

## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Knowing Christ + Loving Christ + Serving Christ Together



## **8<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

-610-

"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit. A good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil; for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks." - Lk 6:43, 45 Pastor: Rev. Robert Franco
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Isidore Munishi

Deacons: Rev. Mr. John Rivera Rev. Mr. Del Sherman

Rev. Dr. Ken DeLuca, Retired

PSR Principal: Kelly Reed

Music Director: Mary Pokrywka

LITURGY SCHEDULE

5:30 p.m. Evening Mass on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday Holydays......Consult the Bulletin

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Wednesdays from 2:00-5:00 p.m.

For updates check St. Julie's Website CONFESSIONS

Saturdays......3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

In the Church
PSR - PARISH SCHOOL OF
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Grades 1 - 7: 9:30 - 10:45 a.m. Sunday Grade 8: 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. Sunday (check PSR website for information)

**OCIA & OCIC** (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults and Children)

**BAPTISMS** 

1st & 3rd Sunday by appointment **MARRIAGE** 

Arrangements must be made 6 months in advance

#### NEW PARISHIONERS

You are welcome to call the office or register on line.

## St. Julie Billiart Parish

Dear Parishioners.

God is good all time, All the time God is good. We can see and bear good fruits today, because of His love, mercy, and provision. All the good things you and I have come from God. Jesus told his disciples a parable, "Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher." Luke 6:39-40

In this Jubilee Year of Hope 2025, Pope Francis reminds us to bear in mind that we are Pilgrims of Hope. Hence, we must remember that Christian training is the practice of allowing God to become one with you so that it is God Who acts in and through you. This form of "training" first takes on the goal of freeing us from spiritual blindness. We must see Christ and come to know Him. Hope will not disappoint us. Only God can make us see clearly.

As followers of Christ, we must see and know the Person Who is Christ Jesus. This is true sight. Blindness, however, can always set in again when we take the eyes of our soul off the Savior.

The gospel calls us to see Christ with eyes of faith. Seeing Christ, however, is not enough. Seeing must be followed by responsibility. That is why our Lord goes on to say in today's Gospel that "every tree is known by its own fruit" and that a "good person out of the store of goodness in his heart produces good." We are responsible people, and we have a choice to bear good or rotten fruits.

As disciple of Jesus, you recall when you were confirmed you promised to be a soldier of Christ by defending your own faith and that of your brothers and sisters. Take few moments today and reflect upon your desire and commitment to become a fully trained soldier of Christ. God wants to use you, to live within you, and to act through you. He wants you to be like Him in every way.

God is saying to you and me that if you keep your eyes upon me, I will carefully take care of the rest, leading you to a fully trained and fruitful life. Jesus' presence is in you and me all the time. In this eighth Sunday of Ordinary time receive him with expectant faith and tell him, my Jesus I trust in you.

Lent is around the corner and March 5th is Ash Wednesday. This year, lent must be special for you and me as we celebrate the Jubilee of Hope. Suffering, death and rising of our Lord Jesus Christ gives us hope for salvation. We have the opportunity to reflect on the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for our redemption and reflect and strive to unite our own sufferings and struggles with his own sacrifice. The three pillars of lent, namely Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving and other sacrifices, can help us appreciate all our Lord did for us. Let us cultivate hope and share this gift with our brothers and sisters in need.

## 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time

During Lent we have so many rich programs like Lenten Bible study at St. Julie which begins March 10th, Regional Eucharistic Congress at St. Peter March 22nd, Rosary at St. Julie every Wednesdays, Divine mercy livestreamed every Friday on St. Peter website, Liturgy of the hour's morning prayer at St. Peter from 7:35 a.m., pray for life during 40 days for Life, March 5th - April 13th. Let us take advantage at our places of worship where we can have Stations of the cross, Adoration and go to confession and Holy Eucharist as often as we can. We can gain a lot spiritually from the mentioned spiritual programs.

