

**“...Teacher, we know  
that you are a truthful man and  
that you teach the way of God  
in accordance with the truth...”**

*~Matthew 22:16*

## PRIEST'S INTENTIONS FOR MASSES

<b>Sun, Oct 18</b>	<b>TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME</b>
5:30 pm	<i>Sp Int</i> Carol Dietz
8:00 am	† Leeroy Dahlheimer
11:00 am	For the People of the Parish
5:30 pm	† Ana Quichocho Mendiola
<b>Mon, Oct 19</b>	<b>Saints John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs (USA)</b>
8:00 am	† Frank & † Regina Fritz
<b>Tues, Oct 20</b>	<b>Weekday</b>
8:00 am	† Don Kolesar
<b>Wed, Oct 21</b>	<b>Weekday</b>
8:00 am	<i>Sp Int</i> Kate Stirr
<b>Thurs, Oct 22</b>	<b>Saint John Paul II, Pope</b>
8:00 am	† Tim Hilgeman
11:00 am	† Kay Rouillard (Funeral Mass)
<b>Fri, Oct 23</b>	<b>Weekday</b>
	No Mass
<b>Sat, Oct 24</b>	<b>Weekday</b>
8:00 am	† Tom Murphy
<b>Sun, Oct 25</b>	<b>THIRTIETH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME</b>
5:30 pm	For the People of the Parish
8:00 am	† Mark Steckbauer
11:00 am	<i>Sp Int</i> Mia Grace Stewart
5:30 pm	<i>Sp Int</i> Veronica Franc



**We love having you as part of our flock! Get updates about Masses and parish life via email or text! Sign up! Visit [olg-church.org](http://olg-church.org) and look for the blue and white sheep.**

## Public Mass Update

**TWO MASS TIMES ARE CHANGING STARTING SAT, OCT 31**  
Please see the top of page 4 for details

**M**asses are celebrated outside in front of the church. Bring a blanket or lawn chair to sit on. Face coverings are required, as is physical distancing. Bottled water, hats, hand sanitizer, and sunscreen are recommended. In extreme heat Masses will be moved inside. Our Ambassadors will be present to assist you. For more info, visit [olg-church.org](http://olg-church.org) and read the red NOTICE under the Weekly Liturgy Schedule headline.

The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays continues to be dispensed by Bishop McElroy.

## Streamed Online Mass Information Available

**O**n the parish website we have listed multiple links to options to participate in Sunday and daily Mass online in the Diocese of San Diego and beyond. Visit [olg-church.org](http://olg-church.org) homepage and click on the gold "Online Mass Info and Other Sustaining Faith Resources in the Time of Pandemic" button. Scroll to listed Mass links.

"Darkness can only be scattered by light, hatred can only be conquered by love."

~St. John Paul II, Oct 22 Feast Day

## Welcome to OUR LADY of GRACE!

**W**elcome to all who are joining us for the celebration of the Eucharist. There are many ways and parish organizations to participate in our life in Christ. See the directory on page 7.

We invite all who attend OLG to become registered members of our parish. Registration forms are available on the table in the main entry of the church or the parish office. Registration allows us to communicate and effectively provide for your needs. It is necessary for baptism, marriage, and godparent or sponsor certification.

**Mindfulness of Others**—Please silence all devices and refrain from using them during the liturgy. The parish has a Children's Chapel located in the northwest corner of the church. Parents with restless children are welcome to make use of this chapel at any time during Mass should it be necessary. We ask that this chapel, like the church itself, remain free of food and drink.

**Allergies**—The first morning Mass of the Sunday or holy day will always be incense-free. The Sunday 11:00 am Mass will often include the use of incense.

## Invitation to the R.C.I.A.

**O**ur Lady of Grace Parish welcomes all who seek to enrich their faith life and explore the possibility of becoming a Catholic Christian. Our community shares and celebrates this journey with them through a process called "The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults." If you are curious about what Catholics believe and may be interested in learning more about joining the Catholic faith—or perhaps you are an adult Catholic looking to be fully initiated—you are cordially invited to enter the R.C.I.A. process and experience a new and enriched meaning to your life through renewed faith and love. Please contact Deacon John Sawaya at (858) 869-5079 or use the "Contact us" link on the parish webpage.



