

Sacred Heart Parish



“He who sows good seed
is the Son of Man,
the field is the world,
the good seed the
children of the kingdom.”

65 Sacred Heart Lane ♦ Reisterstown, MD 21136 ♦ 410-833-1696
parish@shgparish.org ♦ www.shgparish.org

CELEBRATING CHRIST SINCE 1873

July 19, 2020 ♦ Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Schedule

All Masses are in the Main Church.

Weekend Masses

Sabado a las 7:00 de la noche en español

Sunday at 7:30 AM • 9:30 AM • 11:30 AM

Weekday Masses

Monday — Friday at 9:00 AM

Saturday at 8:00 AM

Jueves a las 7:00 de la noche en español





PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Gerard Francik
Pastor

gfrancik@shgparish.org

Rev. Canisius T. Tah

Associate Pastor

frcanisius@shgparish.org

Rev. Hilario Avendaño

Associate Pastor for
Hispanic Ministry

Mr. James A. Ryan

Retired Deacon

Mr. James Nuzzo

Deacon

Mr. Bill Arther

Permanent Deacon Intern

Ms. Jamie Danielson

Director of Mission

jdanielson@shgparish.org

Mrs. Susan Spedden

Director of Pastorate Operations

sspedden@shgparish.org

Mr. Mike Frye

Dir. of Maintenance & Facilities

mfraye@shgparish.org

Mr. Kevin Callahan

Director of Music Ministry

kcallahan@shgparish.org

Mrs. Katie Angerer

Music Ministry

kangerer@shgschool.org

Sr. Cecilia Cyford, SSJ

Coord. of Religious Education

sr.cecilia@shgparish.org

Mrs. Michele Hunter

Coordinator of RCIA &
Adult Faith Formation

mhunter@shgparish.org

Ms. Susan Lea

Coord. of Youth & Y.A. Ministry

slea@shgparish.org

Mrs. Jeanne Cossentino

Principal

jcossentino@shgschool.org

Mrs. Georgeann Gurkovich

Asst. Principal

ggurkovich@shgschool.org

Mrs. Lauren Noll

Asst. Middle School Principal

lnoll@shgschool.org

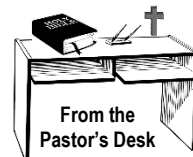
Dear Parishioners,

We want everything now! Better yet, we want everything done and completed yesterday! Maybe it was the invention of the microwave that sped everything up. Perhaps it was the car which actually could take us from Point A to Point B in a fraction of the time. Whether it was cooking or transportation or communication, better and more efficient technology has created wonderful opportunities but made us very impatient people. There are some things, however, which we still cannot control. We plant a seed. We water it, give it sunshine, and then we wait.

Jesus uses examples of small things taking time in His parables of the Kingdom this weekend. The farmer sows the seed and then the enemy corrupts it — but, He advises, do not pull out the weeds too early or you will uproot the good plant. The woman puts yeast into the dough and then waits. Soon, the whole batch is leavened. Someone plants a very small seed, the mustard seed, and, in time, it grows into one of the most luscious and largest of plants. But it all takes time.

In these summer months, Jesus is advising us to take time, to be patient, to appreciate the work that happens day by day even if we cannot see it. What a great lesson in this time of openings, shut-downs, and reversals. We will be better, but the emphasis is on the future tense. For now, we have to be patient and wait.

Fr. Jerry Francik



Farewell!

This is **Maurice Sunde Afor's** last weekend with us officially in his Pastoral Year at Sacred Heart and St. Charles. It has been quite a year. First, he moved with me from St. Mark, Fallston to Sacred Heart and St. Charles — and then, when he was finally getting fully immersed and getting to know people, the pandemic hit. Maurice has been a wonderful addition to our staff and our pastoral care team. He will be returning to St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore to complete his Third Year of Theology and, God-willing, be ordained to the transitional diaconate next May. Please join me in thanking Maurice for his warmth, his love of God, and the care he has shown to our parish communities. He will, of course, always be welcome to visit us. *Fr. Jerry*



Weekend Mass Reminders

- Please [use the Flocknote RSVP system](#) each week before coming to a Sunday Mass or call the Parish Office at 410-833-1696.
- Please park on the school side lot (near the Parish Center) for Sunday Masses and enter through the doors near the Mother Seton statue.
- All people over the age of two **must wear a mask** from the time they enter church property (once you leave your car in the parking lot) until they exit.

Word of Thanks

On behalf of my mother and siblings, we want to thank you for your outpouring of love, prayer, support, and immense kindness during this time. We give our heartfelt thanks and deep gratitude for your presence at the memorial Mass for my Dad — even in these unusual times with the pandemic. We are deeply grateful for you all.

