



September 13, 2020 – Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Emergency Information: In the event that the Church and Parish Offices are closed due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances, please check our parish phone number, visit our website and check our Facebook page for updates and information. Please use your judgment when coming to Mass and remember that safety is the primary factor.

PARISH ADDRESS:

935 Bennetts Mills Road, Jackson, NJ 08527

Parish: Tel: 732-370-0500

Fax: 732-963-0805

Religious Education Office: 732-370-1515

Parish: www.saintalloysiusonline.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

The Parish and Religious Education offices have re-opened. Hours are Monday through Thursday from 8:30am until 3:30pm. All visitors must wear a mask and we will limit the amount of visitors at one time.

Mass Schedule - Mass Schedule - Live stream Masses will continue to be available through our website. Masks **MUST** be worn inside the Church.

The Church will be open Monday through Thursday from 10:00am through 2:00pm for Private Prayer.

Monday through Friday: 9:00am

Saturday - 5:00pm

Sunday - 7:00 am, 8:30 am and 10:30am

St. Vincent de Paul Assistance Hotline: 732-370-0098

PARISH STAFF:

Pastor: Very Reverend John P. Bambrick, V.F., Ext. 218

FrBambrick@saintalloysiusonline.org

Parochial Vicar: Reverend James Smith, Ext. 207

FrSmith@saintalloysiusonline.org

Weekend Assistant: Monsignor Joseph Ciampaglio

Deacons: Uku Mannikus & Rene Perez

Business Manager: Sherri Kroesch

skroesch@saintalloysiusonline.org, Ext. 203

Director of Music: Naomi Capasso

musicministry@saintalloysiusonline.org, Ext. 217

Parish Secretary: Pat Mulholland

parishoffice@saintalloysiusonline.org, Ext. 204

Youth & Young Adult Ministries: Joey Tun

youthministry@saintalloysiusonline.org, Ext. 202

Mother Seton Academy

4219 Rt. 9 North, Howell, NJ 07731

Principal: Mrs. Kathleen Blazewicz

Phone: 732-364-4130

Website: www.msaeu.org

Religious Education Department:

Director of Religious Education: Jennifer Petrillo

jpetrillo@saintalloysiusonline.org, Ext. 311

Sacramental Coordinator: Paula Mammana

sacraments@saintalloysiusonline.org, Ext. 314

Protecting God's Children - Making the Church a safe environment for all, particularly children and at-risk adults, is a major priority of the administration and staff of Saint Aloysius Church. Please take a look at the posters and "Safe Environment & Standards of Conduct Policy" that are posted on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space of the Church and on our website at <http://www.saintalloysiusonline.org/protecting-children>. If you have any questions or would like to learn more about how to make our church, homes and community safer, please contact Jen Petrillo at 732-370-1515 ext. 311 or jpetrillo@saintalloysiusonline.org.

To report the sexual abuse of minors call the diocesan hotline 1-888-296-2965 or abuseline@dioceseoftrenton.org. *Please note:* The Diocese of Trenton reports any allegations of sexual abuse to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. Anyone with an allegation is also encouraged to provide that information to local law enforcement authorities.



Dear Parish Family,

Bishop David O'Connell, C.M. has received numerous requests for him to issue a statement regarding the upcoming elections. He has asked that we direct people who have questions to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' website where the resource "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship" serves as the Bishops' statements regarding elections. <https://www.usccb.org/offices/justice-peace-humandevelopment/forming-consciences-faithful-citizenship>. The New Jersey Catholic Conference also has resources which can be accessed here: <https://njcatholic.org/faithful-citizenship>. These are helpful and fruitful resources to help Catholics form their conscience in making a decision regarding an election.

