

# **St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church**

**Archdiocese of  
Galveston-Houston**

*Established*  
**1866**



*October 4, 2020*

## **Pastoral Staff**

***Pastor Rev. Elias Lopez***

***Permanent Deacon*** Walter Busa

***Permanent Deacon*** Grant Holt

***Seminarian*** Matthew Krusleski

***Secretary / Bookkeeper*** Carol Serres

## **Altar Society**

Delores Posinski President

## **Baptism Classes**

EJ Maupin

## **Coordinator of Religious Education**

Kirby Borski

## **Finance Council**

David Borski President, Russell Pasket

Susan Wisnoski, Gary Klodzinski,

Susie Homeyer, Ben Leman, Larry Sechelski Jr.

## **Music Coordinator**

Margaret McClosky

## **RCIA**

Kim Ritchie

## **RCIC**

Dana Wagner & Marcy Pavlock

## **Pastoral Leadership Team**

Daniel Otto, Russell Pasket, Marcus Reaves,

Thomas Sechelski, Linda Toler, Dana Wagner

Jerome Klawinsky

## ***Mass Schedule***

***Tuesday Noon***

***Wednesday Noon***

***Thursday Noon***

***Friday Noon***

***Saturday 4:15***

***Sunday 8:00 am & 10:00 am***

**October 4, 2020**

*"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood  
remains in me and I in him, says the Lord." John 6:56*

Nothing we have is truly our own.  
It is all a gift from God.

**1511 Hwy 90 South**

**P O Box 210**

**Anderson, Texas 77830**

**936-873-2291**

**936-873-3304 Fax**

**Email: [ststan@embarqmail.com](mailto:ststan@embarqmail.com)**

**Web: [www.saintstans.org](http://www.saintstans.org)**

Isaiah tells of a friend's vineyard, a friend who does everything possible to tend to his vineyard, only to find that it produces wild grapes. Paul encourages the Philippians to be not anxious, but pray with thanksgiving and to think about what is true, just, and lovely. Jesus tells a parable in the Gospel about vineyard tenants who kill the servants who come to claim the produce.

## ***Mass Intentions***

**Tuesday October 6th noon**

David, Pearl, John & Agnes Busa

**Wednesday October 7th noon**

Living & deceased members of the

Fritz & Gertrude Heyman

Larry Sechelski

**Thursday October 8th noon**

**Friday October 9th noon**

Steve Vezurk

**Saturday October 10th 4:15**

Deceased members of the

Leon & Hattie Pavlock Family

David & Pearl Busa

**Sunday October 11th 8:00 am**

Jeremy Poret

**Sunday October 11th 10:00 am**

Rose Kimich & Patrick Busa

## **ONLINE GIVING**

go to [www.saintstans.org](http://www.saintstans.org)

Click on Stewardship

Then click online giving.

### **Mail**

P O Box 210

Anderson, Tx 77830

## **Father Eli**

[lopez.eli68@gmail.com](mailto:lopez.eli68@gmail.com)

[www.FORMED.org](http://www.FORMED.org)

Enter Parish code:

MVMZKF to register

[Ststanskostka.flocknote.com/](http://Ststanskostka.flocknote.com/)