Jesus my divine Teacher, I turn to You today, you're the Lord of all, and seek to fix my gaze upon You for you're the hope, peace, and the joy of my life. As I see You, please remove my blindness and confusion. In place of these, give me wisdom so that I will always allow You to live in me and act through me, bearing an abundance of good fruit. Jesus, I trust in You.

Fr. Isidore Munishi

## Follow Jesus to Calvary

Thousands sought Jesus during His life. Only a few followed Him to Calvary. What will YOU do? Join us for the 5-week No Greater Love Bible Study on Mondays during Lent starting March 10 at St. Julie's. We will begin at 7:00 p.m. Filmed on location in the Holy Land, No Greater Love is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christs amazing love for us. Best-selling author Edward Sri guides you through the last hours of Christ's life. You will walk step-by-step with Jesus from the garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. Gain a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's immeasurable and unconditional love for you - and grow closer to Jesus. Visit htttps:// www.stpeternr.oro/no-greater-love for more info and to register.

## Parish Mission

St. Peter and St. Julie Parishes will welcome Frank Runyeon for our Parish Mission on March 30, 31, and April 1 at St. Julie Parish at 7:00 p.m. each evening. Frank is an Emmy-nominated Catholic actor and will bring scripture to life with drama and humor as he presents the Gospels of John and Luke during this time of Eucharistic Revival. This will be great for the whole family! Save this date on your calendar so you don't miss it!

## Parish & Community Events

## Religious Education

PSR-Parish School of Religion

Sunday: Grades 1-7, 9:30 to 10:45 a.m. / Grade 8. 6:30 to 7:45 p.m.

## Mass Intentions for the Week

Mar. 1 Saturday 5:00 p.m. Kay Galik (Rich & Elaine Galik)
Mar. 2 Sunday 9:00 a.m. Bill Armour (Prime Timers)
11:00 a.m. St. Julie Billiart Parishioners

Mar. 3 Monday 5:30 p.m. Margaret Treadwell (Dennis Aron)

Mar. 5 Wednesday 9:00 a.m. St. Julie Billiart Parishioners 7:00 p.m. Vivien Glacken (Linda Mansell)

Mar. 7 Friday 5:30 p.m. All Souls

Mar. 8 Saturday 5:00 p.m. Angela Guerra (Rich & Elaine Galik)

Mar. 9 Sunday 9:00 a.m. St. Julie Billiart Parishioners

11:00 a.m. Jeff Kohl (Jim & Janet Coufalik)

## The Week Ahead

Sat. Walking With Mom's in Need Tues. Catholic Parents, 6:00, HFR

Wed. Ash Wednesday

Masses: 9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. Rosary, 1:00 p.m.

Adoration, 2:00-5:00 p.m.

**Thu**. 40 Days for Life Prayer, Noon **Sat**. Women's Fellowship Breakfast

Sun. Men's Cursillo Mtg., 6-8:30 p.m.

## Women's Fellowship Breakfast

Our next Women's Breakfast is on **March 8** at St. Julie's from 8:30 until 10:00 a.m. Please **RSVP by March 3** at our website: https://

www.stpeternr.org/womens-

ministry. You can also call St. Peter's office, 440-327-2201 and we will get you registered.

Catholic Charities

Thank You for your support of the 2025 Catholic Charities In-Pew Appeal! Your gift helps us to carry out

the mission that Jesus entrusted to us: 'I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.' and will change the lives of the nearly 400,000 people who are served each year in Northeast Ohio. Please pray for the success of the Appeal, which provides for essential programs and services in need throughout all eight counties of the Diocese of Cleveland. Visit

www.catholiccommunity.org/impact to learn more about the channel of peace your gift has made! There are Catholic Charity envelopes in the vestibule for you to use if you have not given.

## A 40 Days for Life Holy Hour

will be held each Thursday during 40 Days for Life starting this Thursday, March 6 - April 10, from Noon to 1:00 p.m., at the church. Join with fellow parishioners to pray for the protection of all human life and an end to abortion. Everyone is welcome.

