God is with us! **Dios con nosotros!**

Ash Wednesday: 2021

This year, Ash Wednesday will be a little different. Basically, instead of the cross on the forehead, we will receive a pinch of ash on our head. It is liturgically correct to sprinkle it on your head, for more information please visit: [catholicnewsagency.com/ Search Ash Wednesday in 2021](catholicnewsagency.com/ Search Ash Wednesday in 2021)
“You have everything to fear from yourselves, but everything to hope from God.” -SES

Sun, Jan 31st
7:30 am People of the Parish
9 am Russel Riggiero (L)
11 am Flora DeAngelo (D)

Mon, Feb 1st
8 am Matthew Valentine (D)

Tues, Feb 2nd
8 am Anne Leah Bellefleur (D)
7 pm People of the Parish

Wed, Feb 3rd
8 am Doc & Mary Feltes (D)

Thur, Feb 4th
8 am Ann Schwietering (D)

Fri, Feb 5th
8 am The Walker Family (L)

Sat, Feb 6th
8 am Richard Wheeler (D)
4:30 pm St. Angelo Family (L)
6:30 pm Elias Hernandez Vasquez (D)

Sun, Feb 7th
7:30 am Victoria Ronga (L)
9 am Barbara Serafino (D)
11 am Amelia Jaeck (D)

Mon, Feb 8th
8 am Matthew Brandon (L)

Tues, Feb 9th
8 am Josephina Villarosa (D)

Wed, Feb 10th
8 am Daniel Garcia (D)

Thur, Feb 11th
8 am Melanio Villarosa Sr. (D)

Fri, Feb 12th
8 am Herve Gosselin (D)

Sat, Feb 13th
8 am People of the Parish
4:30 pm Joan Tuzik & Teddy Wallace (D)
6:30 pm Dorothy Minahi (D)

Rev Casey Jones Administrator
E: fathercasey@stelizabethseton.org
Fr Luis H. Pacheco Parochial Vicar
E: frluis@stelizabethseton.org
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Mailing Address & Office Location
5260 28th Ave SW, Naples, FL 34116

Office Hours: Mon-Fri | 9 am - 4 pm
Website: www.stelizabethseton.org
Phone: (239) 455-3900
Fax: (239) 455-6895
Prayer Line: (239) 455-3900 x301

SES School Information
www.stelizabethseton.com
Principal Maria Niebuhr
Phone: (239) 455-2262

Stewardship!
Please call the parish office if you wish to move to online giving or if you need help in adjusting your reoccurring online gift. Online giving begins here on our website: https://stelizabethseton.weshareonline.org/
From the desk of Fr Casey

And of course, in 2021, Ash Wednesday will look different, so I want to talk about that. First, what is the symbolism of ashes? In the Old Testament, quite frequently, ashes are a sign of repentance and mourning. For example, Job, after he experienced great loss, clothed himself in sackcloth and rolled in ashes. We also hear of another biblical figure in the book of Samuel, Tamar, who had a very tragic life and she sprinkled ashes on her head.

Liturgically ashes have been used for a long time. It was used in the order of catechumens preparing to be baptized, as a sign of their coming into the Church and repenting of their old ways. The ashes are from something burned and represent an end of one thing and beginning of another. Later, in the order of penitence, ashes were used. In the old church if you sinned seriously enough you had to confess those sins to the bishop in front of everyone and then you would have to go through a period of mourning, of fasting and of prayer (here are the origins of Lent). You would sit outside the church wearing sackcloth with ashes on your head as a sign that you were repenting. The ashes are symbolic of our own repentance. And, from the early centuries of the church, ashes were administered by being sprinkled on the person’s head.

In the last few centuries, we saw an evolution happen in the English-speaking world and really, only in the English-speaking world. In Europe it is still very common to have ashes sprinkled over a person head on Ash Wednesday. We are not quite sure where the mark of the cross on the forehead originated. Some think it may have Celtic origins in Ireland or perhaps in England, but it is a recent innovation. This is important for us to understand because Ash Wednesday is going to look different this year considering the Covid-19 pandemic. We want to prevent touching each other especially in large crowds like we typically have on Ash Wednesday. This year, for Ash Wednesday, the priest or person giving you ashes will be wearing a mask and will say the words “Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return” to everyone in general. Then you will come forward to have ashes sprinkled on the top of your heads.

I like this, actually, because it almost seems insincere to me that we have the beautiful gospel where Jesus says that fasting should be in private and not so that others know, and then converse to this we put big ash marks on people faces. Being forced to go to this earlier practice of sprinkling is a reminder that the ashes are symbolic of the repentance that the Lord is calling us to in our hearts during this Lenten season.

