

HIS WORD TODAY
by Rev. William J. Reilly

Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2020

“Rejoice always, never cease praying, render constant thanks: such is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not stifle the spirit. Do not despise prophecies. Test everything, retain what is good. Avoid any semblance of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect in holiness. He who calls you is trustworthy, therefore he will do it.”

Midway through this holy season, we are provided great encouragement. Find the joy which comes from the presence of the Lord. Use these days as days of prayer. Paul tells his readers that this is God’s will.

How often do we reflect on the words we pray, ‘Thy will be done.’ We are called to conform our will to His. What is His will for me, now, at this moment? The prophets have spoken, the church supports and encourages us. Paul told his followers that the will of God is that all be saved and come to knowledge of the truth.

During the past year we have heard and learned much about testing. People were tested to see if they were infected, had antibodies. People waited on lines to be tested and anxiously awaited results. We are told today to test everything and retain what is good. There are but two short weeks for us to take and pass the test. ‘Come, Lord Jesus.’



CHURCH OF ST. DENIS

MANASQUAN, NEW JERSEY

STAFF

Reverend William J. P. Lago, Pastor
Reverend James Burke, Weekend Assistant
Rev. Joseph Miele, Weekend Assistant
Rev. Lewis Papera, Weekend Assistant
Mr. George R. Kelder, Jr., Deacon
Mr. Gary J. Pstrak, Deacon

Mrs. Eileen Ziesmer, Pastoral Associate
Mr. Mark Mataranglo, Director of Music Ministry
Sr. Mary Guyer, SSJ
Sr. Sandra Kulick, SSJ
Mr. Ralph Cabrera, Trustee
Mr. Robert Butler, Trustee

BEACH CHAPEL	554 East Main Street		
RECTORY	90 Union Avenue	732-223-0287	FAX 732-528-1901
CONVENT	117 Virginia Avenue		732-292-0772
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION OFFICE	119 Virginia Avenue		732-223-1161
ST. DENIS CONFERENCE OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY			732-223-1383
CHURCH E-MAIL ADDRESS	st.denis@verizon.net		
PASTOR'S E-MAIL ADDRESS	wlago@dioceseoftrenton.org		
WEB PAGE ADDRESS	http://www.churchofstdenis.org		



MASS SCHEDULE:

Weekday Masses: 7:30 AM (Mon.-Tues.-Wed.-Fri.) – St. Denis Church
Saturday: 8:30 AM – St. Denis Church
Saturday Evening: 4:30 PM (fulfills Sunday obligation) - St. Denis Church
Sunday: 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM Facebook Mass - St. Denis Church
Sunday: 10:00 AM - Our Lady Star of the Sea Chapel
Holy Days: Evening before: 7:00 PM & day of: 7:30 AM & 7:00 PM-St. Denis Church

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: *By appointment only.*

MIRACULOUS MEDAL DEVOTIONS: Tuesday morning after the 7:30 AM Mass-St. Denis Church

BAPTISM: The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 12:15 pm at St. Denis Church. Parents must complete the required preparation with the priest or deacon and obtain godparent eligibility letters before a date for Baptism will be given. Please call the rectory for further details.

MARRIAGE: Please contact the rectory office for more information about weddings. All couples contemplating marriage are asked to give the priests one year prior notice in order that all the requirements for marriage can be satisfied. Do not reserve the reception hall before contacting the church; your requested date may not be available.

CARE OF THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND: We will gladly bring Holy Communion to anyone who is ill or otherwise unable to get to Mass. Please call the rectory to make arrangements. The priests and deacon make regular visits to the local hospitals. Please call the rectory if any loved one is hospitalized.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL: At such times of deep pain and loss, we seek to offer our bereaved families comfort and hope as they commend their loved ones to God. Please note that, in accordance with Church regulations, eulogies are not permitted during Funeral Masses.

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM to 4:30 PM. There are no office hours on Saturday & Sunday. Evenings are by appointment only.

NEW PARISHIONERS: Welcome! We encourage new families moving into the area to stop in or call the rectory to arrange for registration.

CELIAC SPRUE PARISHIONERS – Saint Denis provides a low gluten (<0.01% gluten content) host. Parishioners who are gluten-intolerant should see a deacon or priest prior to the start of Mass in order to be included in the reception of the Eucharist.



