

Christi simus, non nostri. + We belong to Christ, not ourselves.



July 26, 2020—17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

ST. COLUMBAN PARISH

506 First St. S, Yelm, WA 98597
360-458-3031 parishoffice@sc-sp.org
Office: M-Th 9AM-12PM; 12:30-2PM

Sunday Mass: 10:30 AM
Saturday: 5 PM

Wednesday Mass: 9 AM
Anointing of the Sick: By Appt.
Confession: Friday 4:00—5:00 PM

Rosary begins 30 min.
before all Masses

ALL PARISH EVENTS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

*The church may be opened upon request
during office hours for those wishing to
pray inside.*

www.saintcolumbanyelm.org

ST. PETER MISSION

149 Keithahn St. S, Tenino, WA 98589
360-264-2124 gaby@sc-sp.org
Office: Monday, Friday 10:30AM – 2PM

Sunday Mass: 8:00 AM
Confession: Sunday 7:30 -7:45AM
Anointing of the Sick: by Appt.

St Peter Advisory —
stpeteradvisory@sc-sp.org

DUE TO COVID19 RESTRICTIONS, ALL MASSES ARE BY RESERVATION ONLY AND WILL BE HELD ON THE ST. COLUMBAN CAMPUS

MISSION STATEMENT - WE ARE A CATHOLIC FAITH COMMUNITY THAT SEEKS TO PLACE GOD FIRST, TO KNOW HIM, AND TO GROW IN HOLINESS TOGETHER. WE STRIVE TO LIVE THE GOSPEL THROUGH THE EUCHARIST, IN OUR TEACHING AND WAY OF LIFE.

For emergency assistance contact Society of St. Vincent de Paul: 360-458-1904. Please leave your name, number, and details of your need.

SAINT COLUMBAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

WELCOME! Please contact the office to register as a parishioner, for questions about any announcement, how to prepare for a sacrament, schedule a funeral or Mass Intention or to update your contact information.

PARISH OFFICE: (360) 458-3031

Fr. Dean Mbuzi, Priest Administrator
Ext.6 frdean@sc-sp.org

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Bookkeeper Ext.2 pat@sc-sp.org

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Confirmation Ext.4 chad@sc-sp.org

Jennifer Langham, PA for Liturgy &
Admin Support Ext. 5 parishoffice@sc-sp.org

Chris Bixby,
Director of Music music@sc-sp.org

Steven Slater, St. Columban
Custodian steven@sc-sp.org

ST. PETER OFFICE: (360) 264-2124

Gaby Makinster, St. Peter Admin
gaby@sc-sp.org



FORMED

www.saintcolumbanyelm.org

Mass Intentions

Pray for all those affected by Covid-19
and for first responders and caregivers.

July 22—Nora Kimball RIP

July 29—Ricardo Raphael Makinster R IP

In Our Prayers

Loving God, we join with others of
your people here asking you to hold in
Your hands Mona Guffey, Joseph
Waters, Oneida Blagg, Don Troyer,
and Michael Mauss, and all those in
harm's way.

Rest in Peace: Nora Kimball

Financial Stewardship

St. Columban St. Peter

Weekly Goal	\$5,762	\$2,436
July 19	\$5,217	\$510

From a homily on the Gospels by Gregory the Great, Pope

She longed for Christ, though she thought he had been taken away

When Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and did not find the Lord's body, she thought it had been taken away and so informed the disciples. After they came and saw the tomb, they too believed what Mary had told them. The text then says: *The disciples went back home* and it adds: *but Mary wept and remained standing outside the tomb.*

We should reflect on Mary's attitude and the great love she felt for Christ; for though the disciples had left the tomb, she remained. She was still seeking the one she had not found, and while she sought she wept; burning with the fire of love, she longed for him who she thought had been taken away. And so it happened that the woman who stayed behind to seek Christ was the only one to see him. For perseverance is essential to any good deed, as the voice of truth tells us: *Whoever perseveres to the end will be saved.*

At first she sought but did not find, but when she persevered it happened that she found what she was looking for. When our desires are not satisfied, they grow stronger, and becoming stronger they take hold of their object. Holy desires likewise grow with anticipation, and if they do not grow they are not really desires. Anyone who succeeds in attaining the truth has burned with such a great love. As David says: *My soul has thirsted for the living God; when shall I come and appear before the face of God?* And so also in the Song of Songs the Church says: *I was wounded by love; and again: My soul is melted with love.*

Woman, why are you weeping? Whom do you seek? She is asked why she is sorrowing so that her desire might be strengthened; for when she mentions whom she is seeking, her love is kindled all the more ardently.

