

**JANUARY 20, 2019**  
**2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**FROM THE PASTOR:  
STAND UP FOR LIFE**

This past Friday the March for Life was held in Washington, DC. That same Friday was a Day of Prayer and Penance for Life here in the Diocese of Covington. Tuesday of this week, January 22, is the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision Roe vs. Wade, which legalized abortion in the United States. Since that time over 50 million abortions have taken place in our country. I believe that this is the issue that will identify our age, as slavery marked the middle decades of the 1800s. As in that struggle, the existential questions at the end of our lives, for each of us will be, "Where did you stand? What did you do?"

Some real victories have been won in the battle for the dignity of human life, especially as it pertains to the unborn. The annual number of abortions is down. More women are choosing life for their children, but the number of those who are being aborted is still far too high. When I have taken part in the March for Life in Washington, I have been struck by the large number of young people. Many of them carry signs which proclaim, "We are the Pro-Life Generation." And they are. Young people in America are much more likely to oppose abortion than those of their parents' generation.

Recently, two United States Senators challenged a candidate for a federal judicial position on his membership in the Knights of Columbus because that organization has taken "radical stands" on the issues of abortion and same-sex marriage. The implication is that membership in such a radical organization as the Knights of Columbus would disqualify someone from holding a position as a judge in this country. What that means is that anyone who is Catholic, and who holds what the Catholic Church believes and teaches, is unfit to be a judge in the United States. Although the Constitution of the US rejects a "religious test" for anyone running for, or being appointed to, any office in the government, we are quickly approaching a time in which to be Catholic, and especially to be a faithful Catholic, may very well mean that you cannot be considered as a candidate or an appointee.

It is not easy to stand up against the spirit of the age, which Pope Saint John Paul II defined as the Culture of Death. It will likely become more difficult in the very near future and may require those who do stand up for life, to pay a great price. What will I do? What will you do? Where will we stand?

If we will not stand up for the most defenseless among us, the unborn, who will we stand up for? What will we stand for? Let us, please, stand for life. This certainly includes all human life, but especially the lives of the unborn.

**PARISH COUNCIL RETREAT**

This coming Saturday, January 26, members of the Parish Pastoral Council, the Finance Council, and the parish staff, will gather for a planning retreat. We will be in the parish hall, from 9 am until noon. This will be a time for us to brainstorm about the needs of the parish and where we need to go as a community in the future. Please pray for us as we spend this time together.

**RETURN TO ORDINARY TIME**

We have re-entered Ordinary Time in the Church's liturgical calendar. As I have mentioned in the past, this actually means Ordinal Time, in which we count the weeks as first, second and third. Because God entered into time by his incarnation, all time is sacred. All time is holy.

This is the third year of the three-year cycle of readings, which means that we will be reading primarily from the Gospel of Saint Luke.

**CONFIRMATION**

Bishop Foys will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation this Tuesday, January 22, for the parishes of Mother of God, Saint John, and Saints Boniface and James. Mother of God does not have any Confirmation candidates for that night. Please pray for the young people who will receive that wondrous Sacrament that evening.

**WHY ARE THE CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS STILL UP?**

As I explained last week, even though the Christmas season has concluded, Christmas will make a brief reprise on February 2, which is the Feast of the Presentation. This feast day is sometimes called Little Christmas, or Candlemas (because of the blessing of candles that day). It has been a tradition in many places to keep the Christmas decorations up until that day, and we will do so here at Mother of God.

**THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES**

On Thursday, January 31, we will resume our Bible study. We will be studying the Acts of the Apostles. sessions will be at 11 am and at 6:30 pm. I encourage those who will be attending the sessions to read the entire Acts of the Apostles before we begin. That will give you an overview of the book as we begin to look at it section by section.

Please bring your Bible.

**THE CONVERSION OF SAINT PAUL**

On Friday, January 25, the Church celebrates the feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul. This is a major feast in the life of the Church, because of the important role that Paul played in the history of the Church. He and Saint Peter are seen as the two great pillars of the Church, who laid the foundation for the future of the Church. Saint

Peter was the first Pope and was the Apostle to the Jews. Saint Paul is the great missionary and is the Apostle to the Gentiles.