## READINGS FOR OCT 18 - 25

**Sun:** Is 45:1, 4-6; 1 Thes 1:1-5b; Mt 22:15-21

**Mon:** Eph 2:1-10; Lk 12:13-21

**Tue:** Eph 2:12-22; Lk 12:35-38

**Wed:** Eph 3:2-12; Lk 12:39-48

**Thu:** Eph 3:14-21; Lk 12:49-53

**Fri:** Eph 4:1-6; Lk 12:54-59

**Sat:** Eph 4:7-16; Lk 13:1-9

**Sun:** Ex 22:20-26; 1 Thes 1:5c-10; Mt 22:34-40

**Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Mass Readings:**

**Is 45:1, 4-6**  
**1 Thes 1:1-5b**  
**Mt 22:15-21**

**GROW:** I took up distance running some years ago, thanks largely to a group of friends who encouraged me along the way. We'd share the peaks and valleys of our lives as we tackled rolling hills. Those long runs come to mind when I hear Paul give thanks to the Thessalonians for having "endurance in hope of our Lord Jesus Christ." Paul here speaks of hope in Jesus—a hope that has the risen Christ as its foundation, and is central to the Christian life. When I think of what lies at the end of a long run, such as water and blissful rest, and how grateful I am for these simple pleasures, I cannot help but rejoice in the hope that St. Paul refers to today. Our catechism makes it clear: "We firmly believe, and hence we hope that, just as Christ is truly risen from the dead and lives forever, so after death the righteous will live forever with the risen Christ and he will raise them up on the last day."

**GO:** During a particularly challenging time, I confided



in a close friend over the phone. She didn't just offer to pray for me, she actually prayed *with* me on that phone call. I don't recall her exact words, but she called on Jesus to help me trust that God would see me through. So often, it

can be hard to find the words to encourage others in their faith. When that happens, why not bring Jesus into the conversation? It may seem awkward at first, but offering to pray with another person in real time can be a powerful witness and encouragement. As Christians, we don't rely on "hoping" that everything will work out in the end; instead, we know that our hope is in Christ Jesus. As the catechism says: "Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness." (1817) It doesn't get much more direct than that. Reflect on what "hope" looks like for us as Christians. And then tell a friend about it.

**DID YOU KNOW?** The source of our second reading today, the First Letter from Paul to the Thessalonians, contains the earliest mention within Christian literature of the three theological virtues: "faith, hope and love." Reread today's passage, and then read 1 Thessalonians 5:5-8. In prayer, we can ask God to help us grow in all three virtues and show us ways to share them with others.

*Written by The Faithful Disciple*

**OUR LADY OF GRACE CHURCH**

*Founded 1954*

**CLERGY**

**PASTOR**

*Very Rev. Peter McGuine*

**AUXILIARY PRIEST**

*Rev. Maxime Villeneuve, OSA*

**PRIESTS IN RESIDENCE**

*Rev. Curtiss Dwyer, LT, CHC, USN*  
*Rev. Jerome Molokie, O Praem.*

**DEACON**

*Dcn. John Sawaya*

**SCHEDULE of MASSES**

**SUNDAY VIGIL**

*(Saturday) 5:30 pm*

**SUNDAY**

*8:00 am, 11:00 am, 5:30 pm*

**MONDAY-THURSDAY AND SATURDAY**

*8:00 am*

*Holy days and holidays listed separately in bulletin.*

**SACRAMENTS**

**INFANT BAPTISM**

Baptisms are celebrated on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 12:30 pm. Preparation packet is available in the parish office.

**RITE of CHRISTIAN INITIATION of ADULTS**

Contact Deacon Sawaya (858) 869-5079.