Jesus says to her: *Mary.* Jesus is not recognized when he calls her "woman"; so he calls her by name, as though he were saying: Recognize me as I recognize you; for I do not know you as I know others; I know you as yourself. And so Mary, once addressed by name, recognizes who is speaking. She immediately calls him *rabboni*, that is to say, teacher, because the one whom she sought outwardly was the one who inwardly taught her to keep on searching.

The Feast day of St. Mary Magdalene is July 22.

Pax et bonum

Fr. Dean

SAINT COLUMBAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

Judith Cusick (Chairperson),
Sheila Johnson,
Jerome Didier, Joseph Judge
parishoffice@sc-sp.org

SAINT PETER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Sherry Bachmann (Chairperson),
Marilyn Ritter, Bernie Schwarz,
Bob Bacon, Diane Weston,
stpeteradvisory@sc-sp.org

For daily Mass readings and Event Calendar please see our Monthly Insert, found in the narthex and on our website.

Faith Formation

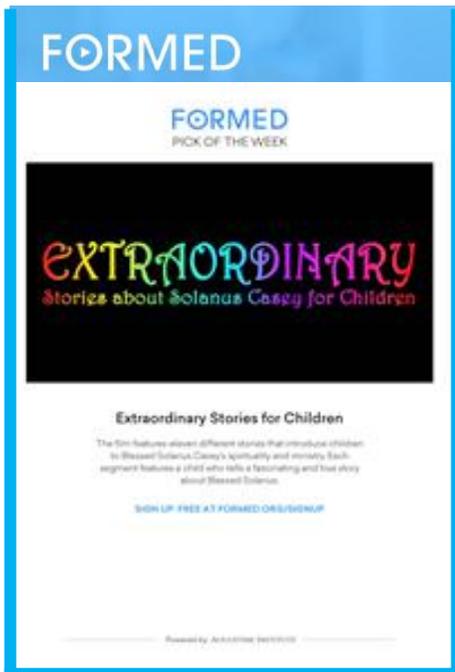
All Faith Formation classes will resume in September

Registration is available throughout the summer

Youth Ministry Grades 6 -12

Confirmation classes resume for all grades next school year, Fall 2020. Contact Chad for more information.

High School Seniors! Please come to the parish office during office hours (M-Th 9-2pm) to pick up your sign and a special gift from all of us.



Bonus Bulletin Content!

To save on printing, some extra bulletin content will now be exclusively found in the online edition of our bulletin, which is also emailed weekly to parishioners.

Sign up at flocknote.com/saintcolumbanyelm or visit our website saintcolumbanyelm.org

All Masses will resume with modifications, see below for details

MASS RESERVATIONS

In accordance with the Governor's instructions and guidance from the Archdiocese, public Mass at our parish has resumed. Mass will be limited to 50 people and reservations must be made in advance.

To make a reservation for Mass, please contact the Parish Office.

**360-458-3031 ext. 5
Mon-Thurs from 9AM-2PM**

Reservations end every Thursday at 2PM and please note that leaving a voicemail does not confirm your reservation.

Weekend Mass will be:

Saturday 5PM
Sunday 8AM (St. Peters)
10:30AM

Daily Mass will be held on Wednesdays at 9AM. This will also be by reservation only and reservations end Tuesdays at 2PM.

Confession will be held on Fridays from 4-5PM at St. Columban.

Important Things to Remember

- ◆ Masks will be required and only persons from within the same household will be seated together.
- ◆ Please arrive at least 20 minutes early for Mass. You will be checked in by a Greeter and then seated by an Usher.
- ◆ Communion will distributed after Mass as you leave. **Masks and gloves must be removed before receiving.**
- ◆ We recommend you bring your own missal with you for the readings as they will not be provided.

Knights of Columbus
Aug 22 - 2nd Annual Coats for Kids Car Show 9-2PM



Coffee Hours-Women's Club
No events until further notice.

Thank you to all who returned your pledges. The Catholic Appeal Campaign supports over 60 ministries and services in the Archdiocese. Once our goal is reached, every dollar and every prayer will be returned to the parish and mission for our special projects. *Please do not send blank envelopes as it delays the process.*

Goal for St. Columban: \$29,466

Total Pledged as of July 19, 2020
\$24,428 82% of Goal

Goal for St. Peter: \$4,651

Total Pledged as of July 19, 2020
\$5,472 119% of Goal

Please remember that the food donation bin in the Narthex is for non-perishable items only.

Letters went out on July 8 with Family Contributions for Jan 1-June 30.

If you did not receive one and feel you should have, please call the office to check your registration. If you received a letter and believe the numbers to be incorrect, please call the office and speak to Pat.

Thanks to our advertisers listed on the back of this bulletin! They make this publication available to the Parish at no cost to us.

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO CIVILITY?

“Our country’s political discourse has become much less civil over the last several decades to the point where there is a near paralysis in our federal government and too often at the state and local levels.”

