



Let us put the just one to the test (Wisdom 2)
*The Kiss of Judas. East apse stained-glass window, St. James Cathedral.
Hans Gottfried von Stockhausen, 1994.*

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL
The Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 23, 2012

ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

THE RITE OF RECEPTION INTO FULL COMMUNION (Saturday 5:30pm)

Texts for the revised translation of the Mass responses can be found inside the front cover of the red Worship hymnal.

PRELUDE

(Noon)

Pastorale in G Major

Rheinberger

Trio in F

Krebs

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE

Lord, help us walk your servant way

ST. ANNE

1. Lord, help us walk your ser - vant way Wher -
2. You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord, but
3. No gold - en scep - ter but a towel You
4. You bid us bend our hu - man pride Nor
5. Lord, help us walk your ser - vant way Wher -
ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -
pow'r you laid a - side. You lived your years in
place with - in the hands Of those who seek to
count our - selves a - bove The low - est place, the
ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -
get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.
ser - vant - hood, In low - li - ness you died.
fol - low you And live by your com - mands.
mean - est task That waits the gift of love.
get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.

PENITENTIAL ACT

German Mass

Schubert, adapt. Proulx

ALL
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

(10:00)

Mass in D Minor

Rheinberger

DISMISSAL TO THE CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (Noon)

GLORIA (Sunday Evening) *Missa de angelis*, **No. 341 in red** Worship hymnal

(all other Masses)

German Mass

Schubert, adapt. Proulx



f *p*

Glo-ry, glo - ry to God in the high - est, and on earth peace to
Lord Je-sus Christ, On - ly be - got - ten Son, Lord God,
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly one, you a - lone

f

peo - ple of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we a - dore you, we
Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, you take a - way the sins of the world, have
are the Lord. You a - lone are the Most High, Je - - - sus

p

glo - ri - fy you, we give you thanks for your great glo - ry, Lord
mer - cy on us; you take a - way the sins of the world, re - ceive our
Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit in the glo - ry of

f

God, heav - en - ly King, O God, al - mighty Fa - ther.
prayer; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther, have mer - cy on us.
God the Fa - - - ther. A - - - men. A - men.

COLLECT

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

PSALM RESPONSE

Psalm 54

chant, adapt. Ford

Cantor: God is my helper,

ALL:



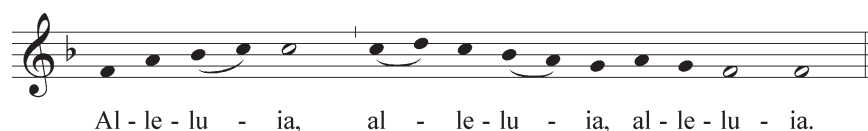
The Lord up - holds my life.

SECOND READING

James 3:16 - 4:3

ALLELUIA

chant, Mode VII



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Mark 9:30-37

HOMILY

Father Michael G. Ryan

RITE OF RECEPTION INTO FULL COMMUNION (Saturday 5:30pm)

CALLING OF THE CANDIDATES

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,**

[ALL BOW]

**and by the Holy Spirit
was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

[ALL STAND UPRIGHT]

**For our sake he was crucified
under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son
is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

ACT OF RECEPTION

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Lord, hear our prayer.

Schubert, adapt. Proulx

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND THE GIFTS

Offertory (10:00)

I will praise you, Lord, with my whole heart
Rheinberger

SANCTUS

Schubert, adapt. Proulx

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts._____

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts._____

Heav - en and earth are full,_____ full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

Schubert, adapt. Proulx

We pro-claim your Death, O Lord, and pro-fess your Re-sur-rec - tion,
we pro-claim your Death, O Lord, un - til you come a - gain.

AMEN

Schubert, adapt. Proulx

A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men, a - men.

LORD'S PRAYER No. 246

AGNUS DEI

Missa de angelis
Vatican VIII

R. 1, 2: have mer - cy on us. R. 3: give us your peace.

Mass in D Minor
Rheinberger

COMMUNION

You have ordered that your commandments be kept diligently; O
that my ways may be guided towards the keeping of your statutes.

