Saint Louis Catholic Church
Diocese of Peoria Princeton, Illinois
January 10, 2021

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." - Mk 1:7-8

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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A MESSAGE FROM FATHER HEPNER

Dear parishioners,

Here are three things that I think we can all agree are horrible: abortion, Nazis freezing people to death in order to understand hypothermia, and the COVID-19 pandemic. There are a lot more horrible things in this world, too: Companies that support Planned Parenthood (Energizer, Heinz Ketchup, Doritos), 40,000 children working in mines in poor countries that provide cobalt to electronic companies that make our cell phones, U.S. government funding of military supplies to Saudi Arabia, who uses them to commit war crimes in Yemen. How do we morally navigate in a society that seems completely enmeshed in a web of immoral activity, including COVID vaccines that utilized cells from aborted babies? Let's explore **principles, prudence, preferences, and personalities.**

The Church gives **principles**, which are unchangeable laws to govern our actions. For example, it is always unjust to purposely take the life of an innocent human being. This simple principle leads to more complex ones: doctrines of just war and self-defense both allow for the killing of aggressors (non-innocent humans) with proportionate force. Life is complex, so we apply these **principles** with the virtue of **prudence**, which takes eternal laws and brings them into everyday life. Principles never change, but their prudential application can. For example, people have responded to COVID in many ways, but good people can legitimately disagree on how to prudentially apply basic principles (preventing death, protecting religious liberty) in a messy situation with knowledge that continually evolves.

Preferences are non-moral judgments that a person might have, and need to be distinguished from principles. I really don't like the Bee Gees, but I won't call you immoral for liking them. Personalities are distinct from principles too, especially in this age of internet and TV celebrity. There may be people we admire and listen to (or people we loathe and ignore), but that doesn't automatically mean we should follow (or reject) everything they say. We need to use reason to test all things, and understand that just because something confirms our beliefs about the world doesn't mean it's true. That is a very important principle for navigating our current world situation!

The vaccines created by Moderna and Pfizer were tested on the descendants of a cell line procured from a fetus that was either aborted or miscarried in 1973. They did not use this cell line to manufacture their vaccine, though AstraZeneca did. The Church has had the principles to deal with this situation ever since Saint Paul told the Corinthians that they could eat food sacrificed to idols as long as it didn't cause scandal to their brothers (1 Cor 8). This has come to be known as the principle of ***remote, material cooperation in evil***. Formal cooperation in evil is willingly causing something evil to happen (even if good might come of it), and it is always wrong. But, as we saw with all of those examples in the first paragraph, all of us cooperate in evil by using cell phones, eating chips, or paying taxes. And doctors today still make use of the knowledge about hypothermia gained from unethical Nazi research. This, however, is remote material cooperation – it is removed from the action itself (it isn't essentially necessary for the action to happen) and we aren't actively willing the evil thing to happen.

The Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith (CDF) has issued a document which contains the weight of the papal magisterium, and is therefore guided by the Holy Spirit (though not infallible) applying the principle of **remote cooperation** to these vaccines. This is not the first time the Church has spoken on this – previous documents in the pontificate of St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI addressed it as well. The CDF states that **taking the vaccine is acceptable** in the face of a grave societal danger, such as COVID-19, when another option is unavailable.

One **is not morally obliged to take the vaccine**, but we are obliged to protect those who are vulnerable. This may mean that, if the vaccines are proven to prevent transmission, someone who doesn't receive them should physically distance from elderly relatives. **We still have a duty to object to abortion** and the use of aborted fetuses in medical research. There are many ways to do this, some of which I included in a bulletin article in October.