We invite you to join us here at St. Elizabeth Seton Church in Naples or any of the parishes in the Diocese of Venice or throughout the world to celebrate the beauty of the Lord’s cross and resurrection as we reclaim our baptismal identity as daughters and sons of God during this Lenten season with this beautiful and symbolic gesture of receiving ashes. These ashes are the reminder that one day everything in the world is going to pass, is going to burn, is going to be gone, but the love of Christ alone will last through eternity.

Fr. Casey

February 17, Ash Wednesday Mass times: 7:30 AM, 12:15 PM and 7:00 PM (Bilingual).

USCCB President’s Statement on the Inauguration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr. as 46th President of the United States of America

Statement on the Inauguration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., as 46th President of the United States of America from Most Reverend José H. Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles, President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

My prayers are with our new President and his family today. I am praying that God grant him wisdom and courage to lead this great nation and that God help him to meet the tests of these times, to heal the wounds caused by this pandemic, to ease our intense political and cultural divisions, and to bring people together with renewed dedication to America’s founding purposes, to be one nation under God committed to liberty and equality for all.

Continued on Page 9
CALENDAR & EVENTS

All Lenten events and ministry meetings are canceled until further notice, with the exception of Masses and Confessions.

Mon. February 1
10:30am Food Distribution (parking lot) (C)
12-3pm Silent Prayer (C)

Tues. February 2
1-7pm Silent Prayer (C)
6-6:45pm Confessions (C)
7pm Eucharistic Adoration with Praise & Worship (C)

Wed. February 3
12-3pm Silent Prayer (C)
6:30pm RCIA (SJ)

Thurs. February 4
12-3pm Silent Prayer (C)

Fri. February 5
12-3pm Silent Prayer (C)

Sat. February 6
9am Confirmation Retreat (PC)
8:30am Confessions (C)
3pm Confessions (C)
4:30 pm Vigil Mass (C)

Sun. February 7
7:30am Mass (C)
9am Mass (C)
11am Mass (C)

Mon. February 8
10:30am Food Distribution (parking lot) (C)
12-3pm Silent Prayer (C)

Tues. February 9
1-7pm Silent Prayer (C)
6-6:45pm Confessions (C)
7pm Eucharistic Adoration with Praise & Worship (C)

Wed. February 10
12-3pm Silent Prayer (C)
6:30pm RCIA (SJ)

Thurs. February 11
12-3pm Silent Prayer (C)

Fri. February 12
12-3pm Silent Prayer (C)

Sat. February 13
8:30am Confessions (C)
3pm Confessions (C)
4:30 pm Vigil Mass (C)

Sun. February 14
7:30am Mass (C)
9am Mass (C)
11am Mass (C)

Building Codes
AC - Adoration Chapel
C - Church
CC - Children’s Chapel
CC - Children’s Chapel
FF - Faith Formation
GGP - Golden Gate Pkwy
JD - Juan Dieg Rm

Codigos de los Edificios
AC - Capilla de Adoracion
C - Iglesia
CC - Capilla de Niños
GDG - Golden Gate Pkwy
O - Office
PC - Parish Center
SG - School Gym
SJ - St. Joseph’s Room

CALENDARIO Y EVENTOS

Todos los eventos de cuaresma y reuniones de ministerios están cancelados hasta nuevo aviso con excepción Misas y Confesiones.

Lun, 1 de febrero
10:30am Distribución de comida (estacionamiento)
12-3pm oración en silencio (C)
7pm Hombres de Emaús (PC)

Mar, 2 de febrero
1-7pm oración en silencio (C)
7pm Adoración al Santísimo & Alabanza (C)
7pm Clase de RICA (MS)

Miér, 3 de febrero
12-3pm oración en silencio (C)
7pm Clase de Biblia (C)
7pm Mujeres de Emaús (SC)

Jue, 4 de febrero
12-3pm oración en silencio (C)
7pm Grupo de Oracion (PC)

Vier, 5 de febrero
12-3pm oración en silencio (C)

Sáb, 6 de febrero
9am Retiro de Confirmación (PC)
5:30pm Confesiones (C)
6:30pm Misa (C)

Lun, 8 de febrero
10:30am Distribución de comida (estacionamiento)
12-3pm oración en silencio (C)
7pm Hombres de Emaús (PC)

Mar, 9 de febrero
1-7pm oración en silencio (C)
7pm Adoración al Santísimo & Alabanza (C)
7pm Clase de RICA (MS)