Men's Breakfast Please join us for the St. Julie & St. Peter Men's Fellowship breakfast, Saturday, March 15, 8:20 a.m. Breakfast will be served at St. Peter's in the Gym. Open to men of any parish in the Diocese, come and enjoy a hearty, hot breakfast followed by a short video and discussion. We will end promptly at 9:45 a.m. So we have an idea of how much food to prepare please RSVP by sending an email to sjspbreakfast@gmail.com by 3/10.

## PRAY FOR

the health of, and caregivers of: Pope Francis, Tony Frameli, Bob Hepner, Mark Turk, Daniel DeLaat, Lola Cook, Terry Shepler, Zack Cook, Jessica Reed-Reynolds, Kelly Reed's mother, Paul Kovacs, Kristen Premura, Louise Alexander, Stephan Durosko, nephew of Ted Lapponi, Marian Kessler, Dolores Rivera, Bob Jirousek, Barb Vrtachnik, Terry Flanagan, Jean Rasmussen, Kathleen Sobczak, JoAnne Bellomo, Regula family, Fr. George, Fr. Gonser; for our men & women in uniform; our firefighters, police, doctors & nurses; for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious

You can help save lives -- The 40 Days for Life Spring 2025 Campaign is coming! From March 5 to April 13, we will join with people around the world in prayer and fasting, peaceful vigil, and community outreach to end abortion at the local level. By the grace of God, since launching in 2007, 40 Days for Life has seen a stunning track record of life-saving results, including 25,353 lives saved from abortion, the conversion of 268 abortion workers, 161 abortion facilities closing, and many women and men starting on the road to healing from past abortions! Please commit to pray and fast for an end to abortion every day during 40 Days for Life. A series of devotionals are available for each day at 40daysforlife.com. If you'd like local email updates during the 40 Days for Life, send an email to jaydee40days@gmail.com. Trusting that "with God all things are possible," people of faith around the world are praying that this effort will help bring an end to the tragedy of abortion!

## Parish Stewardship

 Feb. 23:
 \$3354

 Faith Direct:
 (Feb.1-15)
 \$2665

 School Subsidy:
 \$0

 Capital Improvement:
 \$610

 Net Offertory:
 \$6629

Mass Attendance: 406

life.

Thank you for sharing your blessings.

#### Ministers Schedule

Sat, Mar. 1,5:00 Rec **S**-Suzanne Snyder L-Jane Herbcha EM-Tony Tinnirello EM-Agnes Klimkowicz C-Deacon John C-Ted Lapponi AS-Not Filled AS-Not Filled U- Not Filled U-Nick Guerrieri

Mar. 2, 9:00 S-John Burghard L-Ken Allen EM-John Burghard EM-Tom Lamoda C-Barb Arguello C-Nicole Scarpelli AS-Ryan Papesch AS-Dawson Davis U-Elaine Payne U-Hung Le

11:00 S-Elaine Payne L-Lisa Palazzo EM-Jim Livingston EM-Elaine Payne C-Chris Snyder C-Not Filled AS-Not Filled AS-Not Filled U-Dave Rodriguez U-Sue Dybowski

Wed, Mar. 5, 9:00 Rec S-Beth Paoloni L-Mark LaLonde EM-Beth Paoloni EM-Tom Lamoda C-Not Filled C-Not Filled AS-Not Filled AS-Not Filled U- Not Filled U-Not Filled

Mar. 5, 7:00 p.m. S-Elaine Payne L-Not Filled EM-Elaine Payne **EM-Not Filled** C-Kathleen McWeeny C-Not Filled AS-Not Filled AS-Not Filled U-Not Filled **U-Not Filled** 



Sat, Mar. 8,5:00 Rec | Mar. 9, 9:00 S-Chris Vacca L-Cindy Naprestek EM-Greg Dubecky EM-Tony Tinnirello C-Deacon John C-Ceil Morrison AS-Ashley McDowell AS-Duncan McDowell U- Not Filled U-Not Filled

S-Elaine Payne L-Barb Arguello EM-Mark LaLonde EM-Tom Lamoda C-Kristine Krejsa C-Elaine Payne AS-Not Filled A5-Not Filled U-Jim Gaffney U-Hung Le