“Respect and love ought to be extended also to those who think or act differently than we do in social, political and even religious matters.”

“If we want people running for elected office to behave better, we have to start with behaving better with people we encounter who hold differing opinions than our own.”

EXCERPTS FROM THE
WASHINGTON STATE BISHOPS’ STATEMENT
FEBRUARY 27, 2020

[READ MORE](#)

RESOURCES

[Catholic Social Teaching 101](#)

[Seven Themes of Catholic Social Teaching for Children](#)

[We Are Salt and Light video](#)

[Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship](#)

CIVILIZE IT
★ ★
DIGNITY BEYOND THE DEBATE



★ ★ AND HOW CAN I HELP GET IT BACK?



BRINGING CIVILITY BACK INTO MY LIFE

1. Listen and try to see Christ in others
2. Seek first to understand, not to be understood
3. Be open and nonjudgmental
4. Respond as if you are responding to God
5. Ask Our Lord for help

MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE A PRAYER FOR CIVILITY

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where uncivil words prevail,
show me how to model love.
Help me remember the God-given dignity of all
and invite others to do the same.
Show me how to build bridges and not walls
and see first what unites us
rather than how we diverge.
Let me seek to understand
before asking to be understood.
Give me a listening heart filled with empathy
and compassion.
May I be clear in sharing my own position
and respectful and civil in describing those
of others.
Let me never tolerate hateful ideas.
May I invite all to charity and love.
Lord, help me to imitate your compassion and
mercy. Make me an instrument of your peace.
Amen.

The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...



In today's Gospel reading, Jesus tells the disciples what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. He says it is like a buried treasure, that when a man finds it, he sells everything he has and buys the field where it is hidden. He also says it is like a pearl of great price, that when a merchant finds it he sells all he has and buys it.

These parables tell us how precious the Kingdom of Heaven is. Jesus is explaining that it is more important than anything else in our lives. The men in the parables sold EVERYTHING they had to get the treasures.

But what is the Kingdom of Heaven? Is it a country with a king and subjects? Well it is, sort of, but you can't see it. Jesus is the King and His people are the people who choose Him as their King. The laws of the kingdom are God's laws, and the enemy is the devil who is trying to take all the souls. Always remember that belonging to God's Kingdom is more important than everything else in your life!

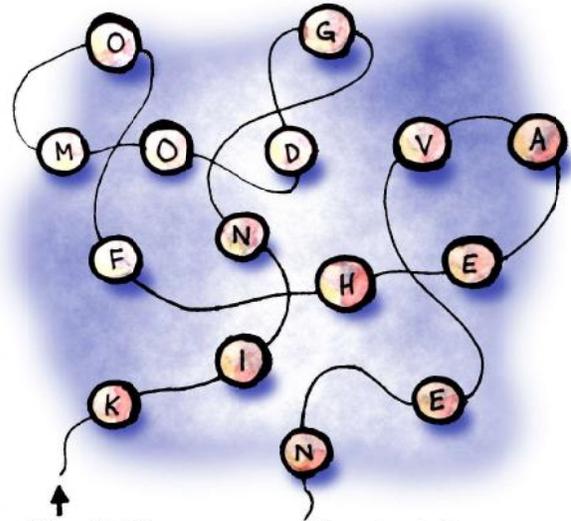


Answers to front page: Kingdom of Heaven
across: 2. Judge 4. act 6. who 7. wisdom
10. mere 12. wrong 15. God 17. heart
18. servant 22. numbered 24. king
down: 1. how 3. understanding 4. able 5. to
8. man 9. people 11. right 14. govern 16. give
18. serve 19. said 20. Lord 21. ask 23. me

www.thekidsbulletin.com

The Kids' Bulletin

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 26th, 2020



What did Jesus say was like a buried treasure or a pearl of great price?

Use the letters on the string of pearls to fill in the blanks and find out!

The _____

Saint Alphonsus Liguori August 1

ALPHONSUS LIGUORI WAS BORN TO A CATHOLIC FAMILY IN ITALY IN 1696. HE WAS VERY INTELLIGENT AND BECAME A LAWYER BY THE TIME HE WAS 19.

Compliments, Mr. Liguori...
Look how young he is! He doesn't fit his robe!

WHEN HE WAS 26 HE MADE A MISTAKE IN A CASE, AND REALIZING THE PETTINESS OF LAW HE DECIDED TO QUIT.

Sir, you have forgotten this document, which proves you wrong

WHILE VISITING THE SICK HE RECEIVED A VISION THAT INFLUENCED HIM TO BECOME A PRIEST.

Learn the world and give yourself to me!

I don't want you staying in the Oratory.

AT FIRST HIS FATHER RESISTED, BUT HE FINALLY AGREED IF ALPHONSUS WOULD LIVE AT HOME.