Paul's conversion is one of the greatest of all conversion stories in the history of the Church—right up there with the conversion of Saint Augustine. Saul goes from being a murderer (participating in the stoning of Stephen) and persecutor of the Church, to its greatest advocate and teacher. For a few years, his fellow Christians did not really trust him, believing that his conversion may be a ploy to infiltrate the Church and get incriminating information on them.

In his epistles, Paul will work out some of the earliest questions about the Christian faith, including the relationship of grace and works in salvation, the reality of the Church as the Body of Christ, and many other major issues.

### SAINT TIMOTHY AND SAINT TITUS

On Saturday, January 26, we celebrate the feast of Saints Timothy and Titus. They were young men converted to the faith by Saint Paul and will become young priests and bishops, whom Paul will leave in charge of some of the communities that he founded. Each receives letters from Saint Paul which are included in the Bible as epistles.

Timothy and Titus are referred to as the "companions of Saint Paul," which is why we celebrate their feast the day after that of Saint Paul.

### PARISH NEWS

**NOTICE OFFICE CLOSED:** Monday, January 21, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS:** Family Promise of NKY Bourbon and Wine Tasting Event. Evening includes music, appetizers and live and silent auctions. Event is held at St. Elizabeth Training and Education Center, 3861 Olympic Blvd., Erlanger, KY on February 15, 2019 at 6:30 pm. Tickets: \$60. Get tickets at [www.eventbrite.com/e/home-is-where-the-heart-istickets](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/home-is-where-the-heart-istickets) By investing in Family Promise of NKY, you are helping homeless families stay together. For more information, contact Frank and Vicki David at 859-802-9816.

<b>SUNDAY COLLECTION</b>	<b>1-13-19</b>
Envelopes	\$5,160.00
Loose	\$424.00
Online Giving	\$703.00
<b>TOTAL COLLECTION</b>	<b>\$6,287.00</b>

*We extend our sincere sympathy to the family and friends of Audrey Meiman, Timothy Berkemeier, and Cindy Kelly all of whom have passed away recently. You are held in our prayers. May God grant you peace.*

**NOTICE:** Hearing-impaired devices available. Please see an usher if you need one.

**HOMEBOUND?** Do you have someone who needs to see a priest or needs Communion brought to them at home or in a nursing home? If so, please call the office at 291-2288 so Father can arrange a visit to them.

**THE MESSENGER:** If you are a registered parishioner at Mother of God Church and are NOT receiving the free Catholic newspaper, *The Messenger*, please call the office at 859-291-2288.

**ARE YOU A PARISHIONER?** Interested in becoming a parishioner of Mother of God? We're interested in you! We will have registration available after all Masses in the back of Church. Please stop by our table to fill out a registration form and get more information. We're glad you're here!

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** is available at Mother of God Church every Thursday after the 12:05 pm. Mass and concludes at 5 pm. Would you be willing to spend time in prayer with Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament? Please call our parish office at 859-291-2288 if we can count on you for a regular time each Thursday afternoon. Or just come in to spend time with our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament.

**MOTHER OF GOD MEMORIAL TRUST FUND:** In your kindness, please consider making any bequests or financial donations to the Mother of God Memorial Trust Fund. These funds are used only for the preservation of the Church.

### DIOCESAN NEWS

#### TODAY OPPORTUNITES FOR LIFE

**COLLECTION:** The Opportunities for Life Collection is taken up each year in all four Kentucky dioceses during the week of the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade (January 22), as part of the Kentucky bishops' unified message advocating for a pro-life culture in Kentucky. In the Diocese of Covington, funds from this collection will provide resources to pregnant women and new families in crisis, including material assistance and grant support.

**CATHOLICS @ THE CAPITOL:** Bishop Foys invites all parishioners, priests and religious from across the Diocese of Covington to attend Catholics @ The Capitol, a regional meeting with our State Representatives and Senators on Saturday, February 9, from 9:30 am to noon at the Diocese of Covington Curia, Howard Hall, 1125 Madison Ave., Covington, KY 41011. The purpose of this meeting is to be a Catholic witness and voice in the lawmaking process by learning about upcoming issues that may be voted on in 2019. Continental breakfast available starting at 9 am. Program starts promptly at 9:30. To register, please visit [www.covingtoncharities.org](http://www.covingtoncharities.org) or contact Vicky Bauerle, Catholic Charities at 859-581-8974, ext. 116, or [vbauerle@covingtoncharities.org](mailto:vbauerle@covingtoncharities.org) by February 5. The event is free.

