



Dear Parishioners,

This coming Thursday, January 22, will be the 42nd anniversary of the tragic Roe v. Wade decision by which the U.S. Supreme Court that legalized abortion. More than 56 million children have lost their lives and the culture of death has permeated the fabric of society. As Pope Francis speaking in his Christmas 2014 Message about how so many children are seriously mistreated in various ways he made mention of “infants killed in the womb, deprived of that generous love of their parents and then buried in the egoism of a culture that does not love life.” Hence we need to constantly pray for respect for life. To this end, our American bishops encourage us to join in praying and doing penance with them during their Nine Days for Life, January 17-25. In the bulletin you will find an insert from TN bishops to help us in observing these days of prayer and penance. On Sunday, January 25, following the 9:00 AM Mass I will do Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and pray the Holy Rosary to bring to a close these nine days for our parish. I hope that all of you will join me for this next Sunday.

Regarding efforts of promoting respect for life, I and Deacon Terry are involved in the local effort of providing places where pregnant mothers who are fearful that they cannot give birth to their children, and are therefore tempted to consider abortion, can find help and shelter. Deacon Terry is a board member for Bethlehem House near St. Patrick’s Church in Omaha. As for myself, through my being the spiritual director for the Holy Family Shrine, I, with a few other priests, have become connected (and it is a long story how) with the Mater Filius House near St. Anthony Church in Omaha. Each house, while having similar

missions of saving mothers and children from the tragedy of abortion, has its own niche group of women who are helped such that we do not compete with each other but complement one another. It is amazing how Our Lord has called each house into being as the needs of one type of expectant mother vs. another type fit better at one house or the other. It is also awesome how the missions of pro-life and care for the poor coalesce in caring for these women and their children. If you are interested in learning more about these respective houses and their ongoing needs, please visit with Deacon Terry and me.

Have a wonderful and grace-filled week.

God bless you, Fr. Gutowski

JANUARY 19 THRU JANUARY 25

Monday	Ray Heimes
Tuesday	Rod Hansen
Wednesday	Kate Heimes
Thursday	Peter Stephens
Friday	Priest’s Intention
Saturday	Tina McDaniel
Sunday	People of St. Joseph

WALKING TOWARDS ETERNITY

This Lent, grow in the virtues with an 8-week Lectio Divina series developed by Jeff and Emily Cavins, called “*Walking Towards Eternity*.” Each week, study a different virtue along with its Bible references, and prayerfully learn to put it into practice.

Hosted by St. Patrick’s of Gretna, you are invited to register online at www.stpatsgretna.org as soon as January 23, 2015, for this Lenten series, which will be Monday evenings, from February 23 - April 20, 2015 (no class March 30). Each session will be from 7:00 PM to 8:45 PM in the St. Patrick’s Parish Center at 508 Angus Street, Gretna. Child Care will be available, but is limited so spaces must be reserved. Cost is \$15.00 for the workbook. For questions and childcare, contact Chris Cutler at 402.699.9304 or cc20307@aol.com