SO ALPHONSUS DID MISSIONARY WORK FROM HIS HOME.

HE BEGAN TWO RELIGIOUS ORDERS AND WAS MADE A BISHOP TO A FALLEN-AWAY AREA

These people know nothing of the Faith!

HE PREACHED AND WROTE IN SPITE OF HAVING RHEUMATISM AND PARALYSIS. HE SUFFERED MANY HARDSHIPS WITH THE FOUNDING OF THE ORDERS TOO.

SAINT ALPHONSUS USED HIS INTELLIGENCE TO TEACH THE IGNORANT PEOPLE IN HIS DIOCESE, AND WHEN HE WAS TOO SICK TO PREACH HE WOULD WRITE. GOD HAS GIVEN YOU GIFTS THAT YOU CAN USE TO HELP TEACH OTHERS ABOUT HIM. DON'T LET ANYTHING STOP YOU, JUST LIKE ST. ALPHONSUS DIDN'T!

thekidsbulletin@gmail.com

King Solomon's Dream Cross-Word

God _____ (19d) to the young _____ (24a) Solomon in a dream, " _____ (21d) _____ (23d) for whatever you want me to _____ (16d) you."

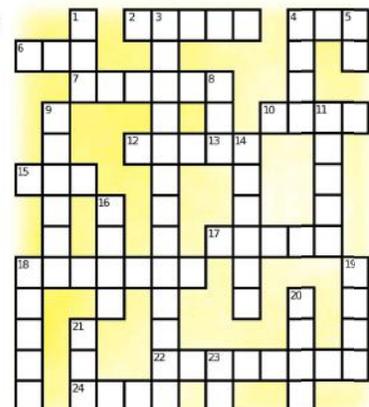
Solomon knew that he was only a young _____ (8d) and couldn't rule God's people without His help. So he said _____ (5d) God, "O _____ (20d), I am a _____ (10a) youth, not knowing _____ (1d) to _____ (4a). I _____ (18d) you in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a people so vast that it cannot be _____ (22a) or counted. Give your _____ (18a), therefore, an _____ (3d) _____ (17a)

to _____ (2a) your people and to distinguish _____ (11d) from _____ (12a). For _____ (6a) is _____ (4d) to _____ (14d) this vast _____ (9d) of yours?"

_____ (15a) was pleased with Solomon's request and told him that He would grant him _____ (7a) greater than anyone else had ever had or would have.

Use the words from this list to fill in the blanks and figure out the cross-word.

UNDERSTANDING
ME NUMBERED
TO SERVANT
ASK WISDOM
ACT GOVERN
GIVE WRONG
SAID PEOPLE
GOD JUDGE
WHO HEART
MAN RIGHT
KING SERVE
HOW LORD
ABLE MERE





Saint Martha

FIRST CENTURY

FEAST DAY: JULY 29

Martha and her siblings, Mary and Lazarus, are Jesus' friends in Bethany. In Luke 10:38-42, while Mary sits at Jesus' feet, Martha is busy serving. When she complains to Jesus, he says: "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. ... Mary has chosen the better part and it will not be taken from her." Just before Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead (John 11:1-44), Martha confesses: "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God." She is the patron of cooks and servers.



CNS Photo





SEVEN CONSIDERATIONS WHILE NAVIGATING INFERTILITY

We often assume parenthood happens easily after “I do,” but for many married couples, it does not. For some, the joy of conception never happens. Others suffer repeated miscarriages. Still others experience secondary infertility: after giving birth to one or more children, they are unable to have another.

The pain can become overwhelming. Social media posts of pregnancies, baby announcements, or pictures of newborns may intensify feelings of being alone in the ache for a child. Attending baby showers and being around children or pregnant women can be excruciating.

If you experience difficulty bringing a child into your family, know that you are not alone. God is with you, and his Church desires to walk with you. The following suggestions may be helpful to you on this journey.

- 1. Start with Prayer:** God has a beautiful plan for your life as a married couple. Seek his guidance, and let the healing power of prayer, a conversation in which “heart speaks unto heart,”¹ strengthen you. Pope Francis encourages us to pray not only with commonly known prayers, “but also to pray in our own words.”²
- 2. Connect with Others:** A mentorship, a faith-based support group, or spiritual direction can offer comfort and provide new perspectives. Sharing your struggles with family, friends, or a therapist can also help ease the pain. Ask the saints for their intercession, and reflect upon the biblical stories of Sarah and Abraham, Hannah and Elkanah, and Elizabeth and Zechariah.³
- 3. Seek to Understand the Church’s Teaching:*** The sexual act expresses the marital covenant, repeating over and over again, “I give myself to you entirely, unreservedly, holding nothing back.” In this mutual gift of self, so all-encompassing that it includes their potential for procreation, a husband and wife are united as one, giving full expression to their love. These two aspects of sexuality, the unitive and the procreative, are intertwined and are not meant to be separated.

