offer every person changing encounter with Je

2nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."

POPE FRANCIS

JOSEPH: CARPENTER



The evangelists Matthew and Mark refer to Joseph as a "carpenter" or "joiner." We heard earlier that the people of Nazareth, hearing Jesus speak, asked themselves: "Is not this son?" carpenter's (13:55; cf. Mk 6:3). Jesus practiced his father's

The Greek term *tekton*, used to specify Joseph's work, has been translated in various ways. The Latin Fathers of the Church rendered it as "carpenter." ...

"Carpenter" or "joiner" was a generic qualification, indicating both woodworkers and craftsmen engaged in activities related to construction. It was quite a hard job, having to work with heavy materials such as wood, stone, and iron. From an economic point of view, it did not ensure great earnings, as can be deduced from the fact that Mary and Joseph, when they presented Jesus in the Temple, offered only [what] the Law prescribed for the poor (cf. Lv 12:8).

Thus, the young Jesus learnt this trade from his father. Therefore, when as an adult he began to preach, his astonished neighbors asked: "But where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works?" (Mt 13:54), and were scandalized by him (cf. v. 57), because he was the son of the carpenter, but he spoke like a doctor of the law, and they were scandalized by this.

This biographical fact about Joseph and Jesus makes me think of all the workers in the world, especially those who do grueling work in mines and certain factories; those who are exploited through undocumented work; the victims of labor: we have seen a lot of this in Italy recently; the children who are forced to work and those who rummage among the trash in search of something useful to trade...

[Let us think] of the victims of work, who suffer from work accidents. Of the children who are forced to work: this is terrible! A child at the age of play, who should be playing, forced to work like an adult! Children forced to work. And of those poor people! — who rummage in the dumps to look for something useful to trade: they go to the dumps... All these are our brothers and sisters, who earn their living this way: they don't give them dignity! Let us think about this. And this is happening today, in the world, this is happening today.

But I think too of those who are out of work. How many people go knocking on the doors of factories, of businesses [asking] "Is there anything to do?" - "No, there's nothing,

there's nothing. [I think] of those who feel their dignity wounded because they cannot find this work. They return home: "And? Have you found something?" — "No, nothing...

Many young people, many fathers and mothers experience the ordeal of not having a job that allows them to live tranquilly. They live day to day. And how often the search for work becomes so desperate that it drives them to the point of losing all hope and the desire to live. In these times of pandemic, many people have lost their jobs — we know this and some, crushed by an unbearable burden, reached the point of taking their own lives. I would like to remember each of them and their families today. Let us take a moment of silence, remembering these men, these women, who are desperate because they cannot find work.

Not enough consideration is given to the fact that work is an essential component of human life, and even of the path of sanctification. Work is not only a means of earning a living: it is also a place where we express ourselves, feel useful, and learn the great lesson of concreteness, which helps keep the spiritual life from becoming spiritualism. Unfortunately, how-

ever, labor is often a hostage to social injustice and, rather than being a means of humanization, it becomes an existenperiphery. I With what spirit do we do our daily work? How do we deal with fatigue? Do we see our activity as linked only to our own destiny or also to the destiny of others? In fact, work is a way of expressing our personality, which is relational by its nature. ...

It is good to think about the fact that Jesus himself

O Saint Joseph, Patron of the Church! You, who side by side with the Word made flesh, worked each day to earn your bread, drawing from Him the often ask myself: strength to live and to toil; you who experienced the anxiety for the morrow, the bitterness of poverty, the uncertainty of work: you who today give the shining example, humble in the eyes of men but most exalted in the sight of God: protect workers in their hard daily lives, defending them from discouragement, from negative revolt, and from pleasure loving temptations; and keep peace in the world, that peace which alone can ensure the development of peoples. Amen. —Paul VI

worked and had learned this craft from St Joseph. Today, we should ask ourselves what we can do to recover the value of work; and what contribution we can make, as the Church, so that work can be redeemed from the logic of mere profit and can be experienced as a fundamental right and duty of the person, which expresses and increases his or her dignity. -**Francis**

FROM CHARLES CHAPUT

THERE IS NO EQUIVALENCE



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Here's a simple exercise in basic reasoning. On a spectrum of bad things to do, theft is bad, assault is worse and murder is worst. There's a similar texture of ill will connecting all three crimes, but only a very confused conscience would equate thieving and homicide. Both are serious matters. But there is no equivalence.