By the grace of God and lots of love being sent our way from the members of the Body of Christ, from you all, we are gradually embracing this moment. Kindly continue to ask God to hold us close and give us strength at this difficult time. Once again, thank you for your prayers and support. — *Fr. Canisius on behalf of the family*

XVI domingo del tiempo ordinario

19 de julio de 2020



Estimados feligreses,

¡Queremos todo ahora!
Mejor aún, queremos
que todo esté hecho y

completado ayer! Tal vez fue la invención del microondas lo que aceleró todo. Quizás fue el automóvil el que realmente nos pudo llevar del punto A al punto B en una fracción del tiempo. Ya sea cocinando, transportando o comunicando, una tecnología mejor y más eficiente ha creado oportunidades maravillosas pero nos ha hecho personas muy impacientes. Sin embargo, hay algunas cosas que todavía no podemos controlar. Nosotros plantamos una semilla. Lo regamos, le damos sol y luego esperamos.

Jesús usa ejemplos de cosas pequeñas que toman tiempo en Sus parábolas del Reino este fin de semana. El granjero siembra la semilla y luego el enemigo la corrompe, pero, aconseja, no arranques las malas hierbas demasiado pronto o arrancarás la buena planta. La mujer pone levadura en la masa y luego espera. Pronto, todo el lote se fermenta. Alguien planta una semilla muy pequeña, la semilla de mostaza, y, con el tiempo, se convierte en una de las plantas más deliciosas y grandes. Pero todo lleva tiempo.

En estos meses de verano, Jesús nos aconseja que tomemos tiempo, que seamos pacientes, que apreciemos el trabajo que sucede día a día, incluso si no podemos verlo. Qué gran lección en este tiempo de aperturas, cierres y reversiones. Seremos mejores, pero el énfasis está en el tiempo futuro. Por ahora, tenemos que ser pacientes y esperar. *Padre Jerry Francik*

DEVOCION A LA VIRGEN DEL CARMEN

Significado del Escapulario

Al vestir el escapulario, y durante toda la vida, es muy importante que sepamos apreciar su profundo y rico significado,

como pertenencia a una Orden, a la del Carmen, con obligación de vivir según su rica espiritualidad y su propio carisma. Quien viste el escapulario debe procurar tener siempre presente a la Santísima Virgen y tratar de copiar sus virtudes, su vida y obrar como Ella, María, obró, según sus palabras: "He aquí la esclava del Señor, hágase en mí según tu palabra".

El escapulario del Carmen es un MEMORIAL de todas las virtudes de María. Así lo recordaba a todos: religiosos, terciarios, cofrades. "Que forman, por un especial vínculo de amor, una misma familia de la Santísima Madre", el Papa Pío XII, el 11.2.1950.

Reconozcan en este memorial de la Virgen un espejo de humildad y castidad.

- Vean, en la forma sencilla de su hechura, un compendio de modestia y candor.
- Vean, sobre todo, en esta librea que visten ida y noche, significada, con simbolismo elocuente, la oración con la cual invocan el auxilio divino.

Reconozcan, por fin, en ella su consagración al Sacratismo Corazón de la Virgen Inmaculada, recientemente recomendada".

Cada escapulario tiene sus privilegios o gracias particulares, pero todos pueden sustituirse por la medalla-escapulario (Decreto de 16-XII-1910). Sería falta de fe en la autoridad suprema del Vicario de Cristo que confiere a esta medalla tal privilegio, creer que vale menos, para ganar las promesas, llevar la medalla que los trozos de paño (aunque en determinados casos, por otras razones externas de mayor visibilidad, etc., puede ser preferible el escapulario de paño).

La medalla-escapulario debe tener por una parte la imagen de Jesús con el Corazón, y por la otra una imagen de la Virgen bajo cualquier advocación. Lo mismo que los escapularios ha de estar bendecida por un sacerdote.

Sacramental

Bautizos: Se celebran cada segundo sábado del mes (excepto durante la cuaresma). Los padres y los padrinos requieren asistir a una clase de preparación que se realiza el tercer domingo de cada mes y los padrinos deben haber recibido todos los sacramentos de iniciación cristiana (Bautizo, Confirmación y Eucaristía). Favor llamar a la oficina para mayor información.

Matrimonio: Las parejas que están planeando en casarse deben contactar el sacerdote o el diacono por lo menos seis meses antes de la fecha planeada para este sacramento. Todas las parejas comprometidas deben de tomar el cursillo prematrimonial.

Unción de los Enfermos: En caso de emergencia llamar a la oficina parroquial o a la rectoría. Por favor notificar a la oficina si sabe de alguien que se encuentre en el hospital y necesite de este sacramento.

Sacramento de la Reconciliación:

El sacramento de la confesión se celebra los sábados de 5:30 p.m. a 6:45 p.m.



