

Mass Intentions ~ October 15-21, 2018

Monday @ 7:30 am — Tommy Autrey (RIP)
Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Patrick Hurley (RIP)
Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — Andrew Hehir (RIP)
Thursday @ 7:30 am — Francine & Bubba Gilmer (RIP)
Friday @ 7:30 am — Wilma Pickett (RIP)

Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Mary Null Hammond (RIP)
Sunday @ 8:00 am — Mikey Medlock (RIP)
Sunday @ 10:30 am — People of the Parish

Altar Flowers this week are donated in memory of Dr. & Mrs. Albert Tillman and Mr & Mrs Bob Moody, donated by Robert & Kay Moody.

Blessed Mother Flowers this week are in memory of Kenneth Mitchell, donated by Alice Mitchell.

New Prayer Requests

Special Intentions:

Ian Ladner
Cindy Forck, friend of the Pipitone Family
Susan Harper, friend of Maxine Miller

See website & prayer board for full prayer list.

Adoration this week: Mon—Fri 8am-12noon
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sat 4:30-5:00 pm

New Announcements

Second Collection next weekend for World Mission Sunday. We are called to be part of the Church's missionary efforts, supporting mission priests, religious Sisters and Brothers, and lay catechists who provide loving service to those most in need.

Friday, October 19th — Bingo Night @ 7pm Hosted by the Women's Guild. Anyone over the age of 18 is invited to join us for fun and fellowship. All cards are \$5. Beverages and light snacks will be provided. Our Charity Box for this event is Birthright. They are in need of diapers newborn & size 1, and baby wipes.

Monday, October 22nd — Women's Guild luncheon @ 11:00am. with guest speaker LeeAnn Henderson from St Dominic's New Directions Program. They will also be discussing the upcoming Rummage Sale, and lunch will be provided. The Charity Box for this event will be Birthright, so please bring baby wipes and/or newborn diapers!! Hope to see you there!

**** DATE CHANGE** Friday, October 26th at 7:00 pm until — 5th Annual Trunk or Treat** presented by the Knights of Columbus. They are looking for big trunks and little trunks to help. Sign up at the information table or email phil@cranstonemail.com.

November 10th & 11th — Rummage sale hosted by the Women's Guild in the Family Life Center gym. The sale will also feature a Bake Sale, Food Sale, and a Children's Craft table. If you have any items you would like to donate, please drop them off on Sat Oct 20th, 27th, and Nov.3rd from 9am-12pm..

Reminders

Second Collection this weekend for Habitat for Humanity.

Tuesday, October 16th — RCIA begins! Register online.

Sunday, October 21st at 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm — St. Anthony Catholic School Open House St. Anthony educates children from four-year-old pre-kindergarten through 6th grade. Contact: Michele Warnock mwarnock@stanthonyeagles.org.

Tuesday, October 23rd — Discovering Christ begins! Register online.

No Ministry Fair this year — In an effort to move our parish into a more meaningful experience, we are working on a new plan. We ask everyone who is currently serving in a ministry to stay on the schedule for now, even though your two-year commitment will be fulfilled at the end of October. There will soon be an opportunity to move into a new ministry. Thank you.

Church website: www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

Office phone: 601-992-9547

October 14, 2018 Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Due to the financial report taking just about all of the space in last week's bulletin, we were unable to continue our reflection on "Where is God?" Where is the God I believe in? Who is that God? How does He manifest Himself in my daily life? How do I respond to Him being in my life? We will continue this over the course of the next few weeks. Today we will focus on our part in honoring God as the creator of all life in conjunction with Respect Life Month.

The United States Catholic Bishops designate the month of October as Respect Life Month each year. The theme for 2018 is "**Every Life: Cherished, Chosen, Sent.**" It features Our Lady of Guadalupe who appeared to St. Juan Diego as a pregnant native woman in 1531. At that time, the indigenous peoples of Mexico were subjugated and the practice of human sacrifice was still a recent memory.