or

Text STSTANS to 84576



If you cannot be present,  
please find a replacement

## **Liturgical Ministers Schedule**

If you cannot be present,  
please find a replacement



### **Saturday October 10th 4:15pm**

**Lectors:**

Delores Posinski & Carolyn Kimich

**Rosary:** Barbara Dibello

**Altar Servers:**

Andrew Borski, Jacob Borski, Evan Borski

**Ushers:**

Darrell Wagner, Stephen Pasket, Johnny Pasket Jr., Danny Pasket

### **Sunday October 11th 8:00 am**

Volunteers

**Rosary:** Barbara Dibello

### **Sunday October 11th 10:00am**

**Lectors:**

Brian Burzynski

**Rosary:** Theresa Guidry

**Altar Servers:**

James Leman, Ben Leman Jr., Jonathon Ritchie

**Ushers:**

Gene Yanchak, Dennis Sechelski, Roger Vezurk, Marcus Klawinski



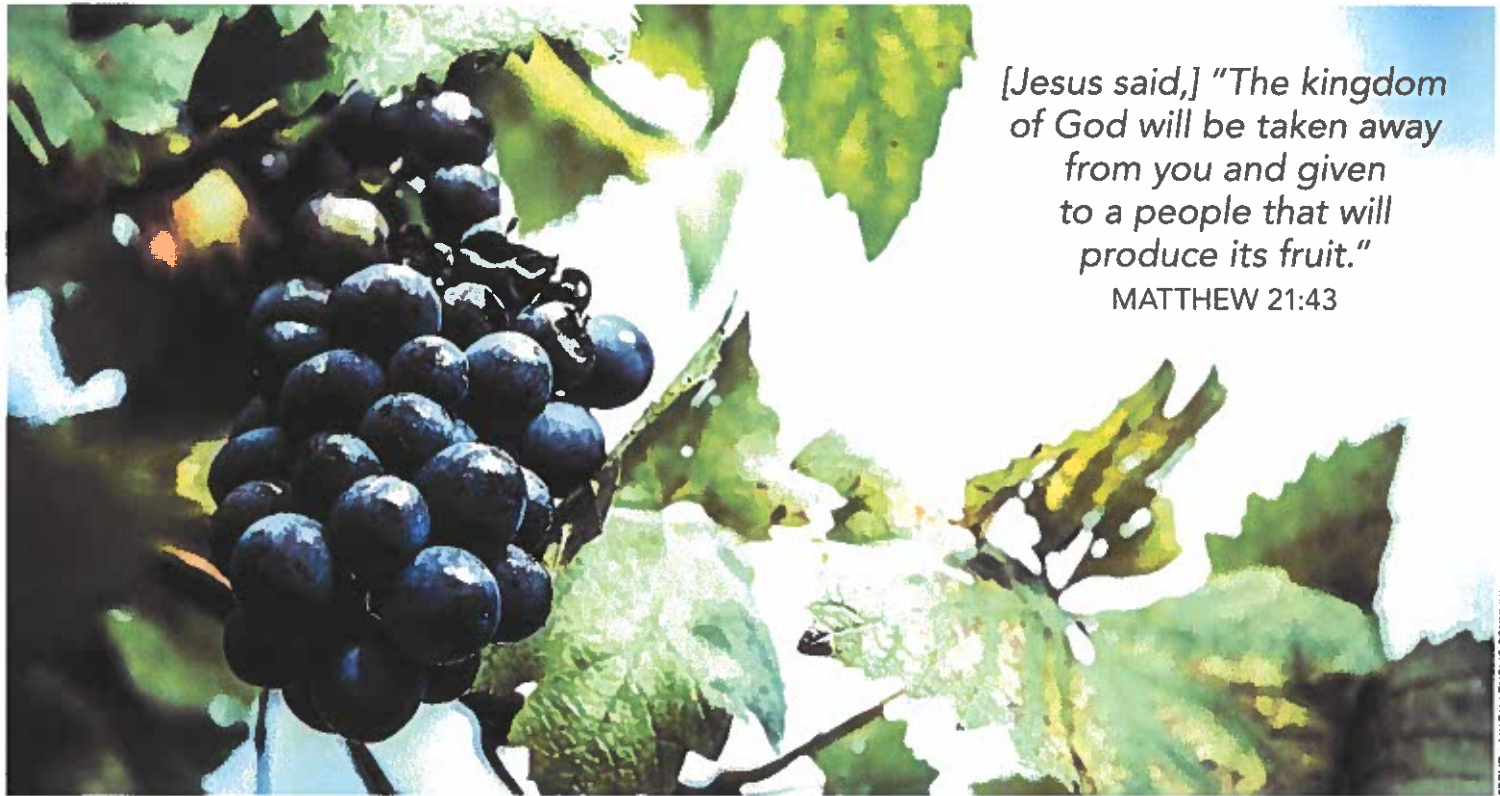
# Our Parish COMMUNITY

October 4, 2020

Twenty-seventh Sunday  
in Ordinary Time (A)

Is 5:1-7 | Phil 4:6-9

Mt 21:33-43



[Jesus said,] "The kingdom  
of God will be taken away  
from you and given  
to a people that will  
produce its fruit."

MATTHEW 21:43

## Caring for God's Vineyard

**T**oday's readings are troubling texts. This is not because of what they say, but because of how they have been interpreted through the ages. In the first reading, despite everything the owner has done, the vineyard identified as Israel/Judah has brought forth wild grapes. In the Gospel the issue is with the trustworthiness of those who work and care for the vineyard. It is clear that Jesus is criticizing the leaders of his day with a failure of leadership. For this reason, leadership will be taken from them and given to others.

Both of these readings have been interpreted as condemnation of the Jewish people. This has sometimes resulted in anti-Semitism. We must remember that both readings reflect internal problems—something that all religious bodies experience. Despite their failure, the people of Judah

were still called God's "cherished plant" (Isaiah 5:7). In the Gospel, leadership was taken from some Jews and given to other Jews—not to outsiders. One religious tradition didn't replace another.

We experience similar struggles in today's Church. As the vineyard of God, what kind of fruit do we produce? After all God has done for us, how do we respond? How faithful are we in caring for God's vineyard? This is a difficult time with respect to religious leadership, but how supportive are we of genuine local Church leadership? You and I have been entrusted with the growth and health of the Church. How good have we been at caring for that vineyard?

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR *Reflection*

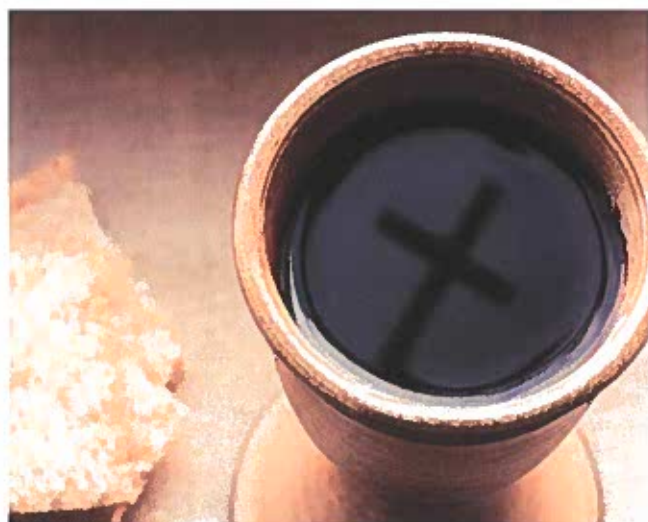
- ★ *We are the Church. How do we handle some of its internal problems?*
- ★ *We pray for the leaders of the Church at every liturgy. Make those prayers your own.*

# Dear Padre,

## Aren't we discriminating against other Christians when we don't celebrate the Eucharist with them?

**Y**ou have to keep the Church's intentions in mind: Are we excluding to make people feel left out, or are we excluding to uphold the dignity and sanctity of the Eucharist?

Everyone is welcome to celebrate the Eucharist—there's only one part they can't participate in. That might sound like a cop-out, but Catholics believe that the Eucharist is the actual Body and Blood of Christ. For it to be true Communion, everyone who receives it must believe the same thing about it.



In its Guidelines for the Reception of Communion, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops says, "Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life, and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily

not admitted to Holy Communion. Eucharistic sharing in exceptional circumstances by other Christians requires permission" as outlined in canon law. "All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for unity with the Lord Jesus and with one another" (GRC).

—Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSSR  
[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)

### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Many members of our communities yearn to receive the Eucharist at one table, as the concrete expression of full unity. We experience the pain of those who share their whole lives, but cannot share God's redeeming presence at the Eucharistic table....We long for this wound in the Body of Christ to be healed.

—JOINT STATEMENT, CATHOLIC-LUTHERAN  
COMMEMORATION OF THE REFORMATION, OCTOBER 31, 2016



## Calendar

### Monday

OCTOBER 5

Weekday

Gal 1:6–12

Lk 10:25–37

### Tuesday

OCTOBER 6

Weekday

Gal 1:13–24

Lk 10:38–42

### Wednesday

OCTOBER 7

*Our Lady of the Rosary*

Gal 2:1–2, 7–14

Lk 11:1–4

### Thursday

OCTOBER 8

Weekday

Gal 3:1–5

Lk 11:5–13

### Friday

OCTOBER 9

Weekday

Gal 3:7–14

Lk 11:15–26

### Saturday

OCTOBER 10

Weekday

Gal 3:22–29

Lk 11:27–28

### Sunday

OCTOBER 11

*Twenty-eighth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time*

Is 25:6–10a

Phil 4:12–14,

19–20

Mt 22:1–14

or 22:1–10

**St. Stanislaus Catholic Church**  
**2020 Annual Homecoming and Bazaar**  
**Sunday October 11, 2020**  
**Anderson, TX**