(10:00)

Eripe me
Rheinberger

Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord, to thee have I fled;
teach me to do thy will, for thou art my God.

When you return to your place after receiving Holy Communion, please **KNEEL OR BE SEATED**.
Low-gluten hosts are distributed at the credence table near the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

HYMN OF PRAISE **No. 626 in red** Worship hymnal

The Church of Christ in every age
DUNEDIN

The Cantor will sing verse 1; All sing verses 2-5

PROCESSION

“Präludium” from *Sonata No. 14 in C Major*
Rheinberger
Grand Chœur
Lebègue

(Noon)

St. James Cathedral - Seattle

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

The Most Reverend J. Peter Sartain, Archbishop of Seattle

PASTOR

The Very Reverend Michael G. Ryan

IN RESIDENCE

The Reverend David A. Brant, The Reverend Richard J. Ward

PASTORAL ASSISTANT for ADMINISTRATION

Lawrence N. Brouse (206-382-4280)

FAITH FORMATION

TerryAnn Bowen, Director of Religious Education (206-382-2018)
Marianne Coté & Lita McBride, Children's Faith Formation (654-4658)
Brenda Bellamy, Children's RCIA/Confirmation (206-274-3108)
Theresa Van de Ven, Administrative Assistant (206-219-5822)

FAMILY MINISTRY

Suzanne Lee, Director (206-654-4640)

LITURGY

Corinna Laughlin, Pastoral Assistant for Liturgy (622-3559 x3996)
Brenda Bellamy, Peter Burns, John Marquez, Stephen Pace, sacristans

MUSIC MINISTRY (206-382-4874)

Dr. James Savage, Director of Music
Joseph Adam, Organist (206-382-4597)
Dr. Clint Kraus, Associate Organist
Stacey Sunde, Director of Youth Music
Thomas Thompson, Coordinator of Special Projects

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRIES

John Simpson, Pastoral Care Minister (206-274-3173)
Beth Rose, Parish Mental Health Nurse (206-382-4269)

SOCIAL OUTREACH and ADVOCACY

Patty Bowman, Director (206-382-4515)
Caitlin Lanigan (206-382-4235)
Jim and Jill McAuliffe, Cathedral Kitchen (206-264-2091)

ST. JAMES ESL/MINISTRY to IMMIGRANTS (206-382-4511)

Christopher J. Koehler, Director
Cecilia Erin Walsh, ESL Coordinator; Glenda Caldwell, ESL Specialist,
Jim Hodges, Citizenship

STEWARDSHIP and DEVELOPMENT

Maria Laughlin, Director (206-382-4284)

WEDDINGS

Linda Carr, Wedding Office (206-622-3559 ext. 3979)
Bev Mauser, Louise Mennella, Wedding Coordinators

PARISH OFFICE

Sister Mary Slater, SNJM, Bookkeeper (206-382-4564)
Elizabeth Falzone, Receptionist (206-654-4650)
Lee Bedard, Administrative Assistant (206-622-3559 x3971)

FACILITIES and GROUNDS

Dennis Morse, Facilities Manager (206-622-3559)

CELEBRATIONS of the SACRAMENTS

MASS

Sundays 8 - 10 - 12 & 5:30 pm
Weekdays 8:15 & 5:30 pm
Saturdays 8:15 & "Vigil" 5:30 pm

LITURGY of the HOURS Weekdays at 12:10 pm

VESPERS and BENEDICTION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

Sundays at 4:00 pm.

BAPTISM Communal celebrations are held monthly. A preparation program for parents and godparents is required. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

RECONCILIATION Saturdays, 4:00 - 5:00 pm. A communal celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated four times yearly in preparation for Christmas and Easter.

MARRIAGE A formal program of marriage preparation over a period of several months is required, however, registered parishioners may begin the scheduling process 14 months in advance.

ANOINTING of the SICK A communal celebration is held regularly. In other situations (anticipated surgery, emergency) please call the parish office.