11:00 S-Kathleen McWeeny L-Amy Shealy EM-Joe Kotarsky EM-Kathleen McWeenv C-Leslie Rozman C-Larry Rozman A5-Not Filled AS-Not Filled U-Dave Rodriguez U-Elaine Payne

## Pilgrimage to Italy

Fr. Bob is leading a pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi, San Giovanni Rotundo (the monastery of St. Padre Pio) and other religious sites during the Holy Year 2025. This ten-day pilgrimage will be from October 20-October 29, 2025 and will be a joyful time of encountering the Lord, perhaps traveling with old friends and making new friends. 206 Tours has prepared a wonderful and inspiring itinerary. For more details about this pilgrimage, go to: www.206tours.com/frfranco/ where you will find the itinerary, the sites described in detail, and how to book your spot.

Walking with Moms in need is a national Catholic organization. The primary goal is to assure that any woman who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant, or parenting in difficult circumstances, can turn to her local Catholic Church to find the help she needs. If you would like to learn more about this ministry, please call Ann Marie, 440-865-3506. If you would like to join our email Circle of Hope group, please email flannymom5@aol.com

## News & Events

## Our Ukrainian Welcome Circle and the Bryiovskyis continue to ask for your prayers!

We are continuing to monitor the Immigration actions being taken by the administration through the ongoing Zoom meetings with legal representatives of the United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and Welcome US. The Humanitarian Parole Program remains under fire with uncertain consequences for all paroles here under the program, including the Bryiovskyis.

The constant anxiety the Bryiovskyis feel about their current fragile (but legal) US immigration status adds to their everyday fears about their family members left in Ukraine.

They need our help. So, we ask that you continue to pray for them and their families.

If you contacted your representatives, we thank you. We encourage you to remain engaged by making your voice heard.

#### Cornerstone

Attend the Annual Spring Fundraiser on Friday, March 28, 6:00-9:00 p.m. at LaCentre Conference & Banquet Facility. The evening is free but a donation will be asked for. The special quest speaker will be David Bereit. David is an internationally sough-after keynote speaker, experienced leader, esteemed author, an inspiring communicator, former CEO of 40 Days for Life, and a strategic advisor to pro-life leaders and organizations around the world. Call 440-284-1010, ext. 370 for reservations or visit cornerstonepregnancy.org/events/fundraiser for more information.

## Regional Eucharistic Congress

St. Peter's has been designated by our diocese as one of the sites to host a Regional Eucharistic Congress. This event will be held on Saturday, March 22, 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., in the gym. This day will include multiple talks by national (via video) and local speakers, praise and worship, Eucharistic Adoration, confessions and much more. This event is free but registration is required at www.stpeternr.org/regional-eucharisticcongress. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

#### Pastoral Letter Discussions

The Diocese of Cleveland is hosting a 3-week study of Bishop Malesic's Pastoral Letter, A Flourishing Apostolic Church. Sessions for our area are being held at St. Peter's Parish Office on Thursdays, beginning March 20 at 7:00 p.m. To register for these free sessions, or to learn of the others throughout the Diocese, go to tobcle.org/ events.

## A Lenten Invitation...

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025, when we enter the 40 days of preparation for Easter. This is a season of repentance, and we are called to fast, to pray and to give alms. The activities, events, and prayer opportunities available at St. Julie Billiart (SJB) and St. Peter (SP) Catholic Churches, as indicated, are meant to be suggestions to assist in living out the Lenten

PRAYER
FASTING
ALMSGIVING

### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

Lent begins with us hearing the words, "Repent, and believe in the Gospel." Ashes will be distributed March 5th during Masses at:

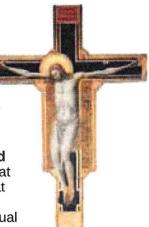
Season. May this Lent be one of spiritual conversion for each one of us.

SP: 8:15 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. SJB: 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting (only one meal) and abstinence (refrain from meat).