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**Raffle Prizes**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. 2020 John Deere Gator 560E - \$9,250</li><br/><li>2. Howard Miller Wall Clock -- \$600</li><li>3. Visa Gift Card - \$500</li><li>4. Visa Gift Card - \$500</li><li>5. Wal-Mart Gift Card - \$500</li><li>6. Lowe's Gift Card - \$500</li><br/><li>7. Academy Gift Card - \$500</li><li>8. Barton 6 Piece Wicker Rattan Outdoor Rocking Chair Set - \$350</li></ol> | <p>In memory of Father James Moore \$2,000<br/>In memory of Larry Sechelski Sr \$1,000<br/>Donated by Gary &amp; Bonnie Klodzinski \$500<br/>Donated by Ed &amp; Linda Marek \$500<br/>Donated by D &amp; R Specialties, Inc \$500<br/>Donated by Anderson Mini Storage \$350<br/>Donated by Leon Kimich Construction \$250<br/>Donated by Darryl Pasket Family \$250<br/>Donated by Bob &amp; Joella Dixon \$200<br/>Donated by Buckner's Jewelry<br/>Donated by Serres &amp; Son Plumbing<br/>Donated by Michael &amp; Susan Wisnoski<br/>Donated by Mark &amp; Bridget Kelley<br/>Donated by Joe &amp; Linda Vitanza \$250<br/>Donated by Jim &amp; Shirley Hesse \$250<br/>Donated by the Pete Paskett Family<br/>Donated by David &amp; Jesslyn Borski</p> |
|---|---|

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\$10.00 per ticket  
**Need not be present to win**  
Tickets Courtesy of the  
First National Bank of Anderson  
Member FDIC

Please call the office if you would like to make a donate 936-873-2291

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## **St. Stanislaus 2020 Bazaar “Bar-B-Q Benefactors”**

**The following have generously donated a total of \$7,200 toward  
the cost of our meat this year:**

- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Anonymous
- Deacon Walter & Francell Busa
  - Floyd, Wayne & John Busa
  - D & R Specialties, Inc.
- Karonka Construction Inc. - Sylvester Karonka
  - Jeffery & Larra Ketkoski
  - Leon Jr. & Kelly Ketkoski
  - In Memory of Monica Krause
- Lindley-Robertson-Holt Funeral Home
  - In Memory of Marcella Reaves
  - Thomas Ranch - Bill Thomas
  - Tom & Jeanette Upton

**A huge “THANK YOU” FROM Fr. Eli and all the St. Stanislaus  
Parishioners!**



## Welcome to St. Stanislaus Kostka

Please contact the parish office if you wish to register or know someone who would like to become a member of our parish.

936-873-2291

### **Bazaar News**

#### **Raffle tickets**

With a modified bazaar this year the selling of raffle tickets by each parish family is **CRITICAL** to our success.

If you did not receive your raffle ticket, please come to the office to pick some up.

If you need more tickets, you can pick up more in the office.

If you do not plan to attend the bazaar, please turn in your raffle tickets as soon as possible.

We ask that the ladies of the parish to bake at least one or more cake, pie, batch of cookies or pan of kolaches for the bazaar. Foil pans are available.

We are collecting items and/or cash for Babusha's Porch and the Toy Booth.

You can drop off at the office Tuesday to Friday or in the parish hall on Saturday and Sunday before and after masses.

Work days in preparation for the Bazaar will begin on October 10th at 8:30 am, your help is greatly appreciated.

David Borski will be selling football pot square to win a Heifer \$30 per square.

As humans, we can be possessive of our worldly goods and take credit for our talents. Yet, everything we have is a gift from God – even the work we do to earn our living is done through the energy and talents that God gave to us. Like the tenants in today's Gospel, we owe everything to God, our divine Landlord.

**Altar Society** : Meets the first Thursday of every month. The next meeting will be Thursday November 5th at 6:00 in the rectory. All Catholic ladies are welcome.

**Baptism**: Classes are necessary for baptism. Please contact the parish office to make needed arrangements.

**Birthdays & Anniversaries** : On the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of every month Fr. Eli will bless anyone with a birthday or wedding anniversary during that month following each Mass.

**Cemetery Guidelines**: If you have any questions or concerns pertaining to the cemetery, please contact Charles Posinski at 936-873-2113. If work needs to be done you must call Charles Posinski first.

**Choir Practice**: Do to COVID-19, No practice at this time.

**Counseling**: Gratia Plena is a nonprofit organization that provides mental and spiritual health services for mental illnesses, addictions, and marriage/family problems. All counselors are Catholic and provide services in a way that is faithful to the teachings, values and traditions of the Church. Their closest office is near The Woodlands, but counselors are also available by video session. For more information, see their website at [www.gratiaplenacounseling.org](http://www.gratiaplenacounseling.org) or call (832) 532-0129, or email [info@gratiaplenacounseling.org](mailto:info@gratiaplenacounseling.org)

**Divine Mercy**: Every Friday after the noon Mass . Everyone is welcome to join us.

**Gabriel Project**: Pregnant. Scared. Need to talk! Gabriel Project offer assistance to women experiencing difficult circumstances. Please call Wanda O'Brien 936-597-6328 or St. Mary's Catholic Church 936-894-2223

**Knights of Columbus** : KC Council #4054 meets at the KC Hall every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7pm. Please join us. All Catholic men are welcome. Contact Deen Miller 936-524-1700 for membership information. And James Moran 936-825-7866 for rental information .  
Spaghetti Dinner Oct. 16th

**Marriage**: There is a required preparation process that must be completed prior to one being married in the Catholic Church. Please call the office for more information.

**RCIA & RCIC**: Anyone seeking the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults / Children or adult confirmation. Please call the church office at 936-873-2291

**Reconciliation**: 30 Minutes before Wednesday & Friday Masses ( Please call ahead to let the Priest know) and 3:00 to 4:00 on Saturdays

**12 Hour Adoration**: Our church is open every Monday 8 am to 8 pm.  
Everyone is welcome to join in the worship with the scheduled persons.

# KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Council 4054

## ~ PASTA DINNER ~



**Friday, October 16, 2020**  
**5 pm till 7pm**



*We've Missed You!*

*Come Hungry!*

This is a fund-raising event to support our charity programs!

