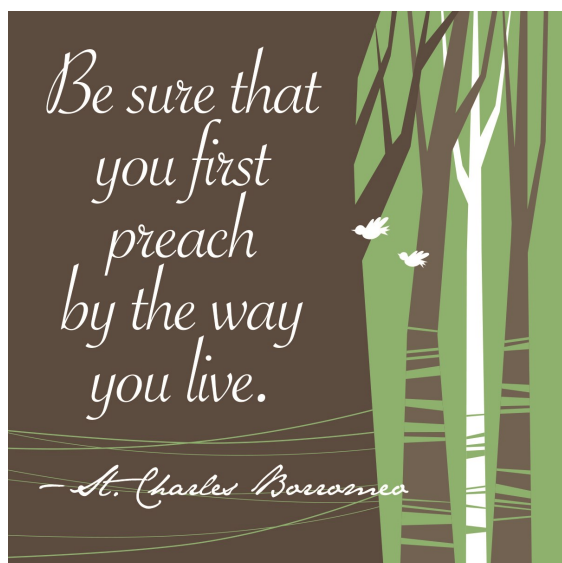
Registration 2019/2020 We are taking enrollments for the 2019/2020 CCD year. If your child was not in our program last year please register them by going on the Parish website and completing the online form. If you have any questions please contact Mallory Hamilton for more information. CCD 2019-2020. Register thru the myParish APP or online.

PRESCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Preschool 2019-2020 Enrollment If you have a child who will be eligible for 4 year old preschool next school year, and are interested in St. Patrick Catholic Preschool, contact Pam Nunnelley: (859) 344-7040. Register thru the myParish APP or online.

VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION

Do you Want to Volunteer in Worship Ministries or become a CLOW teacher or a CCD Substitute Teacher? If you would like more information or would like to sign up for any of the Worship Ministries: Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion, Greeter, Lector, Server, Usher, or help teach CLOW or become a CCD substitute teacher, it's easy to inquire or sign up: complete the online form at: <http://www.rotundasoftware.com/no-dl/ministry/knock?enroll=1> and we will contact you.



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading

The Jewish wisdom writer speaks of God's unconditional love for us as he patiently awaits us to repent from our sins. How do you think repentance draws someone closer to God?

Second Reading

Paul opens his second letter to the Christians in the city of Thessalonica with a warning not to be deceived by those attempting to confuse believers. How do we best handle those today who distort our faith?

Gospel Reading

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus affirms Zacchaeus, a rich chief tax collector, for having the proper attitude toward wealth. Why do you think excessive wealth often separates us from God and others?

WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES

Readings for the week of November 3, 2019

Sunday: Wis 11:22—12:2/Ps 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13, 14 [cf. 1]/2 Thes 1:11—2:2/Lk 19:1-10

Monday: Rom 11:29-36/Ps 69:30-31, 33-34, 36 [14c]/Lk 14:12-14

Tuesday: Rom 12:5-16b/Ps 131:1bcde, 2, 3/Lk 14:15-24

Wednesday: Rom 13:8-10/Ps 112:1b-2, 4-5, 9 [5a]/Lk 14:25-33

Thursday: Rom 14:7-12/Ps 27:1bcde, 4, 13-14 [13]/Lk 15:1-10

Friday: Rom 15:14-21/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 [cf. 2b]/Lk 16:1-8

Saturday: Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8, 9 [5]/1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17/Jn 2:13-22

Next Sunday: 2 Mc 7:1-2, 9-14/Ps 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15 [15b]/2 Thes 2:16—3:5/Lk 20:27-38 or 20:27, 34-38

Observances for the week of November 3, 2019

Sunday: 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time; National Vocation Awareness

Week; Daylight Saving Time Ends

Monday: St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop

Tuesday: Election Day

Wednesday:

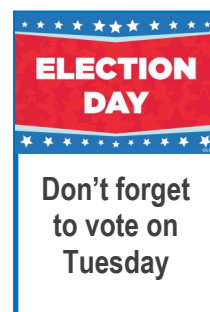
Thursday:

Friday:

Saturday: The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

Next Sunday: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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LET CHRIST love you first

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GOSPEL MEDITATION - DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Christ loves us first. So much of the Christian life is as simple as that. Today's Gospel is a prime example! *"Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man ... was seeking to see who Jesus was."* We may have gotten used to the story of Zacchaeus, this short, seemingly innocent man who climbs a sycamore tree in his desperate desire to see Jesus. But this colorful, children's Bible illustration isn't what the gathering crowd would have seen. They would have seen the white collar criminal. Tax collectors were notorious for extortion. They were collaborators with the oppressive Roman overlords, overcharging for taxes and skimming a cut off the top. And how does Jesus respond to this man?

"Come down quickly," Jesus says, *"for today I must stay at your house."* If you had been there, would you have believed it? No doubt there were other disciples in the city or, at the very least, kind, generous, and just people. "Good" people. But those aren't the people Jesus chooses to share a meal with. Christ loves us first. He chooses Zacchaeus even before the man makes a public profession of his repentance.

"The Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost." We may not be tax collectors and extortionists — I hope not! — but we all have elements of our lives that are lost. We have wounds from childhood, unresolved anxieties or attachments, daily fears. No matter how "put together" we are, we all have our lost moments. Some days, it may feel like we can't see over the ways they crowd our inner life. Today's Gospel invites us to do something a little strange. Don't let your flaws, failures, or hang-ups prevent you from seeing Jesus. Take a deep breath. Go climb a tree, because Jesus is passing by. And he wants to stay in your heart today.

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Imagine God coming to you at this very moment saying, "Today I must stay at your house!" How do you react when you hear those words? God must stay at *your* house. There is no time to clean or organize things or make any preparations. There is no time to backtrack and catch up on things that may have slipped by during the week. God is coming and doesn't care how things look! God just wants to spend time with you. God's mercy is very wide. It is so wide that we sometimes have a difficulty accepting just how unconditional and free it really is. We may find ourselves thinking that there must be some folks who don't deserve it or aren't worthy. All are worthy. The book of Wisdom tells us, "But you have mercy on all and you overlook people's sins that they may repent." There is no way around it: God must offer mercy. We are lost and we desperately need it.



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

The Enthusiastic Steward

Have you ever been at a concert and rushed the stage to get closer to your favorite act? Has your favorite sports team won a championship, and you just wanted to celebrate for hours? For those of us who are parents, have you ever gone to great lengths to get the perfect photo at a first Communion, graduation, or some other ceremony in which your child was involved?

When moments in our life are filled with enthusiasm, we can find ourselves overwhelmed and doing things we might not normally do. I bet Zacchaeus didn't have a regular habit of climbing trees. However, he climbed one so he could see Jesus more clearly. His enthusiasm led him up a tree, an action he probably would not normally do.

Following Jesus Christ is not easy in this world of ours. Trying to do it without feeling any enthusiasm makes it doubly difficult. Enthusiasm is something that can be grown, but we must be the ones who foster it. When we see the fruits of our stewardship, enthusiasm grows. When we spend time in prayer and in God's Word getting to know Jesus better, enthusiasm grows. When we work to make Jesus the most important person in our life, enthusiasm grows. If we find ourselves too often with our feet on the ground and growing in apathy, perhaps it is time to do what it takes to bring on that desire to climb a tree.

— Tracy Earl Welliver

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Faithful Departed

Question:

How can we pray for the dead throughout the year?

Answer:

We commemorate the faithful departed on November 2nd each year. However, we can and should continue to pray for the dead. Our growth in Christian perfection takes a long time. At the time of our death, many of us might not be saints yet. But God, in His mercy, allows for those who love Him to experience purification after death. Our word for that state is Purgatory. It's the antechamber of heaven, so to speak. We know we're getting in the house, but we're not quite ready to go all the way in. There's rain to shake off our coats and dirt that's clogging our shoes.