"TAIZÉ" ECUMENICAL PRAYER, Fridays at 6:30 pm.

TOURS of the CATHEDRAL Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. Groups of 4 or more may arrange a tour by calling Corinna Laughlin, 206-622-3559

CATHEDRAL BOOKSTORE Open 11:00 am to 3:00 pm weekdays, after Masses on weekends. Call 206-382-4500 for information

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL PARISH

804 Ninth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98104
Telephone: 206-622-3559 FAX: 206-622-5303
Website: www.stjames-cathedral.org
Emergency Number: 206-467-3049
Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

WELCOME! *If you are a visitor to the Cathedral, we want you to know how welcome you are – whether you have come from another part of the country, from across the world, or simply from another parish here in the Archdiocese. Thanks, in part, to the generosity of visitors like you, we are able to celebrate the Church's liturgy here in a fitting and beautiful way. We are also able to offer a wide range of services to needy people living in the central district of our city.*

FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR are from the Saturday wedding of Ashley Chang and Nicholas Kapek. .
If you would like to offer flowers, to celebrate a special anniversary, to give thanks for an answered prayer, or to remember a deceased loved one, contact Elizabeth Falzone, 206-654-4650 or e-mail efalzone@stjames-cathedral.org.

TODAY, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, at 9:30 am in the Cathedral Chapel, our new Chapel Organ will be dedicated. All are welcome. The organ was the gift of several generous donors.

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION BEGINS SEPT. 30
Parents, if you have not registered your children, you are encouraged to do so before classes begin next Sunday. You may do so at coffee hour after the 10:00am and Noon Masses today. You can also find registration materials at our parish website, www.stjames-cathedral.org/kids. *Information*, Lita McBride, 206-654-4658.

WINTER SHELTER OPENS FOR ITS 21ST SEASON

Please consider joining our Winter Shelter Team. Training for new and returning volunteers will be held **TONIGHT**, Sunday, September 23 from 6:30 to 8:30pm in Cathedral Hall. On October 1, St. James Cathedral will begin its 21st season hosting men from St. Martin de Porres Shelter to provide overflow sleeping space during the cold winter months. Join us at the training this Sunday to learn about how you can serve as an overnight host or a breakfast cook. *Information*, Caitlin Lanigan, 206-382-4235 or clanigan@stjames-cathedral.org.

FAITHFUL CITIZENSHIP Voting is our right as citizens, and our moral obligation as Catholics. How do we form our consciences to vote? Fr. Pat Howell, SJ, former dean of Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry, will address formation of conscience for faithful citizenship in this important election year on Monday, September 24, 7:00 pm, in the Pastoral Outreach Center. *Information*, Patty Bowman, 206-382-4515, pbowman@stjames-cathedral.org.

PARISH REMEMBRANCE *Throughout the year, because we are the Cathedral Church, we remember in prayer at Mass and Vespers each of the parishes and missions of the Archdiocese of Seattle on a Sunday near their feast day. This week we remember in prayer the parishes of St. Matthew in Seattle; SS. Cosmas and Damian in Orting, and St. Vincent de Paul in Federal Way.*

CATHEDRAL ESPRESSO is back from its summer hiatus! Please come by after the 10:00 Mass. All proceeds, for the month of September, benefit the Children's Religious Education Program. The Espresso Ministry is also looking for volunteers willing to run the cart after the noon Mass. *Information*, Katherine Berry, 425-772-0897.

2ND ANNUAL MENTAL HEALTH FAIR October 7, 2012 during all coffee hours in the Cathedral Hall.

Purpose: Introduction to Mental Health Ministry and volunteers; learn about mental health and mental illnesses; learn about professional mental health services in Seattle area; meet representatives from variety of mental health programs. *Goal:* Increased awareness of mental health and mental illness, and of how common these experiences are; understanding of available resources. *Information*, Beth Rose, Parish Mental Health Nurse, 206-382-4269 or email, brose@stjames-cathedral.org and www.stjames-cathedral.org/mhm.