Suppressing the possibility of conception (i.e., contraceptive use) and creating life outside the marital sexual act (i.e., use of some reproductive technologies) both work against God’s plan for married love and the gift of life. Pope Francis explains that “a child

deserves to be born of that love” expressed between a husband and wife in intercourse, “and not by any other means, for ‘he or she is not something owed ... but is a gift.’”⁴

**(Further explanation in listed resources.)*

- 4. Learn the Difference between Ethical and Unethical Interventions:*** Applying the Church’s teaching means that, in short, procedures that introduce a third party into the process (such as surrogates or sperm/egg donors) are not morally acceptable. Additionally, substituting a laboratory action or anything else for intercourse, such as artificial insemination or *in vitro* fertilization (IVF), is also morally unacceptable. However, treatments that help facilitate conception through marital intercourse are morally ethical.
**(Further information in listed resources.)*
- 5. Be Aware of “Treatments” That Destroy Life:** Some procedures are problematic for multiple reasons. For example, beyond its unethical nature (as per the previous section), *in vitro* fertilization (IVF) often involves the tragic loss of human life. Children in the embryonic stage are frequently discarded—or frozen—without ever being implanted into their mother’s womb. And if multiple babies are implanted, doctors may suggest performing a “fetal reduction” by killing one or more to increase the survival chances of the strongest child in utero. While a baby might eventually be born, his or her tiny siblings may be destroyed in the process.⁵
- 6. Make a Plan:** Do you know there are medical options consistent with Church teaching that have statistically significantly higher rates of achieving pregnancy than IVF?⁶ Learn about these, fertility awareness practices, and other treatments that also respect your marriage and any children who may be conceived. If you have sought to bring a child into your family through ways not in keeping with God’s plan for life and married love, have hope. The Lord welcomes us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, where we



Learn how to sensitively show compassion to those experiencing difficulty having children from a short list of suggested *dos* and *don'ts*. Visit www.usccb.org/respectlife.

can receive the loving mercy and forgiveness we each need. With prayer and an informed conscience, work together as a couple to create a plan that takes into consideration the desire for children along with moral principles, finances, medical realities, and your overall well-being (both individually and as a couple). Locate a trained specialist or doctor who honors your plan and has training in methods of assistance that are in keeping with Church teaching.

7. Keep Your Marriage Healthy: Handling the uncertainties of infertility is a challenge for even the strongest marriages. Once engaged in treatment, it can become easy to focus more on the process than on each other. However, communication and mutual decision-making are vital. Staying intimately connected can help make it easier to manage lifestyle changes, reordering of priorities, physical discomfort, career disruption, and difficulties with insensitive people.

Hold fast to the constant truth of God's love for you. "To couples who cannot have children of their own," St. John Paul II affirmed, "you are no less loved by God; your love for each other is complete and fruitful when it is open to others"⁷ and their needs. In times of suffering, Pope Francis notes, "we sense a powerful need for someone to be close and feel compassion for us." You are not alone: "Jesus 'does not abandon those whom he loves.'"⁸

Even if we ourselves do not experience difficulty bearing children, we can be channels of God's mercy for those who do. Learn how to show compassion sensitively from a short list of suggested *dos* and *don'ts* at www.usccb.org/respectlife.

***Resources:**

- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. *Life-Giving Love in an Age of Technology*. Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2009.
- Natural Family Planning Program, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. "Reproductive Technology (Evaluation & Treatment of Infertility): Guidelines for Catholic Couples." Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2009.
- Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Instruction *Donum vitae* (*Instruction on Respect for Human Life in Its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation*). Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1987.

- Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Instruction *Dignitas personae* (*The Dignity of a Person*). Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2008.

- Articles, documents, statements, and more: www.usccb.org/LifeGivingLove

¹ Pope Benedict XVI, *Homily at the Mass with the Beatification of Venerable Cardinal John Henry Newman on September 19, 2010*, (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2010).

² Pope Francis, *General Audience, May 7, 2014*, (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2014).

³ Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-8; 1 Samuel 1:1 - 2:11, 18-21; Luke 1:5-25

⁴ Pope Francis, *Amoris laetitia*, (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2016), nos. 80-81.

⁵ John M. Haas, Ph.D., S.T.L., "Begotten Not Made: A Catholic View of Reproductive Technology," (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1998).

⁶ "Infertility," NaProTechnology, accessed May 9, 2016, <http://www.naprotechnology.com/infertility.htm>, Copyright © Pope Paul VI Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction.

⁷ Pope John Paul II, *Homily at the Mass for the Families on February 13, 1982*, (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1982).