**HOLY MATRIMONY**

Marriage preparation begins nine months in advance. Please contact Fr. Peter McGuine or Deacon Sawaya.

**PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION**

Monday 6:00 pm  
 Thursday 8:30 am  
 Saturday 4:00 pm

**ANOINTING of THE SICK**

Call the parish office (619) 469-0133.

**Sun, Oct 18** Give online at [olg-church.org](http://olg-church.org) or donate by check to OLG and put WMS in the memo line.

**WORLD MISSION SUNDAY**

**Adult Formation**

**Created in the Image of God**

[olg-church.org/upcoming-events](http://olg-church.org/upcoming-events)

**Wed, Nov 4 - 7:00 pm via Zoom**



### MASS TIMES TO CHANGE

**B**eginning **Sat, Oct 31**, our evening Mass times will change. Masses will continue to be celebrated outside and, as the evening darkness comes earlier due to the end of Daylight Savings Time, **the Sunday Vigil and Sunday evening Masses will be celebrated at 3:30 pm and Saturday Confessions move to 2:00 pm.** There is no change to any other Mass or confession time.

### Catholic Women's Club "Bread Sunday"

**C**hoose Irish Soda, Yeast, Cranberry Walnut, Pumpkin and/or Quinoa breads available Sun, **Oct 25** after the 8:00 and 11:00 am Masses in front of the school. Only \$7.00 per loaf, payable by cash or check at pick-up, a pre-order form is available online at [olg-church.org](http://olg-church.org) by clicking on the Upcoming Events ad or pick up a paper form from the info table in the church vestibule. **Pre-orders will be accepted until 5 pm on Wed, Oct 21.** There will be a limited supply of extra breads available while supplies last so please pre-order!



### Knights of Columbus Christmas Greenery Sale

**T**he Knights annual Christmas Greenery sale takes place now through Wed, **Nov 4**. Online order is preferred. Visit [SherwoodFundraiser.com/olg](http://SherwoodFundraiser.com/olg). You may also email Mitch Diccianni at [mdiscover@hotmail.com](mailto:mdiscover@hotmail.com) or call Mitch at (619) 743-6844 for help with paper, phone or online orders.



### New Format for Holiday Angel Program

**T**hank you to everyone who responded immediately to our appeal for donations to help East County families and seniors in need of special meals during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. Your early donations help planning for the client applications that are already coming in. This year grocery gift cards will be purchased for Holiday Angel families. Any excess funds—after all have enough to eat—will be provided to parents in the form of gift cards to purchase gifts for their children. Suggested donations are \$100, \$200, \$300, or any donation amount. Please use the online giving link at [olg-church.org](http://olg-church.org) or place an envelope with your check in the donation basket – be sure to designate your gift as "Holiday Angel Program". Donations are accepted through Sun, **Nov 15**, for this holiday season. On behalf of the families and seniors now being served, thank you OLG faith family for your enduring generosity! If you have questions, please contact Angel Coordinator Lesley Bradley, (619) 878-0278.



#### OCTOBER IS

RESPECT LIFE MONTH - Practice the Stewardship of Life from the Womb to the Tomb!

MONTH OF THE ROSARY - Pray the Rosary every day, encouraging family and friends to do the same.

## Catholic Women's Club Annual Holiday Craft Fair

Sat, Nov 7,  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

50+ CRAFTERS FEATURING FASHION  
APPAREL, HOME DECOR, AND ARTWORK FOR  
UPCOMING HOLIDAYS! AND, DON'T MISS THE  
CWC FRESHLY BAKED ITEMS BOOTH  
INCLUDING PEANUT BRITTLE AND FUDGE.

RAFFLE TICKET SALES OCT 31 & NOV 1 AFTER MASS  
\$1 PER TICKET OR 6 FOR \$5



### ALL SOULS—TRIDUUM OF MASSES AT OLG TUE - THU, NOV 3-5, 8:00 AM

Intention envelopes are available on the info table in the church vestibule and in the parish office.