**NEW BEGINNINGS:** A 10-week session of New Beginnings, a support group for divorced and separated persons, will begin February 5. Meetings will be held on Tuesday evenings from 7–8:30 pm, through April 9. In this faith-based group, participants will find a new understanding of themselves and their relationships and gain the courage to discover a new life. This group is sponsored by the Diocese of Covington and hosted by the Dept. of Catechesis and Faith Formation. Registration is required. For more information, please, visit our website at <https://www.covdio.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/New-Beginnings-Schedule-2018-2019-PDF.pdf> or to register, call 859-392-1500, ext. 1529.

**HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE:** Father Niby Kannai from Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish is hosting an information session about his upcoming Holy Land pilgrimage he is making May 5-15. The session is January 30, at 6:30 pm, in MQH Church. He will discuss the areas he is planning to visit. The meeting should last no more than an hour. This is an informational meeting only; you do not need to commit to the trip at this time. Jenny Kunst, 859-525-6909 phone: 859-525-5067 fax.

**CINCINNATI CATHOLIC ALUMNI CLUB:** Invites single Catholic men and women for an enjoyable Italian dinner on Sunday, January 27, 5 pm, at Giovanni's Italian Restaurant, 4050 North Bend Rd, Cheviot. Call Don, 513-574-8573 for more details

**HYMNS FOR 9:30 AM MASS**

537 All Creatures of Our God and King  
 Response Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations.  
 695 Song of Mary  
 462 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say  
 724 Hail Redeemer, King Divine

**CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK**

**Sunday, January 20**  
**Opportunities for Life Collection**  
**Monday, January 21 –Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**  
 OFFICE CLOSED  
**Tuesday, January 22- Day of Prayer (Roe vs. Wade)**  
 6:30 pm RCIA (SAC)  
 7 pm St. Vincent de Paul Mtg. (Hall)  
**Thursday, January 24**  
 12:30 pm Eucharistic Adoration  
**Saturday, January 26**  
 9 am Parish Pastoral Council Mtg. (Hall)  
**Sunday, January 27**  
 9:30 am Mass Ladies Altar Society  
 Blood pressures taken in the hall after Masses.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

January 20	9:30 am	Andrew & Mildred Lonneman
	11:30 am	Carroll Trenkamp
January 21	12:05 pm	Mary Fielding Sauser
January 22	12:05 pm	Jennie Wong Wiehoff
January 23	No Mass	
January 24	12:05 pm	Walter Rothring & Family
January 25	12:05 pm	Elaine Fedders
January 26	12:05 pm	Daniel Shambach
January 27	9:30 am	Carolyn Bessler
	11:30 am	Ed Hunkemoeller

**SCRIPTURE FOR JANUARY 20, 2019:** Isaiah 62: 1-5; Psalm 96; 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11; John 2: 1-11.

**LET US PRAY FOR OUR SICK**

Les Miley	Hannah Donoghue
Tom Heidrich	Dan Lewin
Ralph Kunkemoeller	Margie Huesman
Shirley Hensley	Tom Donoghue
Fr. Ray Hartman	Jill Felix
Fr. Ralph Hartman	Greg Scanlon
Kelly Bowman	Nancy Salzer
Robert Shircliff	Connie Gillum
Ed Salzer	Christy Egan
Rachel Hub	Jack Kearns
Pat Wiedemann	Richard Kearns
Marie Braun	Mary Lou Wilson
Al Haven	Jim White
Sheryl Hodge	William Freddie
Bill Rice	Special Intention
Joy Rolfsen	Zada Edmond
Trudy Koehling	Bessie Plymessenger
Joyce Mesler	Alice Heath
Carolyn James	Vicki Brunner
Paula Schwarte	Rose Manning
Paul Mospens	Baby Gunther
Rita & Ron Hopper	