*Salad*

~ PASTA ~

*Garlic Bread*

*Desserts*

WITH

*Iced Tea*

>> **HOME-MADE SAUCE** <<

%%% \$10.00 %%%

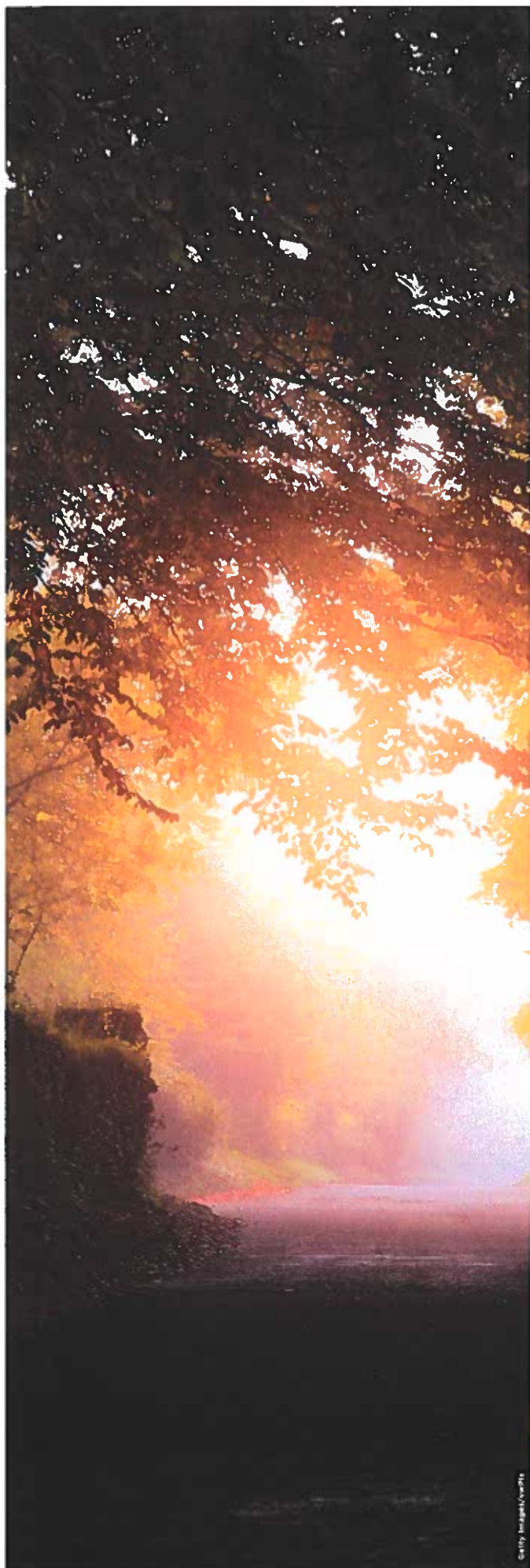
**DINE-IN**

*(We have plenty of room for SOCIAL DISTANCING)*

or

**TAKE OUT**

**KC Hall 1962 Highway 90 S Anderson, TX 77830**



October 4, 2020

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 5:1-7 | Phil 4:6-9 | Mt 21:33-43

### **GROW** AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Have you ever had that feeling that all is right with the world? Perhaps it's the cool breeze on a crisp fall day, holding a new-born baby for the first time, or watching your friends or family enjoying each other's company around the dinner table.

These are grace-filled moments that bring to mind St. Paul's words today which speak of "the peace of God that surpasses all understanding." It can be all too easy to lose sight of them amid the stresses of daily life and a news feed dominated by negativity and catastrophic events. Paul, never one to shy away from taking a stand, is not asking us to bury our heads in the sand, however. His Letter to the Philippians encourages us to "have no anxiety at all," and turn our thoughts to "whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious." In doing so, we can not only counter the negativity, but persevere in faith as we confront the challenges of 2020.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Paul goes on to say, in that same reading: "Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you." I think Paul just offered us the secret to a happy life! Allow this passage to speak to you today. Allow God's peace to permeate your heart and calm the unrest that can so easily creep in these days. And then pray that you can be the true, honorable, and gracious presence in another's life. Send this passage to a friend who may be hurting in some way, and invite him/her to think of a time recently when they felt the presence of God, the peace of God, in their life. And then offer to accompany them in their struggles – walk beside them and encourage them to "think about these things" that are excellent or worthy of praise.

**PRAY** Focus on the encouragement of St. Paul's words today and pray Psalms 100, 136, and 148. Pray these sacred hymns of praise and thanksgiving, and then suggest that you pray them together with your friend.

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

October 2020

Christ Our Light Catholic Church and St. Stanislaus Church

Rev. Elias Lopez, Pastor

## One Minute Meditations

### True happiness

Popular theologian C.S. Lewis wrote, "Aim at Heaven and you will get Earth thrown in. Aim at Earth and you get neither." We were made for God and can't be truly happy unless we are united with him. If we focus on worldly concerns, we will never know the meaning of true happiness. If we focus on God, we will know happiness even on Earth.

### The Commandment imbalance

Of the Ten Commandments, only the first three address how we are to respect the Creator of the universe. The other seven detail how we are to treat each other. It is one way God lets us know how much he wants us to love one another.

### Silence of the heart

"In the silence of the heart God speaks. If you face God in prayer and silence, God will speak to you. Souls of prayer are souls of great silence." Mother Teresa of Calcutta

## "Live in harmony with one another"

In times of uncertainty or stress, tempers can shorten, perspectives narrow, and peace suffers. It is important to remember that Jesus came to bring love and unity. His followers are asked to do the same.

*"The rich and the poor meet together; the Lord is the maker of them all"* (Proverbs 22:2) – embrace diversity, don't just tolerate it. Different as we are, we are all made in God's image and likeness. There is great diversity in the communion of saints.

*"Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another"* (1 John 4:11) – as children of God, all humans were created with inherent dignity that we are required to acknowledge

Trying to understand others' perspectives is the best way to realize the impact of our actions on them.

*"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God"* (Matthew 5:9) – a

steady diet of violent entertainment and media helps us become comfortable with violence and to see people as characters rather than humans.

Instead, live with peace and pray for victims of violence.

*"And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts"* (Colossians 3:15). This means we have to make the choice to trust God's promises (letting His peace rule) or to rely on ourselves and reject the peace He offers.



## Why Do Catholics Do That?

## What is grace?

God gives us a free gift to share in His life, a gift that we can't earn and don't deserve. Called, "grace," this gift helps us to become His adopted children. When God shares His divine life with us as sanctifying grace, we

are strengthened to act in His love. Through actual grace, God strengthens us to live in harmony with His will. Sacramental and special graces – gifts of the Holy Spirit – help us to live out our Christian vocation.