Here on earth, we can pray for the souls in Purgatory. One way is to request that your parish offer a Mass for the intention of a specific loved one. We can also remember the departed in our daily prayers. Just as we have special intentions for family and friends here on earth, we can pray for those who have died. It's also a good act of Christian charity to pray for the forgotten, those who have no one else to pray for them. God knows who they are!

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Thanksgiving Day Mass
Thursday, November 28th
10:00am

Bring an Offering of paper goods for the Poor and place it on steps in front of the altar at the offertory during Mass.

CCD NEWS

Volunteers Needed for Family Catechesis on Sunday December 1st. Setting up the hall will take place Saturday November 30th at 11am. The hall will need to be cleaned and put back after the event Sunday. This would be a great way to get in service hours, if you need them. Please contact Mallory Hamilton to sign up or for more information.

CCD Volunteers Needed. Anyone interested in helping out with CCD is welcome youth or adult. Also, need youth volunteers to help in the office during CCD hours to help collect attendance and organize our CCD storage room.

CCD Donations: CCD is seeking donations for Family Catechesis, which will be held on Sunday December 1st. All donations will be used for by families for making of a nativity set. Donations can be dropped off in the CCD office on Sunday's between 9:30-11am, or place them in the plastic bin marked Family Catechesis, which are located at the main church entrances. Contact Mallory Hamilton for any questions or more information. We are in need of the following items: Scraps of fabric, Yarn, String, Ribbon, Pipe cleaners (specifically gold pipe cleaners, but will take any color).



PARISH MINISTRY NEWS

Thank You!

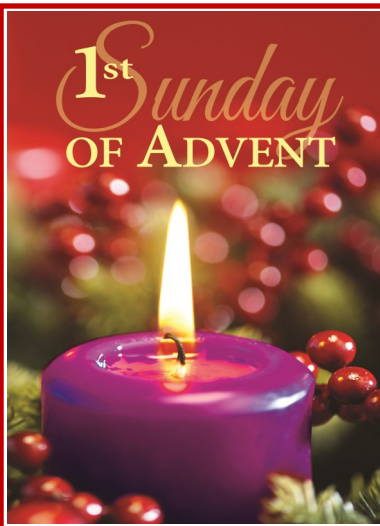
Hosea House Thanks to the generosity of our St. Patrick family, we

were able to serve dinner to the hungry and homeless on September 22 and October 27 at Hosea House. Please continue to pray for our friends at Hosea House and for all who go without the basic necessities of life. Our next scheduled date to serve our brothers and sisters in need is next March 29. If you would like to be part of the team, call Mary Ann Reinersman 581-7601.

Live Nativity Volunteers Needed There will be a short volunteer meeting/information session in the Parish Hall after the 11 am Mass on Sunday, November 10th. St. Patrick will hold it's annual Live Nativity event the weekend before Christmas, again this year to share in the tradition of adoring the Christ child as a parish family and community. Emmanuel — God With Us, is God's greatest gift to all of us. The same Christ that came at Christmas is the same Christ that we are blessed to receive in the Most Blessed Sacrament at every Mass. We are in need of many volunteers in various areas to help with the event. Live Event Dates and Times:

- Saturday, December 21, 2019— After the 4:30pm Mass
- Sunday, December 22, 2019—After the 11am Mass

The goal is to get many volunteers to help, so that everyone may still participate and enjoy this beautiful tradition. It is something to pass on to our children and grandchildren that will help build up their faith and create fond family and community memories. It is also evangelization as we invite anyone that passes by to encounter the Lord's greatest gift, His Son by remembering His Birth. Please prayerfully consider volunteering in whatever way you feel your schedule will allow. We invite youth ages to participate in the acting during the live events, which will take place as noted below. There will be a short practice/dress rehearsal on Sat Dec 21st. There are no speaking parts. The acting parts last about 30 minutes. Everyone will again be invited to the Parish Hall afterwards for a short reception for fellowship, and refreshments., including beer. Contact the parish secretary for more information.



