

“YOU SHALL  
LOVE THE LORD,  
YOUR GOD, WITH  
ALL YOUR HEART,  
WITH ALL YOUR  
SOUL, AND WITH  
ALL YOUR MIND.”

MATTHEW 22:37





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**THE THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
 OCTOBER 25, 2020**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24**

*Mass of Anticipation for the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
 5:00PM Special Intention

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25**

*The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time*  
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy  
 9:00AM William Stafford, Sr. —Memorial  
 10:30AM Ann O'Brien—Month's Mind  
 5:00PM Confirmation Mass (live-stream only)

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 26**

*Weekday*  
 7:30AM Louise Kiernan & Mary Shehab—Memorial

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27**

*Weekday*  
 7:30AM Souls in Purgatory

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28**

*Saints Simon & Jude, Apostles*  
 7:30AM Rodolphe Lincourt—Memorial

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29**

*Weekday*  
 7:30AM Edward & Dolly Healey—Memorial

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30**

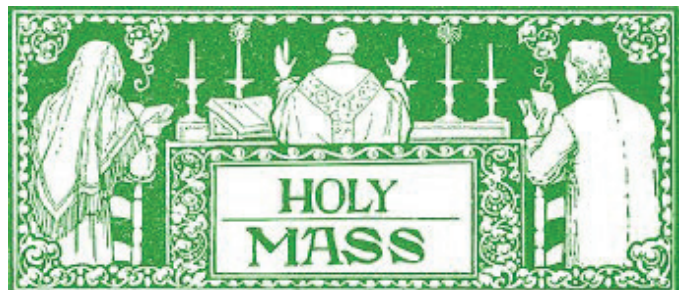
*Weekday*  
 7:30AM Hope Conway—11th Anniversary

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31**

*Weekday; BVM*  
 8:30AM Special Intention  
*Mass of Anticipation for the Solemnity of All Saints*  
 5:00PM Roberta A. Testa—Memorial

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1**

*The Solemnity of All Saints*  
 7:30 AM Evelyn & Michael Simon—Memorial  
 9:00AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy  
 10:30AM Deceased Parishioners of OLM





Dear Parishioners:

In their statement on Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, the U.S. Catholic bishops remind us about the call to participate in political life. *"In the Catholic tradition," they teach, "responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation."*

Often when facing a tough decision, it is tempting to look for the comfort of having someone else tell us what to do. Some people have suggested that I should be endorsing certain candidates and telling Catholics for whom to vote. However, it is clear that no Catholic bishops, priests, deacons, or religious can endorse individual candidates or political parties, nor should they.

Instead the primary responsibility of pastors is to hand on the Church's clear and authentic moral and social teaching and teach the fundamental ethical principles that help Catholics form their own consciences correctly. In other words, proclaiming the truth of Church teaching not personal or partisan opinions. Fundamental moral principles not politics is what is to be preached.

Indeed, every Catholic, clergy or laity, have a right and responsibility to vote with a well-formed conscience. It must be formed under the Holy Spirit's guidance through prayer, scripture, and reflecting and informing oneself about the Catholic Church's moral teachings.

Pope Francis states that the call to holiness requires a *"firm and passionate defense of*

*the innocent unborn."* At the same time, he also describes as *"equally sacred" "the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned and the underprivileged, the vulnerable infirm and elderly exposed to covert euthanasia, the victims of human trafficking, new forms of slavery, and every form of rejection."*

The first temptation of many Catholics is to miss the ethical distinctions between different issues. As the bishops teach: *"The direct and intentional destruction of innocent human life from the moment of conception to natural death is always wrong and is not just one issue among many. It must always be opposed."*

But there is also a second temptation, namely to misuse this distinction as an excuse for ignoring other threats to human life and dignity, like poverty, injustice, and racism. These, and several other crucially important issues, *"are not optional concerns which can be dismissed."*

As Catholics, we must develop the virtue of prudence, *"the charioteer of the virtues."* For it helps us to discern how clear moral principles apply in particular circumstances, as well as how to evaluate *"a candidate's commitments, character, integrity, and ability to influence a given issue."*

However, in any political consideration, the priority must always be given to protect the sanctity of human life from natural conception until natural death. Life is the most fundamental good. Therefore, our opposition to abortion and

euthanasia are preeminent issues in our political considerations.

Human life that faces grave and direct threats, as do the unborn and the terminally ill, is the preeminent concern in our political considerations. This preeminence does not mean we dismiss or ignore other threats to human life and dignity or caring for the vulnerable among us.