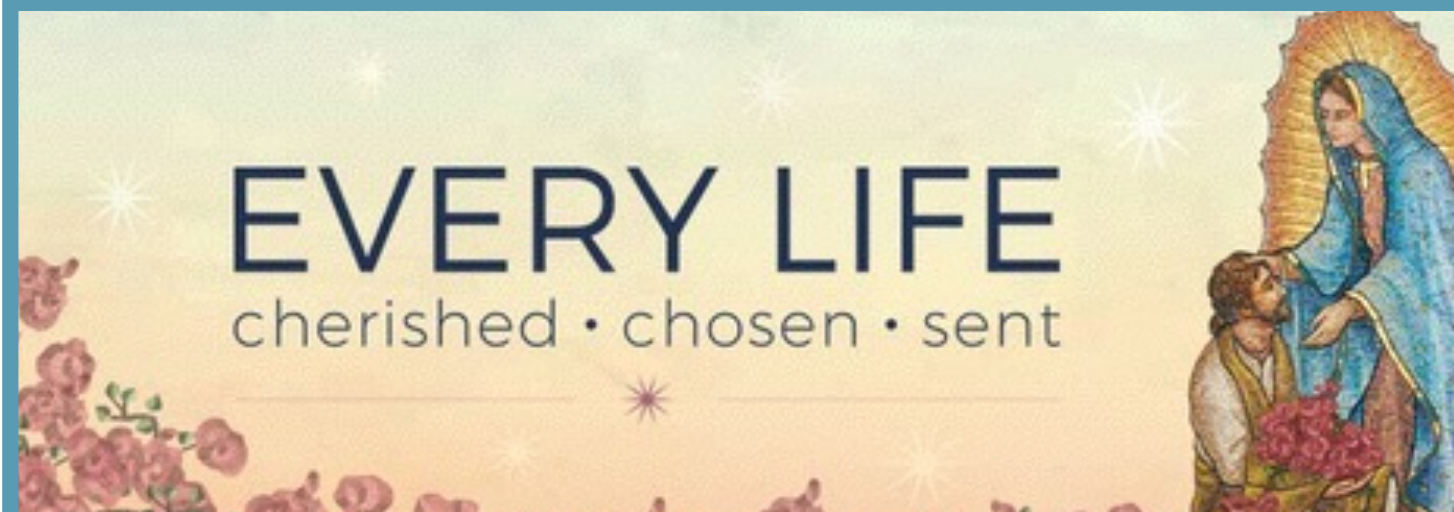
Our Lady sent him with miraculous flowers in his cloak to tell the bishop to build a church where people could receive her Son and her loving, tender care. When St. Juan Diego opened the cloak before the bishop, an image of Our Lady was revealed that remains to this day. The chapel was quickly built, millions embraced Christianity, and the Church increased its protection of the indigenous peoples. By embracing the mission entrusted to him, St. Juan Diego helped bring Christ's transforming love to cultures gripped by oppression and death.

Respect for life goes beyond abortion, which typically comes to mind. Yes, unborn children are destroyed through abortion, but we also have to be aware that it goes beyond one issue. It is good to set this time apart to ponder the call to respect all life. How do we respond? The essence of our identity is that we are created in God's image and likeness and loved by Him. Nothing can diminish the priceless worth of any human life.

Every person is **cherished**. God creates every person for eternal union with Himself and continually invites us to embrace a loving relationship with Him. Every person is **chosen**. We are called to be messengers of God's love, treating one another as cherished and chosen by Him. In doing so, we help build a culture that respects all human life. Every person is **sent**. Like St. Juan Diego, let us embrace our daily mission to help others encounter God's transforming, life-giving love.

We proclaim that human life is a precious gift from God; that each person who receives this gift has responsibilities toward God, self and others; and that society, through its laws and social institutions, must protect and nurture human life at every stage of its existence. How aware am I of the many facets of respect for life? What is my role?