**D**o you know the significance of **Nov 2**, "The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed" (All Souls)? Do you know how we came to celebrate our dearly departed on this date?

Prayers for the dead were an ancient tradition, even in some pagan cultures. In Jewish Scriptures, Judas Maccabeus "made atonement for the dead" (2 Mc 12:46), and early Christians inscribed prayers for their dead in Rome's catacombs. Local Catholic churches started remembering all the faithful departed in the early Middle Ages, with a Spanish feast from the time of St. Isidore of Seville, who died in 636. The fixed November date is generally attributed to St. Odilio of Cluny, who decreed in 998 that all monasteries under the Cluny rule should sing the Office of the Dead the day after the feast of All Saints. This custom gradually spread throughout Europe and as adopted by Rome in the 13th century.



### FUNERAL LITURGIES AT OUR LADY of GRACE

#### KATHLEEN "KAY" ROUILLARD

Tue, **Oct 22** at 11:00 am  
Private burial in South Dakota

#### MARGARITA ALVAREZ

Thu, **Nov 12** at 11:00 am  
Inurnment at Holy Cross Cemetery and Mausoleum  
12:30 pm

*May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

**YOUTH MINISTRY AND FORMATION**

**High School Teens Fall Retreat**

Coming Oct 23-25, the annual New Life High School Fall Retreat at Pine Valley Bible Camp. Registration and permission forms are available at [olg-church.org](http://olg-church.org). Click on the "Serve" drop down menu, select "Parish Groups" and under "Youth Groups" choose New Life.



Get Jr. High and/or High School event details. Visit [olg-church.org](http://olg-church.org) click "Serve" then "Parish Groups" and under "Youth Groups" choose ESCAPE (Jr. High) or New Life (High School).

**SAN DIEGO ADULT COMMUNITY**

For a complete list of spiritual development and social opportunities for 18-39 year old Catholic young adults follow Instagram @sd.ecya or visit the website: [sdcatholic.org/office-for/young-adult-ministry](http://sdcatholic.org/office-for/young-adult-ministry).

**SD CATHOLIC ADULT COMMUNITY — EAST COUNTY**

Activities and a social network for all Catholics! Young Adults (20s & 30s), Adult (40s & 50s), Active 60s+. Learn more at [sandiegocac.org](http://sandiegocac.org).

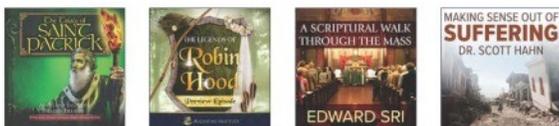
**WE ARE GIVING YOU FORMED**

LEARN AND ENJOY YOUR FAITH AT HOME OR ON THE GO FROM ANY DEVICE. CREATE YOUR FREE ACCOUNT BY VISITING [olg-church.org](http://olg-church.org), CLICK "LEARN" AND THEN "FORMED"

Watch Award-Winning Programming



Listen on Your Commute



**Coping with Life Alone**

One-day retreats (with COVID-19 precautions) for men and women coping with the loss of a marriage due to divorce separation, or death. It is a day filled with listening, reflecting, and sharing to guide your own healing journey.



Sat, **Oct 24** - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at St. Catherine Labouré, 4124 Mt. Abraham Ave, SD 92111.  
 Sat, **Nov 7** - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm at St. Mary's Church, 1170 S Broadway, Escondido 92025.  
 For more info or to sign up call (858) 748-2273 or email [BeginningExperienceSD@gmail.com](mailto:BeginningExperienceSD@gmail.com).