The deliberate killing of innocent life is a uniquely wicked act. No amount of contextualizing or deflecting our attention to other issues can obscure that.

January 22nd is the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. We are called to observe this day (Anniversary of Roe v. Wade) through the penitential practices of prayer, fasting and/or giving alms.

A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. Through special initiatives and in daily prayer, may an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and lover of life, from every Christian community, from every group and association, from every family and from the heart of every believer.

—Pope Saint John Paul II Evangelium Vitae

This is precisely why Cardinal John O'Connor, Bishop James McHugh and others pressed so hard for the passage of the U.S. bishops' 1998 pastoral letter, Living the Gospel of Life. As Cardinal Joseph Bernardin once wisely noted, Catholic social teaching is a seamless garment of respect for human life, from conception to natural death. It makes no sense to champion the cause of unborn children if we ignore their basic needs once they're born.

Thus it's no surprise that — year in and

year out — nearly all Catholic dioceses in the United States, including Philadelphia, devote far more time, personnel and material resources to providing social services to the poor and education to young people than to opposing abortion.

But of course, children need to survive the womb before they can have needs like food, shelter, immigration counseling and good health care. Humanity's priority right — the one that un-

Go to Last Page

CELEBRATING OUR FAITH

SACRAMENTS SCHEDULE

Mass Schedule

Incense is used at 9:30am Sunday Mass. Ministers have Glutenfree Hosts. 7:30 am Sunday Mass is Broadcast on Facebook at Epiphanyparish.com, with drive up Communion till 8:30am (Canopy). *Masks Required at 2 Masses.

Sunday, January 16, 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am* Mary Ellen Novak 9:30am Paul Legris Family 11:30am* People of the Parish

Monday, Jan. 17, Saint Anthony, Abbot

7:00am Steve Schultz

Lector: Kara Esker EME: Deb Willenborg

Tuesday, Jan. 18, Weekday

7:00am Charles Penn

8:15am Charles William Lindstrom Lector: Kris Angles EME: Dorothy Meier

Wednesday, Jan. 19, Weekday

7:00am Diane Bussan 8:15am Adam Denman

Lector: Chris Niebur EMEs: Lynda Arnold, Ed & Newze Nnakwe

Thursday, Jan. 20, Weekday

7:00am Pat Schroeder 8:15am James Patrick Kraft Lector: Jennifer Kamradt EME: Darly Menke

Friday, Jan. 21, Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

7:00am Al and Marge Lopinot

Lector: Mathew and Katrina Kinate EME: Aggie Hatch

Saturday, Jan. 22, Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

7:30am All Souls' Day Memorial Society

4:00pm Patricia Schroeder

Lector: Steve G. EME: Barb Burdett, Mary C. & Keith Walljasper

Sunday, January 23, 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30am* Raymond and Margaret Miles

9:30am Thomas Eaton 11:30am* People of the Parish

Confession Times

7:30am **M-F** 7am,3pm **SAT** 7am,9am,11am **SUN**

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2021 **CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT**

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PARISH UPDATES

Epiphany Youth Ministry

High School Youth Group is OFF this Sunday January 16th - take advantage of the long weekend by spending some extra time in prayer or spending quality time with your loved ones! Next Sunday, January 23rd is our MOVIE NIGHT, 6-8:30pm in The Crib (previously called the convent/pre-K/art room)! We're watching the movie "Unplanned" to remember the anniversary of Roe V. Wade and to pray for unborn children and their parents. This movie is rated R, so parental permission is required! (Not getting our emails? Sign up by emailing kara.esker@epiphanyparish.com)

Catholic Heart Work Camp is a weeklong summer mission trip for teens - you'll work tirelessly, think deeply, celebrate Mass, and build relationships. You'll dance, laugh till your side hurts, pray, change on the inside, and be part of transforming lives and communities for Christ! 8th graders and up are invited to join us in Memphis TN from June 12th-18th for Catholic Heart Work Camp. Contact Kara for the registration link (kara.esker@epiphanyparish.com)!

