



Dear Parishioners,

Please see the letter from Archbishop Lucas that has been inserted in this week's bulletin. He asked that all pastors in every parish of the Archdiocese distribute this letter in regards to the upcoming elections. As you can see, he reminds us that we can eliminate as worthy candidates for public office those who support such intrinsic evils as abortion, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, same-sex marriage, as well as those who do not uphold the right to religious freedom and the right to follow our consciences.

As Election Day draws near, we need to remember that there is a hierarchy of importance in regards to stances on the various election issues in judging the worthiness of candidates. The protection of human life is the most important issue since the right to life is the most important of rights. As Blessed Pope John Paul II taught:

The inviolability of the person, which is a reflection of the absolute inviolability of God, finds its primary and fundamental expression in the *inviolability of human life*. **Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights—for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture—is false and illusory if *the right to life*, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination.** (*Christifideles Laici*, 38)

The Church's social teaching has its foundation in the right to life. While it is not to be denied that there are many important issues that affect the dignity of the person and cannot be forgotten, if the right to life from the moment of conception is not protected, then

true social justice does not exist and will never exist. As, Pope Paul VI told us: "If you want peace work for justice." There is no justice if the lives of the unborn are attacked in the womb and, therefore, there will be no peace. Hence, if we want peace, we should work for justice, and, if we want justice, we should work for the protection of human life. While it might be difficult to find candidates that are perfect in all regards to Catholic social teaching, reason says that we must first solidify the right to life before anything else because only such candidates who oppose such attacks upon innocent human life, as abortion is, will provide us with creating the proper foundation for justice in society. Unless the right to life is secured for the unborn, we will never achieve justice for other persons in our society such as the poor. It just will not happen. Any candidate who says he or she is for abortion but claims that they are for social justice and the poor are being unreasonable to think that they will achieve justice in society.

We are challenged to remember, therefore, that we need ask ourselves whether or not for whom we vote protects the poorest of the poor, the smallest of the smallest, the least of the least—children in the womb—who have no voice or vote. As Jesus told us in St. Matthew's gospel, "What you did for the least, you did to me." Since 1973, some 50 million times in our country Jesus has been attacked when innocent children in the womb have perished through abortion. Have 50 million plus died due to poverty, unemployment, or paying more taxes than the rich, the last 40 years? Therefore, any candidate, regardless of which party to which they belong, who supports abortion rights should automatically be judged as unworthy of our vote no matter what he or she might offer in regards to poverty, unemployment, or taxes. We must hear the 50 million plus voices of the innocent whose lives have been lost to presidents, vice presidents, senators, representatives, legislators, and judges who have supported the idiotic right to abortion these last 40 years. If I voted for a candidate who supports abortion, I would not be able to

stand before God and justify myself. I challenge, therefore, each of us to realize this responsibility that we have to defend the right to life of the unborn through the power that we have to cast a vote. It is imperative that we Catholics vote like the Catholics that we claim to be: persons concerned with achieving true and lasting justice in society, which as Blessed John Paul II tells us will not be achieved unless we first champion the right to life.

Have a grace-filled and blessed week.

God bless,
Fr. Gutowski



MASS INTENTIONS

OCTOBER 29 THRU NOV. 4

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| Monday | | JoAnn Hrabik |
| Tuesday | | Ann Boro |
| Wednesday | 8:00 a.m. | Matthew Hilleman |
| | 6:00 p.m. | Philip Avino |
| Thursday | 8:00 a.m. | Priest's Intention |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Priest's Intention |
| Friday | | Robert Masters |
| Saturday | | Lloyd Royal |
| Sunday | | People of St. Joseph |

ARCHDIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

We want to thank those who have already contributed to the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal. To date, the Archdiocese reports to us that we have met 86.3% of our \$12,319.43 goal (as set by the Archdiocese). We have had 38 total donors; and again, thank you to those who have already contributed. It's not too late to make a pledge to the Archdiocesan Annual Campaign. For those who have not yet contributed or made a pledge, please prayerfully consider doing so at this time.

If you cannot locate your Archdiocesan pledge card, there are additional pledge cards available in the back of the Church. Please mail the pledge card to the Archdiocese.

If you have any questions about the Archdiocesan Annual Appeal, please direct those questions to Father Matt or Ken Patry.



NO RE October 31 due to Halloween. Do not forget to go to Holy Day Mass on November 1.

The next Parent Seminar is November 7 at 6 and 7 PM in the Chapel.

Reconciliation Retreat for all second graders and their parents is Sunday, November 11 from 10-12 beginning in the church social.

First Reconciliation is November 14 at 6:00 in the church.

18TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY DINNER

December 8, 2012
5-7:30 p.m.

First United Methodist Church
Free will donations accepted at the door split evenly among Springfield's four area churches

Questions contact: Amy Green
[\(402\) 990-9933](tel:4029909933)

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

Used Book Sale at the Library, Saturday, November 3, 9a.m. - 1 p.m.
Books from \$.25 - \$1.00