On Wednesday, August 2, myself, Fr. P.J., Fr. Jim and Fr. Chang met with the faculty and staff of Mother Seton Academy from 10-noon and then celebrated Mass together to kick off the new academic year. There was much excitement, laughter, enthusiasm and energy among our teachers and staff. Everyone was pretty excited for the new year and we are well prepared. The Academy has been a veritable bee hive of activity for the last two weeks. A new gym floor had the finishing touches applied. New air-conditioning was installed in the gym as well. Furniture and equipment was transferred from St. Aloysius to MSA this past week, needed for the new social distancing. Classrooms were sanitized and deep cleaned by our new cleaning company. Landscaping, bush and tree trimming and mulch were all completed by the new landscaping company. A day porter began work the first week of August and we welcomed a new administrative assistant in the School Office, Mrs. Stephanie Guida. Our new and improved website went live on Friday. Please feel free to check it out at www.msaeu.org. These are but a few of the improvements made to our Academy. The partnership, originally envisioned when the merger officially happened a year ago, has come to fruition with a new administrative team that are working together and in a collaborative manner with the Academy School Board. Great things are happening! Registration is open.

This past Monday we commemorated Labor Day, honoring the American Worker, the back bone of our great nation. The Catholic Church has a rich history of social teaching, much of it touching on the dignity of work. All of the Popes from Leo XIII to Francis have written on the dignity of work and importance of Labor.

Finally, this past week I took part in a terrific webinar hosted by Georgetown University on "Pope Francis on the Reform of the Church" featuring some of the Popes' closest collaborators. They really brought to light that Pope Francis is not so much looking for Reform as Conversion of Heart. Georgetown has now released the conference on their website for anyone to view. I highly recommend this conference. It will be a worthwhile 90 minutes of your time. Each presenter gives a jewel of insight into Pope Francis and his reforms. <https://global.georgetown.edu/events/pope-francis-and-the-reform-of-the-church>.

Peace and Good – Fr. Bambrick

Effective August 1 the Obligation to attend Mass is suspended Until Further Notice. You are not obligated to attend Mass at this time due to Pandemic. Bishop O'Connell encourages Catholics to attend an in-person Mass or participate in Mass via Live Stream until the dispensation ceases in order to "Keep Holy, the Lord's Day". Please note each week 2 Masses are archived for viewing later in the day.

Live Streaming of all Masses is continuing. ***Those in high risk categories and those with pre-existing conditions are asked to stay home and participate through Live Stream.***

In person Mass attendance requires:

- ✓ **Mask must cover both the nose and the mouth**
- ✓ 6 feet of social distancing
- ✓ Sit only in pews marked with green tape
- ✓ Red tape areas off limits. Remember green equals 'go' and red equals 'stop'!
- ✓ Bathrooms are for *emergency use only*, please go before you arrive.
- ✓ Church opens 15 minutes before Mass.
- ✓ Communion is distributed after Mass ends and you must depart immediately.
- ✓ If you watch via Live Stream, you can come to Church for Communion.
- ✓ No gathering in any size group anywhere on our property.
- ✓ Communion can be taken on the tongue or the hand, the risk is identical.

To assist you in assessing the risk the following numbers from last weekend may be of help to you. For the weekend of August 29/30:

- Sat. 5pm – 140 people
- Sun. 7am – 60 people
- Sun 8:30am – 101 people
- Sun 10:30am – 162 people
- Weekend August 29/30 Mass Total = 463

- ❖ Weekend of Aug 22/23 Mass total was 433
- ❖ Weekend of Aug 15/16 Mass total was 396
- ❖ Weekend of Aug 8/9 Mass total was 411
- ❖ Weekend of Aug 1/2 Mass Total was 401

- Weekday Mass is 9am M- F attendance averages are about 40 people.
- Confession by appointment only, masks, 6 feet and outside
- Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals and other Celebrations limited to 50 people this number includes family, clergy, outside attendants, anyone breathing and all the restrictions found above for weekend Masses.

*Have great weekend, stay safe and remember to wear a mask to help stop Covid-19!

MASS INTENTIONS**ST. ALOYSIUS LIVE STREAM MASS SCHEDULE**
(VIA WWW.SAINTALOYSIUSONLINE.ORG)

Daily Mass Monday through Friday - 9:00am

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 5:00pm & Sunday at 7:00 am, 8:30am and 10:30am