July 19, 2020

Sacred Heart of Glyndon

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

ASSISTING CLERGY

Rev. James Proffitt

SEMINARIAN INTERNS

Mr. Maurice Sunde Afor
msunde@shgparish.org

Mr. Cornelius Ugwu
cugwushgparish.org

Parish Office Hours

Monday – Friday:

8:30 AM – 12:30 PM

1:15 – 4:30 PM

Mailing Address:

Sacred Heart Parish
P.O. Box 3672
Glyndon, MD 21071-3672

Phone Numbers

Parish Office / Rectory

410-833-1696

parish@shgparish.org

Fax 410-833-2676

Hispanic Ministry

410-830-1862

Development Office

410-833-4933

Sacred Heart School

410-833-0857

Religious Ed. Office

410-833-8515

Youth Ministry

410-833-7639

Convent

410-526-1327

Bulletin Deadline

Announcements are due one week before the requested bulletin date. Send notices to jment@shgparish.org.

We Welcome the Newly Baptized

José Alvarez Ayala, Kevin Alvarez Ayala, Jazlyn Medina Rendon, Jayden Spears, Vivian Josephine Treadwell



Please Remember the Sick in Your Prayers

Lucy Angerer, Mary Ellen and Mike Berry, Georgeanne Bond, Abby Renehan Cafiero, Chrissy Christian, Gloria Cyford, Maria Ekavhiare, Theresa Eyler, Sandy Gamber, Troy Heiner, Gerry Kleiman, Barbara Krepps, Loretta McCusker, Teresa Mendez, Carlyle Montanye, Scott Moser, Elaine Ortiz, Gilda Perlas, Austin Phillips, Judy Schaefer, Mel Serio, Bud Shearer, Ryan Shriver, Sue Shriver, George Stifler

Pray for the Repose of the Souls of the Faithful Departed

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Carolyn Jeanne Devers, [Celita Hummel](#), [Erin McGettigan](#)



Sacred Heart Mass Intentions

Sunday, July 19 — Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 AM	Mary Diagler	Fr. Canisius
9:30 AM	Parishioners of Sacred Heart	Fr. Francik
11:30 AM	Fely Fajardo	Fr. Francik

Monday, July 20

9:00 AM	Stephanie McLaughlin	Fr. Canisius
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Tuesday, July 21

9:00 AM	Charlie Thomas	Fr. Francik
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Wednesday, July 22 — Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene

9:00 AM	Jeanne Kemajou	Fr. Akwa
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Thursday, July 23

9:00 AM	Denise Lise Proulx	Fr. Francik
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Thursday, July 23 (Spanish Mass)

7:00 PM	Maria Elena Diaz	Fr. Avendaño
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Friday, July 24

9:00 AM	Brian McLaughlin	Fr. Francik
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Saturday, July 25 — Feast of Saint James, Apostle

8:00 AM	Eleanor Danko	Fr. Francik
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Saturday Vigil, July 25 (Spanish Mass)

7:00 PM	Awilda Rosado	Fr. Avendaño
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Sunday, July 26 — Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 AM	George Geno Esposito	Fr. Francik
9:30 AM	Orlando DeFelice	Fr. Proffitt
11:30 AM	Parishioners of Sacred Heart	Fr. Proffitt

All Masses and special services continue to be livestreamed through the [parish website](#) and [Facebook](#) (except the Sunday 11:30 AM Mass).

Scripture Readings for July 26 — Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12

Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77,
127-130

Rom 8:28-30

Mt 13:44-52 or 13:44-46

The person with true wisdom, like Solomon (1), will seek the reign of God and treasure it above all else (3). It is more precious than gold and silver (Ps). Thus one becomes conformed to the image of Christ, the Son (2).

(All Mass intention requests are being offered, though not necessarily on the date requested.)

Our Stewardship

Weekly Offering — July 12, 2020

Offertory	\$17,777.10
Envelopes	\$16,675.03
Loose	\$1,102.07

Maintenance	\$737.00
Catholic Education	\$292.00
Mission Co-op	\$220.00
Peter's Pence	\$100.00

Electronic Fund Contributions 7/06/20 – 7/12/20

(Not included in above total)

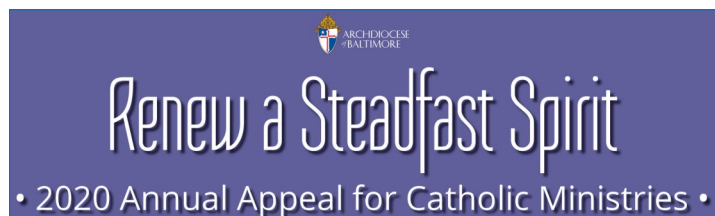
Offertory	\$5,809.80
Maintenance	\$337.00

Online Giving

<https://www.shgparish.org/give>

Your offertory can also be dropped in the mail slot at the Parish Office or mailed to this address:

Sacred Heart Parish
P.O. Box 3672 • Glyndon, MD 21071-3672



Annual Appeal for Catholic Ministries

As effects from the COVID-19 virus continue to impact our community, your generous support for **Renew a Steadfast Spirit, the 2020 Annual Appeal for Catholic Ministries**, matters more than ever. To make an online gift or pledge today, visit www.archbalt.org/appeal/give/. To make a gift by mail, please make your check payable to *Annual Appeal* and send it to:



**Archdiocese of
Baltimore**
320 Cathedral Street
4th Floor
Baltimore, MD 21201

On behalf of the many who are aided by the Annual Appeal's support of our

Archdiocese's charitable outreach ministries, parishes, and schools, thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Parish Outreach

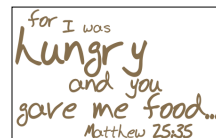


Our Daily Bread Casseroles

Thank you to everyone who contributes casseroles for Our Daily Bread! We are collecting casseroles this week, so please take a casserole pan or two home with you from church this weekend. We are just one of a handful of churches able to reliably support ODB during these unusual times.