**SD Life Chain East County Rosary**  
 St. Ephrem Church Mariam Shrine  
 750 Medford St, El Cajon 92020

**SUN**  
**Oct 25**  
 1:15-  
 2:30 pm

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

*Please pray for those who have requested prayer and for the special intentions written in the Book of Intentions in the Baptistry of our church.*

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Patricia Adams     | Brenda Hilgeman      |
| Griselda Albanez   | Susan Hori           |
| Heriberto Albanez  | Ralph Howlett        |
| Tilly Allison      | Norma Kahan          |
| Gabriela Alvarenga | John Kelly           |
| Marvin Alvarenga   | Rebecca Leyden       |
| Mari Kay Ames      | Tim Leyden           |
| Angie Arrayan      | Mickey Lyle          |
| Patrick Attardo    | Ann Renzi            |
| Carol Bessone      | Anthony Renzi        |
| Angie Biner        | Sharisse Rola        |
| Anita Branch       | Joseph Shecora       |
| Pat Burke          | Clayton Schenkelberg |
| Stephanie Butcher  | Hibe Thornton        |
| Pam Carlson        | Andy Tong            |
| Brian Cashman      | Eve Ulshoeffter      |
| Tim Clasemen       | Marilyn Winger       |
| Mark Habina        | Kyle Wollet          |

*Names remain listed for four weeks and can be renewed by contacting Marie Pospichal at [mpospichal@olg-church.org](mailto:mpospichal@olg-church.org).*

**Gratitude in Action**



**2020 Annual Catholic Appeal supports Catholic Schools, Clergy & Seminarian Support, Faith Formation and Catholic Charities.**

Visit [olg-church.org](http://olg-church.org) to give or pledge!

**An Opportunity to Share your Abundance**

Each year, Halloween candy is collected from parishes and used for the Christmas distribution at the Casa de los Pobres (House of the Poor) in Mexico. The Sisters of the Franciscan Missionaries of Our Lady Queen of Peace coordinate an annual Christmas distribution where 1700 impoverished families receive a chicken, rice, beans, canned vegetables, fruit, and a bag of candy to make Christmas festivities a little sweeter! Families also receive blankets, jackets, shoes and toys for the children.



If your family wants to be especially helpful, please put your candy in quart-size Ziploc Freezer bags. Toothbrushes and toothpaste are also greatly appreciated! Please deliver your donation to the parish office by Thu, **Nov 5**. For ministry info visit [casadelospobresusa.com](http://casadelospobresusa.com).

**Catholic Wills and Trust Webinars**



The Catholic Community Foundation of San Diego is hosting free webinars led by local estate planning attorneys throughout San Diego and Imperial Counties. These professionals are not looking for clients but rather offer free help. Choose one webinar from five date/time options, **Nov 9-13**. Information at each webinar is the same - only the presenter changes. Protect and provide for your loved ones through proper planning. To register go to [CCFSD.org/events](http://CCFSD.org/events). Spanish options are also available.



**A Mobile Curbside Fundraiser**

Place a mobile order through the Chick-fil-A app for curbside pick up any time between 2:00 pm and 4:00 pm on Thu, **Oct 22** and Chick-fil-A Santee, 9418 Mission Gorge Rd, will donate up to 20% of all mobile curbside sales back to Our Lady of Grace School.

**Gift Cards available for order beginning Nov 7!**

Plan your shopping now! Hundreds of retail stores, restaurants, gas stations, grocery stores, online services, hotels, and more. Our parish school earns between 2% and 20% on each and every card! More details to come!

**Support Our Lady of Grace School & STOCK UP ON GIFT CARDS FOR CHRISTMAS!**

*Get your shopping list ready...more details coming soon!*

Order Dates: November 7-8  
Pick Up Dates: November 14-15 (Mass)

Order Dates: November 14-15  
Pick Up Dates: November 20 (School Office),  
November 28-29 (Mass)

Order Dates: November 28-29  
Pick Up Dates: December 5-6 (Mass)

Order Dates: December 5-6  
Pick Up Dates: December 12-13

[olg.org/events\\_giving/gift\\_cards\\_for\\_christmas](http://olg.org/events_giving/gift_cards_for_christmas)