On average, each person who has died from COVID in the U.S. was deprived of 13 years of life, and for the first time in 60 years the U.S. life expectancy could drop by a full year. This does not justify immoral actions such as research with aborted fetuses. 40 million aborted babies in U.S. is a staggering, horrible figure, and it is ongoing. Besides, many in the government and the media have used this crisis to advance an agenda that is antithetical to the Church and our common wellbeing, often devastating mental health. Different personalities will have divergent preferences and prudential application of principles. ***So a person may conscientiously object to the COVID vaccine, but a person may also receive it with a sound conscience.***

I hope this helps you navigate this sticky issue. My goal wasn't to talk about the effectiveness of the vaccine or other important issues. And I'm sure many will disagree or have further questions. There is definitely a lot of lively debate to be had. Some respectable bishops have spoken out personally against the vaccine, but in the Church the ultimate teaching authority is the Pope. Everything I've written here is based on two thousand years of sound, Catholic moral theology guided by human reason and the Holy Spirit.

In Christ through Mary,

Fr. Tim Hepner

Parish Staff

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Parish Office

616 S Gosse Blvd., Princeton, IL 61356
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To continue to serve you, we are checking voicemail and emails daily Monday thru Friday.

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FaceBook Page: www.facebook.com/stlouisprinceton

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and long for You in my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Mass Intentions

Monday, January 11 ***Weekday***
7 am +Greg, Jill and Bonnie Kinsman by George & Anne Busse

Tuesday, January 12 ***Weekday***
4-5:00 pm Holy Hour
5:15 pm +Christine Kalil by Nancy & Jim Carlson

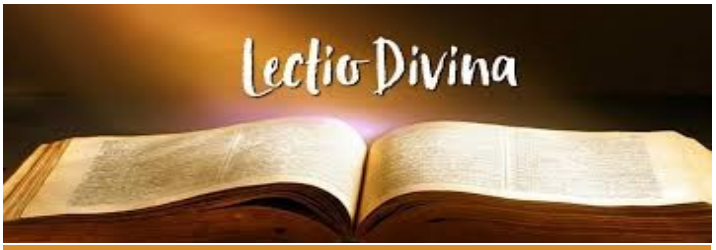
Wednesday, January 13 ***St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church***
7:00 am +Hank Donnelly by Tim & Paula Anderson

Thursday, January 14 ***Weekday***
4-5:00 pm Holy Hour
5:15 pm + Leo & Esther Moloney

Friday, January 15 ***Weekday***
7 am +Steve Yourek by Jim & Nancy Carlson

Saturday, January 16 ***Vigil of the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time***
4:00 pm +Joanne Mensch by Mensch Family

Sunday, January 17 ***The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time***
7:30 am People of the Parish
9:30 am +Stevie Puhr
11:30 am +Jim & Elsie Collins by Mandy Robinson



Ready... Read...Reflect... Respond...Rest...

Readings for the week of January 10, 2020

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 /Acts 10:34-38/ Mk 1:7-11 /1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11
Monday: Heb 1:1-6/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9 /Mk 1:14-20
Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9 /Mk 1:21-28
Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9 /Mk 1:29-39
Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11 [8]/Mk 1:40-45
Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8 /Mk 2:1-12
Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mk 2:13-17
Next Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 [8a, 9a]/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42