An Act of Spiritual Communion is proposed for the faithful who are temporarily unable to receive the Eucharist:*My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.**I Love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.**Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen***Mass Intentions****Sunday, September 13, 2020**7:00 a.m. **Parishioners**8:30 a.m. **Manuel DeGuzman,**
r/o Anita and Terrance Fellenz10:30 a.m. **Antonio Villanueva,** r/o Flora and Wes Bourne
John Martin Mannion, r/o Mary and Norbie**Monday, September 14, 2020**9:00 a.m. **Joseph Gorini,** r/o Vikki McGlone**Tuesday, September 15, 2020**9:00 a.m. **James Kroesch,** r/o His Family**Wednesday, September 16, 2020**9:00 a.m. **Bruce Wallauer,** r/o Besold Family**Thursday, September 17, 2020**9:00 a.m. **Bill Mulligan,** r/o Nancy Belardo**Friday, September 18, 2020**9:00 a.m. **Walter Osborn,**
r/o Tom and Coleen Colucci**Saturday, September 19, 2020**5:00 p.m. **Douglas R. Tkacs,**
r/o John and Alice Farinoa**Sunday, September 20, 2020**7:00 a.m. **Parishioners**
Elizabeth Colon,
r/o Aunt Mary and Uncle Norbie8:30 a.m. **Murial and Joseph Monahan,**
r/o Sonia and Ken Monahan10:30 a.m. **Jean Kavanaugh,** r/o Family**Weekly Readings****Monday:** Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17**Tuesday:** 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a; Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35**Wednesday:** 1 Cor 12:31-13:13; Ps 33:2-3, 4-5, 12 and 22; Lk 7:31-35**Thursday:** 1 Cor 15:1-11; Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28; Lk 7:36-50**Friday:** 1 Cor 15:12-20; Ps 17:1bcd, 6-7, 8b and 15; Lk 8:1-3**Saturday:** 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Ps 56:10c-12, 13-14; Lk 8:4-15**Sunday:** Is 55:6-9; Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a**Weekly Collection for the weekend of September 5th & 6th:**

Offering: \$13,904 Online Givers: 942 Online Giving: \$4,255

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN IN OUR ARMED FORCES ESPECIALLY:

OS2 David W. Beem	CLpL Eric Streiter USMC	WO1 Michael Lynch	MSGT Darryl Guppy
GYSgt Chris O'Shea	CPT Thomas Dirienz	SGT Nicole Marchitto	LCPL Ryan Barbato
LC Sean Ippolito	LT2 George Wolchko	LCPL Nicholas Clemente USMC	IC2 Christy Rabell
PVT Donald C. Cleaves	CPT Chris Mision	SSGT Andrew Monigan	MJR Daniel P. Brady
SPC John E. Daly	MJR Daniel Murphy	LCPL William Nelson	SGT Michael Perez
LCPL Matthew Tracy	CPL Keith Arway	Sgt Christopher Roitzsch USMC	OS3 Steven Chennells
AIC Ryan Johnson	SSGT William Jansen	PVT John Jad DeStefano	LCDR Matthew W. Smith
CPT Patrick Horan	SGT Daniel Sanchez, Jr.	SGT Michael R. Collins USMC	CPT Michael Loconsolo
1st LT. Ross Trampler	CPL Robert P. Kocsis USMC	PVT Sean Brenner	CPT Robert Murphy
CPL Alex Raney	SSGT Philip Raimondo	LCPL Matthew Ribera	CPL Brandon A Densmore
SGT Craig Bauerlein	PFC Timothy Rodman Sheeran	SGT Thomas J. Crennan, Jr	MJR Scott Davis
SPC Daniel Beagan	SPC Martin M. Kabba	CPT Laura A. Newman	SFC Raymond Ostrowsk
SFC Matthew Brickley	PVT Angel Louis Merced, Jr	CPT Patricia McDonald	LT2 Robert F. Farrell
PFC Adam Felibrico	SN Robert Titus	H.M. James S. Cooney, USN	SPC Joe Lovallo
PVT Kyle Haren	HTFA Kevin Thompson	CDR Matthew James Bowen USN	MSGT Leo VanMiert
TSgt Anthony Capasso	EM3 John Questel	CPO Christopher McCormack	LT Karen Sclasani
Lt. Marco Jon Barral	CPT Jason DiDomenico	SGT Johanna Lovallo Medero	SGT Leonard Medero
LT2 Air Force Cameron Lindsey		LT2 Air Force Nicholas James Accardi	
CPT Eric Dixon	SSGT Conor Neil	SGT Justin Silk	Lt2 Scott Maraldo
Sgt. Evan Myhren	Sr. Airman Patrick Robert McCloskey		MJR Kenneth Brady
Capt. Robert F. Farrell			

In Memoriam**Joseph Cappoccia, Jr.**

Please remember in your prayers these friends of our Parish who have recently died. Please also pray for all the deceased members of our Parish, the Souls in Purgatory, and those who died in the Service of our Country. May they enjoy peace in new life with Christ Jesus.

