

Catholic Tri-Parish Community

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ST. PETER - Colman
STS. SIMON & JUDE - Flandreau
OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL - Elkton
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Most people who are (say) at least 30 or 40 years old probably grew up with a love of their country, a sense of patriotism – happy to be Americans, thankful for their country – myself included. Those who take their Catholic faith seriously, however, might look at our country today and wonder: can I love my country? Moral atrocities abound everywhere: calling evil good, sexual immorality of all varieties, greed, lust for power, deception, the slaughter of innocents, the kingdom of me – all surround us more and more. This the “culture” of the U.S. today, promulgated in almost every public forum there is: the news and entertainment industries, government, business, educational systems, “social media,” and so on. A person of faith, one who knows reality as revealed by the Creator and desires to be in union with the good God cannot perhaps help but to stop and ask: is it an offense against God (a sin) to love my country today? I really *want* to love my country but can I do so without betraying our Lord?

This is a good question and, thankfully, it is actually resolved rather simply, using any number of different things that our Lord has revealed – i.e., from Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. Perhaps the most straightforward way to address this question is with our Lord’s great summary of the commandments: 1) love God above all else and 2) love your neighbor as yourself. Notice two things: a) both command love and b) they are ordered – one is first; it takes precedence, and it also informs us as to how to carry out the second. Suppose a husband or wife wants to use contraception but the other spouse does not, knowing that it’s an offense against God. What should the spouse, who doesn’t want it, do? Love of God takes precedence – they should say no. But notice that in doing so they are also loving their spouse because they are desiring the highest and greatest good for them as well. Hopefully this makes it clear how to resolve the question of: can I love my country in the face of all the evil being perpetrated. The answer is that I must oppose the evil, I must not approve it in any way. In doing so: 1) I *actively* love my country and 2) I do not wish my country’s demise (I don’t hate it) but rather desire its conversion. So the answer is: yes, in fact I must love my country, I just have to make sure I know what that entails.

St Augustine, one of the greatest theologians and teachers of the faith in the history of the Church (even Aquinas drew heavily upon Augustine), summarized God’s stance towards “sinners” (which we all are, incidentally) and thus the stance we too are to have: love the sinner, hate the sin. If someone close to you had a life-threatening disease, you would not look at the disease and say: oh I love you disease, I approve you, I thank you for being here – and call that love of the person; that’s, well, insane! You love the person by wishing to see the disease, that which is killing them expunged. The same is true for individual people and for own country as well. In no way can we “love” the disease of evil, but we can “hate” the evil in our country without hating our country, indeed while actually loving our country.

As mentioned before, there are a number of things from Revelation that resolve the issue of “patriotism,” if you will. The question being posed here could be rephrased as: what should my stance or mindset be towards my own country? The beatitudes could also be used to help answer this question, in particular: Blessed are those who mourn. Yes, we should mourn, truly mourn, the wounds of our country, just as we would mourn the wounds of someone dear to us. But that mourning is an expression of desire for conversion – an act of love – not an expression of hatred.

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**14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JULY 4, 2021**

Liturgy Schedule			Location	Mass Intention
Mon., July 5		No Liturgy		
Tues., July 6		No Liturgy		
Wed., July 7		No Liturgy		
Thur., July 8		No Liturgy		
Fri., July 9		No Liturgy		
Sat., July 10	5:00 PM	Mass	Elkton	All Parishioners
Sun., July 11	8:30 AM 10:30 AM	Mass Mass	Colman Flandreau	† Jim Carroll † John/Steve Evans
<u>CONFESSIONS</u> : - Elkton & Colman 1/2 hour prior to weekend Mass - Flandreau after Sunday Mass <u>ROSARY</u> : - prayed 1/2 hour prior to each weekend Mass.				