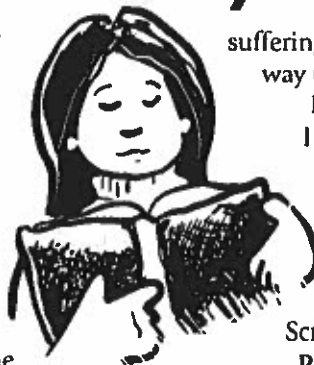


## Make holiness your goal

All people are called to be holy, *"Be you therefore perfect, as also your heavenly Father is perfect"* (Matthew 5:48). Achieving holiness requires a constant effort like climbing a mountain. To stop trying, even for a little while, is to lose ground. Daily effort will pay off with results.

**Look for Jesus' presence.** Search for Him each day. Not only will awareness of His presence help you grow in love and kindness toward everyone, you will find it easier to control your faults.

**Don't avoid suffering.** Jesus experienced extreme



suffering in His time on Earth and used it to pave our way to Heaven.

**Pay attention to His voice.** Speak to Him, ask Him for help, express sorrow for your mistakes, tell Him you love Him.

**Nurture your faith.** Just as food nourishes our bodies, faith feeds our souls. Scripture is a staple of our spiritual diet. Ask for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to meditate on Scripture every day.

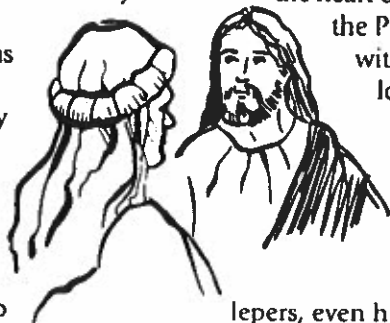
**Practice patience.** It's the first step toward holiness.

### from Scripture

#### Matthew 22:34-40, Jesus has the right answers.

In their first meeting with Jesus, the Pharisees attempted to trap him into publicly contradicting Jewish law by sending a slick lawyer to "engage" him. Then Jesus could be arrested and silenced. The lawyer they sent knew that generations of Jews had debated fruitlessly about which law was the most important. Pretending to seek Jesus' opinion, he asked him to choose which of the 613 commandments of the Jewish law was the most important.

Jesus silenced them by saying that everything starts and ends with love –



love of God and love of others. To love God is to love one another. Love is at the heart of all the other laws. Even the Pharisees couldn't argue with that. While it is easy to love God, loving others is more difficult. It means including those our natural inclination says to exclude or avoid. Jesus loved prostitutes, thieves, lepers, even his political enemies.

True love of neighbor is measured by how we treat the poor, the vulnerable, and our enemies. This is how God loves and he calls us to the same.

### Q & A How can I develop more faith?

Faith is not a single event or a mastered skill. It's a journey that develops and grows over time. A father asking Jesus for a miraculous cure for his son cried out, *"I do believe, help my unbelief"* (Mark 9:24). We have to ask God to help our faith develop and grow.



The best way to develop a strong faith is to pray.

Prayer is a conversation with God. Most of us use prayer to talk at God, but it's important to listen, too.

One good way to listen to God is to read His Word in the Bible. Start by reading a passage from Scripture, particularly the Gospels. Then ask yourself what the passage is saying to you, personally.

For example, ask yourself, "What is God saying to me through this reading?" Or "How can I put his message into practice in my life?" We need to meditate on the message and put it into action in our lives. Only then can the word be *"living and effective"* (Hebrews 4:12).

### Feasts & Celebrations

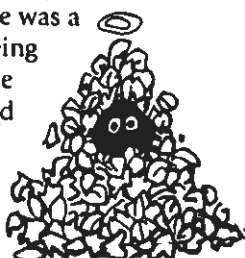
In October we celebrate the Rosary with the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7th. The Rosary helps us meditate on the mysteries of our salvation – Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection.

**Oct. 15 - St. Teresa of Avila (1583).** St. Teresa founded a strict religious order whose nuns wore rough brown habits and sandals instead of shoes. St. Teresa established more than 17 convents of Discalced Carmelites and helped reform the Carmelite friars.

**Oct. 17 - St. Ignatius of Antioch**

(1st century). Succeeded St. Peter as the second bishop of Antioch. St. Ignatius encouraged obedience to the world's bishops and reminded people that Jesus is present in the Church and in each other.

**Oct. 28 - St. Simon and St. Jude (1st century).** St. Simon was a Zealot – Jews who believed that the Messiah would free them from political oppression. St. Jude was a fisherman. After being called by Jesus to be apostles, they ended up in Persia where they evangelized until they were martyred.



#### Our Mission

To provide practical ideas that promote faithful Catholic living.

Success Publishing & Media, LLC  
Publishers of Growing in Faith™ and Partners in Faith™  
(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax  
<http://www.growinginfaith.com>

(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible)

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# Stewardship

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

October 2020

**T**here is a story about a clock that decided to take a serious look at things. The old clock said, "Why, I have to tick two ticks per second, 120 ticks per minute, 7200 ticks per hour, 172,800 ticks per day, and 63,072,000 ticks per year. I just can't stand it any longer. I think that I'll just sit down and quit. That's too much for me."

He quit trying to be a clock. Someone carried him to the doctor and he explained his problem like this. "I have to tick two ticks per second, 120 ticks per minute, 7200 ticks per hour, 172,800 ticks per day, and 63,072,000 ticks per year. I just can't do it any longer. It's too much for me."

The old doctor analyzed the clock's problem and then gave him this advice: "How many ticks do you have to tick at one time?" The clock answered that he only had to tick one tick at the time. The doctor then asked, "Well, how were you doing, ticking one tick at the time?" The clock answered that he was doing all right as long as he was just ticking one tick at the time. The doctor replied, "Well, can you continue to tick just one tick at the time?" The clock answered that he could. The doctor commented, "Well, that solves your problem ... just go home and tick one tick at the time. If you will do that, you will be able to make it right on." The clock did that and as far as we know, he is doing fine. He's still ticking two ticks per second, 120 ticks per minute, 7200 ticks per hour, 172,800 ticks per day, and 63,072,000 ticks per year ... ticking one tick at the time.

It seems that there is so much to do; so many debts to pay; so many loose ends to get caught up on. Don't let this get you down! You can't do it all at once, but you can do each of these one at the time.

You are encouraged to find room for God and God's work. Your decision to make God a part of your life will be the best decision that you will make this year. The clock almost didn't make it. Life was too much for him. It will be too much for you if you leave God out of your life.