The Catholic Church lists the following as Pro-Life Issues: Abortion; Post Abortion Healing; Assisted Suicide; Capital Punishment; Human Cloning; Conscience Rights; Contraception; Disabilities; Fetal Research; End of Life Issues; Health Care; Reproductive Technology; International Issues; Morning After Pill; Stem Cell Research; Human Trafficking. Read inside the bulletin for thoughts and teachings on some of these issues.



Every human life, from the moment of conception until death, is sacred because the human person has been willed for its own sake in the image and likeness of the living and holy God.

ABORTION & POST ABORTION HEALING

The Church has consistently taught that every human life is precious and worthy of protection. Every intentional abortion is gravely wrong. In April 2018, Pope Francis wrote: “Our defense of the innocent unborn ... needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of a human life, which is always sacred and demands love for each person, regardless of his or her stage of development.”

The Church does not approach difficult pregnancy decisions with a false “either/or” mentality, pitting mother against child. For example, a baby conceived in rape is not an aggressor deserving death by abortion. She is innocent, like her mother. They both deserve compassionate care and support, not more violence. Abortion doesn’t bring healing or peace, but both can be found in the courageous decision to give birth to the baby.

Today, many babies diagnosed prenatally with a disability are aborted. Frightened parents, unsure of their ability to care for such a child, can trust that God gave them this child for a reason. Parents raising children with disabilities often write about the unexpected joys and transformative effect on their families. Even when the disabilities are so severe that the baby is likely to die before or soon after birth, many parents who carried their children to term say that protecting their baby and honoring his or her natural life, no matter how brief, was profoundly healing.

Very rarely, continuing a pregnancy may put a mother’s life at risk—for example, because of a tubal pregnancy or aggressive uterine cancer. It is morally licit to remove the threat to the mother’s life by removing the cancerous uterus or the fallopian tube where the child implanted, even though it is foreseeable that the child will die as an indirect and unintended result of such surgery. High-risk obstetricians work to find a way to save both mother and child.

We can all support women who need help during and after difficult pregnancies through the work of local pregnancy care centers, like Birthright. We can pray for the end to abortion, that all mothers and children experience the loving support of the Church community, and that all who suffer after abortion find healing and peace. Abortion can bring medical problems along with feelings of shame, regret, guilt, and grief. But, God’s healing love and mercy are always possible. There is hope after abortion and help through groups like Project Rachel.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Each of us is called to respect the life and dignity of every human being. Even when people deny the dignity of others, we must still recognize that their dignity is a gift from God and is not something that is earned or lost through their behavior. Respect for life applies to all, even the perpetrators of terrible acts. Punishment should be consistent with the demands of justice *and* with respect for human life and dignity.

The dignity of human life must never be taken away, even in the case of someone who has done great evil. Modern society has the means of protecting itself, without definitively denying criminals the chance to reform.

DISABILITIES

Many parents want perfect children, and our culture is obsessed with superficial perfection. Photos are airbrushed, and social media depicts seemingly perfect lives. However, God calls us to seek perfection not in appearance or abilities, but in love. Christians know what perfect love looks like—Jesus offering himself on the Cross.

Within the family each member must be accepted, respected and honored precisely because he or she is a person; and if any family member is in greater need, the care which he or she receives is all the more intense and attentive. People often say, “I could never handle a child with a disability.” But the beauty of parenting is that you aren’t given a child with a disability. You are given *your* child with a disability who enters the world in a relationship with you, and that changes everything. You are not called to “handle” a disability. You are called to love a particular person, and caring for him or her grows out of that love. Love illuminates life.

Love in a family where one member has a serious disability may look unappealing from the outside. Indeed, love in *any* family is messy; there are faces to wipe and sacrifices to make. It’s natural to fear that such sacrifices will require too much, but our love for our children has nothing to do with their abilities. We love them simply because of who they *are*, and understanding this teaches us how to truly love everyone. We also begin to understand our own worth, which depends not on our skills or appearance, but solely on the fact that we are created in the image and likeness of God and loved by Him. Our lives—*all* our lives—are worth living.