MINISTERS OF SERVICE

ELKTON ~ SAT., JULY 10

Lector: Chris Myers

Altar Servers: Gabby Mejia, Mason Fruechte

COLMAN ~ SUN., JULY 11

Lector: Ann Voelker

Altar Servers: Ava/Lanie Mousel

FLANDREAU ~ SUN., JULY 11

Lector: Les Heinemann

Altar Servers: Austin/Benjamin Kulm
Abigail Lewis

Sacristan: Marilyn Schwebach

Intention of the Holy Father for July:

We pray that, in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and



Daily Readings for the Week

July 5: Genesis 28:10-22; Ps 91:1-4,14-15; Matthew 9:18-26

July 6: Genesis 32:23-33; Ps 17:1-8,15; Matthew 9:32-38

July 7: Genesis 41:55-57, 42:5-7,17-24; Ps 33:2-3,10-11,18-19;
Matthew 10:1-7

July 8: Genesis 44:18-21,23-29, 45:1-5; Ps 105:16-21; Matt 10:7-15

July 9: Genesis 46:1-7,28-30; Ps 37:3-4,18-19,27-28,39-40;
Matthew 10:16-23

July 10: Genesis 49:29-32, 50:15-26; Ps 105:1-7; Matthew 10:24-33

July 11: Amos 7:12-15; Ps 85:9-14; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6:7-13

Please Return Books

I was happy to see the people who turned out for Adoration this past Wednesday. I was also happy to see some interest in the books that were laid out in the back. If you took one or more of those books home with you, you're more than welcome to finish reading it but please return it when you're finished. You can leave them in the back of the church or bring them to the office. Those were actually my own personal books and I would like to hang onto them for a while longer.
Thank you, Fr Kuhn.



Colman: \$1602

Elkton: \$1169

Flandreau: \$2952

Thank you!

Fr. Kuhn will be on vacation July 6-14. We welcome Fr. John Rader who will celebrate Mass with us next weekend. **Daily Masses** will not be held.

The diocese is still in need of young adult counselors for D-Camps this summer. Apply at www.sfcatholic.org/youth/d-camp/

Junior High D-Camp: July 15-18, 2021 Register at www.sfcatholic.org/youth/d-camp/

Youth in grades 7-12 summer bible study with the Lumen Christi missionaries. Groups meet 1-2 times a week either in person or over Zoom. Find out more at www.sfcatholic.org/lumenchristi

Director of Campus Ministry for DSU, Madison and St Thomas Aquinas Parish. More information, contact Twila Roman, troman@sfcatholic.org Resume and cover letters may be emailed to her or sent to her at the Catholic Pastoral Center, 523 N Duluth Ave, Sioux Falls, SD 57104.



"Taste the Goodness"
benefitting the Bishop Dudley
Hospitality House,
Saturday evening,
August 14, 5:00 - 9:00 p.m.

outdoors in downtown Sioux Falls.

Come with your friends to enjoy tastings of a wide variety of foods, craft beers, wine, bourbon and much more. Music and fun will be provided along with a great mobile bidding silent auction!

For on-going event updates or to purchase your tickets, visit our website www.ccfesd.org or call 605-988-3765. Now more than ever, the mission of the Dudley House needs our support.



Register today for the **"Bishop's Cup"** Benefitting Broom Tree Retreat & Conference Center

The 28th Annual **Bishop's Cup** golf tournament will be held on **August 23rd** at Minnehaha Country Club and The Country Club of Sioux Falls. In 2020, this tournament sold out 7 WEEKS early, so don't wait to register!

There is a great opportunity for non-golfers to support *Broom Tree Retreat and Conference Center*, the beneficiary of the **Bishop's Cup**. You can purchase hole signs that will be placed on the course to promote your business, family or any intention.

Your support will ensure Broom Tree is available to people of all ages and income levels for years to come! **For more information or to register visit** ccfesd.org or contact the Catholic Community Foundation at 605-988-3765.

OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

Blessed Imelda Lambertini Catholic Formation Camp

July 27 - 30 from 5:30pm to 8:00pm

For grades **Pre-K through 5th**. A light supper will be provided for the children. Cost is free. Registration forms are at the back of the church or call Sharon Landsman at 605-592-0627.

Ladies Guild Meeting: July 12. ****Note the date change.**** 7:00 PM We will be working on Harvest Festival plans.

