

COVID – 19

Awareness and care for ourselves and others has been in the forefront of messages like # *we're all in this together*, and has been repeated over and over. All the directives for the celebration of Mass and the reception of the Sacraments during this time of the Coronavirus pandemic remain in effect.

Please Remember:

Wear a mask - for your protection and others.

Social distance - 6 feet away from your neighbor in the pews, standing in line for Holy Communion and at the Communion Rail.

Take your conversations outside after Mass has ended - no gathering inside the Church.

If you are sick, stay home – You are dispensed from assisting at Mass until further notice.

Without our best, conscious effort - we could face the possibility of closing Churches again!

BE SMART, STAY HEALTHY, # *we're all in this together!*

THE BENEDICTINE ANNUAL APPEAL – A special collection will be taken up the weekend of October 10/11 to support the work of the Saint Vincent Benedictine Community. The Benedictines are sincerely grateful for your generous support in the past, and ask for your help in meeting urgent new challenges – particularly educational costs of new members and health care of the sick. An envelope will be attached to the bulletins next weekend.

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**The Patton Music Club** has cancelled all events until further notice.

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St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church will host their annual Fall Basket Auction on Saturday, October 3 from 5 – 7 PM and Sunday, October 4 from 11:30 AM – 3 PM. Drawings begin at 3 PM Sunday in the Church Hall. All winners will be called to pick up your winnings between 4 – 6 PM. Tickets are \$5.00/26 tickets and will be available for purchase at the Hall. Takeout food will available for purchase. CDC guidelines are a must: wear a mask, social distance of 6 feet, follow arrows on the floor. The basket auction will help defray the repair and repointing of the Church tower at St. John the Baptist.

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**The Citizens concerned for Human Life** will have a National Life Chain on Sunday, October 4 from 1:30 – 3 PM in Carrolltown. You can pick up signs in front of St. Benedict Church by the red light. Donations will be accepted for Project Gabriel, a pro-life ministry dedicated to helping moms and babies in the Cambria County area. Any questions, please call Joanne Link, 814-344-8371.

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The Feast Day for St. Vincent de Paul, the patron of all charitable societies, is Sunday, September 27th.

St. Vincent de Paul was born to a poor peasant family in the French village of Pouy on April 24, 1581. His first formal education was provided by the Franciscans. He was ordained in 1600 and remained in Toulouse for a time. St. Vincent went to Avignon and later Rome to continue his studies. While there, he became a chaplain to the Count of Goigny and was placed in charge of distrusting money to the deserving poor.

From that point forward he spent his life preaching missions to and providing relief to the poor. He even established hospitals for them. *This work became his passion.* He later extended his concern and ministry to convicts. The need to evangelize and assist these souls was so great and the demands beyond his own ability to meet that he founded the Ladies of Charity, a lay institute of women, to help, as well as a religious institute of priests – the Congregation of Priests of the Mission, commonly referred to now as the Vincentians. Vincent helped reform the clergy and the manner in which they were instructed and prepared for the priesthood. He did this first through the presentation of retreats and later by helping develop a precursor to our modern-day seminaries.

St. Vincent's incorrupt heart can be found in the Convent of the Sisters of Charity as his bones have been embedded in a wax effigy of the Saint located at the Church of the Lazarist Mission. Both sites are located in Paris, France.

Two miracles have been attributed to St. Vincent – a nun cured of ulcers and a laywoman cured of paralysis. As a result of the first, Pope Benedict XIII beatified him on August 13, 1729. Less than 8 years later, on June 16, 1737, he was canonized by Pope Clement XIII. The Bull of Canonization recognized Vincent for his charity and reform of the clergy, as well as for his early role in opposing Jansenism.

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**A BRIEF CATECHISM FOR CATHOLIC VOTERS** by Fr. Stephen F. Torraco, Ph.D.

(Continued for the next several weeks)

**So then, how do I get my conscience to be correctly informed and properly formed?** As a Catholic, you have the benefit of the Church's teaching authority or Magisterium endowed upon her by Christ. The Magisterium assists you and all people of good will in understanding the natural moral law as it relates to specific issues. As a Catholic, you have the obligation to be *correctly informed* by the teaching of the Church's Magisterium. As for your *feelings*, they need to be *properly formed* by virtue to be in harmony with conscience's voice of truth. In this way, you will have a **sound conscience**, according to which you will *feel* guilty when you are guilty, and *feel* morally upright when you *are* morally upright. We should strive to avoid the two opposite extremes of a **lax conscience** and a **scrupulous conscience**. Meeting the obligation of continually attending to this formation of conscience will increase the likelihood that, in the actual operation or activity of conscience, you will act with a certain conscience, which clearly perceives that a given concrete action is a good action that was rightly done or should be done. **Being correctly informed and certain in the actual operation of conscience** is the goal of the continuing formation of conscience. Otherwise put, you should strive to avoid being incorrectly informed and doubtful in the actual judgment of conscience about a particular action or omission.