Miér, 10 de febrero
12-3pm oración en silencio (C)
7pm Clase de Biblia (C)
7pm Mujeres de Emaús (SC)

Jue, 11 de febrero
12-3pm oración en silencio (C)
7pm Grupo Carismatico (PC)

Vier, 12 de febrero
12-3pm oración en silencio (C)

Sáb, 13 de febrero
9am Retiro de Confirmación (PC)
5:30pm Confesiones (C)
6:30pm Misa (C)

Building Codes
AC - Adoration Chapel
C - Church
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CC - Children’s Chapel
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GGP - Golden Gate Pkwy
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Codigos de los Edificios
AC - Capilla de Adoracion
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CC - Capilla de Niños
GDG - Golden Gate Pkwy
O - Office
PC - Parish Center
SG - School Gym
SJ - St. Joseph’s Room
We are here to pray for you 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Please call 239-455-3900 ext. 301.

Prayer Requests

SACRAMENTS

Marriages
Arrangements must be made six months in advance by calling the Parish Office.

Baptisms
Please call the Parish Office for further information at (239) 455-2262

Prayer Requests

SACRAMENTS

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Arrangements must be made six months in advance by calling the Parish Office.

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Goal
Pledged
Collected

$204,000
$193,405
$193,090

With joy and gratitude, we thank everyone who has committed to our CFA!

Lent: Time for Prayer and Spiritual Growth

Great Lenten opportunities for prayer and spiritual growth at our Diocese’s retreat center!

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Retreat and Spirituality Center in Venice is offering its Monthly Day of Prayer on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021. The day begins at 9:30 a.m. and includes two conferences, a simple lunch, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass with distribution of ashes, and opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in a safe, tranquil setting along the Myakka River.

On February 20-21, Fr. Mark Yavarone, OMV will offer a weekend seminar on St. Ignatius’ Rules for Discernment of Spirits. The profound wisdom in these rules can help us to pray better and more perseveringly, recognize temptation and reject it, and make good decisions. For more info or to register for either event, call Denise Riley at (941) 486-0233, ext. 3004, or visit our website (www.olph-retreat.org) and click on “Schedule of Events.”

Support a Great Cause

Catholic Education at Seton School!

Whether you are an alumni, parent, grandparent, parishioner, or friend, there are many ways to assist our school to ensure quality Catholic education remains accessible and endures for future generations. You can make an impact! Visit SaintElizabethSeton.com/Giving for the many ways you can help. Thank you for your support and generosity. See pg 10.

Important Announcements

Interested in Becoming a Volunteer? Please complete an application form if you are interested in becoming a volunteer within the Diocese of Venice in Florida. Once you complete the form, click the Continue button at the bottom and your application will be automatically submitted to SES office staff. Visit volunteerapplication.

Mass of the Presentation of the Lord. Tuesday, February 2 at 7:00 PM. Bring your candles from home to be blessed! The congregation is to gather in the Portico for a blessing and lighting of candles. All will process into the darken church and Mass will begin.

“SouperBowl of Caring”. Cheer on your favorite team and help others at the same time. Bring canned food and non-perishables to church on February 7 and place on the table in the Narthex with your team’s logo. Who will win the SuperBowl LV? Who will win the first SouperBowl of Caring at SES??

Ash Wednesday Masses, February 17: 7:30 AM, 12:15 PM and 7:00 PM (Bilingual)

There will be a training for Altar Servers (current and new) on Monday, February 8 at 7:00 PM in the church (masks required). Boys and Girls who receive Holy Communion regularly may be altar servers. This training session will be in English. All the Lenten rituals and practices will be reviewed (like incense) so all current Altar Servers should be there. Please confirm with Hector Salazar at HSalazar@StElizabethSeton.org or call the parish office at 239-455-3900.

Extraordinary Ministers Meeting (EMHC) For Current EMs: Please attend a general meeting on Monday, February 8 at 3:00 PM in the Church (masks required). This meeting will review our current practices and ensure all protocols are understood. Also, we will discuss how the use of a pyx a Mass will change. This meeting is for those who deliver Holy Communion to their spouses at home as well as EMs at Mass. Please confirm with Hector Salazar at HSalazar@StElizabethSeton.org or call the parish office at 239-455-3900. If you are interested in volunteering as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, please contact the parish office so we can prepare for new training.

Communion to the Home Bound – as of February 13 the practice of receiving the Eucharist into your pyx at Holy Communion will stop. Instead, beginning February 13, EMs must check-in and place their pyx in the sacristry before Mass begins. Pyxs are then picked-up at the end of Communion time at the altar when indicated by the presider. dioceseofvenice.org
¡TE NECESITAMOS!