WILL YOU ASSIST A PERSON WHO WANTS TO BECOME CATHOLIC? We continue to have new inquirers coming to participate in our Christian Initiation process to learn more about the Catholic Church (RCIA). We need St. James parishioners to be companions with our new inquirers to help welcome them to our community. The time commitment is reasonable – two Wednesday evening sessions a month. *Information*, TerryAnn Bowen 206-382-2018 or tbowen@stjames-cathedral.org.

ARE YOU A CATHOLIC WHO HAS BEEN AWAY FROM THE CHURCH? It is not too late to join our Welcome Back program – a safe place, in the company of others who are also examining their faith, to ask questions about returning to regular church attendance, returning to the sacraments, and to learn about changes in the church. The 1st session was last Monday, but you can still join us Monday, September 24 from 7:00-9:00 pm and then each Monday through December 10 in Cathedral Place, 2nd floor. Classes are offered without any obligation. *Information*, TerryAnn Bowen 206-382-2018 or tbowen@stjames-cathedral.org.

EXCITING NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG MEN

St. James is reviving the St. Edward's Vocal Ensemble, a liturgical choir for teenaged boys with changed voices conducted by Cathedral baritone, Thomas Thompson. The rehearsal will be Mondays 4:30–6:30pm. *For auditions and information*, Stacey Sunde, Director of Youth Music Program, 206-382-4874 or musicoffice@stjames-cathedral.org.

WORLD-FAMOUS MUSICIANS AT ST JAMES In October the Cathedral is presenting two extraordinary evenings of sacred masterpieces you won't want to miss. October 13, 8:00 pm, Spain's leading sacred music ensemble, Musica Ficta present music of 16th-c. Spain, www.earlymusicguild.org. Oct. 20, 8:00 pm Stephen Stubbs conducts Monteverdi's *Vespers*. www.pacificmusicworks.org. For pay-as-able parishioner passes call 206-382-4874.

Sacred Steps

Sacramental Celebrations at St. James

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOD'S BLESSINGS to *Flavia Frig* and *Christopher Shelley*, married in the Cathedral on Saturday, September 8; and to *Carla Carciller* and *Benjamin Abarientos*, married in the Cathedral on Saturday, September 15. Please pray for these young couples as they begin their new lives together.

rites of acceptance and welcome Last Sunday we celebrated the Rites of Acceptance/Welcoming for those in our RCIA process who are ready to take the next step towards becoming full members of our Catholic Christian Church. We welcome *Clare Bailey*, *Victor Burton*, *Sonja Ray*, and *Guadalupe Vidaurri*, who are preparing for baptism and enter the order of catechumens; and our candidates: *Jason Chaney*, *Nikki Fessenden*, *Mary Fousha*, *Megan Gluth*, *Ross Hays*, *Nancy Lee*, *Peter Lofgren*, *Jeddah Medilo*, *Dennis Montgomery*, *Janice Sutter*, and *Bryan Williams*, who are already baptized and are preparing for Full Communion with us. Many of them will now participate in the ancient tradition of being dismissed after the homily at the Noon Mass. Please continue to pray for our catechumens and candidates.

PRAYER WITH MUSIC FROM TAIZÉ Each Friday at 6:30pm in the Cathedral, all are invited to join in an ecumenical service of readings, silence, candlelight, and the music of the ecumenical community of Taizé in France. This simple, reflective prayer is the perfect way to end a busy week.

Getting to know Good Pope John

On September 30, thanks to some generous parishioners, a permanent shrine to Blessed John XXIII, the Pope who called the Second Vatican Council, will be established in the north aisle of the Cathedral.

Pope John confessed that he had some difficulty in falling asleep on the night of the memorable day that he announced the convocation of Vatican Council II. He said that he talked to himself in this way: "Giovanni, why don't you sleep? Is it the Pope or the Holy Spirit who governs the Church? It's the Holy Spirit, no? Well, then, go to sleep, Giovanni!"