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 12, 2020

8:30 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family
 8:30 am Susan Warnick by Jim & Sue Desmond
 8:30 am Geraldine Waegelein by George & Patricia Croake
 4:30 pm Al Struncius by the Family
 4:30 pm Jimmy Fallon by Dawn Wilson, Ally, Jenna & Julia
 4:30 pm Frank D'Antonio by the Olear Family

Sunday, December 13, 2020

8:00 am Kevin O'Brien by Eileen & Mike Mahoney
 8:00 am James Ambrose by Eileen & Mike Mahoney
 8:00 am Robert Summers by Betsy & Jim Rice
 9:30 am Alan Harrington by the Sutor Family
 9:30 am Susan Warnick by Dave & Gloria Smith
 9:30 am Norman Barone by the Faas Family
 10:00 am Patricia Herrmann by Cathy Shaloo
 10:00 am Richard Ludwig by Carol Rizzi
 10:00 am Mary Gillick by Pat Wladich
 11:00 am For the People of the Parish

Monday, December 14, 2020

7:30 am Thomas Driscoll by the Ziesmer Family
 7:30 am Marion & James Langan by the Langan Family
 7:30 am Bart Sowul by the Cohen Family

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

7:30 am Anthony & Catherine Rotonda by the Family
 7:30 am Leo Quigley, Jr. by Luann & John Quigley & Family
 7:30 am Michael John McGinnity by Maura McGinnity & Family

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

7:30 am Virginia & Angelo Taborelli by the Family
 7:30 am Daymon Thatcher by the Family
 7:30 am Dr. John Shea by Gene Bialas

Thursday, December 17, 2020

No Mass

Friday, December 18, 2020

7:30 am Frank Stankunas by Deacon Gary
 7:30 am Louis J. Micioni by the Easton Family
 7:30 am Dora & Warren Kirby & Helen & Len Sullivan
 by Len & Margaret Sullivan

Saturday, December 19, 2020

8:30 am Maureen Meehan by Susan Meehan
 8:30 am Jermina Berkenbush by the Wynd Family
 8:30 am Cheryl Davis by Linda Werdann & Pat Werdann
 4:30 pm Adolph & Laura Macho by the Macho & Pilot Families
 4:30 pm Derry Quigley by Luann & John Quigley
 4:30 pm Mary McKearney by the Scotto, Lotito & Casals Families

Sunday, December 20, 2020

8:00 am Agnes Gempp by the Langan Family
 8:00 am Dr. John Shea by John, Denise & Riley Shea
 8:00 am Marguerite Bossone by Marilyn Allen
 9:30 am Susan Warnick by Eileen & Catie Ziesmer
 9:30 am Richard Ludwig by Ray & Martine Gabler
 9:30 am Ben Danese by the Family
 10:00 am Dr. Donald & Mrs. Mary Lintner by Anne Lintner
 10:00 am Patricia Herrmann by the Sheehan Family
 10:00 am John Fritz by Jerri & Jeffrey Aversa
 11:00 am For the People of the Parish

Please note:

The Sunday, 11:00 am Mass intentions will be prayed for at the 11:30 am Facebook Mass.

PARISH COUNSELING SERVICES– A joint effort of the Diocese of Trenton and Catholic Charities provides licensed professionals for short term counseling (up to 6 sessions) to parishioners dealing with difficult issues, for example, job-stress, family concerns and bereavement. Contact your pastor for additional information and referral. The fee is \$90 per session, but, if needed, financial assistance is available.