Atención a todos los feligreses. Su talento y tiempo son necesarios para la comunidad de St. Elizabeth Seton para nuestra mayor oración: la misa. Cuando nos bautizamos, nosotros (o nuestros padres y/o padres) prometemos nuestro compromiso de compartir el ministerio de Jesús como Profeta (Testigo); Sacerdote (consagrado); y el Rey (Siervo). Necesitamos monaguillos, lectores, uijieres, ministros extraordinarios de la Eucaristía y sacristanes. Por favor considere seriamente cómo el talento que Dios nos ha dado puede servir a nuestra comunidad.

Monaguillos: Aquellos que han recibido el Bautismo y la Eucaristía, de segundo grado en adelante.

Uijieres: Aquellos que han recibido el Bautismo y desde el primer grado en adelante.

Ministros extraordinarios de la Eucaristía: aquellos que han recibido el Bautismo, la Eucaristía y la Confirmación y mayores de dieciocho años.

VEN A SENTIR LA DIFERENCIA EN SETON!

- CLASES PEQUEÑAS
- IPAD PERSONALIZADO 5-8 GRADO
- TECNOLOGÍA AVANZADA
- PERSONAL Y MAESTROS DEDICADOS

Ven a conocer a nuestra asistente, la Sra. Katy Rendon, la cual le ayudara a los nuevos alumnos con el proceso de inscripción y completación de las aplicaciones para obtener asistencia financiera. Si desea visitar las instalaciones de la escuela o necesita una cita con la Sra. Rendon por favor llamar al número 239-455-2262.

“YOU HAVE EVERYTHING TO FEAR FROM YOURSELVES, BUT EVERYTHING TO HOPE FROM GOD.” -SES

COMUNICADO DEL PRESIDENTE DE LA USCCB, ARZOBISPO JOSÉ GOMEZ, SOBRE LA TOMA DE POSESIÓN DE JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., COMO 46º PRESIDENTE DE ESTADOS UNIDOS DE AMÉRICA

Mis oraciones están hoy con nuestro nuevo presidente y su familia.

Oro para que Dios le conceda sabiduría y valor para liderar a esta gran nación y para que le ayude a superar los retos de estos tiempos, a curar las heridas causadas por esta pandemia, a aliviar nuestras intensas divisiones políticas y culturales y a unificar a las personas con una renovada dedicación a los propósitos que motivaron la fundación de Estados Unidos, una nación bajo Dios y comprometida con la libertad y la igualdad para todos.

Los obispos católicos no somos actores partidistas activos en la política de nuestra nación. Somos pastores responsables de las almas de millones de estadounidenses y defensores de las necesidades de todos nuestros vecinos.

En todas las comunidades del país, las parroquias, escuelas, hospitales y ministerios católicos forman una cultura esencial de compasión y protección al servicio de las mujeres, los niños y los ancianos, los pobres y los enfermos, los presos, los migrantes y los marginados, sin importar su raza o religión.

Cuando nosotros hablamos sobre problemas de la vida pública estadounidense, tratamos de formar conciencia y aportar principios. Estos principios se basan en el Evangelio de Jesucristo y las enseñanzas sociales de su Iglesia. Jesucristo reveló el plan de amor de Dios por la creación y la verdad sobre la persona humana, que fue creada a su imagen y semejanza, dotada de la dignidad, los derechos y las responsabilidades dadas por Dios y llamada a un destino trascendente.

Basados en estas realidades, que se reflejan en la Declaración de la Independencia y la Declaración de los Derechos, los obispos y los fieles católicos cumplen el mandamiento de Cristo de amar a Dios y amar a nuestro prójimo, al trabajar por un Estados Unidos que proteja la dignidad humana, aumente la igualdad y las oportunidades para todas las personas, y sea de corazón abierto hacia los que sufren y los débiles. Por muchos años, la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos ha tratado de ayudar a los Católicos y otras personas de buena voluntad en sus reflexiones sobre aspectos políticos a través de la publicación de Formando la Conciencia para ser Ciudadanos Fieles. La más reciente edición aborda una amplia variedad de aspectos que nos preocupan. Entre ellos: aborto, eutanasia, pena de muerte, inmigración, racismo, pobreza, cuidado del medio ambiente, reforma de la justicia penal, desarrollo económico y paz internacional.

