

From Father Totton's Desk

This weekend's readings speak to us in plain language about the Sacrament of Marriage. In our days, this topic can be difficult to address because Marriage, as it was created by God, is under attack from many sides. I would like to use my column this weekend to revisit the basic Christian concept of Marriage as a Sacramental reality which reveals to us the Love that God has for His Creation, the Love that Jesus has for His Church. Before I proceed, however, I must acknowledge that for some who may be reading this, this teaching is difficult because our culture, a post-Christian culture teaches us contrary things regarding marriage. If you find these words difficult, I beg you to read the complete column, and take your concerns to the Lord in prayer. If you wish to speak with me directly, please do not hesitate to contact me (my contact information is on the front of the bulletin.)

The eternal teaching of the Church on marriage is that it is a relationship between man and woman which is permanent ("what God has joined together, no human being must separate") faithful ("the two shall become one flesh") and fruitful ("be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth..."). In contrast to this Biblical understanding of marriage, we live in a world which sees marriage as provisional and contractual (50% of marriages end in divorce) and where offspring are often seen as an optional "accessory" where chemical or surgical means are employed which render a couple's union (temporarily or permanently) sterile. It is all the more difficult to live the Biblical understanding of marriage if we find ourselves surrounded by a world which has a completely different understanding of marriage.

Since 50% of marriages end in divorce (and this number is the same among self-professed Catholics as it is among the general population) chances are we all know someone who has been divorced. Some of you reading this fall into that category. There are many reasons that couples separate and eventually divorce. It may be owing to a lack of trust due to an instance or a pattern of infidelity or to abusive behavior on the part of one or both parties. When these differences are considered irreconcilable, a civil divorce is sought and the contract is dissolved. However, if the Church witnessed a marriage, the Church, based on Jesus' own words, considers the couple to be married before God even if the state has declared the contract cancelled. There is a formal process by which one may seek a review of the circumstances of one's marriage in order for the Church to make a determination of whether all the necessary elements of marriage were present to begin with. If the Church determines that something was lacking, she will grant a decree of nullity (commonly called an *annulment* that may allow the two parties to enter into Sacramental marriage with other parties) and to continue to live a full Sacramental life in the Church. If you have been divorced and have entered into a second marriage, or your wish to re-marry, please contact me, or any priest, to inquire about the annulment process. Though it is a juridical process, many have also experienced it as a moment of reflection and an opportunity to receive God's Mercy. To be clear, **a Christian, once married, may not divorce and attempt a second marriage without the benefit of an annulment as long as the prior spouse is living.**

Just as Christians marry and divorce at the same rate as the culture, so also Christians, including Mass-going Catholics, contracept at roughly the same rate as the general population. And this despite the clear moral teaching of the Catholic Church that artificial contraception (through barriers or chemicals) and surgical sterilization are a grave offense before God. Again, many of you reading this may be employing some of these methods as a means of avoiding pregnancy or spacing your children. If that is the case, I beg of you to learn what the Church teaches in this regard. You will find a treasure trove of resources for your understanding and education at www.onemoresoul.com or www.kcsifamily.org. Minimally, I would encourage everybody to read the prophetic encyclical, *Humanae Vitae*, written by Blessed Pope Paul VI 50 years ago. You can find the full text at www.scborromeo.org/docs/humanae_vitae.pdf. If you are free, I would encourage you to attend a screening of the new documentary *Unprotected* which is being shown at 3 sites in our diocese next week (October 15, 16, 17) see further information in this week's bulletin.

Twenty years ago, I discovered the truth of *Humanae Vitae* and it changed my entire understanding of marriage and of the Church. At that time, I was already studying in the seminary, but when I discovered **why** the Church teaches what she does on this controversial topic, this unlocked a key to understanding the prophetic wisdom of the Church's teaching authority (*magisterium*) on an entire host of subjects. My prayer is that you, my spiritual children, may come to a similar discovery and that it provides you with a fresh lens with which to view the world in light of God's plan for us.