From the Wit and Wisdom of Good Pope John



St. James Cathedral

WINTER SHELTER



*"Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or see you thirsty and give you drink?
When did we welcome you or clothe you?" The King will answer them: "I assure you,
as often as you did it for the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it for me." Matthew 25:37-40*

On January 27, 2012, the annual One Night Count found 2,594 men, women and Children sleeping outdoors on the streets of King County.

St. James Cathedral partners with St. Martin de Porres Shelter to provide overflow sleeping space during the cold winter months.

St. Martin de Porres, a program of Catholic Housing Services, has room for 212 homeless men.

During the winter, St. Martin's is always full and has to turn away many people.

From October through April, four nights a week,

St. James provides a warm place to sleep in Cathedral Hall for 10-15 men.

Nearly 100 parishioners volunteer at the Winter Shelter, now in its 21st year of operation.

Please consider joining our shelter team as an **overnight host** or **breakfast cook**.

Comments from our volunteers

- "I feel that working at the Winter Shelter helps me put my faith in action."
- "'I truly felt a connection with this ministry...I left Monday morning with an energized heart.'"

TRAINING FOR NEW AND RETURNING VOLUNTEERS

Sunday, September 23 ~ 6:30 to 8:30 PM ~ CATHEDRAL HALL

Information, Caitlin Lanigan 206-382-4235 or clanigan@stjames-cathedral.org

JOY and HOPE in CHRIST

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE 2ND VATICAN COUNCIL

Patty Repikoff

People of God, We Are Still Called to Become Fire!

*A look at Lumen Gentium—Light of Nations,
the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church*

Monday, October 1, 2012

7:00pm | Cathedral Hall

The Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, is one of the major documents of Vatican II. This document has shaped our self-understanding in ways we take for granted now. Yet, after nearly fifty years, we have yet to mine all of its treasures. During this talk we will try to answer three questions:

- What is *Lumen Gentium* and its key themes?
- Why are these themes so significant for us?
- How might *Lumen Gentium* still beckon us to grow into our fullness as God's people?

PATTY REPIKOFF is a native of the Pacific Northwest. She has served the Church as a Lay Ecclesial Minister for 39 years. Born in Vancouver, WA, gifted with Catholic genes, she was educated by the Sisters of Providence, Sisters of the Holy Names, and the Society of Jesus. Her ministerial history includes many years as Director of Faith Formation and Pastoral Assistant for Liturgy and Sacraments at St. Leo, Tacoma, 17 years as Pastoral Life Director (lay leader appointed by the Archbishop to provide pastoral care to a parish without a resident priest pastor) at St. Therese and Christ the King Parishes in Seattle. Currently she is serving as Coordinator of Hispanic/Latino Ministry for the 14 parishes in the Eastside Deanery and adjunct faculty at Seattle University's School of Theology and Ministry. She is a proud member of St. James Cathedral Parish.



Monday, October 29 | 7:00pm, St. James Cathedral
John O'Malley, SJ: *What Happened at Vatican II?*

Thursday, November 15 | 7:00pm, St. James Cathedral
Father Michael Raschko: *Gaudium et Spes: Where do we go from here?*



St James Cathedral/Order of Malta Mental Health Ministry

Is hosting our 2nd ANNUAL:

MENTAL HEALTH FAIR

October 7th, 2012 at all coffee hours

(9am-10am, 11am-12pm, and 1pm-2pm)
Cathedral Hall at St James Cathedral
804 9th Ave, Seattle, WA 98104

Purpose:

- Introduction to Mental Health Ministry & Volunteers
- Learn about mental health and mental illnesses
- Learn about professional mental health services in Seattle area
- Meet representatives from variety of mental health programs

Goal:

- Increased awareness of mental health and mental illness
- Increased awareness of how common these experiences are
- Understanding of available resources

Thank you! Hope to see you there.

Any questions contact: Beth Rose, Parish Mental Health Nurse

Call: 206-382-4269 or email: brose@stjames-cathedral.org



Cathedral Blood Drive

Tuesday, October 9, 2012

Pastoral Outreach Center

12:30pm to 6:30pm (closed 3:00–3:45pm)

A unique gift

What could be a more personal, caring and meaningful Gift than the gift of blood to someone in our community who has the need? The urgent and ongoing need for blood donors invites us to consider yet another aspect of Stewardship, that is, the gift of ourselves in a way that is fundamental and essential to life itself.