To prevent spillage, please **double-bag** and **freeze or refrigerate** your casserole before you drop it off. If you can't make a casserole, please consider donating dry goods such as canned vegetables/fruit, coffee, tea, sugar, peanut butter and jelly, powdered drink mixes, and non-food kitchen items such as paper cups, paper and plastic sandwich bags, and kitchen cleaning materials.

Our volunteers will be at the rear of the school cafeteria on **Tuesday evening, July 21 from 7:00 – 9:00 PM** and again on **Wednesday morning, July 22 from 7:30 – 9:00 AM** to collect your casseroles and/or dry goods donations. Please contact Mark Grabenstein (markgrabenstein@verizon.net or 410-654-0414) for more details.



American Red Cross Summer Blood Drive Saturday, July 25 • 7:30 AM – 1:30 PM

Sacred Heart Parish – West Room

Donating blood is essential to community health, and the need for blood products is constant and ever-changing in these times. The **Red Cross** follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and volunteer donors are the only source of blood for those in need. (Learn about coronavirus and our safety protocols.) **Help save lives.** Healthy donors are encouraged to book an appointment.



Food Collection for Parishioners

Food is collected for Sacred Heart parishioners at the drop-off location outside of the Mother Seton Room.

Distribution of food items to those in need is on Sundays from 10:30 AM through the afternoon.





Sacramental Ministry

Baptisms

Third Saturdays at noon and within a weekend Mass (*in normal times*). No baptisms during Lent. Parents are required to attend a preparation class (*offered monthly*). Contact the Religious Education Office for more details and to arrange for Baptism.

Reconciliation

Confessions are heard on Saturdays from 3:00 – 4:00 PM (5:30 – 6:45 PM *in Spanish*) in the Main Church and by appointment. Parish Reconciliation Services are held during Advent and Lent.

Marriage

Couples planning to be married should contact a priest or deacon at least six months before the anticipated date and must take a marriage preparation course. Do not set a date until you have met with the priest or deacon.

Communion to the Sick

In normal times:

For the hospitalized or homebound who are unable to attend Mass and wish to receive Holy Communion, please contact the Parish Office. Mass is celebrated at FutureCare Cherrywood Nursing Home on the 2nd Wednesday at 10:30 AM.

Parish Life

Sacred Heart Fall Soccer

Registration is open for the upcoming Sacred Heart 2020 Fall Soccer season.

We offer single-sex Travel programs and co-ed Non-Travel programs for children ages 4-18. We are always searching for great people who want to play a part in forming the ever-developing minds of our youth. Training can be provided!

Our programs are focused on learning while having fun in a competitive environment. Additionally, your volunteer time may count toward volunteer hours for the school. For more information, or to register, our website is www.shgsports.org. If you have questions regarding our Travel program, please email travel@shgsc.org. If you have questions regarding our Non-Travel program, please email inhouse@shgsc.org.

Congratulations, Fr. Robert Wagner!

Former Sacred Heart parishioner Fr. Robert J. Wagner was installed as the pastor of St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Clifton, VA by Bishop Burbidge of the Arlington diocese on July 12. He was born to parishioners Bob and Mary Ann Wagner, grew up in Reisterstown, and attended Sacred Heart School. He was an altar server and a sacristan. He graduated from Mount St. Joseph High School and then earned bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering from the University of Maryland in College Park. In 2003, he entered Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg. Two years later, he began studying at the Pontifical North American College in Rome. He was ordained a deacon on Oct. 9, 2008 at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 13, 2009 by Bishop Loverde in Arlington and then returned to Rome to earn his licentiate in sacred theology. He served as parochial vicar of St. Leo the Great Church in Fairfax (2010-12). He was priest secretary to Bishop Loverde (2012-16) and Bishop Michael F. Burbidge (2016-18) and parochial vicar of St. Veronica Church in Chantilly (2018-19). In 2019, he was named administrator of St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Clifton.