Junior High Youth Group is open to all 6-8th graders and meets once a month. Our next Junior High Youth Group is Friday, January 21st from 7-8:30pm. Come to the parish hall to hang out, have fun, and grow in faith together!

School Custodian Needed!

Epiphany Catholic School is looking for a part time custodian to work during the school day. Responsibilities include cleaning, facility set-up, compliance checks, and maintenance of school buildings. Experience to include knowledge of maintenance/cleaning equipment as well as familiarity with basic landscaping and minor building repair practices, additional duties as directed. Applicants must complete all diocesan requirements. If interested in applying, please contact jennifer.kamradt@epiphanyschools.org.

Qualified Charitable Distribution from an IRA

Individuals age 70½ and older can make distributions up to \$100,000 a year to non-profit (501c3) organizations, such as your parish and Catholic school directly through their IRA at any time. Contact the custodian of your IRA for a list of the necessary steps.

History of Black Catholics

The history of Black Catholics in the United States is replete with stories of devotion, perseverance, and unfortunately, also exclusion. During Black History Month, consider joining a group of 8-10 parishioners to discuss Father Cyprian Davis, O.S.B.'s book "The History of Black Catholics in the United States." The group will meet on the four Thursdays in February at 7:00 PM in the Cenacle Room. There is no fee and the book will be provided free of charge. To participate, email Joe Blaney ASAP: jrblane@ilstu.edu.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Funeral Committee Volunteers Needed

We want to resume funeral luncheons after January 1st, but we need YOU! Serving on the Funeral Committee is a concrete way to provide comfort to grieving families when a loved one is lost. There are a variety of ways you can help: donate desserts, set up the parish hall, help during lunch, or clean up. Committee members are not committed to help with every funeral lunch. To join the Funeral Committee, contact Suzanne Ferrara at sferra@ilstu.edu or join the Funeral Committee on Flocknote.

Faith in Action News

Faith in Action is Charleston Bound this spring from April 3-9th! For all the details of this **bus trip**, visit https://bnfia.org/charleston-sc-bus-trip or call Jan at 309.827.7780. Book by Jan. 27, 2022! In addition, are you ready to brighten an older

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Office

(309)452-2585 Epiphanyparish.com

School Office

(309)452-3268 Epiphanyschools.org

Fr. Eric Powell (Pastor) pastor@epiphanyparish.com 309-660-7860

Deacon Mark Cleary (Baptisms) mcleary08@comcas t.net 309-531-1062

Fr. Peter O. Okola, AJ (Vicar) Fr.Peter@epiphanyparish.com 703-626-8819

Kara Esker (Youth, CCD, Pastoral Team)) pastoralassistant@epiphanyparish.com

Stephanie Demboski

Adult Faith Formation & Evangelization Coordinator stephanie.demboski@epiphanyparish.com

Domine King, Joyce Tellman (Office Staff) office@epiphanyparish.com; Angie O'Connor business.manager@epiphanyparish.com

Mike Essington (IT) it.director@epiphanyparish.com

Spiritual Directors:

Sylvia Hernandez sylviahernandez50@gmail.com Deacon Mark Cleary mcleary08@comcast.net

Parish Outreach

If you find yourself in serious economic need, Epiphany Parish and St. Vincent de Paul want to help. Email Orlando Lopez our Outreach coordinator: outreach@epiphanyparish.com.

SHARING THE MISSION THANK YOU!

Gifts from Our Parish Family January 9, 2022 \$8,479 E-giving \$12,914 Special \$1,465 Parish Endowment \$394 School Endowment \$132 Capital Improvement \$939 Weekly Budget \$24,500 YTD Budget (28 weeks) \$686,000 YTD Income \$669,070 YTD Balance (\$16,930)

adult's day? With Faith in Action, **volunteer drivers**, shoppers and friendly visitors choose when and how often they volunteer. To register for Volunteer Orientation, email Stacey@bnfia.org or call (309) 827 -7780. Upcoming dates: Jan. 4, 2022 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM, Feb. 1, 2022 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

Writing Opportunity

Are you looking to exercise your creative writing skills? Want to be published on a monthly basis? Epiphany Church is looking for a volunteer to create a monthly newsletter for the parish. This newsletter would include a calendar of all events and help spotlight what opportunities are available as well as what various ministries are doing at the parish. Information to be published will be provided to you, but we need help creating an engaging, visually appealing manner of delivering this information to people's inboxes.

