

“Contraception? Why not?”

...This was the provocative phrase that first caught my eye one winter morning twenty years ago when I opened my tiny mailbox outside the student lounge. Some upperclassmen had been given a case of cassette tapes similarly labeled during their recent trip to Washington, DC to attend the annual March for Life. They had asked the permission of the dean to place a cassette in the mailbox of each seminarian. Several weeks went by before I picked up the cassette and popped it into my car radio (remember when we used to listen to music on cassettes?) to listen to it on my drive home for the off-campus weekend.

I was **STUNNED** at what I heard! To say it changed my life would be a gross understatement. Don't get me wrong: I have always understood that the Church forbids contraception within marriage (to say nothing of sex outside of marriage which is, in and of itself a serious sin), I just never really understood why. What I discovered in listening to this cassette was a cogent, articulate explanation not only of the “what” but of the “why” regarding this teaching which has been largely ignored even by many otherwise faithful Catholics. At this point, you may be debating with yourself about whether you should continue reading. I beg of you, please, PLEASE continue reading, even if this subject makes you uncomfortable.

Dr. Janet Smith was the speaker on the cassette. I later learned that she was an accomplished professor of philosophy who had been studying *Humanae Vitae*, and the sociological impact of contraception for years. The talk was actually a presentation that she had given to a group of seminarians in Columbus, OH, in which she summarized *Humane Vitae*, the 1968 Papal document which re-iterated the Church's longstanding prohibition of artificial birth control. In her talk, she went on to speak about *Natural Family Planning*, various *effective* modern methods which married couples may legitimately employ if they have some serious reason to avoid the potential for childbirth at some given point in their marriage. Until I had listened to this talk, like many Catholics, I didn't understand the reason behind *Humane Vitae* nor did I understand that there were legitimate alternatives to chemical and barrier methods.

In her talk, Dr. Smith restates four prophetic predictions made by Blessed Pope Paul VI in his controversial papal letter issued on July 25, 1968. I would like to briefly list them here:

Contraception would "lead to conjugal infidelity and the general lowering of morality."

"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."

Contraception would place a "dangerous weapon... in the hands of those public authorities who take no heed of moral exigencies."

Contraception would lead man to think that he had unlimited dominion over his own body.

For those of you over 40 reading this, I would like you to stop and ponder each of those points. Can you honestly say that these things have **not** come to pass? In my own lifetime (I was born 8 years after H.V. was written) I have seen each of these areas clearly demonstrated:

Conjugal infidelity has led to rampant divorce and television and popular media clearly indicate a general lowering of morality across the board.

The Pornography epidemic I referenced a few weeks ago is a classic demonstration of man considering woman “as a mere instrument of selfish enjoyment”

China's brutal “One Child” policy with forced abortions and infanticide is but the most extreme example of this. A less extreme, but nevertheless disturbing, instance is the practice of tying humanitarian aid to contraception and sterilization in poor countries.

In Vitro Fertilization, Embryodestructive Stem Cell Research and selective abortion of children with disabilities (like Down Syndrome) are but three examples of this.

One of the saddest things I have ever heard was an elderly priest – now deceased – who told me that he hadn't preached on this topic since the early 1970s because he feared he would drive people away. As a result (for he was not the only priest who felt this way) two entire generations have grown up in effective ignorance of the Church's positive teaching on the Truth, Meaning and Beauty of Marriage and human sexuality. Dr. Smith's talk not only helped me understand the Church's teaching on contraception, but also instilled in me a desire to know “the why?” behind all that the Church teaches about sex and marriage. In the meantime, I would encourage you to read more from Dr. Janet Smith at www.janetsmith.org. I would also encourage you to read the entire text of Blessed Pope Paul VI's landmark encyclical, *Humane Vitae* at www.newadvent.org/library/docs_pa06hv.htm.

-Fr. Joseph Totton



ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

Fr. Joseph Totton - Administrator

Mass Time
Sunday: 8 am
Confessions: 1/2 hr before Mass
Office 816-473-2011

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

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



**Sixteenth 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

July 22, 2018



Ministry Schedule

July 22- 8 am Mass

Greeter: Wayne Weipert

Lectors: Bonnie Gregory & Scott Antle

Ministers: Jim Ingle, Doug Ottinger, Wayne Weipert

Counters: Paul & Jan Pottier

Mass Intentions



Sunday, July 22 + Art Spratt

By: Steve & Pat Culver

Sunday, July 29 + Henry Fisher

By: Fisher Family



BIRTHDAY

Fred Corkins	July 23rd
Emily Crouse	July 23rd
Jay Pflugradt	July 23rd
Mary Fisher	July 24th
Doug Ottinger	July 25th
Reece Dixon	July 26th

Congratulations and Best Wishes Everyone!

Weekend Collection - July 15, 2018

Envelopes: \$1,355 Plate: \$141

Total Parish: \$1,496

2nd Collection: July 22 - Missionary Plan of Cooperation

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

July To Date: \$ 5,854.00

July Budget: \$ 7,550.00

Year-To-Date: \$ 5,854.00

Year Budget: \$90,600.00

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

July 29- 8 am Mass

Greeter: Knights of Columbus

Lectors: Knights of Columbus

Ministers: Knights of Columbus

Counters: Jordan & Amanda Roth



Mark your Calendars!

