From the Pastor's Pen...

A prophet is one who boldly speaks God's Truth to an audience which is, at best, unconvinced, and at worst, downright hostile. While prophecy has the appearance of "telling the future", this is simply because the prophet understands human nature and the Divine plan better than his audience does. 51 years ago, on July 25, 1968, Pope St. Paul VI issued what remains one of the most compelling and prophetic Papal documents of our times. Contrary to the currents of the culture and the advice of "experts", he re-affirmed the age-old prohibition of artificial contraception and restated the Christ's teaching on the beauty and meaning of marriage and human sexuality. If you have never read *Humanae Vitae*, *I highly encourage you to read it now. If you have read it before, read it again! You can access a digital copy online at the official Vatican website:*

http://w2.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf p-vi enc 25071968 humanae-vitae.html

This document was met with howls of indignation and a general wailing and gnashing of teeth. Dissident theologians lined up to tell the Pope why he was wrong, and many parish priests advised their faithful to ignore the teaching on contraception, and simply "follow (their) hearts." Many followed this poor advice and we now live in a world which has realized the devastating consequences of which Paul VI tried to warn us. Rather than wringing my hands over the current state of the world (and the Church), I would simply like to share with you the four prophetic predictions made by His Holiness over 51 years ago. The following analysis is taken from a brief reflection on the topic (written 25 years ago) by **Dr. Janet Smith**, a philosophy professor who has dedicated her professional career to the study and promotion of authentic Catholic teaching on marriage as articulated by Popes Paul VI and John Paul II, it is even clearer to see today than it was 25 years ago how these predictions have come to pass:

Infidelity and moral decline

The Pope first noted that the widespread use of contraception would "lead to conjugal infidelity and the general lowering of morality." That there has been a widespread decline in morality, especially sexual morality, in the last 25 (now 51) years, is very difficult to deny. The increase in the number of divorces, abortion, our-of-wedlock pregnancies, and venereal diseases should convince any skeptic that sexual morality is not the strong suit of our age.

There is no question that contraception is behind much of this trouble. Contraception has made sexual activity a much more popular option that it was when the fear of pregnancy deterred a great number of young men and women from engaging in premarital sexual intercourse. The availability of contraception has led them to believe that they can engage in premarital sexual activity "responsibly." But teenagers are about as responsible in their use of contraception as they are in all other phases of their lives--such as making their beds, cleaning their rooms and getting their homework done on time.

Lost Respect for Women

Paul VI also argued that "the man" will lose respect for "the woman" and "no longer (care) for her physical and psychological equilibrium" and will come to "the point of considering her as a mere instrument of selfish enjoyment and no longer as his respected and beloved companion." This concern reflects what has come to be known as a "personalist" understanding of morality. The personalist understanding of wrongdoing is based upon respect for the dignity of the human person. The Pope realized that the Church's teaching on contraception is designed to protect the good of conjugal love. When spouses violate this good, they do not act in accord with their innate dignity and thus they endanger their own happiness. Treating their bodies as mechanical instruments to be manipulated for their own purposes, they risk treating each other as objects of pleasure.

Abuse of Power

Paul VI also observed that the widespread acceptance of contraception would place a "dangerous weapon... in the hands of those public authorities who take no heed of moral exigencies." The history of the family-planning programs in the Third World is a sobering testimony to this reality. In Third World countries many people undergo sterilization unaware of what they are doing. The forced abortion program in China shows the stark extreme toward which governments will take population programs. Moreover, few people are willing to recognize the growing evidence that many parts of the world face not overpopulation, but underpopulation. It will take years to reverse the "anti-child" mentality now entrenched in many societies.

(con't inside bulletin)



St. Joseph Church

P.O. Box 197—107 North Shortridge, Easton, MO 64443 Office Phone: 816-473-2011

Please Note New Parish Email: stjosepheaston@gmail.com
Website: www.stjosepheaston.org

Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

August 4, 2019

PARISH PRIEST Fr. Joseph Totton

Phone: 816-294-9841

Email: fathertotton@gmail.com

Parish Secretary
Penny Harrison

HALL RENTAL Contact Mary Ann LaFollette 816-294-6972

Lafollettes@aol.com

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

Jim Adams
Jim Ingle
Rosalie Ingle
Tony Kauzlarich
Julie Moran
Jordan Roth
Mike Roth
Wayne Weipert
Michael Fisher

CEMETERY BOARD

Ed Fisher Mike Roth Steve White

MASS SCHEDULE

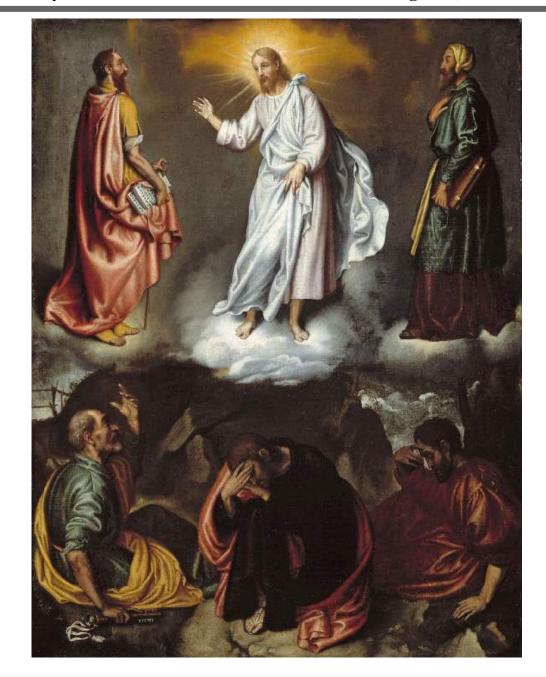
Sunday 8:00 a.m.