Offering \$1,500 or \$1,000 or \$500 ... that's an awful lot of money. Will you be able to give that much? Do like the clock! Don't think about it from the largest amount, but from the smallest. If you will give a significant portion of your income each week, a sacrificial commitment, it will amaze you how much you have been able to invest in God's work.

*A beautiful creed to live by was expressed by Etienne De Grellet: "I expect to pass this way but once; any good therefore that I can show to any fellow creature, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again."*



(Continued on page 4)

*If God could get his voice through to us God probably would say: "Grant me a minute, please! With the light which I shall give you, make an honest examination of your daily schedule. Do you have talents unused or wasted on petty goals? By eliminating some non-essentials, could you not give more time and energy to really meaningful enterprises? Are you sure that you are fulfilling, reasonably well, your part in my plan?"*

## Utilizing Time

**W**hat will give our life more meaning? We are blessed with many gifts, not the least of which is time. God has put us in this environment, among these people and these opportunities. We will be accountable to God for the way in which we use our time to relate to these people, respect the environment, and avail ourselves of the opportunities, and the manner in which we carry out our responsibilities.

Lost possessions may be replaced, a broken friendship can be mended, but one cannot regain time squandered in selfish pursuits.

Many of us are preoccupied with pursuing the age-old question, "What is the meaning of Life?," when we should be asking, "What will give our lives more meaning?" The utilization of time can be used in answer to this question.

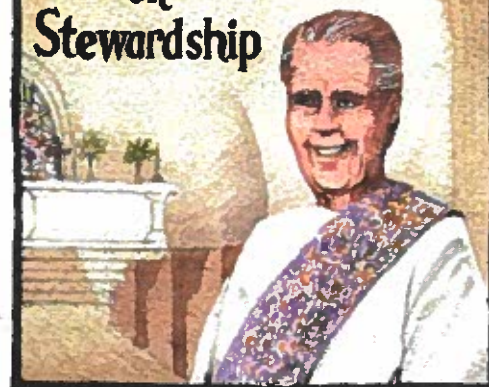
## A "Brownie" Lesson

**Y**ou boys can have the corner pieces, but the rest of the pan is going to church."

It's been fifty years, but I can still hear my mother saying these words. They were often offered in reference to a batch of brownies that had just been removed from the oven.

Chocolate brownies were my mother's dessert of choice. She would frequently offer this treat for a variety of church events. But there was a "house rule" concerning them. Whereas my brother and I were allowed to snack on the four corner pieces (viewed as less desirable), the best pieces were reserved for church.

## Deacon Dave on Stewardship



Since our existence must be filled with an aim in order to make it a life, it is necessary to use our time and energy in pursuit of this aim. Wanting to do something does not bring it about.

Willing ourselves to do something means that we plan to make the effort to bring it about. That means setting priorities which answer this question as we awaken each morning, "What can I do to serve the Lord today?" ☩

Little did I know it then, but my mother was offering her two sons a wonderful lesson in stewardship. She was re-enforcing the biblical concept of the "first fruits," where the first and best of our time, talent and treasure – or in this case, a pan of brownies – is to be offered to God.

On several occasions over the years I have been reminded that whenever I have held on to the first of my income, time and talent, I seldom seemed satisfied. Yet when I have offered God the first and best of these resources, not only has a greater sense of satisfaction arisen, but there has always been enough left over to meet my needs.



## You are the Church!

**A**s a Christian, you are the church. Realizing this, the questions you must ask yourself are:

- ✠ What am I doing to demonstrate my love of God and to fulfill my obligation as a member of God's family?
- ✠ Am I as generous toward God's family as I am to my own?
- ✠ Do I make excuses, pretending I don't have time to devote to my church family?
- ✠ Or, do I sacrifice a portion of personal pleasures or social life to use my time in expression of love of God to help in the work of my church family?

## Steward of the Month

**Why did you put it ALL in?**

**Submitted by: Julie, Rockford, IL**

**W**e recently had a wedding at our church and there were going to be several children who were participating in the wedding service. The grandmother asked my two teenage daughters if they would like to babysit and help clean up after the wedding. The kids were great and it was a beautiful service. The grandmother generously gave the girls an envelope with two ten dollar bills in it. The next church service I saw the younger girl put \$10 into the collection plate. I wanted to reach out and take it back and say no, you don't have to put it all in! You worked hard! Use it for something you need! I said nothing as the plate passed.

After the service I said, Why did you put it all in? She said, We decided to share the other \$10 and give that one to the church.

We should all give like the little children, not trying to keep what we think we deserve because we worked hard for it, but to give and share what God has blessed us with. ☩

*We were created to use all that we have in fellowship with God. When that is not done, our lives are unfulfilled and incomplete. It is not a matter of earning our salvation, but of putting God in the center where God belongs. When we do that, everything else can fall into place. And when we do that, we want to express our thanks by giving and by sharing our time and talents to help others.*

"Steward of the Month" is an exciting way to recognize exemplary stewards. If you are aware of someone who has exemplified Christian stewardship, please tell us about it at [stewardofthemonth.com](http://stewardofthemonth.com). Once a month, one submission will be chosen to be published in *Stewardship*. In addition, if your story is chosen, \$100 will be given to the church or organization of your choice.

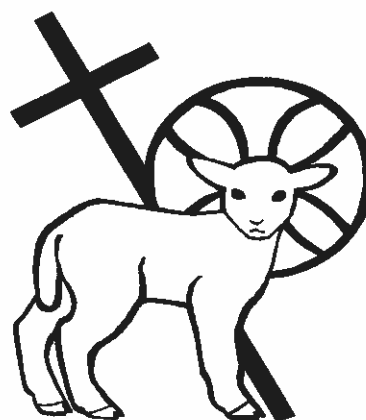


**...the best pieces were reserved for church.**

Continued from page 1...

### **There is a story...**

Don't say that you can't! Look at it from the standpoint of 5% or 10% of what God blesses you with this year. Give on that amount. It will bless your life to sacrifice during the upcoming year. Start this week ... just one week at the time! ☩



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# Graceful Generosity

Published to help you grow as a steward of God's grace.

## A Definition of Stewardship

"Christian stewardship is the practice of the Christian religion. It is neither a department of life nor a sphere of activity. It is the Christian conception of life as a whole, manifested in attitudes and actions." (W. H. Greever)

## Testing your Knowledge of Scripture

Can you identify who the following person may represent in Scripture?