⁸ Pope Francis, *Meditation at the Prayer Vigil to "Dry the Tears" on May 5, 2016*, (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 2016).

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UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
 Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
www.facebook.com/peopleoflife

Natural Family Planning

It's worth it.

Join the Revolution!

By Jill Cherrey

In marriage preparation programs, couples frequently ask: “What is the difference between contraception and Natural Family Planning (NFP)?” Although I am happy to explain, I often realize that words are inadequate. I try to encourage them to ask a better question: “How can a couple have ‘authentic sexual intimacy’ and responsibly plan their family?” The difference between the two questions is deep and wide. The answer has to do with joining a revolution—God’s revolution!

God’s love is revolutionary. It is freely given. It is permanent, total, faithful, and fruitful. And, God shares His love with us as gift. When man and woman marry, they make a vow at the altar to love each other as God loves. In their consent, the “I” becomes “we!” And, there is more. God’s gift of sexual relations to husband and wife gives them a particular way to “seal” or “perfect” their vows in a physical reality where the “we” can become “us” in a child.

With NFP, spouses say, “I love you *freely*” because the time of sexual abstinence demonstrates that they can say “No” and do no harm to God’s gift of fertility. This makes their times of “Yes,” more meaningful. To put it another way, if we cannot say “no” to our sexual urges then we are not truly free and our “yes” really means nothing. When a couple jointly respects God’s gift of fertility rather than seeking to manipulate it, they offer the *total* gift of their persons to each other. A *faithful* gift is one that is always in the best interest of the person, and NFP allows a couple to say, “You are amazing just the way you are” (remember, when using NFP, the couple does not seek to alter their fertility through chemicals, devices, or procedures). In addition, the discipline of periodic sexual abstinence helps couples to resist temptations that offend sexual fidelity and the virtue of chastity. NFP allows the couple to give God the final word on whether their sexual union will result in pregnancy. In turning over physical fruitfulness to God, the couple practices spiritual *fruitfulness* as they open their hearts to God who is love.

A revolution is not an easy endeavor. It can be exciting, but it inevitably will require personal sacrifice and even suffering. NFP is no different. Accepting God’s invitation to live His plan for married love is both humbling and wondrous. It involves many blessings. And, yet, it will also have its difficulties. For example, when postponing a pregnancy, some couples may experience prolonged periods of sexual abstinence due to unclear fertility signs—and they will feel the loss of their physical intimacy. When facing the challenge of postpartum and breastfeeding or during perimenopause, other couples may wonder if their efforts are worth the trouble. And, sadly, some couples may be tempted to give up when receiving disapproval from friends or family. At times such as these, it will be important for NFP couples to know that they are not alone. They can seek help from their NFP teachers and local diocesan leaders. The

diocesan NFP community has access to resources, including spiritual directors and appropriate medical professionals, who can help couples who are in need of assistance.

Most importantly, when facing challenges, NFP couples should be encouraged to turn to God in prayer—as individuals and as a couple. In my own life, I have both worn down rosary beads and the path to the Adoration chapel during spiritual battles in my life- and God never failed to give me consolation and direction!

In my mind's eye stands an image of a heart with the caption, "Sacrifice is the Metric of Love." We know this truth in the deepest part of our being. Unfortunately, today we live in a culture that has tried to redesign love and in particular, sex. In doing so, it has eliminated the language of love which is the language of self-sacrifice. NFP supports the language of love. It stands against any notion that love is about self-satisfaction to the exclusion of self-donation. NFP allows couples to honor God by respecting His design. It both respects man and woman as created by God, and values God's gift of fertility. NFP therefore values the child as gift.

What is God's design for men and women but that which is love and life, babies and bonding, unitive and procreative, together! With NFP, a couple can *trust the gift* as it was made, and when they do so, they can truly renew their vows and invite love, God's love into their marriage. This is a revolution worth joining!

Jill Cherrey is the NFP coordinator for the Archdiocese of Newark.



Natural Family Planning Program, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. This article is printed with the permission of the author. You have her permission to reproduce in whole or in part, in print and/or electronically, with the following statement: Jill Cherrey, "NFP, It's worth it! Join the Revolution!" Used with permission.



SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2020

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.” - Mt 13:44

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 26, 2020

- SUN 7/26** 1 Kgs 3:5, 7-12/Ps 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130 [97a]/Rom 8:28-30/Mt 13:44-52 or 13:44-46
- MON 7/27** Jer 13:1-11/Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21 [cf. 18a]/Mt 13:31-35
- TUE 7/28** Jer 14:17-22/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13 [9]/Mt 13:36-43
- WED 7/29** Jer 15:10, 16-21/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11 [2]/Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42
- THR 7/30** Jer 18:1-6/Ps 146:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab [5a]/Mt 13:47-53
- FRI 7/31** Jer 26:1-9/Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14 [14c]/Mt 13:54-58
- SAT 8/1** Jer 26:11-16, 24/Ps 69:15-16, 30-31, 33-34 [14c]/Mt 14:1-12
- SUN 8/2** Is 55:1-3/Ps 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18 [cf. 16]/Rom 8:35, 37-39/Mt 14:13-21

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JULY 26, 2020

- Sunday:** 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Wednesday:** St. Martha
- Thursday:** St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Friday:** St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest
- Saturday:** St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Next Sunday:** 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

LIVE THE LITURGY

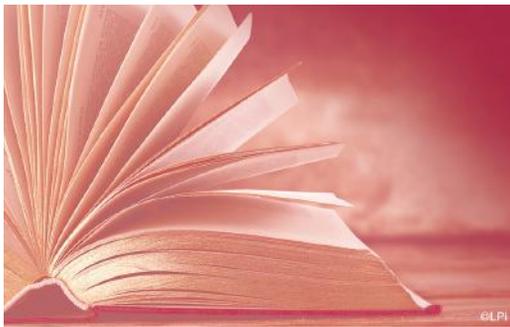
Inspiration for the week

When a merchant finally finds a priceless, perfect pearl, he sells all he has and buys it. He does this because that pearl matters to him. It has significance and brings a depth of joy like none other. What matters and is of importance to you? When what matters to us has something to do with the kingdom of God, God is delighted. His exuberant happiness is hard to contain because He knows that we are happy stumbling upon this beautiful wisdom. Ask God to help you discover this pearl of great price. There are many things competing for our attention every day. But not all of these things are important. We focus too much energy on the unimportant, superficial stuff and neglect paying attention to the things that really make a difference and have the greatest impact. Things all too easily become more significant than people, and our agendas become more essential than God's. We do not have to empty our bank accounts and totally detach from everything we have in order to serve God. But, we are asked to prioritize our lives and make what matters to God what matters most to us. In doing so, when we rise each day, we will be able to see what really needs our attention and embrace it with great joy!



*Delight
in Him
Always*

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

"Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong." (1 Kgs 3:9a)



PSALM

Lord, I love your commands. (Ps 119)



SECOND READING

We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. (Rom 8:28)



GOSPEL

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." (Mt 13:44)

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GOD

DELIGHTS

IN YOU



GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

A single mother who has a child with special needs works two jobs and sacrifices much of her own pleasures in order to be available for her son. Being the best mother possible is important to her and brings her joy. We are willing to make great and often heroic sacrifices for those people and things that matter most to us. Unless there is something of obvious importance to us in our immediate path, we can easily approach life in a more haphazard and chaotic way. We jump from one thing to another, responding to whatever it is that is competing for our attention at that moment. When everything is important, nothing is important.

If we do not wear the right pair of glasses, we can get all too easily caught up in the superficial stuff and neglect paying attention to the things that really matter. The kingdom of God is like the pearl of great price that is worth selling everything for so that it can be obtained. Based on where I invest my time and energy each day, I really wonder whether I am serving God's kingdom or my own. Have you ever considered tracking how you spend your time? You may be surprised! We allow our agendas to set the clock of our lives. We forget that joy and a true sense of purpose are not going to be found in following that timepiece. Joy is the expression of the happiness that is discovered when living in the kingdom of God. When our agenda matches God, not only do we leap for joy but God leaps with delight as well. Our well-being is what matters most to God.

Can you imagine God delighting in you? It is easy to deaden our senses to the whole reality of God and the joy that living the Gospel can bring. The demands of secular life and the agendas competing for our attention can quickly do that. We can get tired and spiritually apathetic. But if we can see our way through all of the conflicting voices and hear the voice of God, we can rediscover our zeal and passion and redirect our efforts. When we begin to see as God sees, we can rise each day and notice what really needs our attention and embrace it with exuberance. Be careful, though. It may not be what we originally had on our list. Responding to it, however, will be worth putting everything else aside.

LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING *to the Call*

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

What Is God Asking of You?

What are you willing to give for the sake of the kingdom of God? Often, we begin a discussion like this with a story or a few leading thoughts. However, if we are to be serious about who we claim to be as Christians, there should be no beating around the bush. The question is not only important for each of us and our relationship with our God, but it should be important for the relationship each of us has with the entire Body of Christ. Like any good team or family, I need you to have my back, and I need to have yours. If one of us is going to lay it on the line and be all in for our faith, then we all need to be as well.

If only all the Christians of the world felt the same way. In some parts of the world, Christians are still being martyred for their faith. Others must worship underground and avoid the government-led police. Then there are those who seem to take faith for granted, and because little is asked by their friends or parish, they give nothing. It is quite a contrast of situations.