Everyone can find a way to praise and thank God for the gift of life and to ask for protection for each sacred human life.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

There is an estimated 40.3 million victims of human trafficking globally. An estimated 400,000 people in the U.S. live in conditions of modern slavery on any given day, including coerced labor, sexual servitude, and forced marriage. Human trafficking is not just overseas in 3rd world countries — it happens right here in our community.

Human Trafficking attacks the sanctity of human life. As Pope Francis has said: “Human trafficking is an open wound on [our] society, [it is] a scourge upon the Body of Christ.” It is a modern term for slavery, usually seen in the form of sexual exploitation or forced labor. It is a multi-billion dollars criminal industry that uses human beings for profit from the control and exploitation of people. Sex Trafficking includes prostitution, pornography and sexual performance done in exchange for any item of value such as money, drugs, shelter, food or clothes. Labor Trafficking includes situations of debt bondage, forced labor and involuntary child labor. Other forms of Human Trafficking include child soldiers, organ trafficking, and drug mules. Traffickers lure children through social media and social hangouts.

Pray for the safety of trafficked victims and that the exploiters’ actions will be thwarted. Educate yourself to know the signs and how to report suspicious activity. The Catholic Charities website has good information to learn more.

END OF LIFE ISSUES

An old Irish proverb says, “It is in the shelter of each other that the people live.” Indeed, we are created to depend upon one another and walk together in suffering. But when family members or friends approach life’s end, we may not know how best to “shelter” them. Pope Francis has said that “praying in difficult situations is like opening the door to the Lord, in order that he might enter.” The dying process is a sacred time—a final season to seek closure in this life and prepare for the next in the hope of sharing in Christ’s Resurrection. As you enter into this season with your friend or family member, ask God to accompany both of you.

Listen with a non-judgmental ear so your loved one feels free to speak openly. Be aware that a person’s wishes for refusing treatment may be rooted in fears of dependency, helplessness, or pain. Hospice care focuses on alleviating pain and other symptoms, meeting basic needs, and providing comfort. The goal is to eliminate the pain, not the patient. Respect for life does not demand that we attempt to prolong life by using medical treatments that are ineffective or unduly burdensome. At the same time, intentionally hastening death—whether through drugs or deliberate neglect of basic care—offends our God-given dignity and is never morally permissible.

Be steadfast in compassion. Compassion means to *suffer with*. Your friend or family member will likely face ups and downs. Recognize these as part of a natural process. Surround him or her with love, support, and companionship that are “anchored in unconditional respect for their human dignity, beginning with respect for the inherent value of their lives. Help them achieve closure and define the unfinished personal projects, financial concerns, unresolved relationships, or other matters that occupy his or her mind.

Ira Byock, a hospice medical director, illustrates in his book *The 4 Most Important Things* how saying “I love you,” “I’m sorry,” “I forgive you,” and “Thank you” can promote much-needed healing during the dying process. You can help ensure a peaceful transition for your loved one by facilitating opportunities for reconciliation with others and for mutual expressions of love and gratitude. Consider offering to invite a priest to hear his or her confession and to administer the Eucharist as viaticum and the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, all of which heal the soul and prepare us to meet the Lord.

There comes a time of natural withdrawal from surroundings when dying persons may lose interest in many activities that used to be enjoyable. Your own quiet, patient presence can provide important support as your loved one prepares emotionally and spiritually for his or her passing. Hearing can become very acute, so placing the phone in another room, playing favorite music, reading a favorite passage, praying together, or simply sitting quietly with him or her can all be very soothing. Those who are dying remain in need of the tenderness of personal human contact. Ask if you might gently brush your loved one’s hair, apply lotion to her hands or feet, or simply hold his hand. Tell stories, laugh, and share memories to reassure the person he or she is a cherished gift, not a burden in any way.

Try to be patient, and allow the “how” and “when” of death to be between God and your loved one. Ask God for the wisdom to know what final words to say—if any—and when. As you are able, give your loved one permission to make the transition.

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