Parish & Finance Council: Sept 13 - 6 pm Rectory

Altar Society: Parish Hall after Donut Sunday

Hand Linens: July/August: Nannette Wolford

Donut Sunday: Aug 5: Richard & Mary Ann LaFollette

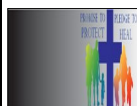
Knights of Columbus: 5067-1st & 3rd Thursday 7 pm

Rosary on 3rd Thursday 6:30 pm

Jay Pflugradt, Grand Knight

Recitation of Rosary - 2nd weekend of the month

20 minutes before Mass



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.



Please join us in the celebration of Mary Fisher's 80th Birthday!

Mary's birthday is July 24, and the family is honoring her with a card shower and dessert reception!

The celebration will take place on Saturday, July 28, 2018 with a reception at the Church Hall from 4-6 pm.

Please come to enjoy some desserts, and share your favorite memories with Mary.

No gifts please!

Bring a card, or send them to:
12525 SE Fisher Rd.
Easton, MO 64443

Diocesan Visioning Process

You are invited to Share and Be Heard

Bishop Johnston recently instituted a "visioning" process to develop a Mutually Shared Vision for our diocese.

The purpose of the process is to create a compelling Vision Statement (unifying theme) for the diocese. It will include three priorities—major areas of focus—for the diocese for the next 3 years and six goals that will lead to specific outcomes in the next 2-3 years.

Bishop Johnston invites every member of our local church to participate in their regional listening sessions in July. The locations have been chosen to reach as much of the diocese as possible in the time frame available. You may attend any one of the sessions.

Throughout the process Bishop Johnston asks everyone to join him in prayer (prayer following) for the fruitfulness of this effort.

One Heart and Mind; A Vision for Our Future

Diocesan Visioning Process

Listening Session Locations

Monday, July 23, 7-8:30 pm: St Therese North, Parkville

Tuesday, July 31, 7-8:30 pm: St. James, Liberty

Missionaries of St Charles—Scalabrinians

Let us welcome Fr. Aldo Vendramin, C.S.

This weekend Fr. Aldo Vendramin, a representative of the Missionaries of St. Charles - Scalabrinians, will be in our parish preaching at all the Masses. He shares with us the concerns and longings of the missionary activity that his Religious Order was entrusted in the Church: the care of migrant and refugee people. He is sent by the Catholic Mission Office with the purpose of reminding each baptized Catholic of our common responsibility to teach all nations about God's salvation plan in Christ Jesus.

A collection will be taken for the needs of the Missionaries of St. Charles Scalabrinians. Your generous donation will enable many missionary works to be accomplished in the world.

Thank you for your prayers and financial support. To learn more about the Scalabrinians visit: www.scalabrinians.org

REMINDER Thursday, July 26th - 6 pm

Fr. Totton will be joined by several priests in the celebration of a Solemn High Mass in the Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin Mass).

Benedictine Sisters will be singing.

Sunday, July 29th 10 am Mass

Matthew Bobela and Polyphonic Choir will be singing

After Mass the parish will be celebrating their Parish Feast Day of Saints Ann & Joachim Pot Luck and Cookout.

Knights will provide hot dogs, buns and drinks.

All other food will be pot luck.

Mark your calendars, dust off your lawn chairs and come and have some fun! All are invited!



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, Douglas Bembrick

DO YOU STRUGGLE WITH PORNOGRAPHY?

Plan to attend the *My House Workshop for Men* in Kansas City

August 9-11, 2018

This is a 3-day confidential, intensive for men striving to overcome and heal from unwanted sexual behaviors. It is geared to maximize investment of time and money by providing the equivalent of at least 8 months of individual therapy. It will enhance the work you might have started or jump start your journey towards healing.

For more information or to register today call: 816-786-6063 or email: centerforhealing128@gmail.com



Grace Evangelical Church, located at 5103 S. 50th Street in St. Joseph, Missouri, is hosting a Moonlight 5K (walk or run) on Friday, August 3, 2018 at 9 p.m.

Registration fee is \$25 with proceeds benefitting

Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

Funds will provide families in need with diapers, baby formula, baby food & birth certificates.

Go to www.iamathlete.com and type in Moonlight 5K or call 816.279.2090 and ask for Dyann Duncan.



Saint Patrick's Mexican Fiesta
Save the date for the 49th annual Saint Patrick's Mexican Fiesta. Friday August 3rd and Saturday, August 4th

On Friday we will be serving authentic Mexican food such as tacos, rice, beans, enchiladas, tamales, and more from the Knights of Columbus Hall located at 1205 N 49th Terrace. We will also have a live DJ, raffles, and drinks for everyone.

Saturday we will be back on the Saint Patrick's grounds located at 1723 South 12th Street. There will be more food, more drinks, a show, music, and activities for the kids.

So, if you want to have some good ole family fun come on down.

Everyone is invited, and we hope to see you all there!

Saint Patrick's Church is looking for volunteers to help with the Mexican Fiesta this year.

If you would like to help please contact the co- chairs of the committee, Sandra Ortega (816) 261-3140 or Laurie Keller (816) 209-8127. If you are in school this is a great way for you to get your community service hours.