**Pray For
The Sick**

especially Mary Moran, Steve Ford, Elizabeth Ann Linden, Peggy Andrigh, Mary Damico, Eileen Byrne, Amanda Castro, Dolores Palmisano, Holly Boyd, Mary Conlon, Albert Wood, Maiya Andrews, Velma Andrews, Stella Thompson, Katie Holbrook, Claire Meachum, Mike Pierce, Thomas Hayes, Jr., Thomas Evans, Catherine O'Connor, Edith Bean, Phyllis Van Salders, Joanne Panzarella, Taryn Rotondi, Kathy Wicks, Michael McNulty, Mary Jane Schaaf, Lisa Pirrello, Joseph Bick, Mary Collins, Robert Kelleher, Stephen Byrne, Denise Frank, Marie Tashjian, Angeline Hart, Cathleen Brenner, Nick Ljuljana, Patricia Blumenstock, Sue O'Connor, Baby Cayden Joseph, Thomas Fahey, Baby Kelly Grace, Nair Messias, Jennifer Noble, Scarlet Slotnick, Belle & Ashton, John Najjar, Karen Brown, Elizabeth Morgan, Frank Lopez, Christina Roundtree, Eugene Karpinski, Charlotte Pentek, Phillip Graceffa, Christian Russo, Rose DeMarco, Dee Vulgaris, Michael McGonigle, Baby Evelyn Mizer, Herbert "Butch" Wolfe, Leanna Rawson, Nannette Forkan, Nicole Giambone, Lisa Dunfee, Albert J. Cifelli, Brian Alberse, Stanley Bevan, Windell Rainey, Sadie Svenson, Barbara Magda, Paul Tuyp, Nancy Murphy, Bernadette Bevan, George Leonard, Teresa Hayes, Jeanne Hayes, Irene Hayes, Ronnie Micciulla, Cindy Tomkins, Joseph Fiamingo, Baby Colton Gardella, Anita McCudden, Catherine Kelleher, Baby Siena Grace Pizzillo, Samara Pirrong, Donna Schwear, Helen McGowan, Karen Williams, Timothy Michal Przywara, Christopher Kurtanick, Wes Pal, Neil O'Callaghan, Siobhan Vuono, Linda Lowery, Tanner Koch, Linda Custode, Marty Pirrong, Bridget Korn, Vincent Azzolini, Scott Burdett, Joan Lipscomb, Baby Lucy, Stephen Whyte, Christine Fields, Chris Faraca, Kathy Larkin, Gordon Justin, John Jonason, Estelle Jonason, Jim Kazenmayer, Frank Meidenbauer, Sean Campbell, Joel Rivera, Jimi Hood, Al Ricciardi, Eileen Beesley, Beverly Heinz, Pauline Naturile, Haley Keating, John Fossani, Paul Borden, Mary Daidone, Donna Morgan, Dennis Datillo, Bill Koch, Doris Abruzzo, Sandy Heitner, Randy Farmer, Joseph Pastore, Christine Coburn, Julianna Grusso, Frank Dugan, Lori Hurd, John Gondok, Lois Borton, Roddy Pilot, William Liao, Marylee Monsell, Norma Friel, Tony Picinich, the Borgias, Patricia Wolfe, Marian Keefe, David Smith, Rev. Joseph Miele, the Pilots, the Nesbitts and the Campbells.

LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS – Those in need of these specially approved Communion hosts at Mass are invited to receive from the deacon (if present at Mass) or the priest. Look for the small cup attached to the minister's ciborium, in order to receive the sacramental Body of Christ with a low-gluten host.



Christmas & New Year Schedule

Christmas Eve Masses

Thursday, December 24, 2020

St. Denis Church- 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 10:00 pm
Our Lady Star of the Sea Chapel- 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm
Facebook Mass – 5:30 pm

Christmas Day Masses

Friday, December 25, 2020

St. Denis Church- 9:30 am & 11:00 am
(No Masses at Our Lady Star of the Sea Chapel)

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Holy Day of Obligation

Thursday, December 31, 2020

St. Denis Church- 4:30 pm

Facebook Mass- 7:00 pm

Friday, January 1, 2021

St. Denis Church- 9:00 am, 11:00 am
(No Masses at Our Lady Star of the Sea Chapel)

Confessions

Please Call the Parish Office for an Appointment

CURSILLO is all about building long-term Christ-centered relationships with God and others through prayer and a focus on authentic Christian living. For information contact trenton-cursillo@gmail.com or 609-396-8447 x14.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY AT HOME AND ABROAD?

Text the word “freedom” to 377377 for updates from the bishops on current threats to religious liberty. Please visit www.usccb.org/freedom for info on religious liberty.