2020 Christmas Memorial Flowers

In Loving Memory of:	Donated by:
Deceased members of the Needham Family	Steve & Colleen Harmon
Deceased members of the Harmon Family	Steve & Colleen Harmon
Deb Funfsinn	Steve & Colleen Harmon & Family
Mike Milligan	Irene Milligan
Danny Gelsomino	Jeanie & Vince Gelsomino
Jeno & Margaret Bonucchi	Jim & Nancy Carlson
Vivian Berggren	Jim & Nancy Carlson
Kazimierz Gondek	Donna Robinson
Deceased members of Liberta/Hanson families	Pam and Chuck Hanson
Deceased members of St. Louis parish	Pam and Chuck Hanson
Zurliene & McMahon Families	Loraine McMahon
Paul Scoma, Our Parents	Nancy Scoma
Leo & Frances Furlong	Mr. & Mrs. John Wester
Claude & Barbara Wester	Mr. & Mrs. John Wester
Edward, Iola & Donald Carlson	James & Peg Sandberg
Albert, Dorothy & Gary Sandberg	James & Peg Sandberg
Lucille & Francis Farley	Farley Family
Deceased Family members	Cathy Kirby
Deceased Members of Collins and Robinson Families	Mandy Robinson
Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Hall	Tom & Sharon Ballard
Deceased Family Members	Norm & Marie Merkley
Richard & Mary Kunkel	Gerard & Jeanine Kunkel
Pete & Rita Dzurisin	David & Barb Dzurisin
Joe & Gladys Bickett	David & Barb Dzurisin
Rose Giehl	Tom & Vicki Giehl
Florence Blunier	Tom & Vicki Giehl
Ron Hulslander	Annette Hulslander
Sharkey & Hulslander Family Members	Annette Hulslander
William, Mary & Therese O'Donnell	Doug & Patricia Wiggim
Ronald Pioterek	Ruth Pioterek
Mr. & Mrs. Frank Pioterek & Family	Ruth Pioterek
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert McCloud & Family	Ruth Pioterek
Sylvia, Edward & Eddie Zukosky	Cynthia Tracy
Barb Strunk & Mel Tyne	Rebecca Pace
Janice Canale	Milliron Family
Milliron & Canale Families	Milliron Family
Gene Stocking	Joanne Stocking
Deceased Family Members	Joanne Stocking
Deceased Friends	Joanne Stocking
Hank Skibinski	Bernadine Skibinski
Deceased Family Members & Friends	Bernadine Skibinski
Our Parents	Tom & Mary Murphy
Nye & Joan Bouslog, Lynn Bouslog	Steve & Carla Bouslog
Carleton & Florence Beckhart, Thomas Hull	Steve & Carla Bouslog
James C. Stansbury, Sr., Anne Stansbury, Michael Stansbury	Carter Stansbury
Evelyn Menendez	Her Friends
Evelyn Menendez	Her Friends
Romagnoli & Donovan Families	Chris & Molly Romagnoli
Quiram & Rohman Families	Chris & Molly Romagnoli
James Patrick Thomson, Robert Pendgraft	Lough Family

Liturgical/Volunteer Roles

4:00 pm: Saturday, January 16
Altar Servers Colton & Mallory Maubach
Lectors Cathy Trowbridge
Sacristan Mandy Robinson
Ushers Al & Judy Taylor
Cleaners Bystry & Larsen Families

7:30 am: Sunday, January 17
Altar Servers - Volunteers needed
Lectors Rita Pacunas
Sacristan Mary Beth Crowe
Ushers Gary Blessman & Dennis Thompson
Cleaners Gary & Marcia Blessman, Pat Wiggim

9:30 am: Sunday, January 17
Altar Server Jessica Carlone, Jackson Mason
Lectors Tim Kunkel
Sacristan Susanna Prushinski
Ushers Quint Quiram, Jim Whiteaker
Cleaners Quint Quiram, Jim Whitaker, Steve Bouslog

11:30 am: Sunday, January 17
Altar Server Sara Ruiz, Luke Smith
Lectors Loretta Volker
Sacristan Tim Smith
Ushers Ken & Paula Lough
Cleaners Lough Family, Mary Beth Crowe

Rest In Peace

Please pray for the repose of the souls of
Laura Prendergast
Mary Sondgeroth
Herb Zurliene
and for consolation for their families

Eternal Rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon their souls.

THANK YOU
for your generosity

Thank you to all who helped to make Christmas a little cheerier for our friends at Gateway this year! All requested items were fulfilled and delivered! Thank you and God bless you for your generosity!!
-Irene Milligan

ST. LOUIS SCHEDULE

MASS SCHEDULE

MON, WED, FRI	7:00 AM
TUE , THR	5:15 PM
SAT	4:00 PM
SUN	7:30, 9:30, 11:30 AM

(SAT 4 PM Live-streamed on FaceBook and broadcast Sunday at noon on WZOE 1490 AM)

OUTDOOR DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION
(AT ANDERSON ST ENTRANCE)

SAT	5:00—5:15 PM
SUN	10:30—10:45 AM

RECONCILIATION
(ST. JEROME ROOM)

WED, FRI	3-3:30 PM
TUE, THUR	4:30—5 PM
SAT	3-3:45 PM

HOLY HOUR
TUE, THR 4:00 PM

PRIVATE PRAYER
Chapel is open for Private Prayer— same access code as before - if you need the code please contact the parish office.