- Fr. Totton



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

Fr. Joseph Totton - Administrator

**P.O. Box 197
107 North Shortridge
Easton, MO 64443
816-294-9841 - Fr. Joe's cell**

**Mass Time
Sunday: 8 am
Confessions: Sunday at 7:30am
Office 816-473-2011**

Mission Statement

**We the members
of Saint Joseph
Catholic parish,
will strive to be
the reflection of
Jesus in this
particular time
and place.**

Cemetery Board

*Ed Fisher
Mike Roth
Steve White*



**Twenty-Seventh Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

Parish & Finance Councils

*Jim Adams
Jim Ingle
Rosalie Ingle
Tony Kauzlarich
Marge Kinney
Julie Moran
Jordan Roth
Mike Roth
Wayne Weipert*

Email: stjosephchurch@centurytel.net
Website: stjosepheaston.org
Fr. Joe's email: fathertotton@gmail.com
Office Manager: Marge Kinney
Hall Rental: Marge Kinney

To Protect our Children:

To Report Abuse - Jenifer Valenti 816-812-2500
Victims' Advocate - Kathleen Chastain 816-392-0011
chastain@diocesekcsj.org
Oct 7, 2018



Ministry Schedule

Oct 7- 8 am Mass

Greeter: Wayne Weipert
Lectors: Doug Ottinger & Jan Pottier
Ministers: Jan & Paul Pottier, Jim Ingle
Counters: Tony Kauzlarich and Rudy Wolford

Oct 14- 8 am Mass

Greeter: Richard La Follette
Lectors: Scott Antle & Bonnie Gregory
Ministers: Marylou Euler, Doug Ottinger, Jan Pottier
Counters: Paul & Jan Pottier

Mass Intentions



Sunday, Oct 7 Ed & Glenda Taft

By: Nancy Roth

Sunday, Oct 14 + Joseph & Evelyn Roth

By: Roth Family



BIRTHDAY

| | |
|------------------|----------|
| Jim Runyan | Oct 8th |
| Gracie Mink | Oct 9th |
| Brooklyn Adams | Oct 11th |
| Theresa Kempf | Oct 13th |
| Alexandrea Kempf | Oct 13th |
| Rebecca Mink | Oct 14th |

Congratulations and Best Wishes Everyone!



Please join us for Saint Mary's
 127th Annual Fall Festival,
 Saturday, November 3, 2018 from 5 to 8pm.
 (Mass for that Saturday will be changed from
 5:30pm to 4:00pm.)

There will be a chili, soup, or hot dog dinner, cash raffle,
 quilt raffle, and ham/turkey raffle.
 There will be games for the kids, cake walk, live auction,
 silent auction,
 Altar Society craft booth, face painting, and more.
 Dinner includes choice of chili, soup, or hot dogs, dessert,
 and beverage.
 Adults meal is \$7.00, Kid's meal is \$3.50 or Family meal (2
 adults & all children under age 10) is \$20.00.
 Please join us for a fun-filled evening!"



The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph is committed to combating sexual abuse in the Church. If you are a victim of sexual abuse, or if you observe or suspect sexual abuse:

1. Call the Missouri Child Abuse Hotline at 1.800.392.3738 (if the victim is currently under the age of 18), and
2. Contact your local law enforcement agency or call 911, and
3. After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Jenifer Valenti, at 816.812.2500 or JeniferValenti@att.net, if the abuse involves a priest, deacon, employee or volunteer of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

The Diocese has a sincere commitment to providing care and healing resources to victims of sexual abuse and their families. Please contact Victim Advocate, Kathleen Chastain, at 816.392.0011 or chastain@diocesekcsj.org for more info.



Catholic Charities

Donate to Hurricane Relief Efforts

Support individuals and families impacted by Hurricane Florence.

Catholic Charities USA forwards 100 percent of funds raised to Catholic Charities agencies that serve affected communities.

To donate, text CCUSADISASTER to 71777.

You may also donate by phone by calling 1-800-919-9338 or log on to: www.catholiccharitiesusa.org



"As I Have Loved You"

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Come and celebrate your Marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend.