SIMBANG GABI IN MONMOUTH COUNTY; BEGINS DECEMBER 15-

Simbang Gabi is the Filipino custom of offering a nightly Mass each day for nine nights prior to Christmas Day to help the faithful prepare themselves for the festive, yet solemn, celebration of the birth of our Lord. The novena of Masses signifies the nine months our Lord was in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of God and our mother, too. This special novena is recognized by the universal Church as an authentic devotion to our Blessed Mother and has been prayed every year in the Philippines since the 1600s. In the Diocese of Trenton which covers four counties, every county has formed an organizing committee to ensure that all the faithful throughout the Diocese are given an opportunity to pray this novena. In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, Simbang Gabi in Monmouth County is **not** cancelled but will be very different this year from the way it had been celebrated in the previous years. All nine Masses are open to the public and will be celebrated in one host parish—St. Benedict Catholic Church in Holmdel—which can seat up to 170 people, following social distancing guidelines. No seat reservations are required. Those who choose to stay home can watch the livestreamed Simbang Gabi Mass on St. Benedict’s YouTube channel. All Masses will be in English and will start at 7:00 pm from December 15 to December 23, except Saturday, December 19, to allow some time for the sanitizing of the space inside St. Benedict’s church building after their usual 5:00 pm Saturday evening Mass. The Simbang Gabi Mass on Saturday, December 19, will start at 7:30 pm.

Message from Fr. Bill

Happy “Guadete Sunday.” As we “rejoice” at the nearness of Christmas, we look to how things will proceed, so that you can adequately plan-ahead.

Firstly, Mass will be celebrated every day throughout the month of December with two exceptions – there is no Mass at 7:30 am on Thursday the 17th and there is no Mass at 8:30 am on Saturday the 26th. We have permission, this year only, to begin Christmas Eve Masses earlier, so we will have two additional early Christmas Eve Masses at the church and chapel. Please see the schedule printed in this bulletin and on our website and spread the news. Please also realize that when the church and chapel reach the acceptable maximum capacity allowed during the pandemic, the ushers will post signs stating “No Entry Permitted, Maximum Capacity Reached.” Certainly, we would never be able to have sign-ups/tickets/etc. for Christmas, but we will have first-come-first-served availability, until our maximum capacity is reached. There will be a Facebook Mass available should people not be able to attend Mass in person.

Secondly, the office will be closed the following dates: December 16, 18, 23, 24, 25, 31 and January 1. Please realize that the permanent situation is that the office is open Monday through Thursday 8:30 am to noon and 1 pm to 4:30 pm, and Friday morning 8:30 am to noon. The office will be closed Friday afternoons throughout the year for in-service work. Thank you for planning with these times in mind. You can always call and set up an alternative time to meet, pick up, etc., even on the weekends, but call ahead to schedule with me.

Thirdly, there cannot be a Reconciliation Service this year, so if you are interested in scheduling Confession with me, please call this week and do not wait. I cannot meet on December 24th and need to make sure that I can meet with as many people as call to make an appointment. Thank you. May God bless your Advent Journey to Christmas.

FOR YOUR MARRIAGE- Check out this great resource for you and your family during this time: www.foryourmarriage.org and there is a specific blogpost at <https://www.foryourmarriage.org/blogs/family-life-in-a-pandemic/>



especially Navy Lt. Rachael M. Honrath, Navy E3 Nora N. Honrath, Army Captain Christopher Cauda, Army Captain Matthew Cauda, Navy LL. Edward P. Windas, Marine Lance Corporal Laura Licata, Contractor Benjamin Ostrow, Air Force Captain David Smith, Army Major Sean Fessenden, Army Lt. Nikkole Crosson, Navy Captain Colin S. Walsh, Army Captain Dr. Justin Eisenman, Army Lt. Brian Quinn, Navy E4 Patrick Moynihan, Air Force 1st Lt. Dominic Celiano, Air Force Academy Cadet 2nd Class Slade Kelling, Air Force Academy, Coast Guard Petty Officer Joseph Beattie, Navy CM Taylor Nesbitt, Airman Devon Webster, Army Private 1st Class Cody Svenson, Lt. Jg. Mary T. Herman, Matthew Van Pelt, Army, USMC 2nd Lt. Philip Cahill, USMC 2nd Lt. Joanna Smith-Cahill, Navy MIDN Michael Zimmerman U.S. Naval Academy, Air Force 2nd Lt. Jason Trischitta, Allison M. Ingraham at West Point Academy, Lt. Col. Ivan Ingraham USMC, PFC Joseph J. Foley, Jr. USMC, Airman Andrew Halmi, Robert Halmi, U.S. Army, Corporal Jordan Basile USMC, PFC Neil Horenburg USMC.