Devotional Candles

The Holy Family Lamp will burn September 13-19, 2020

In Memory of Josephine, Joseph and Robert Brancaccio, r/o Ronald and Maria Brancaccio

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS *Lord of Life, you desire wholeness for your people. Be with those who ask for help. Please bring health, healing and hope to those in our community who ask for our prayers. Amen.* Timothy Dolan, James McMahon, Kathleen McMahon, Diane Carriero, Susan Gardner, Christine Church, Maria Petrocelli, Ercolina Petrocelli, Caryn Cohen, Tony Rosselli, Cathie Lovuola, Curtis Hart, Vinnie Gagliardi, Jen Arico, Margaret Yousses, Vocation Awareness, Janis Bell, Christopher Hunt, Brian Venables, Joyce Dempsey, Andrea Virella, Harriet & Robert Milne, Logan Martucci, Cyril Weaver and Baby Nicholas, Kimmie Luke, Paige Luke, Stephen Maraldo, Christine Vivona, Karen Cassidy, Owen Leccese, Signe Koval, Hank Lilienkamp, Walter Heublein, Kelly Pierfy, Jimmy, Sammy, Melissa Whitehead, Carlos Ascevido, Noreen Harold Fell, Lois Roby, Mary Stewart, Richard Reba, Dan Licknack, Rachel Lynn Franek, Frederick McGrathan, Sr., Kevin Barone, Kathryn Ghnouly, Carol Joseph, Ed Long, Michael Willie, Ricky De Blois, Anastasia Aserdziez, Pat Gallagher, Louis Tanini, Sophia, Mike DiS., Michael Murawski, Donna Maglio, A Special Intention, Joey Rubino, Chase Joseph Ruggiero, Bonnie Ruggiero, Ray Perez, Elmiere Buannic, Jerry Cohen, Ann Cramer, Annamaria DeLeonardis, Linda Leccese, Ryan Nodine, Kristen Sotack, Aunt Mary, Marvin Bernstein, Lydia Gonzalez, Nicholas Lacitignola, Nicholas DeVito, Irene Cohen, Chris Bligh, Tara Gaffney, Ed Skok, Koren Dubbs, Judy Saal, Ayesha Hordugoda, Susan Scalzo, Barbara McCoy, Talia Nielsen, Sonny Panattieri, Family & Friends, Peace on Earth, Raymond Mamazza, Sr., Baby Benso, Ronnie Perry, John Ghnouly, Deirdre Sriwardena, Bernadette Malter Reed, Charles Sharo, Peggy Murphy, Colleen Owens, Brian Camera, Judy Weaver, Roger Kliemisch, Karen Shines, Jaclyn Mooney, Greg Rinaldi, Andrew Harsanyi, John Harsanyi, Marge Sabo, Jacqueline Krutulis, Bertha Vihonsky, Maggie Wright, Anthony DiPaolo, Luka & Amanda Zrno, Richard Pancredi, Peter Rodriguez, Baby Adam Mastrianni Sorge, Paula Ricciardi, Trevor Finamore, William Raimondi, Lauren Brescia, Steve Blecki, Theresa Chowdhury, David Buckley, John Longo, Dana Baker, Denis Campbell, Bernadette Clifford, Jody Fletcher, John Salvatore, Bob Horrigan, Angela Hardie, Melissa Banard, Diane Fitzgerald and Samuel Catalino, Dana Baker, Barbara Scarpetti, Michele Fletcher, Owen McCabe, Lance Hilkene. Pat Tancredi, Kristi Grassi, DeeDee, Barbara O'Reilly, Frederick McGrathan, Mary Galante, Frank Hubit, Frank Jelley, William Campbell, Richard LoPresti, Gemma Sellitto, Meriel Held, Lonnie Cromwell.

