

Welcome to The Church of St. Dominic



Parish Office: 507-645-8816 216 Spring St. N.
Sunday Masses: 5:00 PM, 9:00 AM, and 2:00 PM (Misa)
Confessions: 5:00-5:25 PM Tues, 3:30-4:30 PM Sat
Parish Email: secretary@churchofstdominic.org

www.churchofstdominic.org

January 3, 2021

Ethical Questions About Covid Vaccines

**Although dated, this article addresses Covid ethics related questions.
From the Catholic Spirit Newspaper December 10, 2020**

In the wake of announcements from multiple pharmaceutical companies about safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, many are expressing ethical doubts about whether it is OK to take these vaccines. Do Catholics have a moral duty to decline an inoculation if it was unethically produced using a cell line that came from an abortion?

The short answer is “no.” This has been discussed and explained in several magisterial church documents in recent years.

In 2008, for example, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith reminded us in the Instruction *Dignitas Personae* that: “Grave reasons may be morally proportionate to justify the use of such ‘biological material.’ Thus, for example, danger to the health of children could permit parents to use a vaccine which was developed using cell lines of illicit origin, while keeping in mind that everyone has the duty to make known their disagreement and to ask that their healthcare system make other types of vaccines available.” For a serious reason, therefore, Catholics may receive a COVID-19 vaccine having an association with abortion, and a serious reason could include a threat to one’s health and well being. Those who are elderly or who face co-morbidities like diabetes, obesity or other significant health conditions are among the highest risk groups for adverse outcomes from infection, and would clearly have a serious reason...

Vaccines from Moderna and Pfizer are likely to be among the first to receive emergency approval in the U.S., and do not rely on cell lines from abortions in the manufacturing process. As such, they appear to be good candidates for Catholics to use. There is a problem that a cell line from a 1972 abortion was used to carry out some ancillary testing of those vaccines, but the fact that zero material derived from any cell line from an abortion is present in these vaccines, that is to say, inside the syringe which actually jabs the patient, is sufficient in the minds of most to assuage any concern over using them, even if problematic laboratory testing may have taken place along the way. If we end up facing a choice among multiple COVID-19 vaccines of similar or equal safety and efficacy, as appears likely, it will clearly be preferable to choose alternatives with a better ethical profile, i.e. those not associated with, or less associated with, material derived from abortions.

Suppose, however, that two new vaccines both appeared to be safe during clinical trials. The first vaccine had no association with abortion, but was only 35% effective at protecting from COVID-19, while the second was more than 90% effective, but was manufactured using a cell line derived from an abortion. In such a case, again, we could choose the significantly more effective version for the serious reason of danger to our health.

Relying on cell lines from abortions to manufacture a COVID-19 vaccine provokes strong moral objections and some can and will refuse the vaccines on these grounds. While it is a personal decision of conscience as to whether or not to accept a vaccine, it is important to be clear that the Church, for her part, does not require us to decline it on such grounds in the face of serious reasons, as in the situation of an elderly person or someone with multiple health issues who faces significant risks if they were to contract COVID-19. This fact, of course, in no way absolves or diminishes the serious wrongdoing of those who used cell lines from abortions to make vaccines in the first place.

Any time we decide to receive an unethically produced vaccine, moreover, we should push back. We need to do our part in applying pressure on the manufacturer, perhaps by sending an e-mail indicating our objection to the fact that their vaccine was produced using ethically controversial cell sources, and requesting that they reformulate it using alternative, non-abortion-related cell sources. Alternatively, we might write a letter to the editor of our local paper pointing out the injustice of being morally coerced to rely on these cell sources, or take other steps to educate and inform others. Such efforts help expand public awareness of the problem and apply real pressure for change. Such efforts can be more effective (and require more authentic determination on our part) than merely “digging in our heels” or “taking a stand” and refusing to get vaccinated, which has the negative effect of subjecting us, and others around us, to heightened risk from various diseases.

While it is too early to know which COVID-19 vaccines will end up becoming available in the U.S., the pandemic is certain to elevate the profile of abortion-related ethical concerns among the public to a degree not previously seen, offering a unique opportunity to push for the elimination of these cell lines from future biomedical research and pharmaceutical development projects.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See <http://www.ncbcenter.org> and fathertad.com.

UPCOMING Events

Looking for Inspiration for 2021?

Please mark your calendar for Wednesday, January 13 at 6pm for St. Dominic online presentation with dynamic speaker Joe Roueche. Joe has worked with NET Ministries and parish ministry for many years. He'll speak on drawing strength from God in ordinary living. His "down home wisdom" inspires! Please go to this link to attend: meet.google.com/sji-xkqh-gzz



Faith Formation News

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Elementary and Middle School Students: We will return to Faith Formation online classes on January 20, 2021.