O Jesus, if I but considered attentively your immense solicitude for me, how greatly should I not excel in every virtue? Pardon me, O Jesus, so much carelessness, pardon such great ignorance. My God, Jesus my Love, Uncreated Goodness, what would have become of me if you had not drawn me to yourself? Open your heart to me, open to me your sacramental breast; I open mine to you.

-- St Gemma Galgani

He loves, He hopes, He waits. If He came down on our altars on certain days only, some sinner, on being moved to repentance, might have to look for Him, and not finding Him, might have to wait. Our Lord prefers to wait Himself for the sinner for years rather than keep him waiting one instant.

-- St Peter Julian Eymard

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all men generously and without reproaching, and it will be given him.

--St. James

When you feel the assaults of passion and anger, then is the time to be silent as Jesus was silent in the midst of His ignominies and sufferings.

-- St. Paul of the Cross

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St Thomas Aquinas, the great theologian, takes up the question of one's disposition towards his country when teaching on the virtue of piety. Piety means having an appreciation for, and even a certain deference or reverence for, those who have done us some true good; the greater the *true* good, the greater our piety should be. His development of this subject is similar to our Lord's two-fold summary of the commandments. St Thomas points out that our piety belongs first and foremost to God but that it also extends to others that have done us true good, in particular our parents and our country; again the degree of piety depends on the degree of true good. Everyone has drawn *some* benefit from their own country – even those in communist countries where atheism is enforced, they have some material benefit. A person's country, for example, provides a certain kind of structure and infrastructure, one that provides at least some physical security, some way to make a living, a system for obtaining the necessities of physical life, and so on. Furthermore, for many people, their country has provided these things for many generations of ancestors, thus making it possible, at least in part, for me to have even been born. As a matter of justice, then, we owe our country a certain deference, appreciation, and even a sort of reverence for the benefits we have received, that is to say a certain piety, albeit secondary to what is owed to God; i.e., if the two conflict, piety to God takes precedence.

We might round out the topic of patriotism (for short) by considering the “degree” of love or piety – both God's and our own. It is not uncommon for people to say something like: God loves everybody the same. That's not exactly true, or at the very least it's very misleading. God has some love even for Satan but His love is infinitely greater for our Holy Mother. One of the ways we can think of this is that there's just more to Mary to love (philosophers would say she has a “greater density of being”). She is more like God than any other creature so she is simply more and thus there's more to love. The same is true for individuals and even for countries. As we become more like our Lord, His intensity of love for us increases. The same is true for countries. But the converse is also true. Our Lord does not force Himself on anyone. And as a country drives out God more and more, we are more and more separated from Him, there is less and less to love – by both God and His followers. Since God is life, driving Him out can bring only, *only*, death. This had been borne out in history over and over again – even within the Church.

Notice that nothing here has suggested hatred towards one own country. There is nothing in Scripture or Tradition that commands hatred of any kind, much less towards one own country; hatred means bearing ill-will and wishing the demise of the other. In fact, God went so far as to say through his servants Sts Peter and Paul: be obedient to the legitimate laws of legitimate civil authorities (*legitimate* laws, i.e., not obedient to civil laws which oppose Divine law). The lives of the martyrs, especially those from the early Church, bear this out. This past week the Church celebrated a number of the Church's early martyrs. These martyrs exemplify well all that has been said here. It was demanded of them that they pay homage to the Roman “gods.” They refused; God comes first, before country or any civil ruler or law. They opposed what was wrong by standing with what is right but in spite of all they suffered they never expressed or had any hatred of their country. God's love is less as an individual or a country become more and more unlike Him. But that is different than wishing another's demise. There is no hatred in God.

The relevance of this is that in the last year or so there seems to be an exaltation of hatred of our own country – hatred of America by Americans seems to now be “in vogue.” I recently read an article, for example, that someone wants to win an Olympic gold medal so that he can then burn the American flag at the Olympics – and such a mentality seems to now be considered somehow good and “enlightened.” This is not from God.

On this 4th of July, ladies and gentlemen, by all means get together with friends and family for good food and good visiting. But also take time to put first things first. Take time to pray, really plead with our Lord, to enthrone Himself in the minds and hearts of all Americans. This is the way and the only way towards true peace and real freedom.

God bless you, Fr. Kuhn