WEEK OF DECEMBER 13, 2020

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
JULIUS & JOSEPHINE BOGDZIEWICZ

REQUESTED BY
CAROL BOGDZIEWICZ

CORONAVIRUS DISPENSATION INFORMATION-The Bishop has written to all the Faithful of the Diocese of Trenton as follows: *Given all current public health and safety reports, I am extending the dispensation from Sunday obligation to attend Mass beyond the aforementioned September 7 date listed in our Diocesan Directives "until further notice." The faithful are certainly encouraged but not required to attend Sunday Mass in their parishes whenever possible or to participate in outdoor or live-streamed parish Masses offered online until the dispensation ceases "to keep holy, the Lord's Day."* With this in mind, we will be suspending our 11 am Mass at the Church and will continue our "Facebook Mass" which is at 11:30 am.

INVOCATION OF THE HOLY HELPERS- As we are St. Denis Parish, we have the honor and privilege of having St. Denis as our patron saint and intercessor. St. Denis was invoked along with thirteen other saints during the period of the Black Death that devastated Europe from 1346-1349 they later would be known as the Fourteen Holy Helpers. Let us pray, asking the Holy Helpers to intercede for all people at this time: **FOURTEEN HOLY HELPERS**, who served God in humility and confidence on earth and are now in the enjoyment of His beatific vision in Heaven; because thou persevered till death thou gained the crown of eternal life. Remember the dangers that surround us in this vale of tears, and intercede for us in all our needs and adversities. *Amen*



**St. Vincent De Paul Society's Food Pantry
at St. Denis Church
Phone: 732-223-1383**

Location: Msgr. O'Connor Hall
(lower level of church)

Until further notice:

There will be curbside pick-up of
prepackaged food with social distancing.

Questions or special food needs?

Please call our hotline number at 732-223-1383

Please note adjusted pantry hours:

Tuesdays: 1PM – 3PM and
3rd and 4th Saturdays from 10AM – 12 noon

Donations may be dropped off curbside by the pantry during regular pantry hours or on the rectory front porch, under the overhang. The following items are needed at this time:

laundry detergent and beef stew

Please do not leave perishables on the rectory porch. Instead, deliver them to the Food Pantry (church basement) during pantry hours. Thank you for your generous donations.

WALKING WITH PURPOSE

(WWP) is a Catholic Faith study for women that aims to bring women to a deeper personal relationship with Jesus Christ by offering personal study and small group discussion that link our everyday challenges with the solutions given to us through the teachings of Christ and the Catholic Church. Join us at any time! **We don't actually exercise—we "walk" on a faith journey together. Walking with Purpose leads hearts to Christ.** Please visit www.wwpnjshore.com for specific study descriptions, details and to register.



MOVING? Please inform the rectory office if you are moving out of the area or if you have a change of address, so the envelope company can be notified. Thank you!

**THE SOCIETY OF
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**



Vincent de Paul was canonized by Pope Clement XII in 1737, but Pope Leo XIII honored him as patron saint of all charitable societies in 1885. It was the deathbed confession of a dying servant which opened Vincent's eyes to the crying spiritual needs of the peasantry of France. This was a crucial moment in the life of a man from a small farm in France, who originally became a priest with little more purpose than to have a comfortable life. The Countess de Gondi-whose servant he had helped-persuaded her husband to endow and support a group of missionaries who would work among the poor tenant farmers and country folk. After working for some time in Paris among imprisoned galley slaves, Vincent returned to be the leader of that group-now known as the Congregation of the Mission, or the Vincentians. These priests, with vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and stability, were to devote themselves entirely to the people in small towns and villages.

Later, Vincent established confraternities of charity for the spiritual and physical relief of the poor and sick of each parish. From these, with the help of Louise de Marillac, came the Daughters of Charity to help the sick in the city. He organized the rich women of Paris to collect funds for his missionary projects, founded several hospitals, collected relief funds for the victims of war, and ransomed over 1200 galley slaves from North Africa. He was also zealous in conducting retreats for clergy at a time when there was great laxity, abuse and ignorance among them. Remarkably, Vincent was by temperament a quick tempered and testy person-even his friends said so. He said later in life that except for the grace of God he would have been "hard and repulsive, rough and cross." But, he became a tender and affectionate man, very sensitive to the needs of others, and would become the patron saint of our Society which bears his name.