If you said the Prodigal Son, you were right. In Luke 15:11-32, Jesus told the parable of a wealthy farmer who had two sons. The younger of the two sons was not happy living at home so he left home with his share of the estate which was given to him by his father. While he was gone, he *"squandered his wealth in wild living"* (verse 13).

When the son finally came to his senses, he was ready to go home. He confessed his sin to God and to his father. He said, *"I have sinned against heaven and against you,*

*I am no longer worthy to be called your son"* (verses 18-19).

The parable ends with his loving father embracing him and celebrating his return. In this parable, Jesus illustrated the love of the father for his son in order to make it abundantly clear that God's love is infinite. God's love toward us sinners is unconditional and eternal.

The love of the Father shown in this parable is our motivation for Christian stewardship. In spite of who we are and what we do, God doesn't stop loving us. We respond out of gratitude in honoring him with the faithful use of our time, talents, and treasures.

## On the Lighter Side

A pastor was talking to the church organist. "When I finish my sermon," he said, "I'll ask for all those in the congregation who want to contribute \$500 toward the church's debt to stand up. In the meantime, you can provide appropriate music."

"Any suggestions?" the organist asked.

"You might try the Star Spangled Banner," the pastor replied.

## A Stewardship Thought

While opportunities to use our gifts seem almost limitless, we must be willing to make ourselves available. Often our tendency is to look at our shortcomings rather than to focus on Philippians 4:13: *"I can do all things through him who gives me strength."* As stewards we are to use our gifts gladly and wholeheartedly in service to God alone.

***God must work in us ...  
If he is to work through us.***

## Expressing Your Thanks to God

How are you saying THANKS to God for all that he has entrusted to you? When you think of Christian stewardship, you probably think of what you place in the offering plate. I hope that you are showing your gratitude through generous giving, but what about using your talents for God through the church?

All of us, to one degree or another, have the ability to do things that can be of benefit to our church. In other words ... after you have heard the sermon and participated in Holy Communion ... now it's time to show your thanks by doing some work for the Lord.

You may ask: "Why should I?" Think for a moment about our situation. Many do not realize that sin is a big problem and obstacle in this world. We do. Thanks to the Word of God, we have been brought to the realization that forgiveness is needed every day. Scripture also tells us that salvation is a free gift that we can't earn. That fact should make us more eager to say thanks to God who has saved and freed us from eternal prison and gives us a fresh start every day.

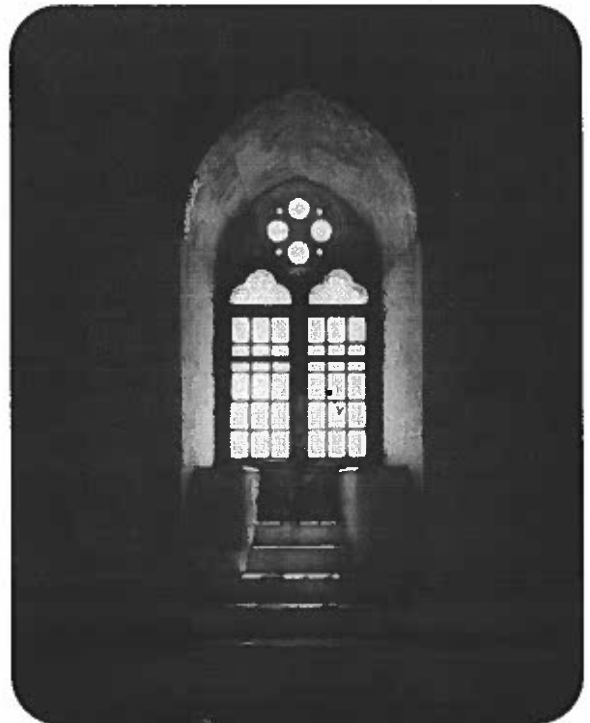
As stewards, we realize that our talents and abilities are gifts from God that are to be used in his service. When we use our gifts for God's glory, we are acknowledging that he is the provider, and we express our thanks for what he gives to us. Some of the tasks that we can do around the church are fairly obvious, such as being kind and courteous to fellow worshippers and visitors, giving words of encouragement, singing in the choir, ushering, teaching Sunday school, serving on committees or boards, washing the windows, etc. Check with us in the church office to see how you can use your gifts.

There are many ways of expressing thanks to the Lord. We hope that one of the ways that you will say thanks is through using your talents at our church.

## Closing Thought

We can live one of two ways ... with or without Christ. We can live without Christ, living just for ourselves, exalting worldly pleasures and success, or we can live with Christ, exalting him as the risen Lord.

We can squander our talents, waste our time, and spend our money foolishly, or we can use these God-given gifts to his glory as they benefit others. *"Each of us will give an account of himself to God,"* we read in Romans 14:12. Let us be among those who hear the words, *"Well done, good and faithful servant!"* (Matthew 25:21).



***Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!***

# CIVILIZE IT



## DIGNITY BEYOND THE DEBATE

2020

### Civil Dialogue: *A response to Jesus' call to love our neighbor*

Jesus uses the parable of the Good Samaritan to answer a question that is both searing and simple: “Who is my neighbor?” (Luke 10: 29). Our familiarity with this parable makes it easy for us now to identify as “neighbor” those on the margins of our society such as those experiencing homelessness or poverty. But how often do we see our neighbor in the person who disagrees with us?

As Catholics, our strong tradition of social teaching compels us to be actively engaged in the building up of our communities. This is achieved by being involved in the political process—and yet today, many shy away from such involvement because our national and local conversations are filled with vitriol and harsh language, often directed at people themselves. When personal attacks replace honest debate, no one wins. This kind of attack, no matter the reason, only serves to further divide our communities.

What is needed is good, honest, civil dialogue. This means that we must treat everyone as worthy of being at the table, worthy of our respect, and worthy of being heard. In short, it means treating everyone as our neighbor.

We undermine our commitment to human life and dignity when we fail to see the dignity of those who have a different viewpoint. We must detach from the bitterness that surrounds us and seek a better path. A commitment to civil dialogue

can help us make real and authentic human connections, which breaks down the barriers that divide us.

Engaging in civil dialogue can help our faith communities create a new space to model love for our neighbors and respect for the dignity of all.

#### Tips for Engaging in Civil Dialogue:

1. Listen first and seek to understand the whole picture.
2. Ask questions for clarification.
3. Use ‘I’ statements; pay attention to body language.
4. Listen to what feelings are present and pay attention to how you respond.
5. Summarize what you’ve heard and ask for feedback.