Thank you for your prayers for all those on our intercessory and armed forces prayer list.

To add or change information please contact the Parish Office.

ANNUAL ENROLLMENT: Rose Hubit, James and Natalie McMahon, Francesco Oliveira, Tom Ferullo and the Ferullo Family, Ivan Sriwardena, Phyllis & Harry Gunasekara, Peter Miluk, Fred Strina, Victoria Rizzi, Susan Whiting, Timothy Ryan, Mary Glennon, Douglas Schultz, MaryAnn Russo, Eric Laviscount, Richard Iacono, Marie McIntire, Thomas Fitzsimmons, Mary Monetti Lordi & the Monetti Family, Alfred Malangone, Theodore Monetti, Jr., Rose & Sam Malangone, Baber & Kammel Family, Thomas Cetnar, Carol Markulin, Anthony Giammona, Larry Houlihan, Bob Chojnacki, Jr., Kathleen M. Kelley, Marion Scaramuzzo, Peter Kennedy, Ely D'AGrosa, Terrance Bazlewicz, Armando Sablo, Coach Jack Nagy, Pitkethley & Kuhl Families, Quillinan & Walters Families, John Ariozzi, Mrs. Bobbie Bowie Smith Soldano, Adele Soldano, Members of the Knights of Columbus, Thomas Sweeney, Chad Saner, John Lombardi, Marjorie Gordon, Joseph DeMasi. Armando Sablo, Coach Jack Nagy, Pitkethley & Kuhl Families, Quillinan & Walters Families, Angel M. Ramos, Dennis Pacyna, Arlene Hassler, Richard Iacona, Josephine Libratore, Michael Syglinski, Kate Elizabeth Spillane, Rosemary Donnelly, Stanzione Family, Neil Sullivan, Charles Panattieri, Adolfo Arias, Sophie Popieniek, Agnes Kale, Infant son, Sean Diver Callaghan, McCarthy Family, Boryschuk Family, Louise Jones, Cecilia Araba Nyamekye, Frank Yackinous, Helen Dubog, Andrew Hudson and Family, Mazie Bostinto, Denise Mullin, Cheryl Lee Bonocore, Joseph C. Romaszka, John Prigaro, Joseph LaScala, Larry Heller and Family, David C. McPolin, David K. McPolin, James Newell, Vincenzo Scotto DiCesare, Margaret Werner, George A. Sudol, John R. Demspey, Thomas Ventriglio, John and Barbara Caramelli, Jennifer Schaming, Anthony Garamella, Sr., Anna Christian, Fredrick Morina, Rudolf Augustin, Sr., Nellie Yeager, Jean DelDuca, Gerard Duwe, Maryann Smith, Veronica Margiotta, Amildo Petroceli, Elizabeth Walters, Anna Marrapodi, Victoria Rissi, Roberta Rosen, Michael Polidori, Jack Bollentin, Helen Ludowig, Thomas O'Brien, Mary Suchan, Elaine Smith, Daniel Stolz, Pauline Murphy, Veronica Margiotta, Robert Rosen, Robert Chojnacki, Sr., John Joseph Weber, John LaGuardia, Jennifer Curley, John Edwards, Raymond Pavelka, Harriet Milne, Betty Mastrelli, Merced Loterna, Josephine Cerreta, Barbara Yannich, Frank Farrar, Ann Alberta, Alex Stoddard, Campbell Steve Neft, John Genuard, Jr., Rose Petroczelli, Danielle E. Louis, Edna Palumbo, Nicole McGoldrick, Amanda Popacoda, Aida Dierking, Thurston Andrews, Sr., Patricia O'Connor, Carmela Vicidomini, Marie Pompa, Pete Albany, Charles Serreino, John Stasny, Robert Johnson, Amanda Popacoda, Aida Dierking, Patricia Senn, Edith Lane. John Wilkins, John Lombardi, Brendan Maguire, Teddy Domanski, Talph DeJulia, Francis Campbell, Anthony and Joseph Lotito, MaryAnn Lipari, Stephen Caruso, Diane Lotito, Connie Russo-Riley, Juliana Perez, Lorraine Campbell, Albert Holl, Sr. Valerie Paccone, Christopher Benz, Troise, Marino, Flavin and Zisko Families, Pam Esposito, Chris Oliveira, Rev. Michael Carrano, Diane Oderio, Eileen and George Graziano, John Owens, Robert Johnson, John Barnheimer, Dave Blasiak, Adelaide Vitello, Martin Heron, John Riso, Donna Sullivan, John Tachon, Sr., Anthony Riccio, James Castagana, Rose & John Basiak, Linda Alm, Francis J. Brauner, Tom Fitzsimmons, Antoinette Cerullo, Stephen Flickinger, Anthony Lanni, Elayne Smith, Jose Flores, John Fedor, Margaret Sommer, George Dormandski, RoseMarie Ward, Mario Spina, Agnes Oleniak, Julius Witczak, Anthony Witczak, Nely and John Olenski, Tony Galante, Edward Holowienka.