As Catholics with well-formed consciences, we must stand firm on issues that directly attack life itself, the most fundamental good. Abortion and euthanasia are preeminent issues in the moral order and our political decisions.

We mustn't sit on the sidelines and fail to participate in the political process. Political decisions are very challenging, especially today. They require prayer, study and reflection. However, if Catholics fail to get involved, as challenging as it is, we forsake our sacred duty as both citizens and Catholic disciples. Pray. Form a correct conscience. Learn candidate positions on issues. Pray again. Then vote as a Catholic.

Sincere congratulations and prayers to our *Conformandi!* Pray for these 70 young men and women confirmed in their Catholic Faith this weekend. Also, best wishes to OLM parishioner and newly ordained Permanent Deacon Steven Valliere. *Ad multos annos!*

Stay safe. Be Well. Do Good! God Bless. Go Pats!!!!



# Ask Father

## Abortion a Single Issue with Multiple Implications

Some argue that a Catholic should not base his or judgment on a “single issue” such as a candidate’s stance on abortion. This argument forgets that abortion is a single issue with multiple implications. The United States Catholic Conference of Bishops reminds us: “The right to life implies and is linked to other human rights – to the basic goods that every human person needs to live and thrive. All the life issues are connected, for erosion of respect for the life of any individual or group in society necessarily diminishes respect for all life.”

Those who place the issue of abortion on equal footing with other issues (such as immigration, the environment, economics, discrimination, etc.) miss the logic of the Pro-Choice movement. The logic of the Pro-Choice movement bases the dignity and rights of individuals on another person’s choice. This logic leads necessarily to injustice in precisely those areas of life many in the Pro-Choice movement claim to support. An ethic of life which places “Choice” as the highest value, will ultimately devolve into the strong against the weak; those capable of imposing their choices against those who cannot.

Peter Singer is perhaps the most infamous philosopher to take many of the principles of the Pro-Choice position to their logical conclusions. He supports abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia. For example, he points out that there are no significant differences between an infant, and a child in the womb. Both lack the essential characteristics of personhood. He writes, “killing a newborn baby is never equivalent to killing a person, that is, a being who wants to go on living... There is a whole range of conditions, but what in effect we are talking about are situations where parents should be able to end their infants' lives.”

Today staggering numbers of babies are aborted or left to die when diagnosed with conditions such as spina bifida or Down’s Syndrome. If the humanity of a fetus is based on choice, then a baby can be aborted simply because the parents reject the child due to seemingly ridiculous qualities such as hair, skin, eye color, gender, etc. This is not as far-fetched as we would like to believe. With its “One Child Policy” many Chinese practiced infanticide by exposing baby girls to die.



# Weekly Collection

**October 18, 2020**

Weekly.....	\$8,006.00
EFT.....	\$5,520.00
	<b>Total=\$13,526.00</b>
Outreach.....	\$531.00
Annual Collection (to date).....	\$99,554 .00
World Mission Sunday.....	\$1,556.00

**Weekly for October 20, 2019**

Weekly.....\$13,876

**Thank You for Your Generous Support!**

**Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.**



*Pray for the Nation on Election Day Eve*



**MONDAY**  
NOVEMBER 2ND

**Exposition at 12:30 pm**  
**Adoration All Day**  
**Rosary, Reflection & Benediction at 7 pm**



*Striving to be Saints & Scholars!*

*Upcoming School Events*

- **Monday, October 26:** School Confessions for Grades 7 & 8
- **Tuesday, October 27:** 5th Grade Class Mass at 9:00 am (no livestream)
- **Monday, November 2:** 6th Grade attends 9:00AM All Souls Day Mass (live-stream available)

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• **OLM Food Pantry is always in need of food and paper goods** for the members of our local community. Please place all donated non-perishable foods and paper goods in the box in the vestibule of Church or the box on the porch of Mercy House. *Thank you for your support!*

• If you are need of food, rental or financial assistance please contact the OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green by phone at 401-884-4410 (leave a message if not in) or via email at [outreach@olmparish.org](mailto:outreach@olmparish.org)



- **Confirmation Mass:** Sunday, October 25th at 5PM (Live-Streamed) *\*Only candidates, sponsors & parents may attend\**
- **Confirmation Class (2020-21):** Family Mass & Class on Sunday, November 1st at 5:00PM. Only Confirmation students & families may attend Mass, followed by brief Family Catechesis Class.
- **First Communion Class (2020-21):** Family Mass & Class on Sunday, November 8th at 5:00PM. Only First Communion students & families may attend Mass, followed by brief Family Catechesis Class.