## FASTING & ABSTINENCE

During Lent, we remember the sacrifice of Christ on Good Friday and unite ourselves with that sacrifice through fasting, abstinence and prayer.

- We fast on the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, and the day Christ died for us, Good Friday. Fasting is for those age 18 to 59, unless you are pregnant or have an illness that could cause harm, e.g., diabetes. When we fast, only one full meal should be eaten that day. Two smaller meals could be eaten but they should not exceed one full meal.
- When we abstain from meat, we are voluntarily giving up something good, for our spiritual benefit. The practice of Abstinence is for everyone over the age of 14 on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all Fridays during Lent.



#### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Come and meditate on the final steps of Jesus as he journeyed to Calvary through the Stations of the Cross. We pray the **Stations every Friday in Lent at SJB: 12:00 p.m. and SP: 7:00 p.m.** 

#### CONFESSIONS

God responds with total forgiveness."

Pope Francis

Lent is a time of repentance, a time to give up sin and return to God, our loving Father. While recognizing and saying our sins to a priest may seem painful, it is a good pain that restores the soul. Confessions during Lent are:

- Every Wednesday immediately after the 8:15 a.m. Mass in the Church at St. Peter's
- "However grave our sin, Every Saturday from 2:30 p.m. 3:30 p.m. (SP) and 3:30 p.m. 4:30 p.m. (SJB)
  - Evening of Confession (Cleveland Diocese) March 19<sup>th</sup> 5:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.
     (Both SP & SJB parishes will have priests available.)
  - Communal Penance Service March 23rd 3:00 p.m. at St. Julie's
  - Additional times during Holy Week watch the bulletin for specific dates and times

## **ADORATION**

"Could you not watch one hour with me?" Jesus is waiting for us in the Blessed Sacrament. Spend some time with Him in adoration, with love, giving thanks and praise, repenting and listening. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is every Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. – 6:15 p.m. at St. Peter's and Wednesdays, 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. at St. Julie's.

#### LENTEN REFLECTIONS

- St. Julie's Little Black Books are available in the vestibule of the Church.
- St. Peter's Forty Days of Grace devotionals are available at the entrances of the Church.

## PRAYER | FASTING | ALMSGIVING

## BISHOP'S PASTORAL LETTER DISCUSSION

Join parishioners from around the diocese for a 3-week study of the Pastoral Letter, A Flourishing Apostolic Church, from Bishop Malesic. St. Peter's has been designated as the site for this area. Sessions begin on March 20th at 7:00 p.m.

#### PARISH MISSION

Reserve March 30, 31 and April 1 at 7:00 p.m. for our joint Parish Mission at St. Julie's. Frank Runyeon, Emmy-Nominated Catholic Actor, brings Scripture to Life with drama and humor. Bring your entire family.

## ALMSGIVING

During Lent, we remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross. We are called to make sacrifices too, being merciful and generous with others, especially the poor:

- Rice Bowls are available from both parishes (SP & SJB). Fill the box with your change and dollar bills and feed the hungry. You can also give via Faith Direct.
- Ash Wednesday's collections are for St. Elizabeth Center of Lorain (St. Peter's) and Community Care (St. Julie's).

### LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Walk step-by-step with Jesus from the garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. Dr. Edward Sri's, No Greater Love, is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. Join us for this 5-week study which begins March 10th, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Julie's.

## REGIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

Come to St. Peter's for an experience of the Eucharistic Congress. The day will include various speakers and witnesses, praise and worship, Adoration, reconciliation and more. This diocesan Regional Eucharistic Congress will be held on March 22nd at 9:00 a.m. at St. Peter's.

## **PRAYER**

"I will pray to you, Lord, you will hear my voice in the morning: I will stand before you in the morning and gaze

on vou."

Ps 5:4-5

## Rosary

- Pray the Rosary in person on weekdays at 9:00 a.m. at St. Peter's and on Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. at St. Julie's.
- Join St. Peter's parish staff members online to pray the Rosary every Saturday morning at 10:00 a.m.