Family Catechesis
Sunday December 1st
9:45 - 10:45am Parish Hall

CCD is hosting a family catechesis event: a nativity making project for the whole family, which will take place during the regular CCD time. Everyone is invited to attend. All materials will be provided. Take this time to be together with your family as we enter into the most Holy season of Advent. We look forward to seeing you and your family there!

PRO-LIFE NEWS

Chris Rice Memorial Fund Scholarship Many high school students each year are unable to attend the March for Life due to the cost of the trip. The Chris Rice Memorial Fund, named in memory of a young man who was dedicated to pro-life causes, enables those students who cannot afford the pilgrimage to Washington the opportunity to go. Donations in any amount are greatly appreciated. Please send donations to: Diocese of Covington, Pro-Life Office, 1125 Madison Ave, Covington, KY 41011-3115.



2020 March for Life Adult / Family Bus
JANUARY 23-25, 2020 Diocese of Covington annual pilgrimage to Washington DC for the 47th Annual March for Life. The March for Life will be on January 24, 2020. An Adult/

Family Bus will depart N. Kentucky on Thursday, January 23rd and return Saturday, January 25th. Hotel accommodations for two nights are at the Washington Marriott Metro Center Trip Cost: \$325.00 per person dbl occp., \$270.00 per person triple occp., \$240.00 per person quad occp., *Family Rates available upon request (Price includes 2 nights' accommodations and bus travel) \$50.00 Deposit due December 6, 2019. For more information, contact Peggy Piccola at: 859-392-1500 or email ppiccola@covdio.org.

OTHER NEWS

The Sisters of Notre Dame are looking for compassionate, dedicated and committed individuals for the following positions. PRN Nursing Assistant Openings Our Nursing Assistants serve the Sisters in our Lourdes Hall Care Facility round the clock working in eight-hour shifts (6a-2p, 2-10p, 10p-6a). Qualified Nurse Aide applicants will have a minimum of 1 year of experience as a Nursing Assistant or be currently enrolled in an accredited healthcare program. If interested in this opportunity, please send your resume to Sisters of Notre Dame, 1601 Dixie Highway, Covington, KY 41011 Attention: HR Dept, humanresources@sndky.org, or call 859-291-2040.

JESUS SAID HE CAME TO GIVE US LIFE TO THE FULL
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?
DO YOU WANT TO LEARN EXACTLY HOW TO LIVE IT?

THEN DON'T MISS REBOOT!
ONE EVENING REGIONAL EVENT
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 7:00 – 9:30PM
NKU STUDENT UNION

For more information and to register:
Call 859-620-1813 or visit: www.RealLifeCatholic.com/reboot
HURRY! Get your tickets while you can!

Catholics Care. Catholics Vote.

We vote because we are citizens. But we vote conscientiously because we are people of faith. Our consciences are formed through studying Scripture and the teachings of the Church, examination of the facts, and prayerful reflection.

This brief insert is intended as a starting point to help us respond to our choices in the current political landscape.

Forming Consciences



Faithful Citizenship

While there are many moral issues before us, every issue is not equal.

- ★ **Issues that directly affect human lives**—such as abortion and euthanasia—are fundamental and demand serious consideration.
- ★ Our Constitution heralds **religious liberty** in the First Amendment, yet increasingly people of faith are having to fight to retain this basic right.
- ★ There is a move in the nation to **redefine marriage**. The marriage of a man and a woman is the foundation of the family and an essential core element of a flourishing society.
- ★ The **growing disparity between rich and poor** means most of the world's resources are in the hands of a small percentage of its people. The federal budget is a moral document and must prioritize the poorest and most vulnerable among us.
- ★ The **millions of undocumented persons** living in the United States deserve our compassion. There is an immigration problem, and we need a humane solution to it.
- ★ War, terror, and **violence** have caused thousands of lost lives. We must work for just solutions to conflict in the Holy Land, throughout the Middle East, and beyond.

Visit FaithfulCitizenship.org today.