Who needs blood?

It is very likely that someone you know at St. James has had a need for blood. People who need blood include those who have been in accidents or require surgery or chemotherapy. In our community, that blood would have come from donors to the Puget Sound Blood Center, including St. James blood drive donors. To meet the needs of our community, over 900 donors must register to Give Life every day.

St. James & the Puget Sound Blood Center

St. James has been sponsoring Lenten and Fall blood drives since 2006. The Puget Sound Blood Center is always enthusiastic about our partnership in this effort, but most especially about the number of new donors at our blood drives. **We ask those who have not yet donated to consider donating for the first time. We ask those who have generously donated in the past to please consider doing so again.**

Sign up at coffee hour 9/23, 9/30, 10/7

Or e-mail jsimpson@stjames-cathedral.org to sign up or to find out more. Or call 206-274-3173.

At left: St. Luke the Physician. *Madonna & Child with Saints* (detail), Neri di Bicci, ca. 1456

Sponsored by St. James Cathedral's Health and Healing Ministry



Archdiocese of Seattle
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Come Visit Us!

High School Open Houses



Archbishop Murphy High School
www.am-hs.org
November 4, January 13



Bishop Blanchet High School
www.bishopblanchet.org
November 8



Eastside Catholic School
www.eastsidecatholic.org
October 28, January 9



Forest Ridge School
of the Sacred Heart
www.forestridge.org
October 20



Holy Names Academy
www.holynames-sea.org
October 21, January 8



Kennedy Catholic High School
www.kennedyhs.org
November 7



O'Dea High School
www.odea.org
October 30



Seattle Preparatory School
www.seaprep.org
November 15

Regional Information Nights

Dates

Monday, October 1
Tuesday, October 2
Thursday, October 4
Wednesday, October 10
Thursday, October 11
Monday, October 15

Locations

St. Joseph School (Capitol Hill)
St. Anthony School (Renton)
St. Louise School (Bellevue)
St. John School (Greenwood)
St. Mark Parish School (Shoreline)
Holy Rosary Seattle (West Seattle)

All evening programs run from 7:00 to 9:00pm. Locations are geographically varied; 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students and parents from ANY school are invited to attend whichever location/date is most convenient. Guests may choose to hear three 25-minute presentations offered by high school representatives. Please call any Catholic High School Admissions Office for further information or visit www.seattlecatholichighschools.org.



The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship



This brief document is a summary of the United States bishops' reflection *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. It complements the teaching of bishops in dioceses and states. A large-print version of this document is available free at www.faithfulcitizenship.org.



Our nation faces political challenges that demand urgent moral choices. We are a nation at war, with all of its human costs; a country often divided by race and ethnicity; a nation of immigrants struggling with immigration. We are an affluent society where too many live in poverty; part of a global community confronting terrorism and facing urgent threats to our environment; a culture built on families, where some now question the value of marriage and family life. We pride ourselves on supporting human rights, but we fail even to protect the fundamental right to life, especially for unborn children.

We bishops seek to help Catholics form their consciences in accordance with the truth, so they can make sound moral choices in addressing these challenges. We do not tell Catholics how to vote. The responsibility to make political choices rests with each person and his or her properly formed conscience.

Why Does the Church Teach About Issues Affecting Public Policy?

The Church's obligation to participate in shaping the moral character of society is a requirement of our faith, a part of the mission given to us by Jesus Christ. Faith helps us see more clearly the truth about human life and dignity that we also understand through human reason. As people of both faith and reason, Catholics are called to bring truth to political life and to practice Christ's commandment to "love one another" (Jn 13:34). According to Pope Benedict XVI, "charity must animate the entire lives of the lay faithful and therefore also their political activity, lived as 'social charity'" (Encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*, no. 29).