#### **Divine Mercy Chaplet**

. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed every Friday at 3:00 p.m. and is live streamed on St. Peter's website and Facebook page.

#### **Liturgy of The Hours: Morning Prayer**

Spend a little time in prayer before starting your day. Join us in the Church at St. Peter's for the Liturgy of the Hours Morning Prayer at 7:35 a.m. It takes about 12 minutes. Booklets are provided.

#### **Pray for Life**

Pray for Life during the 40 Days for Life, March 5th thru April 13th

- On Mondays at Preterm in Cleveland (carpool from St Peter's parking lot at 11:10 a.m.) or in the Church at St. Peter's from Noon - 1:00 p.m.
- On Thursdays at Planned Parenthood in Bedford (carpool from St. Julie's parking lot at 11:15 a.m.) or in the Church at St. Julie's from Noon - 1:00 p.m.

~ Watch for another flyer for Holy Week.  $\cdot$ 

ST. PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH 440-327-2201 | www.stpeternr.org

ST. JULIE BILLIART CATHOLIC CHURCH 440-327-1978 | www.stjuliebilliart.org

35777 Center Ridge Road

North Ridgeville, Ohio 44039

5500 Lear Nagel Road

# 2025 REGIONAL **EUCHARISTIC** CONGRESS

COME AND EXPERIENCE A TASTE OF THE NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC **CONGRESS AS** WE GATHER FOR PERSONAL RENEWAL OUGH THE POWER OF CHRIST'S LOVE

Based on the



FREE event will include:

- Praise & Worship
  - Testimonies
  - Live talks and Recorded talks from the Congress
  - Prayer of Repentance
  - Adoration
  - Confessions

Guest Speaker:



Fr. Eric Garris, Director of Vocations for the Diocese of Cleveland

## MARCH 22 Saturday 9:00am - 3:00pm



St. Peter Catholic Church
Knowing Christ Loving Christ Serving Christ Together

GYM - 35777 Center Ridge Road, North Ridgeville



## **REGISTER** by March 17th

The event is FREE and includes both a continental breakfast and lunch so for planning purposes, registration is required by March 17th. Register on line at: www.stpeternr.org/regional-eucharistic-congress

OR Complete & Return this form to either parish office.

REGISTRANT'S NAME:	
TELEPHONE:	EMAIL:
NUMBER ATTENDING:	
NAMES OF THOSE ATTENDING:	
SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS:	

SCAN TO REGISTER





Discover other retreats at www.dioceseofcleveland.org/eucharist



## Uniquely You

From your first moments of existence, you had all the DNA that would determine your sex, facial features, physique, and the color of your skin, hair, and eyes. At 24 days, your heart began beating. By 8 weeks, all your organs were present, and your unique fingerprints were forming. Ultrasounds show that by 18 weeks, you could swim, somersault, suck your thumb, and even cover your ears if you heard loud music. If you'd been born just 23 weeks after conception, your chance of survival would be 50-80 percent; by 25 weeks, it's over 90 percent, and that's still *months* before full-term birth.<sup>1</sup>

Now, if someone takes an innocent person's life after he or she is born, it's against the law; just minutes before birth, it's legal in many states and called abortion.

## Abortion and the Law

The Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v.*Jackson Women's Health Organization ended the nearly fifty-year nationwide regime of abortion on demand that was ushered in by the Roe v.

Wade decision in 1973. This regime was based on the indefensible view that the U.S. Constitution forbids government from protecting the preborn child in the womb from the violence of abortion. The Supreme Court in *Dobbs* concluded that there is nothing in the Constitution's text, history, American legal tradition, or the Court's precedents that justified the extreme holding of Roe.

In *Dobbs*, the Supreme Court returned the issue of abortion to the people's elected representatives at the Federal and State levels. It will take time for the *Dobbs* decision to play out and there is great variation in how states treat abortion. In the

meantime, abortion is legal in more states than not, and more work is needed in the coming months and years.