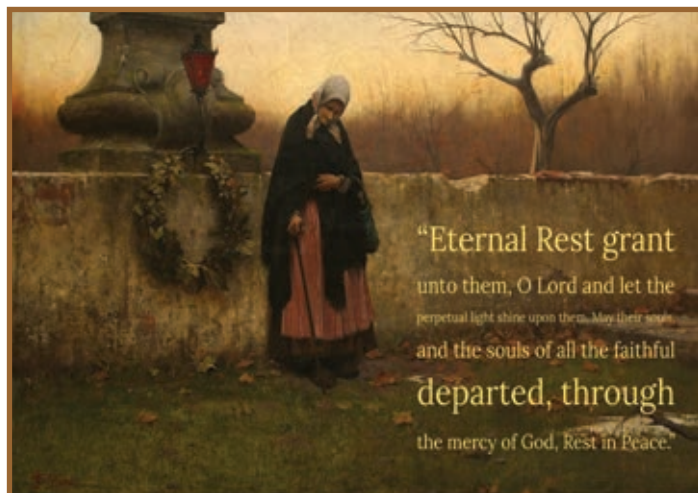


# Congratulations

**DEACON STEVEN VALLIERE  
ON YOUR ORDINATION TO SERVE  
AS A PERMANENT DEACON**

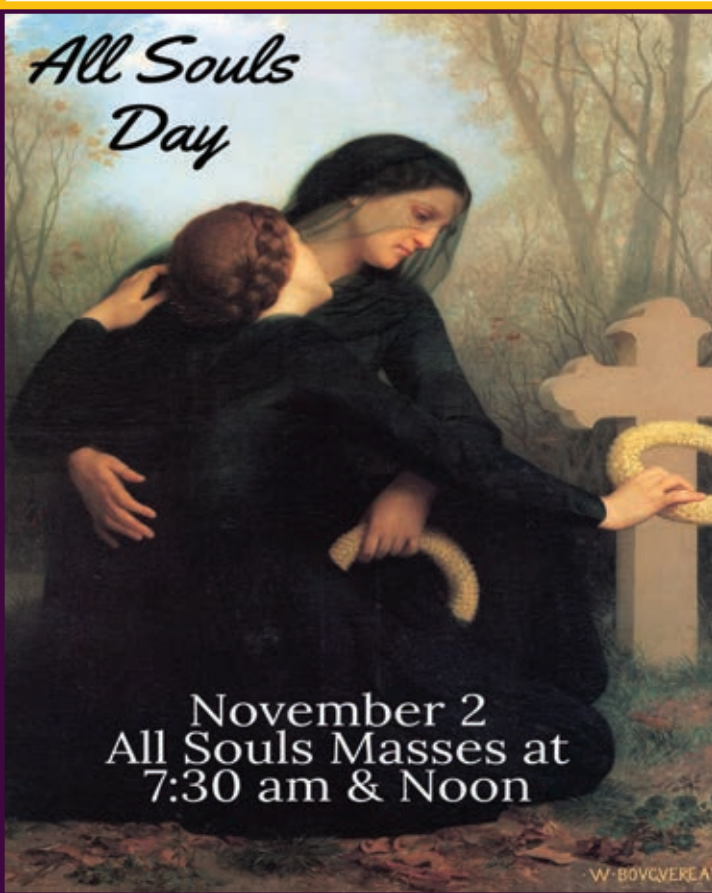
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IN GOD'S SERVICE ALWAYS BE FILLED WITH  
HIS GRACE AND JOY.  
BLESSINGS ON YOUR ORDINATION!**

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PARISHIONERS AND STUDENTS OF  
OUR LADY OF MERCY SCHOOL,  
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*"Eternal Rest grant  
unto them, O Lord and let the  
perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls  
and the souls of all the faithful  
departed, through  
the mercy of God, rest in Peace.*

**Mass for Deceased Parishioners  
who died this past year  
Sunday, November 1st  
10:30 am**



*All Souls  
Day*

**November 2  
All Souls Masses at  
7:30 am & Noon**

W-B0VCVERE.A



**Pray  
for  
our Deceased**

©JPPC

In your charity please pray for the repose of the soul of **Alaedin C. Behbehani** whose Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated last week.



*November is All  
Souls Month*

*Pray for the Poor  
Souls of Purgatory*



The flowers at the Marian Shrine are donated in memory of **Paul D. Lynch**. In your kindness and charity, please remember him in your prayers.



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The #WHATSMYNAME Movement asks everyone to simply ask drivers "What's my name?" before entering their vehicle to make sure it is the car they are supposed to enter.

**#WHATSMYNAME**

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