As Catholic citizens, we should remember three things:

- 1. Respect for the dignity of each person** is the core of Catholic social and moral teaching. This is our most basic principle.
- 2. We focus on the common good**, not our own personal interests. We ask, how can we make the world a better place? Not, how can I improve my own personal situation?
- 3. We have a responsibility**—a true obligation—to form our consciences and participate in the civic life of this nation.

Here are some ways to do that.

- ★ Be true to the **teachings of the Church**. Read Scripture, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, teachings from the Holy See, and the statements of our bishops. Read *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* at faithfulcitizenship.org. We need to be sure that our reasoning and judgments are well-grounded in our faith.
- ★ Stay **well-informed about issues** through judicious and reasoned engagement with the immense world of information in the twenty-first century. Just as all issues are not equal, all sources are not equal. For example, an individual's blog—while potentially very insightful—may not have the same fidelity to factual truth as our media sources that hold themselves to professional standards of journalistic ethics, imperfect though they are.
- ★ Remain in contact **with our representatives** in local, state, and federal government. Our responsibility to form our consciences leads to an obligation to be *active citizens*. We communicate regularly with our leaders—not only during election seasons.
- ★ Engage in **reasoned, compassionate, and loving dialogue** with others—Catholics and non-Catholics alike—about the issues and choices that we are facing as a nation. Remember that we are called first to witness the Gospel, and through that witness, to share our social teaching, to highlight the moral dimensions of issues, and to participate in debate on public policy.
- ★ The dual calling of faith and citizenship lies at the heart of **what it means to be a Catholic in the United States**. We stand on the shoulders of many Catholics who have gone before us, who have helped the United States of America become a better country because of their faith in a loving God.

We care. Therefore, we vote.



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Contacting Your Elected Officials

In *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, the U.S. Catholic Bishops urge all Catholics to make their voices heard in the public square. You can communicate with your elected officials by writing (letters or emails), making phone calls, and visiting them. Visit house.gov and senate.gov to find your elected officials and then follow the tips below.

Writing

A **thoughtful, personal letter** that provides a clear and forceful argument can be a powerful form of communication with your elected officials. Follow these tips when writing letters:

- Include a **clear title** that summarizes the exact action you are requesting. For example: "Protect Victims of Trafficking: Support S. 1301!"
- In the first paragraph, **state your request** and **summarize the reasons** in 2-3 sentences.
- In the second and third paragraphs:
 - **Provide support** for your arguments.
 - State **why you personally care** about this issue. For example, are you involved in your parish's pro-life or anti-poverty ministries?
- Conclude your letter by **re-stating** what you want your elected officials to do and **thanking** them for their time.

Mailed letters may take several weeks to arrive to Congress. Most Congressional web sites include "Contact Us" forms. You may also consider sending a FAX, especially if time-sensitive.

The **U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops** makes it easy for Catholics to make their voices heard by providing a **web form with suggestions** that Catholics can send to their elected officials with just a click of the mouse. Visit the "Issues and Action" section of www.usccb.org to access this web form and for more tips on letter-writing.

Contact your **diocesan social action office, pro-life office**, or **State Catholic Conference** for additional electronic advocacy opportunities.

Making Phone Calls

Another important way to make your voice heard is to **call your elected officials**.

Normally the best time to telephone members of Congress or state legislators is when you want them to take immediate action—for example, when there is an upcoming vote and there isn't enough time for an e-mail or a visit. **Here are some tips on what to say on the phone.**

- Ask to **speak to the legislative aide** who handles your particular issue. Write down his/her name.
- Mention the **number and/or name of the bill** (if applicable) and how you want your legislator to act.
- **Be concise**—don't expect to get into an in-depth discussion. Address the key issue with a few brief supporting points.
- **Identify yourself**, hometown, and phone number so that the legislator can be sure you are a constituent and can get back to you.
- At the end of the call, ask for a commitment to a course of action, and ask the legislative aid to **repeat your request** back to you.