The United States Constitution protects the right of individual believers and religious bodies to participate and speak out without government interference, favoritism, or discrimination. Civil law should recognize and protect the Church's right and responsibility to participate in society without abandoning our central moral convictions. Our nation's tradition of pluralism is enhanced, not threatened, when religious groups and people of faith bring their convictions into public life. The Catholic community brings to the political dialogue a consistent moral framework and broad experience serving those in need.

Who in the Church Should Participate in Political Life?

In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. As Catholics, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to a political party or interest group. In today's environment, Catholics may feel politically disenfranchised, sensing that no party and few candidates fully share our comprehensive commitment to human life and dignity. Catholic lay women and men need to act on the Church's moral principles and become more involved: running for office, working within political parties, and communicating concerns to elected officials. Even those who cannot vote should raise their voices on matters that affect their lives and the common good.

How Does the Church Help Catholics to Address Political and Social Questions?

A Well-Formed Conscience

The Church equips its members to address political questions by helping them develop well-formed consciences. "Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby

the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act. . . . [Every person] is obliged to follow faithfully what he [or she] knows to be just and right" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1778). We Catholics have a lifelong obligation to form our consciences in accord with human reason, enlightened by the teaching of Christ as it comes to us through the Church.

The Virtue of Prudence

The Church also encourages Catholics to develop the virtue of prudence, which enables us "to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it" (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 1806). Prudence shapes and informs our ability to deliberate over available alternatives, to determine what is most fitting to a specific context, and to act. Prudence must be accompanied by courage which calls us to act. As Catholics seek to advance the common good, we must carefully discern which public policies are morally sound. A good end does not justify an immoral means. At times Catholics may choose different ways to respond to social problems, but we cannot differ on our obligation to protect human life and dignity and help build through moral means a more just and peaceful world.

Doing Good and Avoiding Evil

There are some things we must never do, as individuals or as a society, because they are always incompatible with love of God and neighbor. These intrinsically evil acts must always be rejected and never supported. A preeminent example is the intentional taking of human life through abortion. It is always morally wrong to destroy innocent human beings. A legal system that allows the right to life to be violated on the grounds of choice is fundamentally flawed.

Similarly, direct threats to the dignity of human life such as euthanasia, human cloning, and destructive research on human embryos are also intrinsically evil and must be opposed. Other assaults on human life and dignity, such as genocide, torture, racism, and the targeting of noncombatants in acts of terror or war, can never be justified. Disrespect for any human life diminishes respect for all human life.

As Catholics we are not single-issue voters. A candidate's position on a single issue is not sufficient to guarantee a voter's support. Yet a candidate's position on a single issue that involves an intrinsic evil, such as support for legal abortion or the promotion of racism, may legitimately lead a voter to disqualify a candidate from receiving support.¹

Opposition to intrinsically evil acts also prompts us to recognize our positive duty to contribute to the common good and act in solidarity with those in need. Both opposing evil and doing good are essential. As Pope John Paul II said, "the fact that only the negative commandments oblige always and under all circumstances does not mean that in the moral life prohibitions are more important than the obligation to do good indicated by the positive commandment" (Encyclical *Veritatis Splendor*, no. 52). The basic right to life implies and is linked to other human rights to the goods that every person needs to live and thrive—including food, shelter, health care, education, and meaningful work. The use of the death penalty, hunger, lack of health care or housing, human trafficking, the human and moral costs of war, and unjust immigration policies are some of the serious moral issues that challenge our consciences and require us to act.

Making Moral Choices

Difficult political decisions require the exercise of a well-formed conscience aided by prudence. This exercise of conscience begins with always opposing policies that violate human life or weaken its protection. “Those who formulate law therefore have an obligation in conscience to work toward correcting morally defective laws, lest they be guilty of cooperating in evil and in sinning against the common good” (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops [USCCB], *Catholics in Political Life*).

When morally flawed laws already exist, prudential judgment is needed to determine how to do what is possible to restore justice—even if partially or gradually—without ever abandoning a moral commitment to full protection for all human life from conception to natural death (see Pope John Paul II, Encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*, no. 73).