If you have an interest in learning more about helping those in need, come to one of the Society's meetings when they resume in the new year. Meetings are postponed at this time due to the pandemic.

If you need assistance, please call the St. Vincent de Paul hotline at 732-223-1383.



Advent Happenings 2020

Come Let Us Adore Him!

**Though we may be social distancing...
God never does!**

**Let's journey closer to Christ together
as a parish this Advent season!**

For Your Personal Spiritual Journey:

Magnificat Advent Companion and other handouts can be found on tables in the Church gathering space and by the doors of the Chapel.

FORMED.org—for Advent Reflections sign up through our parish website (access code: PDZVN8)

USCCB.org— the US Bishops Website has many Advent offerings

Online Advent Retreat- We are participating in a **LIVE, online Advent Mission that will help us build a solid foundation for the spiritual journey! Each Sunday in Advent, from 8:00-9:00 pm ET, Dr. Ralph Martin will teach and answer questions on the first stages of the spiritual journey, as found in his book *The Fulfillment of All Desire*. This Advent Mission is for everyone! You are welcome to read the book if you wish to go deeper with the content being discussed, *but that is not necessary* to participate in this Advent Mission. **To participate, please register for free at www.renewalministries.net/advent. You will be emailed a link after registration is complete.****

For Your Communal Spiritual Journey:

**Dec. 2nd, 9th and 16th (Wednesdays) –
10 am or 7 pm at St. Denis School**

It's A Wonderful Life... in Christ- an Advent faith study based on the 1947 classic Frank Capra film will be led by Eileen Ziesmer.

Confessions

You are encouraged to call the Parish Office and set up an appointment for Confession with Father Bill to prepare your heart for the Christmas Season.

**Join us for Adoration from 12:00-1:00 pm
every Friday during the Advent Season-
December 4th, 11th and 18th**

“For onto us a child is born, a son is given us; upon His shoulder Dominion rests, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:5

DIOCESAN RESPECT LIFE WEBSITE- Please visit the Respect Life website of the Diocese of Trenton at respectlifetoday.org. You will obtain important information concerning respect life issues in our diocese and our world.



ONLINE ADVENT RETREAT– It's not too late to join in our LIVE, online parish Advent mission! This is our third week journeying in the footsteps of the great doctors of the Church, as taught by Catholic evangelist and author Ralph Martin, from his book *The Fulfillment of All Desire*. You can register at www.renewalministries.net/advent. Parishes and individuals from around the world will be tuning in with us to learn more about this week's theme related to the spiritual journey: *Initial Challenges*. You don't need to have read *The Fulfillment of All Desire* in order to fully participate in the mission, although if you would like to dive deeper with the information, it certainly is encouraged!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED- Due to the declining membership of our Altar Rosary Society we are requesting five or six additional parishioner volunteers to wash and iron the purificator cloths used during the Eucharist. It is not a difficult job, which is done in your own home, approximately once every eight weeks. We will explain the details. If you are interested please call Claire Moynihan at 732-528-9265 or Fran Weeks at 732-223-6710. Thank you for your response.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET SAINT DENIS PARISH WHILE SHOPPING ONLINE - AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice. Instructions to support St. Denis: Go to smile.amazon.com Choose your charity: Church of St. Denis, Manasquan Click on the box marked “yes”. You must start at smile.amazon.com so that the charity gets donations. Then click on the “start shopping” button. It's that simple!

ONLINE GIVING- To help support our parish more easily we offer online giving! For additional information or to sign up, go to our parish Website www.churchofstdenis.org and click on “Online Giving”. For those who wish to use the online giving service but do not have internet access, please contact the Parish Office at 732-223-0287 for assistance.

Please note– We are only able to accept EFT (electronic funds transfer), MasterCard and Visa payments. We are not able to accept American Express. Thank you.

OUR CHRISTMAS FLOWER COLLECTION will be the second collection next weekend, December 19th & 20th. This is a wonderful way to honor our loved ones, both living and deceased. Your generosity will help us to beautifully decorate our church and chapel for the Christmas season.



November 29, 2020

Weekly Collection - \$7,814.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY !

Moral Guidance Regarding Vaccines and COVID-19 (23 Nov 2020)

Rev. Joseph M. Koopman, STD
Associate Professor of Moral Theology
St. Mary Seminary and Graduate School of Theology
Diocese of Cleveland

With the prospect of the FDA approving one (or more) COVID-19 vaccines within the next few weeks, many questions have been raised regarding the ethical status of these vaccines (particularly questioning whether embryonic stem cells or tissue from aborted fetuses were used in their creation, and whether Catholics can morally receive such vaccines). The following is a brief moral analysis to help provide you some guidance when these questions arise. *Be mindful that this analysis is dependent on current information, and therefore could change once more information is released.* It has only been within the last few days that the findings of some of the vaccines have been submitted to the FDA for approval, so more information will be forthcoming in the upcoming weeks as the government and independent researchers have access to data.

At this point, it appears as if the vaccine created by **Pfizer/Biontech**, along with the vaccine created by **Moderna** *have not been created using material of illicit origin (i.e., embryonic stem cells and/or the tissue of aborted children.)* For Catholics, this is *great* news. Theologically speaking, there are no moral or religious grounds that would restrict the consciences of Catholics from receiving these vaccines.

There have been articles and press releases that affirm that, while these above vaccines were not *created* with material of illicit origin, there is good reason to believe that these vaccines may have been *tested* (post production) utilizing the tissue of aborted fetuses. These articles and statements, therefore, conclude that it is immoral to use them. This sweeping conclusion is *inconsistent with Catholic moral teaching*.

A critical question is: “Are Catholics always forbidden to perform an action if it touches upon evil, or cooperates, somehow, with the evil action of another?” The answer is ‘no’. There *certainly* are instances when Catholics *must* refrain from immoral cooperation. However, Catholic teaching on moral cooperation makes critical distinctions (mediate/immediate, proximate/remote, etc.) to determine the *degree or level to which* one cooperates in evil. In some cases, some forms of cooperation, while unfortunate, can be allowed in certain circumstances.

Unfortunately, we live in a fallen world. Dig deep enough, and one finds that many of our actions somehow touch upon evil and the evil actions of others. While the Church draws a firm line in delineating certain acts of cooperation as immoral, it does not condemn *all* actions of cooperation as such. It challenges us to be aware of evil around us, to *always* choose the option that involves less evil (or no evil), and to speak and challenge others to desist from evil. It is for this reason that the Church, in the early months of vaccine development for COVID 19, boldly challenged (and continues to challenge) researchers and the medical industry to seek moral means of vaccine production (and to reject the use of material of illicit origin that involved the destruction of unborn life).

Regarding the previous statement regarding the immorality of taking the vaccine because of immoral post-production testing, or even statements from some bishops that have forbidden vaccines derived from material of illicit origin, the following paragraph from *Dignitas Personae*, issued from the CDF under Pope Benedict XVI, offers critical (and perhaps surprising) conclusions. In speaking of the use of embryonic stem cell lines or the tissue of aborted children, the document states in no. 35: “Grave reasons may be morally proportionate to justify the use of such ‘biological material’. Thus, for example, danger to the health of children could permit parents to use a vaccine which was developed using cell lines of illicit origin, while keeping in mind that everyone has the duty to make known their disagreement and to ask that their healthcare system make other types of vaccines available.” While the statement uses the example of the danger to the health of children, the dangers of COVID-19 particularly to our vulnerable elderly or those with compromised health could reasonably be presumed as grave reason for vaccination. While the Church unequivocally condemns researchers and the medical industry for the creation, production, and distribution of vaccines produced from embryonic stem cells and from the tissue of aborted children, the *receiving* of these vaccines is in another moral category.

In conclusion, at this point there appears to be no moral issues to prohibit a Catholic from receiving vaccines produced by Pfizer or Moderna. If other vaccines are released which do have recourse to material of illicit origin, Catholic moral teaching would direct Catholics to utilize the option that is least morally problematic (i.e., the vaccines that were *not* created via such immoral means). Providentially, these two listed vaccines satisfy that criteria.

As more vaccines are produced, we recommend that you visit the following website, which provides a fairly complete list of all vaccines, and how they were produced and tested:

Update: [COVID-19 Vaccine Candidates and Abortion-Derived Cell Lines | Charlotte Lozier Institute](#)

NEARY-QUINN FUNERAL HOME

~ Serving Saint Denis Parish ~

John H. Hassler
Manager, NJ Lic. No. 3813

732-223-0003

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