Making a Visit

Taking the time to visit your elected officials **can send a powerful message** about what you care about as a constituent. Here are some tips for your visit:

Before the Visit

- **Research** your legislator's voting records, committee assignments, and positions.
- Visit your elected official's website for information about how to **schedule** your visit. The scheduler will likely want to know what issue(s) you want to talk about so you can meet with the appropriate staff member.
- Prepare **background information** about the issue(s) on which you are advocating. Plan to talk about no more than three issues per visit.

During the Visit

- First **introduce** yourself and your role in the community, then give an **overview** of what you want to discuss.
- Next, **present the issues**, discussing each one separately. Provide background information and human interest stories to give a face to the issues.
- If you are asked questions for which you do not know the answers, tell the member or aide that you will get back to him or her—and then do it.
- Conclude by asking the member or aide to **take some concrete action**: cosponsor specific legislation; talk to legislators on the relevant committee(s); etc. Ask for his or her commitment to you specific request.

After the Visit

- Write a **thank you letter or email** in which you summarize the discussion.
- Finally, don't forget to **follow-up on any commitments** you made during the visit.



Contact your diocesan social action office or State Catholic Conference to see if a Catholic lobby day is being organized where you live!

Issues for Advocacy

In *Forming Consciences for Faithful*

Citizenship, the U.S. bishops lift up various issues of different moral weight and urgency.

Read nos. 64-92 to learn more about issues that affect human life and dignity. For example:

- Address abortion and other threats to life and dignity, such as euthanasia, the use of the death penalty, and imprudent resort to war;
- Protect the fundamental understanding of marriage as the life-long and faithful union of one man and one woman and as the central institution of society;
- Achieve comprehensive immigration reform;
- Care for our common home;
- Help families and children overcome poverty;
- Provide healthcare while respecting human life, human dignity and religious freedom; and
- Establish and comply with moral limits on the use of military force.



To download this and other helpful resources, visit www.faithfulcitizenship.org! Copyright © 2016, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 3211 4th St. NE, Washington, DC 20017 This text may be reproduced in whole or in part without alteration for nonprofit educational use, provided such reprints are not sold and include this notice.

ST. PATRICK PARISH & SHRINE



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

LIVE NATIVITY EVENT

Volunteers - After 4:30pm Mass Saturday, December 21, 2019

- ☐ Youth Actor: Roles will be assigned
Angels, Joseph, Mary, Shepherds & Wise Men
- ☐ Adult Volunteer to Help Youth
- ☐ Adult Volunteer to Help
- ☐ Caroling
- ☐ Clean-up After Reception
- ☐ Food Donation: baked goods/hor d'oeuvres
- ☐ Greeter
- ☐ Hospitality During Reception
- ☐ Music

Additional Volunteers Needed:

- ☐ Clean Costumes Before Nativity by 11/1/19
- ☐ Nativity Construction/Set-up 9am 11/23/19
- ☐ Reception Prep: Set-up Tables/Chairs After
11am Mass 12/15/19
- ☐ Re-set Tables/Chairs for CCD (After 11am
Mass 12/29/2020)
- ☐ Nativity Take Down Jan 2020

Volunteer Info.

- ☐ Adult (18 and over)
- ☐ Youth (under 18)

Volunteers - After 11am Mass Sunday, December 22, 2019

- ☐ Youth Actor: Roles will be assigned
Angels, Joseph, Mary, Shepherds & Wise Men
- ☐ Adult Volunteer to Help Youth
- ☐ Adult Volunteer to Help
- ☐ Caroling
- ☐ Clean-up After Reception
- ☐ Food Donation: baked goods/hor d'oeuvres
- ☐ Greeter
- ☐ Hospitality During Reception
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Clean Costumes After Live Event
(Due Back 1/2/2020)

Animal Care: 12/20/19 thru 12/26/19

- ☐ Feed and Water Animals (any days)
- ☐ Maintain Cleanliness of Yard (any days)

Volunteer Name _____

Contact Name _____












Address _____

Email _____

Phone/Cell _____

Return Form to the

Parish Office or place
in an envelope
marked: "Live Nativity"
and place it in the of-
fering basket at Mass.

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