STEWARDSHIP

Church Monetary Support
Through January 3, 2021

Amount Budgeted	$ 13,000.00
Amount Received 12/27/20	$ 6,776.00
Amount Received 1/3/21	$ 5,713.00
Amount Over/(Under)	($ 3,049.00)
Fiscal Period July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021	
Amount needed to date	$175,500.00
Amount Received to date:	$168,169.00
Over/(Under) budget to date	($ 7,331.00)
Christmas Collection	*$ 5,926.00*
Solemnity of Mary	*$ 1,492.00*

Please remember to pray
for Vocations to the
Priesthood and Religious Life
especially from St. Louis Parish!
St. Therese, Patroness of Vocations, pray for us!

Welcome back!

Classes for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and Sacramental Prep will resume in person the week of January 11th! Please contact Rebekah Mead if you have any questions.
stl.rebekahmead@gmail.com

Area-wide PRO-LIFE Event (talk, rosary, and Mass)

Saturday, Jan. 16 at 10am
St. Patrick's Church, LaSalle

The area councils of the Knights of Columbus are sponsoring an area-wide PRO-LIFE event to **be held at St. Patrick's Church, LaSalle on Sat, Jan 16 at 10am.** All COVID precautions will be in place and the event will also be LIVE-STREAMED at the "LaSalle Catholic Parishes" Facebook page and also found at lasallecatholic.org. The event will begin with a brief talk, followed by the Beads for Life rosary and opportunity for confession, and concluding with a Mass. Come and be a part of this most important cause!

THANK YOU to the women of the CCW who donated money for two badly needed altar cloths! Our altar is already beautiful, and now it is an even more worthy place for the Eucharistic sacrifice.

"A temple without an altar of sacrifice is nonexistent among primitive peoples, and is meaningless among Christians. And so in the Catholic Church the altar, and not the pulpit or the choir or the organ, is the center of worship, for there is re-enacted the memorial of His Passion."
-Ven. Fulton Sheen

Want to know more about St. Joseph?

Consider consecrating with a parish group starting up next month. This is the perfect time with Pope Francis declaring 2021 the year of St. Joseph! A "virtual" gathering of those who would like to pray/read the book "Consecration to St. Joseph" written by Fr. Don Calloway will take place beginning on February 15. For 33 days, we will individually read a daily entry of a few pages and recite prayers that will help us learn more about St. Joseph. We end on March 19th, the Solemnity of St. Joseph.

"Virtual" means we will use online technology. All you need to join in the meeting part is to have a smart phone, ipad/tablet or computer. We'll use Zoom, a meeting platform to gather together online. We will meet once a week on Monday evenings at 7pm for an hour (or so) and share conversation on what we read. If you can't make an online gathering, you can still participate by reading/praying for the 33 days.

Never did this before and don't know how to use Zoom? No worries, we have time to help you figure this out. First, purchase the book in either a Kindle format or a paper copy from Amazon or at the Marian's website (https://www.shopmercy.org/consecration-to-st-joseph-the-wonders-of-our-spiritual-father.html).
Don't wait too long - the book (at Amazon) is currently with a January 26 ship date!

Please register by sending Cathy Trowbridge an email or call the Parish office. We need your email information to send out the dates and links.

I'm super excited to do this with you! Please let me know if you have any questions by sending me an email (stl.cathytrowbridge@gmail.com) or call/text (815-876-6952).
- Cathy Trowbridge

Congratulations to Bruce and Anita Obenhaus who celebrated 70 years of marriage on January 2nd.

Welcome to the newest members of our Catholic Christian family!

Catherine Lea Mott, daughter of Tevis & Tessa Mott, was baptized on November 11, 2020

Daniel James Ellis, son of Jeff & Kathleen Ellis, was baptized on November 28, 2020