It's a positive, simple, common sense private experience between husband and wife that revitalizes marriage.

A weekend renews the romance and excitement you experienced during your dating days.
 The next Weekends in Kansas City are November 9-11, 2018.

For more information or to apply, please visit our website: www.wwme4youandme.org or call Tony & Barb Zimmerman, 816-741-4066 or

Weekend Collection - Sept 30, 2018

Envelopes: \$1,245 Plate: \$78

Total Parish: \$1,323

2nd Collection: Month of Oct our Fundraiser

Budget is from July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019

Sept To Date: \$7,312.00

Sept Budget: \$7,550.00

Year-To-Date: \$22,394.75

Year Budget: \$90,600.00

Thank You for your continued support of St. Joseph Parish.



Mark your Calendars!

Parish & Finance Council: Nov 8th - 6 pm Rectory
Altar Society: Parish Hall after Donut Sunday

Hand Linens: Sept/Oct: Bonnie Gregory

Donut Sunday: Oct 7: Altar Society

Knights of Columbus: 5067-1st & 3rd Thursday 7 pm

Rosary on 3rd Thursday 6:30 pm

Jay Pflugradt, Grand Knight

Fr. Joseph Totton, Chaplain

Recitation of Rosary - 2nd weekend of the month

20 minutes before Mass



"GIVE FROM THE HEART" 7th ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Starting today!

Our annual fundraiser is so popular with all our parishioners - it is easy for everyone!
 We will be using the same format as we have done for the last 6 years.

Starting Oct 7th and every weekend in October ending the weekend of Nov 5, our second collection will be for our parish. Parishioners can contribute in one sum or scatter donations over the five week time span

Monies will be deposited in our money market account and will be used for operating expenses as needed.

As we did last year Marge will be giving an updated total in the bulletin.

Last year we raised **\$14,593!!**

Let's work towards or surpass last years' total!

We can do it!

Parish and Finance Councils



Prayer Corner

"To everything there is a season and a time...for every purpose under Heaven." Ecc. 3-11

"...a time to heal..."

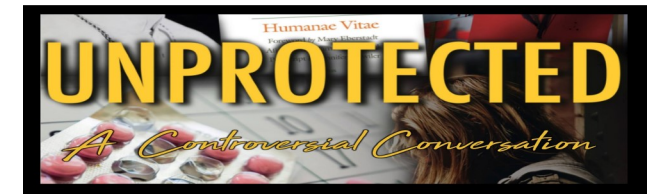
Mildred Ottinger, Lori Redmond, Nancy Totton, Bubba Miller, Amy Spriesterbach

For our Shut - Ins

Rosemary Ingle, Carolyn O'Brien, Josephine Jackson, Delores White, Eileen Grier, Brent LaFollette

"a time to die..."

Doug Bembrick



Coming in October to the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph! Join us for a viewing of this powerful documentary, followed by a Q & A panel discussion at the following locations:
 Mon, Oct 15, 7pm @ St. Michael the Archangel High School, Lee's Summit

Tue, Oct 16, 7pm @ Tivoli Theater, Westport
 Wed, Oct 17, 7:30pm @ Ron Houston Center for Performing Arts, Northwest Missouri State University, Maryville

UNPROTECTED: -A Controversial Conversation

Come and participate in the conversation surrounding one of the most controversial topics of our generation. Celebrate the 50th anniversary of Humanae Vitae by bringing family and friends to a viewing of this powerful documentary and then share your thoughts and ask questions during the panel discussion.

There is no cost to attend, but free-will donations will be accepted to cover licensing fees and venue costs.

To ensure you have a space for the showings at St. Michael's HS and Tivoli Theater, please reserve your free tickets please contact Marriage Family Life Office at (816) 714-2373 family@diocesekcsj.org

Benedictine Sisters of Mount St. Scholastica will hold their annual Night of Dreams on Nov. 11th. This dinner and auction is to benefit Keeler Women's Center, Sophia Spirituality Center and Dooley Center for the care of our elderly sisters.
 For information contact: 913-360-6215 or patterson@mountosb.org