Quo Vadis for High School Boys

Join Fr. Steven Roth and the seminarians of the Archdiocese of Baltimore in a series of one-day events held at various locations around the Archdiocese. Meet other high school aged young men and explore what it means to answer the universal Christian call to holiness. Play hard and pray hard! Grow in your faith together through prayer and small group discussions, participate in sports and activities, and share in meals and fellowship with other like-minded young men your age. *Social distancing will be enforced.*

QUO VADIS

BALTIMORE

2020 SOCIAL DISTANCING EDITION
ALL HS BOYS GRADES 9-12 ARE INVITED

WHAT	Action-packed days of Dynamic Talks, Prayer and Fraternity. Relaxed conversation with friends - Meet other HS students Lunch, Snack, Water & Closing Night BBQ Provided	
WHEN	July 20 & 21 8:00am-4:30pm July 22 8:00am-7:00pm	
WHERE	St. Joseph, Cockeysville St. Thomas Aquinas, Baltimore St. John, Severna Park St. Mark, Fallston St. John, Westminster Bishop Walsh High School, Cumberland	\$75.00/student (Scholarships available)

For more Info & Registration—BMoreVocations.org



Vacation Bible School

Rocky Railway VBS!

At our August VBS, kids of all ages can travel with us (*safely, from a distance*) at Rocky Railway and learn in fun ways, especially in these rocky times, that:

*Through life's ups and downs,
Jesus' power pulls us through.*

HOW will this work?

Parish staff and your favorite VBS leaders from past years have been working hard to create a **video-based** Vacation Bible School experience that your children can participate in safely **from home**. This faith-filled presentation will contain all of the usual fantastic music, themes, and everything else that makes VBS a delight each year! All VBS videos will be available at the [parish website](#) and at [YouTube](#), and your children can watch and participate in activities such as:

**Sing & Play Express • Imagination Station
Bible Adventures • KidVid™ Cinema • Caboose Crafts
Chew Chew Snacks • Loco Motion Games**

Experiencing God's Word

One memorable Bible Point is reinforced every day at each activity, making it easy to apply long after VBS is over. The example from VBS DAY 3:



Jesus' power helps us be bold. Trust Jesus!

*"He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless."
(Isaiah 40:29)*

Bible story: Peter and John teach about Jesus.
(Acts 3:1 – 4:31)



The VBS music is especially awesome this year!



WHEN is VBS?

Our target VBS date is the week of **August 3-7**, but your family can participate **at any time** in August.

HOW can my family participate?

If **your** family would like to have the fabulous VBS music CD and the official VBS supplies and materials, you can sign up easily online with a **\$20** fee per family at www.shgparish.org/vbs.



You can sample the music and get a video overview of Rocky Railway VBS at www.shgparish.org/vbs. OR if you prefer, simply tune in to VBS **for free** and participate in the videos any time in August.

All are welcome to participate! Do you have relatives or friends from out of state or even out of the country who might be interested? **Invite them to join us!**

For more information about VBS, please contact Sister Cecilia at 410-833-8515 or sr.cecilia@shgparish.org.

In the Community

Do **you** have job opening news that you would like to announce to Sacred Heart parishioners? If so, please send your announcements to jment@shgparish.org or call 410-833-1696 ext. 340. Thank you!

Pronto Cleaning Services begins here at Sacred Heart in July!

Part-time evening Janitorial positions available. Must be reliable, dependable, and willing to learn. No experience necessary. **Starting up to \$14 per hour**. Please send a resume or information to prontoclean@comcast.net.

Job Openings at Villa Julie in Stevenson

Villa Julie is a residence for retired Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. The community's food service manager has two job openings that are full-time, with benefits. The positions are available immediately.

- **Cook:** 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM (schedule includes every other weekend)
- **Dishwasher:** ~10:00 AM – 6:30 PM (Sun., Mon., Thurs., Fri., Sat.)

For more information, call Jacqueline Kiser at 410-486-2748.





Sacramental Ministry

Anointing of the Sick

In case of emergency call the Parish Office/Rectory at anytime. Please notify the Parish Office if you know someone in the hospital or at home who wishes to be anointed. Masses of Anointing are celebrated several times a year.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

"Thirsting for God?" Do you know someone not baptized or baptized in a non-Catholic Christian tradition who is thirsting for what it means to become Catholic?

Do you know someone already Catholic but has not yet received Confirmation and Communion? They may be thirsting, too! The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a place to ask questions and seek understanding.

The RCIA is a Church rite for adults pursuing the possibility of joining the Roman Catholic Church. If you, or someone you know, are interested or would like more information, please contact Michele Hunter at 410-833-1696 or mhunter@shgparish.org.

Social Justice

Invitation to Pray a Rosary for Life from Home

The Respect Life Committee is inviting Sacred Heart parishioners to pray a Rosary for Life with their families or as individuals during the summer months. Fr. Frank



Pavone, the National Director for Priests for Life, has written pro-life meditations on the mysteries of the Rosary which you can find by visiting www.priestsforlife.org/prayers/Rosary.aspx. Thank you for praying for respect for the sacred gift of life from conception to natural death. We welcome you to join the Respect Life Committee to help spread awareness of the necessity of respecting the sacred gift of life from conception to natural death. Please contact Denise Blair-Nellies at 410-795-6852 or bill.nellies@gmail.com if you would like to join the committee.