Confirmation Students: Please check your Confirmation calendar for Year 1 and Year 2 online meeting dates/times.

Fellowship for Young Catholic Women

Young women of our parish are invited to come together for a virtual Catholic book study via Zoom video calls. We will meet every other *Thursday evening starting on January 7th* at 8:00pm for roughly eight sessions. The book we are covering is "Walking With Purpose: Seven Priorities That Make Life Work" by Catholic author Lisa Brenninkmeyer. If you are interested in fellowship with other young Catholic women in our community, please email Laura at lmdevney@gmail.com to join the video calls or for more information. You are encouraged but not required to attend every session.

Coming this January!

(with St. Dominic Bible Study & Prayer Group)

If you've struggled to read the Bible, this podcast is for you. Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast, hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes starting January 1st, 2021.

Each 20-25 minute episode includes: two to three scripture readings, a reflection from Fr. Mike Schmitz, and guided prayer to help you hear God's voice in his Word. Unlike any other Bible podcast, Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast for Catholics follows a reading plan inspired by the Great Adventure Bible Timeline® learning system, a groundbreaking approach to understanding Salvation and History that is developed by renowned Catholic Bible teacher Jeff Cavins.

Tune in and live your daily life through the lens of God's word!

Source: <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration>

Video: <https://youtu.be/VLkfaapmddI>

Connect with St. Dominic Church parishioners on this study twice a month. Contact the office for sign up. All are welcome!

Marriage Encounter Weekend

A healthy marriage is so important to the family unit. These last months have been incredibly difficult on all of us and marriages have suffered! Please let us help you to find enrichment, joy, and hope in your relationship! Register for the January 9-10 Marriage Encounter. Weekends are held at Mt Olivet Conference and Retreat Center in Farmington. Visit www.marriages.org for additional information or call 651.454.3238.

Message of Thanks

The Thanksgiving event with St. Dominic's Church has had a resilience of hope that has burned strong and bright even when all other lights go out.

Through prayer and reflection, I've focused on the imagery of the night. 260+ cars lined up from Greenvale to Emmaus or St. Olaf. The church coming together to stand in solidarity with our community through CAC as a response of abundance in the face of such need is the real source of light, of hope, and joy. It's accepting the challenges and the solutions in one image. Yes, a line of cars is a stark backdrop. So is Calvary. The hope and joy comes in the love pouring out as a response to such darkness. I find hope in the cross. And I find hope in the Church's and community's response to the 'line of cars'.

What a humbling experience to see such abundance and generosity in the face of a global pandemic. What an honor it is to walk alongside our community and St. Dominic's. We get to experience grace firsthand. This grace is an everlasting hope that has filled me with gratitude that shines all the brighter.

Thank you, St. Dominic parishioners, for your generosity during these challenging times. It shall not be forgotten.

Regards,

Scott Wopata

Executive Director

Community Action Center

Blood Drive Thanks!



A huge thank you to St. Dominic's for hosting the October blood drive with the St. Olaf students. We had 49 people sign up, 9 power red donors which is great, and we collected 37 units of blood. Thank you! ~Caroline Olstad, ARC

St. Dominic School Corner

Mr. Jed McGuire is our 3rd grade teacher. He received his B.S. degree from North Central University in Minneapolis in Youth Development Studies. He moved to IA for a few years



and worked with at-risk children and later as a treatment counselor at a long term care program for teenagers. He decided to move back to MN and shortly after completing a Graduate teaching license program in 2016, he began working at St. Dominic School as the Kindergarten teacher before moving to 3rd grade the following year. He says "every day is a new story. Seeing my students' growth both academically and socially is extremely rewarding.

The growth from the beginning of the year to the end of the year is tremendous, especially in 3rd Grade!"

During his free time, you will find Mr. McGuire spending time with his family, (wife Sheila, daughter Brynnlee, and a little one due in early 2021) enjoying the outdoors, playing sports, and coaching ninth grade baseball at Northfield High School. He absolutely loves fishing and hunting and sometimes gets told Cabelas is his second home. He is also the Youth/Young Adults Director at Canvas Church. He loves St. Dominic School and knows that it is a special place to be a student and child of God.

Epiphany

OF THE LORD

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you. See, darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds cover the peoples; but upon you the LORD shines, and over you appears his glory. Nations shall walk by your light, and kings by your shining radiance. Raise your eyes and look about; they all gather and come to you: your sons come from afar, and your daughters in the arms of their nurses.