**WEEKLY OFFERING REPORT**

<b>October 6 - 12, 2020</b>	<b>\$16,378.00</b>
Plate	\$ 543.00
Envelopes	\$ 9,450.00
Online Giving	\$ 6,385.00
<b>Breakdown of Gifts Received</b>	
\$0.01 - \$5.00	22
\$5.01 - \$10.00	25
\$10.01 - \$25.00	51
\$25.01 - \$50.00	60
\$50.01 - \$100.00	32
\$100.01 - \$150.00	10
\$150.01 - \$500.00	22
\$500.01 - Over	2
<b>Total Contributing Households</b>	<b>224</b>

**Additional Gifts**

Building Fund	\$2,605.00
Food Pantry	\$502.00
Holiday Angels	\$1,050.00
School Support - Tuition Assistance	\$526.00

**Secure Parish Online Giving**

*Give a one-time gift or set up recurring gifts*

Visit [olg-church.org](http://olg-church.org) and click on the "Online Giving" link in the upper right corner of the webpage (or use the QR code with your smart phone app!).



The Amazon Smile Foundation recently surpassed \$200 million in donations to charities worldwide. It's easy to increase your support to OLG when making your everyday purchases!

Shop at [smile.amazon.com/ch/27-3860489](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/27-3860489) or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon shopping app and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to Our Lady of Grace parish! Thank you for your support!

## OUR LADY of GRACE PARISH AND SCHOOL DIRECTORY

2766 NAVAJO ROAD, EL CAJON, CA 92020



PHONE: (619) 469-0133  
 FAX: (619) 469-0575  
 WEB: [OLG-CHURCH.ORG](http://OLG-CHURCH.ORG)  
 HOURS: MON-THU 8:30 AM-4:30 PM

Pastor **FR. PETER MCGUINE** | Ext. 17  
 Deacon **DCN. JOHN SAWAYA**  
 Business Manager **PATRICIA KANE** | Ext. 12  
 Special Projects Coordinator **KEN DISCENZA** | Ext. 24  
 Bookkeeper **SIONI BAUTISTA** | Ext. 16  
 Office Manager **MARIE POSPICHAL** | Ext. 10  
 Publicity & Communications **GEORGENE KRUZEL** | Ext. 33  
 Housekeeping **MARIA ARIAS**  
 Maintenance & Facilities **DAN BRESLIN & MATTHEW HILGEMAN**

## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

Liturgy Coordinator **ROSA HILGEMAN** | Ext. 14  
 Director of Liturgical Music **PAUL MAY** | Ext. 26  
*Cantate Kids and Gaudete Choir (11:00 am Sun)*  
 Director **ROBERT FILLEY**  
*Laudate Ensemble (5:30 pm Sun)*

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SCHOOL OF RELIGION, CONFIRMATION  
& ADULT FAITH FORMATION

PHONE: (619) 466-5656

Director of Catechetical Ministry | **LISSA HUTCHESON**  
 Youth Ministry Coord. *Jr. High, Sr. High* | **DORIS HERTZIG**  
 (619) 466-5451



For answers to almost every question about Our Lady of Grace liturgies, ministries and parish activities please visit our website at: [olg-church.org](http://olg-church.org)  
 And Like Us on Facebook!



## Reporting Sexual Abuse

Complaints about sexual abuse by a member of the clergy or by a parish or Catholic school employee or volunteer can be made by calling Mary Acosta at (858) 490-8353 or writing [misconduct@sdccatholic.org](mailto:misconduct@sdccatholic.org).

On the Cover: Image by Couler from [Pixabay](https://www.pixabay.com/)

If any of your personal information has changed please be so kind as to update us in the Parish Office. It is important that we update our family records.



PHONE: (619) 466-0055  
 FAX: (619) 466-8994  
 WEB: [OLG.ORG](http://OLG.ORG)  
 HOURS: WEEKDAYS 7:15 AM-3:30 PM  
 (DURING SCHOOL YEAR)

Principal **ERIN MARES** | Ext. 11  
 emares@olg.org  
 Vice-Principal **RACHEL SATO** | Ext. 27  
 rsato@olg.org  
 Development & Admissions **KELLI BALISTRERI** | Ext. 16  
 kbalistreri@olg.org  
 Secretary **LINDA PETERS** | Ext. 10  
 lpeters@olg.org

## PARISH MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

To email members of the parish staff or the ministry leaders listed below please visit our website at:

[olg-church.org](http://olg-church.org) - click on the "Contact Us" link in the upper right corner of the browser window.