Annual Jessica Meredith Jacobsen 5K Memorial Run

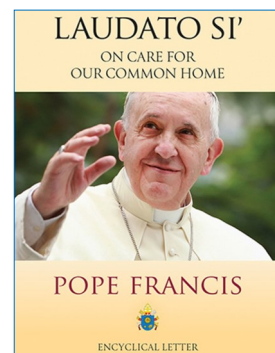
Please "save the date" for the 13th Annual Jessica Meredith Jacobsen 5K Memorial Run and Fun Walk on **Saturday, September 19** at the Immaculate Conception Church (112 Ware Avenue in Towson) at 8:00 AM. This race has been organized by the Knights of Columbus Council #4011 (Fr. O'Neill Council) in Lutherville and memorializes Jessica Meredith Jacobsen, who died tragically in 2007 as a result of domestic abuse. The event supports The House of Ruth, the Catholic School Tuition Assistance Fund, and Fr. O'Neill Charities. You may register at <https://runsignup.com/Race/MD/Towson/JessicaMeredithJacobsenMemorial5kandFunWalk>.

Laudato si' Year for the Catholic Church

To commemorate the fifth anniversary of his encyclical *Laudato si'*, Pope Francis announced that the period between May 24, 2020 and May 24, 2021 will be designated as *Laudato si' Year for the Catholic Church*, and he released a special prayer. During this year, Sacred Heart Parish will provide weekly excerpts from the encyclical with reflection questions as a way for parishioners to participate in this global commemoration. To read and reflect on the full encyclical, click below:

Laudato si' in English • Laudato si' in Spanish

Climate change's worst impact will probably be felt by developing countries in coming decades. Many of the poor live in areas particularly affected by phenomena related to warming, and their means of subsistence are largely dependent on natural reserves and ecosystemic services such as agriculture, fishing, and forestry. They have no other financial activities or resources which can enable them to adapt to climate change or to face natural disasters, and their access to social services and protection is very limited. (LS #25)



- Catholic social teaching tells us that we are our brother's and sister's keepers. To what do we owe people in developing countries who will be disproportionately affected by climate change even though they are the least responsible?

National NFP (Natural Family Planning) Awareness Week — July 19-25, 2020

It's about love. It's about life. It's about freedom. It's about gift.

“Celebrate and reverence God’s vision of human sexuality.”

“Live the truth and beauty of God’s plan for married love!” is the theme of this year’s [Natural Family Planning Awareness Week](#), a national educational campaign of the [United States Conference of Catholic Bishops \(USCCB\)](#) to celebrate God’s design for married love and the gift of life — and to raise awareness of Natural Family Planning (NFP) methods. “NFP,” as the U.S. bishops have written, is supportive of Catholic beliefs about married love because it “respects the God-given power to love a new human life into being” (see U.S. Bishops, *Married Love and the Gift of Life*).

The dates of Natural Family Planning Awareness Week (**July 19–25, 2020**) annually highlight the anniversary of the [papal encyclical *Humanae vitae*](#) (**July 25**) which articulates Catholic beliefs about human sexuality, conjugal love, and responsible parenthood. The dates also mark the feast of Saints Joachim and Anne (**July 26**), the parents of the Blessed Mother.

The USCCB has terrific resources for Natural Family Planning available [online](#). Click below to access specific items:

**Natural Family Planning
Articles**

Couples’ Stories

Church Teachings

Find an NFP Class “In Person”

Find an NFP Class Online

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Key Supreme Court Decisions — Maryland Catholic Conference

The Supreme Court of the United States ended its session with a number of significant decisions that impact religious liberty in education, conscience in health care, stability for young immigrants brought to the United States as children, abortion regulations, and environmental protection. Visit www.mdcatholic.org/supreme_court_2020 to see the MCC's full round-up of key Supreme Court decisions.



Little Sisters of the Poor Win on Religious Freedom

In 2011, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a “contraceptive mandate” requiring the Little Sisters of the Poor to pay for contraceptives in their healthcare plan against their religious and moral objections. After a number of challenges, these women religious made their third appearance at the Supreme Court earlier this year in a case about religious freedom and conscience protections. In a 7-2 decision in *Little Sisters of the Poor v. Pennsylvania*, the Court upheld the authority of a government agency to promulgate rules exempting employers with religious or moral objections from providing contraceptive coverage. The Little Sisters hope this will bring finality to their right to conscience protections on the issue.

Faith-Based Organizations May Employ Those Who Uphold Their Mission

In two cases consolidated into one for the Supreme Court's decision, *St. James School v. Biel* and *Our Lady of Guadalupe School v. Morrissey-Berru*, the Court upheld and expanded upon constitutional protections for faith-based organizations in employment decisions. In both cases, Catholic schools were sued by teachers for employment decisions made relative to whether the teachers were effectively carrying out the schools' mission and identity as faith-based institutions. The Court had previously ruled that the “ministerial exception” could apply in instances where a person was in fact considered a “minister.” In a 7-2 decision, the Court expanded upon that principle, ruling that faith-based schools may hire those who agree to carry out their faith mission and beliefs.