Then you shall be radiant at what you see, your heart shall throb and overflow, for the riches of the sea shall be emptied out before you, the wealth of nations shall be brought to you. Caravans of camels shall fill you, dromedaries from Midian and Ephah; all from Sheba shall come bearing gold and frankincense, and proclaiming the praises of the LORD.

Psalm 72~ Lord, every nation on earth will adore you.

A Reading from the Book of Ephesians

Brothers and sisters: You have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for your benefit, namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation. It was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that the Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and copartners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, in the days of King Herod, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was greatly troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Assembling all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, He inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it has been written through the prophet: *And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; since from you shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.*" Then Herod called the magi secretly and ascertained from them the time of the star's appearance. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage." After their audience with the king they set out. And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed for their country by another way.

CHILDREN'S CORNER



GOSPEL

"Keep trying. You're doing great. I'm so proud of you." Every child should hear words like that. Every child wants to feel God's love. As Jesus grew from a boy to a man, he showed he was ready to live for God. At Jesus' baptism, God told Jesus, "You are my own dear Son, and I am pleased with you." God loves you as his child, too.

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,
I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there
and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.



NEXT WEEK IS THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

This is what John the Baptist proclaimed: "One mightier than I is coming after me. I am not worthy to stoop and loosen the thongs of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Sunday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7/Ps 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10 [11b]/Acts 10:34-38/Mk 1:7-11 or Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 [3])/1 Jn 5:1-9/Mk 1:7-11

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1998, 1970



Prayer Requests

Please pray for Fritz Sticha.

The Prayer List has been reset for the new year. If you would like to add someone to the list, call the Parish Office at 645-8816.

Ministers Needed

We want to thank all of our Mass helpers! From those who clean the linens, decorate the church, seat parishioners at Mass, clean, serve as Eucharistic Ministers, coordinate the Mass, film the Mass, and read the Good News! If you are comfortable returning to Mass, consider helping these ministers. Please call the Parish office to sign up.

Masses

Bulletins are printed Wednesday morning, so scheduled events may be out of date.

Masses will be archived here:

<https://vimeo.com/channels/stdominic>

It is free to view Vimeo videos.

Outdoor Masses / Carside Communion at St. Dominic

Do you wish to attend mass in your car or outside? Check the Archdiocesan Page (<https://www.archspm.org/locations/>) for a list of outdoor masses in the area, including the Annunciation Mass at 10 AM every Sunday.

Communion will be offered to people in cars after mass on the first Tuesday of each month at St. Dominic by Fr. Tim.

Sign Up for Updates Today!

Our parish uses Flocknote—a communication tool that can keep everyone informed. Receive parish updates and faith-filled videos right to your email or smartphone! Public groups include weekly scripture preview, Parish updates, and weekly Word on Fire content from Bishop Barron.

No need to wait—*add yourself today* and start receiving news. If you already were on any mailing lists but seem to be missing an update, check your “spam” folder. All mail comes from mail@flocknote.com.

Text Dominic1 to **84576** to sign up for Flocknote (*En Español*: 202-765-3441) or look for the sign-up link on our website. You will provide your contact info and then be able to join any of the public groups.

Everyone is encouraged to take advantage of Flocknote: it allows you to see who has read the message, it is VIRTUS compliant, and members can update their contact information as needed. Come by the Parish Office for help setting up a Flocknote group for your ministry!

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Sat. Jan 2	5:00 PM	† Al Winkels
Sun. Jan 3	9:00 AM	† Geraldine Reuvers
	2:00 PM	For the Parish (Misa)
Mon. Jan 4	5:30 PM	† Marie Guth
Tues. Jan 5	5:30 PM	† Rev. Robert Kapoun(Misa)
Wed. Jan 6	8:20 AM	† Timothy Burns
Thurs. Jan 7	5:30 PM	† Jim and Jo Ebentier
Fri. Jan 8	7:00 AM	† Ginny Graff
Sat. Jan 9	5:00 PM	† Deceased Dudley/Gale Family
Sun. Jan 10	9:00 AM	† Thomas Feltes
	2:00 PM	For the Parish (Misa)

There is only one Sunday mass regularly scheduled and no Care Center Masses. Mass intentions will be adjusted to the closest possible date.

LITURGICAL + ROLES**Jan 9 — 5 PM Mass**

Lector	Denise Budd
Pianist	Caroline Priore
EMHC	Dorothy Ischler, George Budd
Ushers	Erica Maker, Kathleen Homa, Pat Mahowlad
Mass Coordinator	Dorothee Ischler

Jan 10 — 9 AM Mass

Lector	TBD
Pianist	Martha Barth
EMHC	Chris Barth, Kevin Bauer
Ushers	Lisa Theus, Rick Nelson, Dylan and Brady Dietz
Mass Coordinator	Brian Rodriguez



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