Prudential judgment is also needed to determine the best way to promote the common good in areas such as housing, health care, and immigration. When Church leaders make judgments about how to apply Catholic teaching to specific policies, this may not carry the same binding authority as universal moral principles but cannot be dismissed as one political opinion among others. These moral applications should inform the consciences and guide the actions of Catholics.

What Does the Church Say About Catholic Social Teaching in the Public Square?—Seven Key Themes

A consistent ethic of life should guide all Catholic engagement in political life. This Catholic ethic neither treats all issues as morally equivalent nor reduces Catholic teaching to one or two issues. It anchors the Catholic commitment to defend human life and other human rights, from conception until natural death, in the fundamental obligation to respect the dignity of every human being as a child of God.

Catholic voters should use Catholic teaching to examine candidates’ positions on issues and should consider candidates’ integrity, philosophy, and performance. It is important for all citizens “to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest” (USCCB, *Living the Gospel of Life*, no. 33). The following themes of Catholic social teaching provide a moral framework for decisions in public life.²

The Right to Life and the Dignity of the Human Person

Human life is sacred. Direct attacks on innocent human beings are never morally acceptable. Within our society, life is under direct attack from abortion, euthanasia, human cloning, and destruction of human embryos for research. These intrinsic evils must always be opposed. This teaching also compels us as Catholics to oppose genocide, torture, unjust war, and the use of the death penalty, as well as to pursue peace and help overcome poverty, racism, and other conditions that demean human life.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

The family, based on marriage between a man and a woman, is the fundamental unit of society. This sanctuary for the creation and nurturing of children must not be redefined, undermined, or neglected. Supporting families should be a priority for economic and social policies. How our society is organized—in economics and politics, in law and public policy—affects the well-being of individuals and of society. Every person and association has a right and a duty to participate in shaping society to promote the well-being of individuals and the common good.

Rights and Responsibilities

Every human being has a right to life, the fundamental right that makes all other rights possible. Each of us has a right to religious freedom, which enables us to live and act in accord with our God-given dignity, as well as a right to access to those things required for human decency—food and shelter, education and employment, health care and housing. Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities—to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

While the common good embraces all, those who are in greatest need deserve preferential concern. A moral test for society is how we treat the weakest among us—the unborn, those dealing with disabilities or terminal illness, the poor and marginalized.

Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Economic justice calls for decent work at fair, living wages, opportunities for legal status for immigrant workers, and the opportunity for all people to work together for the common good through their work, ownership, enterprise, investment, participation in unions, and other forms of economic activity.

Solidarity

We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Our Catholic commitment to solidarity requires that we pursue justice, eliminate racism, end human trafficking, protect human rights, seek peace, and avoid the use of force except as a necessary last resort.

Caring for God’s Creation

Care for the earth is a duty of our Catholic faith. We all are called to be careful stewards of God’s creation and to ensure a safe and hospitable environment for vulnerable human beings now and in the future.

Conclusion

In light of Catholic teaching, as bishops we vigorously repeat our call for a renewed politics that focuses on moral principles, the defense of life, the needs of the weak, and the pursuit of the common good. This kind of political participation reflects the social teaching of our Church and the best traditions of our nation.

Notes

- 1 For more on the moral challenge of voting, see *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, nos. 34–39. Visit www.faithfulcitizenship.org.
- 2 These themes are drawn from a rich tradition more fully described in the *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church* from the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005). For more information on these seven themes, see www.faithfulcitizenship.org. For information on how we bishops of the United States have applied Catholic social teaching to policy issues, see www.faithfulcitizenship.org.

For a wide range of educational and other resources to help share Faithful Citizenship, go to www.faithfulcitizenship.org.

The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship was developed by the chairmen, in consultation with the membership, of the Committees on Domestic Policy, International Policy, Pro-Life Activities, Communications, Doctrine, Education, and Migration of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). It was approved for publication by the full body of bishops at its November 2007 General Meeting and has been authorized for publication by the undersigned.

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USCCB
COMMUNICATIONS

Publication No. 7-236
Washington, DC
ISBN: 978-1-60137-236-9