Civil dialogue can best be defined as the ability to enter meaningful conversation with people whose viewpoints may be different from our own, who have a different background or experiences, or who come to a different conclusion about the best way to promote the common good. We enter into civil dialogue because we want to build a community that is rooted in understanding one another. God’s love for each person requires us to remember that someone who disagrees with us is still a beloved child of



God who deserves our love, respect, and care.

An important ingredient to civil dialogue is commitment to the truth. While respecting the dignity of all, we acknowledge that not all viewpoints are equally valid. We have the responsibility to speak truth with love. In addition, all who exercise their freedom of speech have an obligation to ensure that they come to conclusions based on data from credible and reputable sources, and that care is taken to avoid seeking the truth selectively, that is, only when it is convenient to us.

Civil dialogue is different than remaining silent in the face of disagreement. Listening to opposing views is a part of seeking clarity and can be a creative process. In civil dialogue, all are invited to bring and share their values, beliefs, and questions. We seek first to understand how our views on a topic are different and why. We ask questions to be sure we understand one another. In thinking critically about how we arrived at our own view points and listening to the experiences of others, we can sometimes arrive at new understanding and even find common ground.

Pope Francis has remarked, “Dialogue allows people to know and understand one another’s needs. Above all, it is a sign of great respect, because it puts the person into a stance of listening, and into a condition of being receptive to the speaker’s best viewpoints. Secondly, dialogue is an expression of charity because, while not ignoring differences, it can help us investigate and share the common good. Moreover, dialogue invites us to place ourselves before the other, seeing him or her as a gift of God, and as someone who calls upon us and asks to be acknowledged.”<sup>i</sup>

<sup>i</sup> Pope Francis, *Jubilee Audience at St. Peter’s Square*, October 22, 2016.

Just like any authentic human connection, the process of dialogue is complicated, often uncomfortable, and requires vulnerability and trust. We must rely on our faith in Christ who taught us that everyone is truly our neighbor. Promoting civil discourse is one way we can put this teaching into action.

Interested in learning more about civil dialogue or about how your community can engage in civil dialogue more often? Join USCCB’s *Civilize It* Campaign to help promote dignity beyond the debate. A version of this campaign was first implemented by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati and is a call for all people to civilize our conversations. Visit [civilizeit.org](http://civilizeit.org) for more information, to take the pledge, or plan an opportunity for civil dialogue in your community.

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If you are part of a group looking to create an opportunity for civil dialogue in your community, it may be helpful to consider these questions:

1. Is our intention to facilitate greater understanding, or merely win a debate?
2. Whose voices are we including? Whose are missing? Who else should be invited to the conversation?
3. How can we remember our shared human dignity and deescalate the situation when we feel ourselves become tense?
4. What guidelines could the group set together that will keep the conversation centered on dialogue instead of debate, and honor the dignity of all people present?





*Announcing the 2020*

# PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY CRUSADE

America is at a historic crossroad. God is more offended than ever as people ignore Our Lady's maternal request to "stop offending God." As a result, America is suffering from a pandemic, rioting, looting, and murder, as well as moral and societal collapse. It is urgent that we heed Our Lady's request and stop sinning if we hope to enjoy God's blessings and to avert His wrath. He will hear us, if we pray through the intercession of His Blessed Mother. That's why we're doing the 2020 Public Square Rosary Crusade.

In *The Secret of the Rosary*, Saint Louis de Montfort said: "Public prayer is far more powerful than private prayer to appease the anger of God and call down His mercy, and Holy Mother Church, guided by the Holy Ghost, has always advocated public prayer in times of public tragedy and suffering."

## JOIN THE 2020 PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY CRUSADE TODAY!

**What:** ***THE HOLY ROSARY***

**Where:** Christ Our Light  
9677 Highway 6 Navasota

**When:** Saturday October 10th @ 12 noon

**For more information, contact:**

NAME Joe Vitanza

PHONE NUMBER 713-504-8183



### **Weekly Collections:**

September 26th & 27th  
\$2,298.00

Bazaar Grocery \$531.00

### **Upcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> Collections:**

October 18th Propagation of Faith

#### **Please pray for those in active military duty:**

Andrew Anderson, Austin Barnes,  
Andrew Burzynski, Don Fontaine,  
Travis Hayes, Cody Klawinsky,  
Travis Klawinsky, Joe A. Lopez,  
Matthew Macejewski,  
John McKnight, Phillip Walkowiak

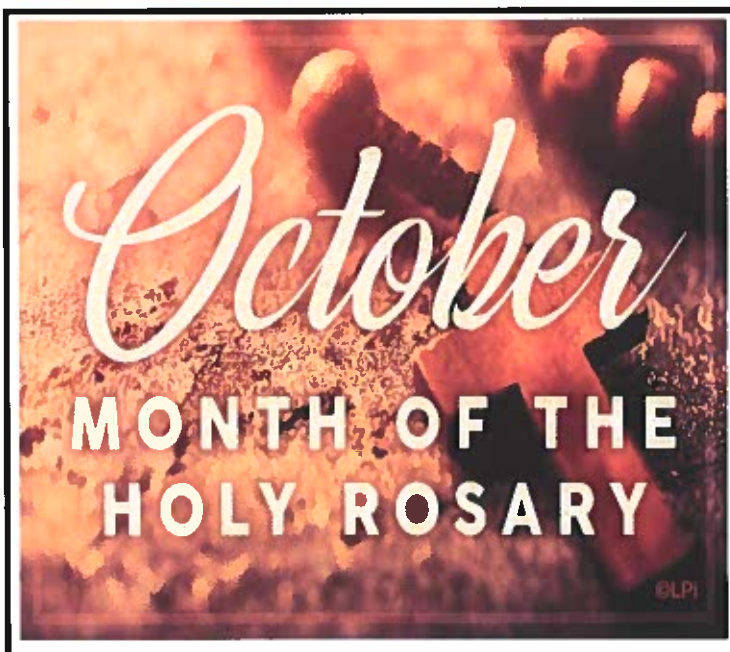


Our Church is open  
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during office hours.

Office hours are  
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8 to 4

#### **Please pray for our parish family who are ill and/or homebound:**

Aria, Laverne Backhus, Sheila Blinka, Pat Davis, Don Dobiyanski,  
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Mae Dell Izard, John Koch, Caroline Kolbasinski,  
Helen Molitor, Kellyanne Katkoski, Tammy Kitchen, Bibian Loukins,  
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