On this day, it may seem like little is being asked of you and I by God. Is that because we aren't being asked or because we aren't listening? If you are counting on me and I am on you, we should figure this out sooner than later. Of course, I suspect we actually do know the answer, don't we?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!



WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Catholic Life Explained:

Lighting Candles in Church

Question:

Why do Catholics light candles in church?

Answer:

Candles have been part of the Church's worship from the earliest times. In the days before electricity, candles and oil lamps were the ways that people lighted buildings. Even today, we often still depend on candles during power outages, relying on their flickering flames to bring light into the dark.

Like our ancestors, we also light candles on special occasions. Think about a festive family meal or a romantic dinner for two — there will often be candles on the table, special objects for a special event. We light candles on birthday cakes and carry them in processions. We also place candles at makeshift memorials that appear when there has been an accident or act of violence. In these moments, their light casts aside a different kind of darkness — the darkness of grief, fear, and death.

The custom of the early Christians lighting candles and lamps at the tombs of the martyrs gave way to the practice of having candles at Mass, honoring the sacredness of the celebration.

As Christians decorated their worship spaces with statues and icons, they would burn candles in front of sacred images and the relics of the saints, basically "shining a light" on what they held to be sacred. When pilgrims would visit these shrines, they would often bring candles to light before the image or relic. These candles came to be a symbol of the person, and their prayer and the burning these candles came to be understood as an extension and continuation of the prayer that was offered. What began as a practical way to provide light has come to be a symbol of the hopes, desires, loves, losses, fears, and faith of everyday Christians offering their prayers to God and his saints.

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“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”

– Mt 13:44

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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

As a young man and new king of Israel, Solomon asks the Lord for the gift of wisdom. How do you exercise the virtue of wisdom in your daily life?

Second Reading

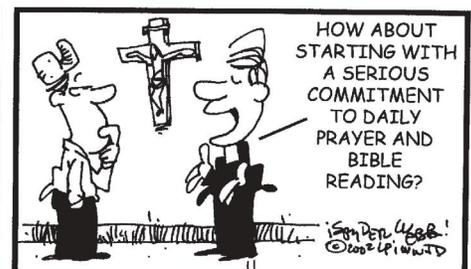
How do you think Paul can assert with such certainty: “We know that all things work for good for those who love God”?

Gospel Reading

Jesus offers several “end of the age” parables to the disciples: buried treasure and fine pearls (a priceless discovery) and the large catch of fish (an inclusive invitation). What do you think Jesus is teaching his disciples about the kingdom of heaven?



17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

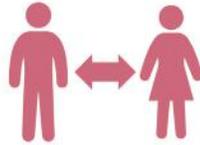


LITURGICAL LIFE

3 EASY STEPS

To Keeping Yourself & Others Healthy!

We are cautioned to be especially careful during the Coronavirus outbreak. Here are some simple ways to keep sickness away.



Wash Your Hands

Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water. If you can't wash your hands, use hand sanitizer frequently.

Don't Touch Your Face

Especially around the eyes, nose and mouth. If you must sneeze, use a tissue or your arm.

Keep Your Distance

Practice social distancing during this epidemic and stay away from large groups. Instead, call, email or check up on family and friends using social media.



*“Thus it will be at
the end of the age.
The angels will go
out and separate
the wicked from the
righteous and throw
them into the fiery
furnace, where there
will be wailing and
grinding of teeth. Do
you understand all
these things?” They
answered, “Yes.”*

- Mt 13:49-51

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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KIDS CORNER

READ THE GOSPEL AND COMPLETE A PUZZLE!

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

KINGDOM
HEAVEN
TREASURE

HIDDEN
FIELD
FOUND

PEARLS
SOLD
BOUGHT

T	N	F	H	D	E	O	K	M	I	O
H	B	O	U	G	H	T	E	F	A	V
E	I	U	S	E	L	R	A	I	K	T
K	R	N	A	H	S	E	U	E	D	R
I	E	D	I	P	E	A	R	L	S	N
N	A	H	F	N	I	S	E	D	O	W
G	M	D	A	T	O	U	H	N	L	E
D	I	N	G	E	A	R	S	I	D	N
O	J	H	I	D	D	E	N	O	W	Y
M	E	D	N	S	T	O	A	L	N	D
A	H	L	H	E	A	V	E	N	T	A

SHARING THE GOSPEL

Your toys can break. Your books can tear. Your clothes can shrink and stain. Things don't last forever. The kingdom of heaven does last forever. It is like a treasure. Heaven is worth more than anything you own. In both stories, the person who found the treasure sold everything else just to be a part of God's kingdom.

PRAYER

God, help me to love your kingdom more than the things I have.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Put God's kingdom first.
Read a Bible story
every morning.



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