States Cannot Prevent Faith-Based Schools from Educational Choice Programs

Rooted in 19th century anti-Catholic bigotry, “Blaine Amendments” in state constitutions that prohibited aid to faith-based schools have been used to block state-funded assistance to families and faith-based schools. In *Espinoza v. Montana Dept. of Revenue*, Ms. Espinoza, a single mother working three jobs, used a state-funded scholarship program to provide her children with the best education for their needs. The program was invalidated under Montana's Blaine Amendment because it allowed families to choose a faith-based school. In a decision for educational choice and religious freedom, the Court invalidated the Blaine Amendment and ruled that it is unconstitutionally discriminatory for states to prohibit the participation of faith-based schools in state-funded programs simply due to their religious affiliation. Maryland does not have a Blaine Amendment.

Louisiana Abortion Regulations Struck Down

June Medical Services v. Russo dealt with a challenge to a Louisiana law requiring physicians to have admitting privileges at local hospitals in order to perform abortions. The Court held that its 2016 precedent in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt* applied. There, an almost identical Texas law was struck down as an unconstitutional impediment to abortion. Though Chief Justice Roberts disagreed with the 2016 decision, he indicated that he was bound by the principles of legal precedent in concurring in the 5-4 decision.

DREAMERS Handed Victory in DACA Case

Since 2012, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program has postponed the deportation of those brought into the United States as children. The program was created largely to ensure that students (a/k/a “DREAMERS”) who were by and large raised in the United States could continue their education and not be subject to deportation. In *Department of Homeland Security v. Regents of the University of California*, the Court considered whether it was lawful for the current administration to phase out the DACA Program. The Court ultimately decided that the current administration did not have the authority to phase out the program in the manner that it did, and the program was thus upheld.

Clean Water Act Victory for Environmental Conservation

An environmental case of interest here in Maryland also was decided. In *County of Maui v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund*, the Court considered the just how far the Clean Water Act was intended to go toward protecting oceans [\[click for full story\]...](#)



EXCERPTS FROM

Married Love and the Gift of Life



This bulletin insert is excerpted from *Married Love and the Gift of Life*, a statement of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) that was approved at its November 2006 General Meeting.

Men and women considering marriage yearn for certain things. They want to be accepted unconditionally by each other. They want their marriage to be filled with love and happiness. They want a family. In short, they want their marriage to be a source of joy and fulfillment their whole life long.

God's plan for marriage, from the time he first created human beings as male and female, has always included all this and more.

WHAT DOES THE CHURCH TEACH ABOUT MARRIED LOVE?

Marriage is more than a civil contract; it is a lifelong covenant of love between a man and a woman. It is an intimate partnership in which husbands and wives learn to give and receive love unselfishly, and then teach their children to do so as well. Christian marriage in particular is a "great mystery," a sign of the love between Christ and his Church (Eph 5:32).

Married love is powerfully embodied in the spouses' sexual relationship, when they most fully express what it means to become "one body" (Gn 2:24) or "one flesh" (Mk 10:8, Mt 19:6). The Church teaches that the sexual union of husband and wife is meant to express the full meaning of love, its power to bind a couple together and its openness to new life.

WHAT DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH CONTRACEPTION?

A husband and wife express their committed love not only with words, but with the language of their bodies.

Married love differs from any other love in the world. By its nature, the love of husband and wife is so complete, so ordered to a lifetime of communion with God and each other, that it is open to creating a new human being they will love and care for together. Part of God's gift to husband and wife is this ability in and through their love to cooperate with God's creative power. Therefore, the mutual gift of fertility is an integral part of the bonding power of marital intercourse. That power to create a new life with God is at the heart of what spouses share with each other.

Suppressing fertility by using contraception denies part of the inherent meaning of married sexuality and does harm to the couple's unity. The total giving of oneself, body and soul, to one's beloved is no time to say: "I give you everything I am—except. . . ." The Church's teaching is not only about observing a rule, but about preserving that total, mutual gift of two persons in its integrity.

ARE COUPLES EXPECTED TO LEAVE THEIR FAMILY SIZE ENTIRELY TO CHANCE?

Certainly not. The Church teaches that a couple may generously decide to have a large family, or may for serious reasons choose not

to have more children for the time being or even for an indefinite period (*Humanae Vitae*, no. 10).

WHAT SHOULD A COUPLE DO IF THEY HAVE A GOOD REASON TO AVOID HAVING A CHILD?

A married couple can engage in marital intimacy during the naturally infertile times in a woman's cycle, or after child-bearing years, without violating the meaning of marital intercourse in any way.

This is the principle behind natural family planning (NFP). Natural methods of family planning involve fertility education that enables couples to cooperate with the body as God designed it.

WHAT IS NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING?

Natural family planning is a general name for the methods of family planning that are based on a woman's menstrual cycle. A man is fertile throughout his life, while a woman is fertile for only a few days each cycle during the child-bearing years. Some believe that NFP involves using a calendar to predict the fertile time. That is not what NFP is today. A woman experiences clear, observable signs indicating when she is fertile and when she is infertile. Learning to observe and understand these signs is at the heart of education in natural family planning.

