

FR. JOHN'S DIGITAL QUILL FOR SPIRITUAL MUSINGS AND PARISH NEWS

The Catholic Church has always proclaimed that every human being, born and unborn, is endowed by our Creator with the right to be protected and cherished. Therefore, just as before today's Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe versus Wade, the Church will continue serving those who are most vulnerable and bearing witness to the dignity of every human, regardless of religion, race, age or any other factor.

Here in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, we will continue providing resources for women facing unexpected and difficult pregnancies, cherishing and protecting women and their children, so that they may both develop their full potential in this world and be happy with God forever in the next.

I urge all the faithful in our Archdiocese of St. Louis, now more than ever, to demonstrate compassion and provide support to those in need, with a special deference to mothers and children in need."

- Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski, Archbishop of St. Louis

On Friday, June 24, the Supreme Court of the United States released the long-awaited decision on the Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Case. This decision overturned the Roe vs. Wade and Planned Parenthood vs. Casey decisions and returned the issue of abortion to the voters and their elected representatives for the first time in 49 years.

As has been pointed out by others, we can see the hand of Divine Providence in this decision, as it was released on the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Jesus' Heart was pierced so that we might live through the graces flowing from His Pierced Heart. This year from Jesus' Heart flowed this unique grace that those most innocent now have the chance to live.

Let us take a moment to contemplate our prayerful response to this grace from Jesus.

We should first remember the over 63 million children who have been victims of abortion since the Roe vs. Wade decision legalized abortion throughout the United States. We pray that the Lord, in His merciful love, will receive each of them into His rest.

Each of these unborn children has parents, many of whom are haunted by their choice to have an abortion. We pray, too, for these hurting hearts that the healing only Jesus' heart can bring may be theirs.

Our prayer should also be one of thanksgiving to God that the lives of unborn children in our country can now be protected from the moment of conception. Many states, including our own, have or are working on laws to further the protection of human life. For these new protections, we thank the Lord and also ask that the Lord continue to provide for the growth of the Culture of Life in our nation.

We should also include in our prayer the state of our nation. As Americans, we value the right to peacefully express our views on all sorts of issues. But, when an issue like abortion so polarizes our nation that people move toward violence and places of worship become targets for potential protests and violence just because of what they teach, we are taking this right to an unhealthy extreme. As a nation, we need to be reminded of those values that bind our nation together. May the Lord help us at this moment of national stress to remember all that draws us together as a country, so that our civil discourse remains just that: civil.

Our prayer should also be for women, men, and families who are now frightened due to a crisis pregnancy. Perhaps they were planning on having an abortion. Now, with this change in our nation's laws they are not certain of what to do or where to turn. May God bless them with the direction toward resources that will help them to choose life and the needed material, spiritual, and emotional support to make this choice.

Finally, we should ask the Lord to strengthen us as we continue to labor for the cause of life. This decision by the Supreme Court should only redouble our efforts when our Pro-Life Committee sponsors various drives for Pro-Life throughout the year. Now, we need to be even more generous in our donations of time, talent, and treasure to help this worthy and even more needed cause. Our generosity and our openness to support human life as it enters our world will do much to further the Culture of Life in our nation.

Welcome!

We welcome to our parish Ben Wolf, a Seminarian of the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Ben recently completed the Pre-Theology Program at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary and will be entering Theology I in the Fall. This means he is about five years away from ordination, God willing. Due to other commitments, Ben will mostly be at weekday Masses and around the parish in the evening hours for the next month. Welcome, Ben!



July 4th Mass/Office Hours

Monday is the Fourth of July: a national holiday. Our summer camp, school office, and parish office will all be closed on this day in observance of the holiday. We will reopen on Tuesday, July 5.

Mass for the Fourth of July will be at 7:00am. The church will be open for private prayer after Mass until 11:30am.

May the Lord bless you and your families during this celebration of the Fourth of July!

I will see you online or in church! - Fr. John #SRAstrong