Continued from Chaput, page 3

dergirds all other rights — is the right to life. As the Amer-

ican bishops wrote in 1998:

"Opposition to abortion and euthanasia does not excuse indifference to those who suffer from poverty, violence and injustice. Any politics of human life must work to resist the violence of war and the scandal of capital punishment. Any politics of human dignity must seriously address issues of racism, poverty, hunger, employment, education, housing, and health care ... But being 'right' in such matters can never excuse a wrong choice regarding direct attacks on innocent human life. Indeed, the failure to protect and defend life in its most vulnerable stages renders suspect any claims to the 'rightness' of positions in other matters affecting the poorest and least powerful of the human community. If we understand the human person as the 'temple of the Holy Spirit' — the living house of God then these latter issues fall logically into place as the crossbeams and walls of that house. All direct attacks on innocent human life, such as abortion and euthanasia, strike at the house's foundation. These directly and immediately violate the human person's most fundamental right — the right to life. Neglect of these issues is the equivalent of building our house on sand. Such attacks cannot help but lull the social conscience in ways ultimately destructive of other human rights" (22).

A case is sometimes made that abortion is mainly a cultural and moral issue, and politics is a poor solution to the problem. The curious thing is that some of the same voices that argue against political action on the abortion issue seem quite comfortable urging vigorous political engagement on issues like health care, homelessness and the environment.

In practice, politics is the application of moral conviction to public discourse and the process of lawmaking. Law not only constrains and defends; it also teaches and forms. Law not only reflects culture; it shapes and reshapes it. That's why Christians can't avoid political engagement. Politics is never the main con-

tent of Christian faith. It can never provide perfect solutions. But no Christian can avoid the duty to work for more justice and charity in our life as a nation, a task that inescapably involves politics.

Thus the recent Senate vote to defund Planned Parenthood was not only right and timely, but necessary. And the failure of that measure involves a public failure of character by every Catholic senator who voted against it.

Memory is important: Two years ago Kermit Gosnell was stripped of his medical license and convicted of murdering three infants born alive from abortion procedures. He operated a Philadelphia abortion center that more closely resembled a butcher shop than a medical clinic.

His clinic environment was uglier than the pleasant restaurants and offices captured on recent Center for Medical Progress (CMP) undercover videos. Those videos show a face of Planned Parenthood — senior staffers chatting blithely about the dismemberment and sale of fetal body parts — that can only be called repugnant. But it's not surprising: If aborted children are simply lumps of potentially useful (and profitable) tissue, what's the problem?

Again, memory is important: Thirty years ago "pro-choice" groups tried a strategy of using the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) Act to shut down certain forms of pro-life witness. The strategy ultimately failed but — maybe it's God's sense of irony — the word "racket" very quickly comes to mind in watching Planned Parenthood staff on the CMP videos.

I'll close with a word of thanks to Ruben Navarette, Jr. Navarette is a veteran "pro-choice" voice, but his August 10 column at the Daily Beast is worth reading and sharing for its honest revulsion at the whole, ugly, system-wide barbarism of Planned Parenthood's fetal trafficking. And his column's best lines come in quoting his pro-life wife:

"Those are babies that are being killed. Millions of them. And you need to use your voice to protect them. That's what a man does. He protects children — his own children, and other children. That's what it means to be a man." Amen.

God, author of all life, bless, we pray, this unborn child; give constant protection and grant a healthy birth that is the sign of our rebirth one day into the eternal rejoicing of heaven. Lord, who have brought to this woman the wondrous joy of motherhood, grant her comfort in all anxiety and make her determined to lead her child along the ways of salvation. Lord, you have put into the hearts of all men and women of good will a great awe and wonder at the gift of new life; fill this (parish) community with faithfulness to the teachings of the Gospel and new resolve to share in the spiritual formation of this child in Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.



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