

## PASTOR'S THOUGHTS: January 16-17, 2021

I wrote this page weeks in advance of the Governor's Update on the Pandemic Restrictions last January 13<sup>th</sup>. I'm sure that regardless of whether we stay with **Phase II of the Pandemic Restrictions** or transition (again) to Phase III, we will still be required to (1) sanitize our hands regularly and at prescribed times, places and situations, (2) wear our face mask or shield, or both in public places including churches and other houses of worship, and (3) maintain the 6-foot social distancing. However, if the Governor drastically change the Phase-status to IV or none, then this weekend will be a special one for all of us. Let's keep vigilant. Thanks.

We are now back to the **Ordinary Time in the liturgical calendar of the Church**. This means that the vestment color that the clerics wears will be "green" and the décor returned to the ordinary. Though our liturgical calendar says "ordinary," there's nothing ordinary in the time and season that we have in this part of the country, viz., spring. This is the season when nature comes back to life after a period of winter interlude. And just as the earth and all that's in it springs forth to bring back in luscious color what winter changed, so must all of us come back to the fullness of life and faith whose lives were changed this past Christmas. This month, the beginning of a new year, is our faith "spring time." Our coming back to a new life in Christ begins with searching (looking) for God in the stables of our lives.

The readings for this 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in Ordinary Time will focus on 2 themes – looking and finding. In the 1<sup>st</sup> reading, young Samuel heard the voice of the Lord as he slept and went **looking** for the old Eli for an answer (1Sam 3:3b-10, 19). In the gospel, the disciples of John were **looking** for the Messiah and found Jesus when John pointed Him out to them (Jn 1:35-42). In both stories, the ordinariness of the lives of the young Samuel, the disciples of John the Baptist, John and his brother Simon (Peter) changed when they went **looking** for God and **found** their answers.

Just like the young Samuel, God calls us in the middle of our nights, our work, our lives. Sometimes it takes us a while to recognize who's calling us and why; and sometimes we just roll-over and

return to our sleep and ignore the call. There are times though when we recognize God's call and are compelled to find out why. In those moments, we go and find someone to ask for answers and directions – a family member perhaps, a friend or one of your Clerics. God calls us because He wants us to do something for Him, or be someone for Him. Like the young Samuel (and the Psalmist in Psalm 40:2,4,7-10), are we brave enough to respond "**here am I Lord, your servant is listening; I come do your will**"?

The disciples and followers of John the Baptist have been searching and looking for the Messiah. After the Baptism of Jesus, John pointed out Jesus to all who could hear him in the familiar words that we hear before the reception of Holy Communion at Mass, "**Behold, the Lamb of God.**" Andrew and his brother Simon and a few others have been eagerly waiting for this bold proclamation from John the Baptist. Those who heard what John said and what others relayed all started following Jesus.

This past Christmas, the Angels announced to the shepherds the arrival of the Messiah and pointed Him out to them in a stable lying on a manger. The shepherds left the place rejoicing and praising God! The Star guided the Magi to the Bethlehem and found the child Jesus with His mother Mary. They prostrated themselves and offered Him their gifts. They left Bethlehem and went back to their own countries changed from the encounter and discovery.

For all of us who have looking and searching for God in our lives and faith experiences have been guided by the many angels and stars in our lives. Many of us have found Jesus' presence wherever we are in this life. Some are figuring out what God wants them to do and a few are still struggling with God's call. Wherever you are in life and faith, God is still calling you all the time and you have been directed where and how to find Jesus. Would you respond to God's call? Would you follow Him wherever He goes, or needed and wanted?

*Father Vic+*

## Wedding Banns

**Evan Stieb & Samantha Bowers (3)**  
**Richard Green & Katherine Block (3)**  
**Thomas Anderson & Gabrielle Naquin (2)**  
**Kale Naquin & Angelle Voisin (1)**

### LIFE BEGINS AT CONCEPTIONS

It is an error to claim, "It's not a human, it's a fetus."

That would be like saying, "It's not a human, it's an infant," or, "It's not a human, it's an adolescent." These are category fallacies.

The proper answer to these assertions would be, "Sure it's a fetus, sure it's an infant, and sure it's an adolescent. It's a *human* fetus, a *human* infant, and a *human* adolescent." These are simply stages of development in the human life cycle.

A human starts as an embryo, becomes a fetus, is born an infant, develops into a child, grows into an adolescent, matures into adulthood, and eventually dies.

Scientifically and philosophically, there is no good reason to believe a human being is created at birth, because *nothing* is created at birth. At birth, a fetus simply changes location and changes its mode of acquiring food and dispensing waste, but at no point does the child become something entirely new or different.

Life begins at conception and proceeds through its stages until death. From the moment of conception, the unborn are human beings.

By: Pro-Life Articles Author

VISIT OUR WEBSITE [www.stjoseph-cc.org](http://www.stjoseph-cc.org) and follow the steps. Call the Life Center 985-446-1387 with any questions.



Please remember  
**Gwendolyn Curole**  
**Donald Antis**

who passed on into the Kingdom of our Father recently. Please pray also that their families may find comfort and consolation through their faith.



Looking to grow deeper in your faith? The Catholic Daughters of the Americas is a spiritual and service organization who work under the Motto of "Unity

& Charity". We are comprised of Catholic women age 18 years and up. Our mission is to work for the church, nationally and locally and in our communities. Members of the State Court and your local court Anna Maria will be present at all masses the weekend of January 16 and 17, 2021. We will be accepting names of women who may be interested in joining the Catholic Daughters. Please

**CANCELLED**

### December 24th/25th, 2020

Christmas Offerings Envelopes	\$ 8,723.00
Weekly Loose	2,572.86
	<u>\$11,295.86</u>

Christmas Charities Envelopes	\$ 5,098.00
Loose	1,751.00
	<u>\$ 6,849.00</u>

### December 26th/ 27th

Weekly Envelopes	\$6,372.00
Weekly Loose	658.19
Weekly ACH	350.00
	<u>\$ 7,380.19</u>

### January 1, 2021 Solemnity of Mary

Envelopes	\$ 2,305.00
Loose	402.00
	<u>2,707.00</u>

### January 2nd/ 3rd

Weekly Envelopes	\$7,186.00
Weekly Loose	505.00
Weekly ACH	350.00
	<u>\$ 8,041.00</u>