We have many options for a long term remembrance of a loved one. Please call the Parish Secretary, Pat Mulholland, at the Parish Office for additional information.

Annual Enrollment – 12 Masses celebrated the 1st Friday of each month at 8:00am (\$25.00 donation for 12 Masses).

The Gift of Bread and Wine – Can be offered for one week (Sunday through Saturday) for a donation of \$50.00.

Devotional Lamps are silent sentinels lifting up our prayer intentions to the Lord even when we cannot be physically present in the church. You can honor or remember a loved one with one of the Devotional or Shrine Candles in the Church.

Sanctuary, Blessed Mother and Holy Family Devotional Candles will be lit in honor or memory of your loved one (\$25.00 donation for one week)

Shrine Candles – Located at the entrance of the Church, these candles will be lit in honor or memory of your loved one and includes a label listing your loved one's name for a period of **one year** (\$250.00 donation per year)

Stars of St. Aloysius – Honor or remember someone who may have been a light in your life with a light pendant in the church. There are a limited number of lights available in several areas of the church (\$500.00 donation).

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Please note: The Religious Education registration deadline has been extended to Monday, September 14th.

We understand that the start of this school year has been especially challenging for families, as students and parents are adapting to new schedules in the midst of much change and uncertainty. For this reason, we are extending the registration deadline. The FACTS registration website for our parish will remain open through **September 14th**.

Returning families should have received a link that is unique to your family. If you did not receive the email, a member of our staff will need to re-send the link in order for your family's registration form to be processed correctly. New families should also contact our office directly to receive registration information.

Mrs. Jennifer Petrillo, Director of Religious Education: 732-370-1515, ext. 311, jpetrillo@santalloysiusonline.org

Mrs. Paula Mammana, Sacramental Coordinator: 732-370-1515, ext. 314, sacraments@santalloysiusonline.org

Mrs. Maggie Gordon Teta, Administrative Assistant: 732-370-1515, ext. 318 faithformation@santalloysiusonline.org



The pandemic has affected us all deeply. St. Vincent de Paul has continued to assist Jackson families during this disturbing time. We have had to modify the way in which we connect with families by working from home rather than making in person visits, but we continue to help with rental and utility payments, food, clothing and car repairs. If you are able, will you please remember us in the monthly collection so we may continue our ministry? Your contributions are very much appreciated.



We welcome **Warren and Jacqueline Laird, Louis and Kathleen Boltik, Kelly Murphy, Marek and Anne Maria Modzelweski** who joined Saint Aloysius parish recently.



Congratulations to **Charlotte Rose Serafin and Declan Xavier Guarch** who were recently baptized at Saint Aloysius Church.



Mother Seton Academy

Registering Now

Contact the School Office for Registration
Monday - Thursday 9am-1pm

732-364-4130

or

JDarcy@msaedu.org

CIVILIZE IT



DIGNITY BEYOND THE DEBATE

2020

What does it mean to form my conscience?

Catholics have a long tradition of engagement in the public square. Sometimes that engagement requires making difficult moral decisions that impact our own lives and those of others. Our conscience can help guide the decisions we make. The Second Vatican Council guides us: “Always summoning [one] to love good and avoid evil, the voice of conscience can when necessary speak to [one’s] heart more specifically: do this, shun that” (*Gaudium et Spes* 16). However, our conscience doesn’t just come to us when we are born. We must work throughout our lives to form it through prayer, learning, and conversation.