When a couple decides to postpone pregnancy, NFP can be very effective. NFP can also be very helpful for couples who desire to have a child because it identifies the time of ovulation. It is used by many fertility specialists for this purpose. Thus a couple can have marital relations at a time when they know that conception is most likely to take place.

IS THERE REALLY A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN USING CONTRACEPTION AND PRACTICING NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING?

On the surface, there may seem to be little difference. But the end result is not the only thing that matters, and the *way* we get to that result may make an enormous moral difference. Some ways respect God's gifts to us while others do not. Couples who have practiced natural family planning after using contraception have experienced a profound difference in the meaning of their sexual intimacy.

When couples use contraception, either physical or chemical, they suppress their fertility, asserting that they alone have ultimate control over this power to create a new human life. With NFP, spouses respect God's design for life and love. They may choose to refrain from sexual union during the woman's fertile time, doing nothing to destroy the love-giving or life-giving meaning that is present. This is the difference between choosing to falsify the full marital language of the body and choosing at certain times not to speak that language.

IS IT TRUE, AS SOME CLAIM, THAT SOME METHODS OF BIRTH CONTROL CAN CAUSE AN ABORTION?

Some methods of birth control are aimed at preventing the union of sperm and egg and therefore act only as contraceptives. These would include barriers such as condoms and diaphragms.

By contrast, hormonal methods such as the Pill may work in several ways. They can suppress ovulation or alter cervical mucus to prevent fertilization, and thus act contraceptively. But they may at times have other effects, such as changes to the lining of the uterus. If the contraceptive action fails and fertilization takes place, these hormonal methods may make it impossible for a newly conceived life to implant and survive. That would be a very early abortion. Medical opinions differ on whether or how often this may occur. Currently there is no way to know precisely how these drugs work at any given time in an individual woman.

Concern about the risk of causing an early abortion is stronger in the case of pills taken after intercourse to prevent pregnancy (“emergency contraception” or “morning-after pills”). In some cases these pills are taken when sperm and egg have already joined to create a new life, in which case the drug could not have any effect except to cause an early abortion.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE IMPACT OF CONTRACEPTION ON SOCIETY? ON MARRIED COUPLES?

Many would likely be surprised at how long all Christian churches agreed on this teaching against contraception. It was only in 1930 that some Protestant denominations began to reject this long-held position. Those opposed to this trend predicted an increase in premarital sex, adultery, acceptance of divorce, and abortion. Later, in 1968, Pope Paul VI warned that the use of contraception would allow one spouse to treat the other more like an object than a person, and that in time governments would be tempted to impose laws limiting family size. Pope John Paul II called attention to the close association between contraception and abortion, noting that “the negative values inherent in the ‘contraceptive mentality’ . . . are such that they in fact strengthen this temptation [to abortion] when an unwanted life is conceived” (*Evangelium Vitae*, no. 13).

These predictions have come true. Today we see a pandemic of sexually transmitted diseases, an enormous rise in cohabitation, one in three children born outside of marriage, and abortion used by many when contraception fails. A failure to respect married love’s power to help create new life has eroded respect for life and for the sanctity of marriage.

CONCLUSION

By using contraception, couples may think that they are avoiding problems or easing tensions, that they are exerting control over their lives. But the gift of being able to help create another person, a new

human being with his or her own life, involves profound relationships. It affects our relationship with God, who created us complete with this powerful gift. It involves whether spouses will truly love and accept each other as they are, including their gift of fertility. Finally, it involves the way spouses will spontaneously accept their child as a gift from God and the fruit of their mutual love. Like all important relationships with other persons, it is not subject solely to our individual control. In the end, this gift is far richer and more rewarding than that.

The Church’s teaching on marital sexuality is an invitation for men and women—an invitation to let God be God, to receive the gift of God’s love and care, and to let this gift inform and transform us, so we may share that love with each other and with the world.

Where to Learn More

WEB SITE

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, www.usccb.org/prolife/issues/nfp/index.shtml. (Offers information on Church teachings on conjugal love and responsible parenthood, methods of natural family planning [NFP], where to find local classes, and which NFP organizations offer home study programs.)

CHURCH DOCUMENTS

Pope John Paul II. Encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (*On the Value and Inviolability of Human Life*). Washington, DC: USCCB, 1995.

Pope Paul IV. Encyclical *Humanae Vitae* (*On the Regulation of Birth*). Washington, DC: USCCB, 1968.

The statement *Married Love and the Gift of Life* was developed by the Committee for Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and was approved by the full body of bishops at its November 2006 General Meeting. This bulletin insert, containing excerpts from the statement, has been authorized for publication by the undersigned.

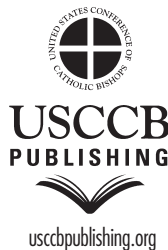
Msgr. David J. Malloy, STD
General Secretary, USCCB

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