For a ministry leader phone number please call the Parish Office at (619) 469-0133.

**55 PLUS CLUB**—Mary Cloward  
**BLOOD DRIVE**—Debbie Ipsen  
**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB—CWC**  
 CWC—Mary Cloward  
 Book Club—Julie Hazelton  
 Craft Fair—Kathy Porterfield  
**CENTERING PRAYER**—Irma Eichinger or Beatrice Doblado  
**CUB SCOUTS**—*Pack 951*—Crystal Carr  
**CURSILLO**—Dcn. John Sawaya  
**EVENTS COMMITTEE**—Nettie Aguinaldo  
**FOOD PANTRY**—*Since 1981* (619) 469-0061  
 Bob Cosgrove M-F, 9:30-11:00 am  
**HOLIDAY ANGELS**—*Since 1988*—Lesley Bradley  
**INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC FAMILIES—ICF**  
 Carla Pedroncelli  
**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**—*Frances Cabrini Council 8879*  
 Lou Crow, Grand Knight  
**LADIES OF GRACE**—Rosemarie McLain  
**LEGION OF MARY**—*Since 1987*—Dee Draper  
**MEN FOR CHRIST**—Steve Faucher  
**MINISTRY TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND**  
 Rosa Hilgeman  
**PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY**—*Since 2006*  
 Nettie Aguinaldo  
**PRO-LIFE**  
 Mary Dixon  
 Vicki Whitmire (40 Days for Life)  
**WALKING WITH PURPOSE**—*Women's Bible Study*  
 Danica Hertzig



God's Work in  
Our Hands

# Keep in mind abortion remains ‘preeminent’ issue in upcoming election

Bishop Thomas John Paprocki  
Diocese of Springfield in Illinois

September 20, 2020

**A**s election day in our country approaches in less than two months, people have been asking me if I will provide some guidance as they consider the candidates and ponder their votes. While I cannot endorse candidates for office, I and other church officials can provide voter education and pertinent information to help inform one’s choices.

In this regard, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a comprehensive voter education guide entitled, **Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility from the Catholic Bishops of the United States**. Originally adopted in 2007 by an overwhelming majority of bishops, it is updated with a new introductory letter as each national election approaches to highlight contemporary issues that warrant special attention.

In the new introductory letter that was approved by the full body of bishops at our November 2019 General Meeting, there is this key statement: “The threat of abortion remains our preeminent priority because it directly attacks life itself, because it takes place within the sanctuary of the family, and because of the number of lives destroyed.” The full text of **Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship**, in-

cluding the new introductory letter, is available online at [uscgb.org](http://uscgb.org).

The emphasis on abortion as our “preeminent priority” is timely, not only as we approach the 2020 election, but also because October is designated by the U.S. Catholic Bishops as Respect Life Month. This year’s Respect Life theme is, “Live the Gospel of Life.” The reference to the “Gospel of Life” recalls the prophetic papal encyclical *Evangelium vitae* (The Gospel of Life), written by Pope St. John Paul II in 1995 to reaffirm the value and inviolability of every human life and to appeal to all people to respect, protect, love, and serve every human life.

With specific reference to abortion laws and voting, Pope St. John Paul II wrote, “In the case of an intrinsically unjust law, such as a law permitting abortion or euthanasia, it is therefore never licit to obey it, or to take part in a propaganda campaign in favor of such a law, or vote for it.”

Pope Francis has called abortion a “very grave sin” and a “horrendous crime.” He indicated that he agreed with the U.S. bishops “identifying the protection of the unborn as a preeminent priority,” according to Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of

Kansas City, Kansas, who is also chairman of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) Committee for Pro-Life Activities. Commenting on his region’s ad limina visit with the Holy Father last January, Archbishop Naumann also told Catholic News Service that Pope Francis was “stunned” when Archbishop Naumann told him that an estimated 61 million abortions have taken place in the United States since 1973, when the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* decision made the procedure legal.