How do I form my conscience?

It takes time to form our consciences so that we can make well-reasoned judgments about particular, real-life situations. The Church teaches that it is important to work continually on conscience formation so we can be prepared to make decisions whenever the opportunity arises. Some specific ideas to form your conscience are:

- 1) Begin by **being open to the truth** and what is right.
- 2) **Study Sacred Scripture** and the **teaching** of the Church.
- 3) **Examine the facts** and **background information** about various choices and be discerning in where we gather information.
- 4) **Prayerfully reflect** to discern the will of God (*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, no. 18).

Additionally, it is important to consider how

our community of faith can help us form good consciences through some of these steps:

- 1) Seek the **prudent advice** and **good example** of trusted leaders and others to support and enlighten our conscience.
- 2) Learn about the **authoritative teaching** of the Church.
- 3) Pray for the **gifts of the Holy Spirit** to help us develop our conscience.
- 4) Regularly partake in an **examination of conscience** to hear God’s voice in your life.¹

Doing the work of forming our consciences can seem daunting. Fortunately, we have many church teachings that can help us in this important task. *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* is an important resource for U.S. Catholics and helps us prayerfully reflect on how we can apply Church teaching in our civic life. “Conscience is not something that allows us to justify doing whatever we want, nor is it a mere “feeling” about what we should or should not do. Rather, **conscience is the voice of God resounding in the human heart**, revealing the truth to us and calling us to do what is good while shunning what is evil.”²

Here are some questions for further reflection:

1. When has my conscience guided me to “do good and avoid evil”?
2. What are some key resources I can use to form my conscience?
3. Forming conscience is a “lifelong task.” What do I do to *regularly* form my conscience? What more should I do?

¹ Catechism of the Catholic Church (2nd ed.). Washington, DC: Libreria Editrice Vaticana–United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), 2000, no. 1777

² USCCB. *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. Washington, DC: 2015, no. 17





CIVILIZE IT

DIGNITY BEYOND THE DEBATE

===== 2020 =====

A divided country. Fights at the dinner table. Political vitriol. What does it mean to love our neighbors in the midst of such a climate?

As Catholics, we have a long tradition of engagement in the political process as a means of putting our faith into action. We are called to bring the best of ourselves and our faith to the public square—and yet today, many shy away from such involvement because our national and local conversations are filled with vitriol and harsh language, often directed at people themselves.

When personal attacks replace honest debate, no one wins. This kind of attack, no matter the reason, only serves to further divide our communities. As Catholics, we

must model a better way. We invite you to join the *Civilize It* campaign by taking the

pledge below as a way to promote civility, love our neighbors, and build community.

Civilize It is about making room in your heart for those with whom you disagree. We are called to recognize that each one of us is a beloved child of God and to respond in love to that reality. *Civilize It* is a non-partisan call to focus on the dignity of all people, even when we disagree, and to put faith in action by bearing witness to a better way forward.

Take the pledge below as an individual, family, or community. Anyone and everyone can commit together to honoring human dignity through civil conversation.

I pledge:

Civility

To recognize the human dignity of those with whom I disagree, treat others with respect, and rise above attacks when directed at me.

Clarity

To root my political viewpoints in the Gospel and a well [formed conscience](#), which involves prayer, conversation, study and listening. I will stand up for my convictions and speak out when I witness language that disparages others' dignity, while also listening and seeking to understand others' experiences.

Compassion

To encounter others with a tone and posture which affirms that I honor the dignity of others and invites others to do the same. I will presume others' best intentions and listen to their stories with empathy. I will strive to understand before seeking to be understood.

Signature _____

Date _____



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Prayer to Our Lady Health of the Sick

O Mary,
you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and of hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross
took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need, and we are sure
you will provide so that, as in Cana of Galilee, we may return to joy and to
feasting after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself our sufferings
and carried our sorrows to lead us, through the cross,
to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God.
Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial,
but deliver us from every danger,
O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Amen.

A Coronavirus Prayer

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus.

May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together
and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a
disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” Come to our aid now, that we may experience your healing love.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process.

May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare.

In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us.

Prayer composed by Kerry Weber, Executive Editor, America Magazine