## **Effects of Abortion**

Abortion results in the death of a child. For many mothers, abortion causes severe and long-lasting emotional, psychological, and spiritual trauma. Many women experience overwhelming guilt, shame, and grief. Other effects have also been documented: depression, withdrawal from others, eating disorders, self-punishing behaviors like "cutting," sexual dysfunction and problems with intimacy, alcohol and drug dependency, problems bonding with other or subsequent children, abortion-related nightmares, and other sleep problems.<sup>2</sup>

Family relationships may suffer as the aborted child's father, grandparents, or other family members experience their own guilt, grief, or loss. Even if the mother keeps her abortion secret, family members can be distressed by changes in the mother's behavior and mental or emotional health.<sup>3</sup>

## What the Church Teaches

The Church has consistently taught that every human life is precious and worthy of protection. Every intentional abortion is gravely wrong.<sup>4</sup> In April 2018, Pope Francis wrote: "Our defence of the innocent unborn … needs to be clear, firm and passionate, for at stake is the dignity of a human life, which is always sacred and demands love for each person, regardless of his or her stage of development."<sup>5</sup>

The Church does not approach difficult pregnancy decisions with a false "either/or" mentality, pitting mother against child. For example, a baby

conceived in rape is not an aggressor deserving death by abortion. She is innocent, like her mother. They both deserve compassionate care and support, not more violence. Abortion doesn't bring healing or peace, but both can be found in the courageous decision to give birth to the baby.

Today, many babies diagnosed prenatally with a disability are aborted. Frightened parents, unsure of their ability to care for such a child, can trust that God gave *them* this child for a reason. Parents raising children with disabilities often write about the unexpected joys and transformative effect on their families.<sup>6</sup>

Even when the disabilities are so severe that the baby is likely to die before or soon after birth, "many parents who carried their children to term say that protecting their baby and honoring his or her natural life, no matter how brief, was profoundly healing."

Very rarely, continuing a pregnancy may put a mother's life at risk—for example, because of a tubal pregnancy or aggressive uterine cancer. It is morally licit to remove the threat to the mother's life by removing the cancerous uterus or the fallopian tube where the child implanted, even though it is foreseeable that the child will die as an indirect and unintended result of such surgery.

But abortion—a direct and intentional taking of a child's life—is never morally permissible.

## What Are We to Do?

Love them both! Support women who need help during *and after* difficult pregnancies through the work of your diocesan Respect Life office and local pregnancy care centers.

Educate yourself and others about struggles some experience after abortion, and find out where to refer those seeking help at <a href="https://www.hopeafterabortion.org">www.hopeafterabortion.org</a>. If you feel called to support your local ministry, contact your diocesan Project Rachel Ministry office for ways you might help.

Stay informed about key federal legislation and the voting records of your elected representatives by visiting <a href="https://www.humanlifeaction.org">www.humanlifeaction.org</a> and <a href="https://www.usccb.org/prolife">www.usccb.org/prolife</a>. Stay updated on state issues by signing up to receive information from your state Catholic conference or diocesan pro-life office.

Most importantly, pray daily for the end to abortion, that all mothers and children experience the loving support of the Church community, and that all who suffer after abortion find healing and peace.

Catechism of the Catholic Church, second edition © 2000 LEV-USCCB. Used with permission. Excerpt from Gaudete et Exsultate © 2018, Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Photo: g-stockstudio/iStock/Thinkstock. Model used for illustrative purposes only. Photo used with permission. All rights reserved. Copyright © 2022, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.

<sup>7</sup> United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, "Supporting Families Who Receive a Prenatal Diagnosis," (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2015).



UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities | usccb.org/prolife













<sup>1&</sup>quot;Fetal Development," Perinatology.Com; <a href="http://perinatology.com/Reference/Fetal%20development.htm">http://perinatology.com/Reference/Fetal%20development.htm</a>; J.L. Hopson, "Fetal Psychology," Psychology Today, Sept. 9, 1998 (last reviewed June 9, 2016); <a href="https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/articles/199809/fetal-psychology.">https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/articles/199809/fetal-psychology.</a>

2 D.P. Sullins, "Abortion, substance abuse and mental health in early adulthood: Thirteen-year longitudinal evidence from the United States," SAGE Open Med., Sept. 23, 2016; <a href="https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2050312116665997">https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2050312116665997</a>; P.K. Coleman et al., "Women Who Suffered Emotionally from Abortion: A Qualitative Synthesis of Their Experiences" Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons 22:4 (2017) 113-118; <a href="https://www.jpands.org/vol22no4/coleman.pdf">https://www.jpands.org/vol22no4/coleman.pdf</a>; G. Pike, "Abortion and Women's Health," Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, 2017; <a href="https://www.spuc.org.uk/abortion/~/media/C69E4B25A78D433F94780BD29240CA21.ashx">https://www.spuc.org.uk/abortion/~/media/C69E4B25A78D433F94780BD29240CA21.ashx</a>.

<sup>3</sup> P.K. Coleman et al., "Women Who Suffered Emotionally from Abortion: A Qualitative Synthesis of Their Experiences" *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons* 22:4 (2017) 113-118; <a href="http://www.jpands.org/vol22no4/coleman.pdf">http://www.jpands.org/vol22no4/coleman.pdf</a>; P.K. Coleman et al., "Induced Abortion and Intimate Relationship Quality in the Chicago Health and Social Life Survey," Public Health 123:4 (2009) 331-8; <a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19324381">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19324381</a>.

<sup>4</sup> Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2271.

<sup>5</sup> Pope Francis, Gaudete et Exsultate, (Libreria Editrice Vaticana), 101.

<sup>6</sup> See also: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, "A Perfect Gift" (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2018).

## DIANA RIVERA

Making Your Home Dreams Happen... **Since 1989** 



Direct: 440-327-5400 riveradb23@gmail.com







\* Commercial □ Licensed Training

Professional, Quality Electrical Work

34400 LORAIN RD · NORTH RIDGEVILLE

Proud to Support St. Julie Billiart Parish





AND CREMATION SERVICES LIFE CELEBRATION CENTER

Call For A Free Pre-Planning Guide 440-327-2955

36625 Center Ridge Rd North Ridgeville, OH www.bognerfamilyfuneralhome.com



We Have Moved!

34282 Center Ridge Road

Call for an appointment -440-327-7950

www.mccormackdentalgroup.com



## RON'S **NORTHVIEW** BARBER SHOP

34960 Center Ridge Rd. North Ridgeville, OH (440) 327-8264

> 8:30-5:30 Tues., Wed., Thur. & Fri. 8:00-2:00 Sat.



## Veronica Meikle

Let Me Take You To Your Next Home

## **ADT-Monitored Home Security**

Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Flood Detection
- Fire Safety Carbon Monoxide

ADT Authorized Provider

SafeStreets

833-287-3502



Serving the parishioners of St. Julie Billiart since 1974!

24601 Lorain Rd., North Olmsted 440.734.7060

carpetstorenortholmsted.com



TREES REMOVED

TREE TRIMMING

STUMP GRINDING 353-0083





440-522-5677 AVON HUWAKU NANNA OF THE 2100 Center Rd, Avon, OH 44011 **AVON HOWARD HANNA OFFICE** 





## LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Place Your Ad Here and Support Our Parish!

**CONTACT ME Vic Preisel** 

vpreisel@4LPi.com • (800) 477-4574 x6317

Basch's Fine Jewelry & Timepieces

The only Certified Watchmaker, In the Western Cuyahoga area.

Norm Basch - Owner 440.777.TIME (8463) 30596 Lorain Rd.



440-413-2215 contact@punctualpullers.com We service Northead One

Cuyahoga County Lotan, County Erie County Medina County Erie County

Office Cleanouts

WE SERVICE ALL MAKES & MODELS LICENSED . BONDED . INSURED 6295 Lear Nagle Rd • North Ridgeville

**COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL** 

440-327-5021

Service



440-331-1127



Specializing in Foreign and Domestic Diagnostics & Repair

35285 Center Ridge Rd., North Ridgeville Jake & Chuck Jacobs ~ Family Owned