To say that an issue is “preeminent” does not mean that it is the only issue, but that it surpasses all others in importance. It is preeminent in that it is the basic human right on which all other rights depend. After all, if a baby is killed before birth, that person will never be able to exercise any other human rights.

The church since the first century has affirmed the moral evil of abortion, declaring, “You shall not kill the embryo by abortion and shall not cause the newborn to perish” (Didaché, 2:2). The Second Vatican Council affirmed that direct abortion, willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law, saying, “Life must be protected with

(Over)

the utmost care from the moment of conception: abortion and infanticide are abominable crimes” (Vatican Council II, **Gaudium et Spes**, 51);

Over the years, I have also called abortion a defining issue, very much as slavery was the defining issue during the time of Abraham Lincoln in the 19th century. Indeed, in the Lincoln-Douglas debates and in the speeches of other politicians, slavery was the issue that consumed their attention and defined their political priorities in the minds of voters.

So where do the political parties and the major candidates stand on abortion, the preeminent issue of our time?

The 2020 Democratic Party Platform states that Democrats believe unequivocally that every woman should be able to “access safe and legal abortion.” They also pledge to “restore federal funding for Planned Parenthood,” the largest single provider of abortions in the U.S., and repeal the Hyde Amendment, which since 1976 has prohibited federal funds to pay for abortions except in rare cases to save the life of the mother, or if the pregnancy arises from incest or rape. The platform also pledges that Democrats will appoint U.S. Supreme Court justices and federal judges who will uphold *Roe v. Wade*.

Joe Biden, Kamala Harris, and Dick Durbin, the Democratic Party candidates for president, vice-president, and U.S. Senate (Illinois), respectively, all support

the Democratic Party Platform promoting abortion and calling for the use of federal taxpayer funding of abortion and the appointment of pro-abortion judges. Biden also pledged to restore the Obama-Biden policy that mandates churches, businesses, colleges, and religious orders like the Little Sisters of the Poor to provide coverage for abortion pills in their employees’ health insurance plans.

The Republican National Committee issued a resolution stating that, due to constraints on the size of this year’s Republican National Convention as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, they would not issue a new party platform. Instead, the 2016 Republican Party Platform would remain intact. In it, Republicans “assert the sanctity of human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed.” They “oppose the use of public funds to perform or promote abortion or to fund organizations, like Planned Parenthood, so long as they provide or refer for elective abortions or sell fetal body parts rather than provide healthcare.” They also “support the appointment of judges who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of innocent human life.”

Donald Trump, Mike Pence, and Mark Curran, the Republican Party candidates for president, vice-president, and U.S. Senate (Illinois), respectively, all promote laws that restrict abortion, oppose federal funding for abortions, and support the appoint-

ment of judges who respect the life of unborn babies.

Space does not permit me to address the policy positions of all the candidates for office, and not all candidates always follow their respective party’s platform. So, before you cast your ballot, find out where each candidate stands on critical life-related issues such as abortion; using taxpayer money to fund or promote abortion; respecting that churches, businesses, colleges, hospitals, and religious orders do not have to provide abortion-inducing drugs in their employees’ health insurance plans; appointing judges who respect the life of unborn babies; and physician-assisted suicide.

#### In **Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship**, it says:

“The political realities of our nation present us with opportunities and challenges. We are a nation founded on ‘life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,’ but the right to life itself is not fully protected, especially for unborn children, the terminally ill, and the elderly, the most vulnerable members of the American family.”

Please keep this preeminent issue in mind as you form your conscience before casting your ballot and pray for our country that we may all live the Gospel of life.

May God give us this grace.  
Amen.



*The Most Reverend Thomas J. Paprocki was named Bishop of Springfield in Illinois on April 20, 2010 by Pope Benedict XVI.*

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