CONFESSIONS

Sunday 7:30 a.m.

MISSION STATEMENT

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



To Protect our Children: Report Abuse Diocesan Ombudsman: 816.812.2500

DIOCESAN VICTIM ADVOCATE: Kathleen Chastain, at 816.392.0011 or chastain@diocesekcsj.org



Sunday August 4

8:00 a.m. Ermagene and Ronnie LaFollette †

by the LaFollette family

Tuesday August 6-Feast of the Transfiguration

7:00 a.m. For the People

Sunday August 11

8:00 a.m. I.D. and Iris Everett †

by the Everett and Roth families

Please remember in prayer those who have died. Grant them eternal rest and peace, O Lord!

† Denotes Deceased



Jennifer O'Brien August 5
Dan McPhee August 6
Mary Bembrick August 8
Steve Culver August 8
Brandi Dixon August 9



The 11th Annual Partnering for Future Priests Dinner and Auction is coming up soon! This year's event will take place on October 4th at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in St. Joseph.

The ticket price is \$50 per person with eight people to a table. We begin the evening with prayer and continue with a great evening of good food, great company and the opportunity to bid on one-of-a –kind items in silent and live auctions.

Donations for the auctions such as gift cards, crafts, quilts, and commitments for baked goods are being accepted at this time. We would also like your help by placing an ad to help promote your company, organization or parish in our program.

To donate and/or for questions please contact Bonnie Gregory at 816-473-2016.

To register and pay securely online go to www.conception.edu/pfp.





August 4 - 8 a.m. Mass

Greeter: Jim Ingle

Lectors: Doug Ottinger, Jan Pottier

Ministers: Marylou Euler, Doug Ottinger

Wayne Weipert

Counters: Tony Kauzlarich, Rudy Wolford

August 11-8 a.m. Mass

Greeter: Richard LaFollette

Lectors: Bonnie Gregory, Jordan Roth **Ministers**: Marylou Euler, Paul Pottier,

Wayne Weipert

Counters: Richard and MaryAnn LaFollette

Weekend Collection - July 28, 2019

Envelopes: \$ 1675
Plate: \$ 140 **Total Parish**: \$ 1815

*Fiscal Year Budget July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

 July-to-Date:
 \$ 5,044.00

 July Budget
 \$ 7,900.00

 Year-to-Date:
 \$ 5,044.00

 Year Budget:
 \$ 94,720.00

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

1st Annual

"In His

Presence"

Eucharistic Adoration

Conference

Coronation of Our Lady of Peace Parish 13000 Bennington Ave., Grandview, MO

Saturday, September 14th 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Only \$10.00 with lunch included

Hosted by the Office of Divine Worship

Register at

https://kcsjcatholic.org/office/divine-worship/

Mark your Calendars

Altar Society - Meets in the Parish Hall after Donut Sunday

Donut Sunday - August 4 **Election Day -** August 6

Knights of Columbus Council #5067

Jay Pflugradt, Grand Knight 1st & 3rd Thursday, 7 p.m. Rosary 3rd Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

Recitation of Holy Rosary

2nd Sunday of month beginning at 7:40 a.m.

2nd Collection-August 18th-Life and Justice office

The Catholic young adult group for St. Joseph, *Coram Deo*, is meeting on **Thursday**, **August 8**th!

We will be going mini-golfing at Joe Town Mini Golf! Meet at Our Lady of Guadalupe at **6:10pm** for Adoration + food. Please bring a few bucks in cash to help pay for the food. All young adults aged 22-35 are invited to attend. We hope to see you there! Questions? Please contact:

Ally Goetz atagoetz@olog.org.

Parish Registration

If you are new to our Parish, we encourage you to register: Please introduce yourself to Fr. Totton after Mass, come to the Parish Office on Tuesday or Thursday, or log on to our Parish Website at: www.stjosepheaston.org and register.

Please note our new email address: stjosepheaston@gmail.com

(con't from back page)

Unlimited Dominion

Pope Paul's final warning was that contraception would lead man to think that he had unlimited dominion over his own body. Sterilization is now the most widely used form of contraception in the U.S.; individuals are so convinced of their rights to control their own bodies that they do not hesitate to alter even their own physical make-up.

The desire for unlimited dominion over one's own body extends beyond contraception. The production of "test-tube babies" is another indication of the refusal to accept the body's limitations; so too are euthanasia and the use of organs transplanted from those who are "nearly" dead. We seek to adjust the body to our desires and timetables, rather than adjusting ourselves to its needs.

*This reflection may be found in its entirety at https://www3.nd.edu/~afreddos/courses/264/popepaul.htm

Prayer Corner

"To everything there is a season and time.

for every purpose under heaven."
—Ecc. 3-1

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

Ron Kretzer, Bob Everett, Mildred Ottinger, Lori Redmond, Nancy Totton, Wayne Totton, Ed Fisher, Amy Dobrowansky, Fr. Phil Luebbert, the elderly and infirm, the chronically ill and their caregivers. For those who attend to the dying and grieving; for medical professionals and first responders; for the homeless, the lonely and those lost in this world; for those who harbor hatred and especially for those who have no one to pray for them. For the conversion of the enemies of the Good and of the Church; for the protection of children and the innocent.

For our home bound parishioners:

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

Seven Dolors Catholic Church Hurlingen Picnic Reunion

Saturday, August 17, 2019

Beginning at 5:00 p.m., serving until 7:30 p.m.

Picnic style dinner for \$10, adults; \$5.00 for six and under

Grilled hamburger or two grilled hot dogs/chili dogs, baked beans, chips and homemade desserts.



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
- After reporting to these civil and law enforcement authorities, report suspected sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult to the Diocesan Ombudsman, Joe Crayon, at 816.812.2500 or <u>crayon@omdbusmankcsj.org</u> 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 information.