Con respecto a estos y otros temas, nuestra responsabilidad es amar y nuestros principios morales nos llevan a establecer juicios y posiciones prudenciales que no se alinean perfectamente con las tendencias políticas de izquierda o derecha, o con las plataformas de nuestros dos principales partidos políticos. Trabajamos con todos los presidentes y todos los congresos. En algunos temas nos ubicamos más del lado de los demócratas, mientras que en otros nos encontramos más del lado de los republicanos. Nuestras prioridades nunca son partidistas. Somos católicos en primer lugar, y solo buscamos seguir fielmente a Jesucristo y promover su visión de la fraternidad y la comunidad humanas.

Espero trabajar con el presidente Biden, su administración y con el nuevo Congreso. Como ocurre con todas las administraciones, habrá áreas en las que estaremos de acuerdo y en las que trabajaremos juntos con estrecha colaboración, pero también habrá áreas en las que tendremos desacuerdos de principios y una fuerte oposición.

Continue reading at: https://www.usccb.org/es/news/2021/comunicado-del-presidente-de-la-usccb-arzobispo-jose-gomez-sobre-la-toma-de-posesion-de

Page 6 | St. Elizabeth Seton Catholic Church
MIÉRCOLES DE CENIZA EN 2021

Este año, el Miércoles de Ceniza será un poco diferente. Básicamente, en lugar de la cruz en la frente, recibiremos una pizca de ceniza sobre nuestra cabeza. Para obtener más información sobre esto, y como litúrgicamente es correcto rociar la ceniza en su cabeza, por favor haga click en el siguiente link.


¡ANUNCIOS IMPORTANTES!

Misa de la Presentación del Señor. Martes 2 de febrero a las 7:00 PM. ¡Traiga sus velas de casa para ser bendecidas! La congregación se reunirá en el Pórtico para bendecir y encender velas. Todos entrarán en la iglesia oscura y comenzará la misa.

“SouperBowl of Caring”. Anima a tu equipo favorito y ayuda a los demás al mismo tiempo. Traiga alimentos enlatados y productos no perecibles a la iglesia el 7 de febrero y colóquelos en la mesa del Nártex con el logotipo de tu equipo. ¿Quién ganará el SuperBowl LV? ¿Quién ganará el primer SouperBowl de caridad en SES?

Misas del Miércoles de Ceniza, 17 de febrero: 7:30 AM, 12:15 PM y 7:00 PM (bilingüe)

Habrá una capacitación para monaguillos (actuales y nuevos) el lunes 8 de febrero a las 7:00 pm en la iglesia (se requieren mascarillas). Los niños y niñas que reciben la Sagrada Comunión con regularidad pueden ser monaguillos. Esta sesión de formación será en inglés. Se revisarán todos los rituales y prácticas de Cuaresma (como el incienso) todos los monaguillos actuales deben asistir. Para favor confirme su asistencia con Hector Salazar en HSalazar@StElizabethSeton.org o llame a la oficina parroquial al 239-455-3900.

Reunión de Ministros Extraordinarios de la Comunión (MEC) Para MEC actuales: asista a una reunión general el lunes 8 de febrero a las 3:00 PM en la Iglesia (se requieren mascarillas). Esta reunión revisará nuestras prácticas actuales y garantizará que se comprendan todos los protocolos. Además, discutiremos cómo cambiará el uso del pyx en Misa. Esta reunión es para aquellos que entregan la Sagrada Comunión a su cónyuge en su propia casa, de forma que sean rehechas sus prácticas y garantisen que se comprendan todos los protocolos. Además, discutiremos cómo cambiará el uso del pyx en Misa. Esta reunión es para aquellos que entregan la Sagrada Comunión a su cónyuge en su propia casa, de forma que sean rehechas sus prácticas y garantizan que se comprendan todos los protocolos.

Comunión al Hogar - a partir del 13 de febrero se detendrá la práctica de recibir la Eucaristía en su pyx durante la Misa. En cambio, a partir de esa fecha, los ministros deben registrarse y colocar su pyx en la sacristía antes de que comience la Misa. Se recogerán los pyx al final del tiempo de la Comunión en el altar cuando lo indique el celebrante.

EL FONDO DE MIGRANTES & LA FUNDACIÓN PARA EL CUIDADO DE LOS INMIGRANTES

¿Sabía usted que Migrant Endowment & Foundation for the Care of the Migrant Poor es una fuente de fondos proporcionados por la Diócesis de Venice para proporcionar asistencia y aclimatación a las comunidades de migrantes en nuestra Diócesis?
ST. ELIZABETH SETON
CATHOLIC CHURCH

SPEAKER & RADIO HOST

Patrick Madrid
IS COMING TO SETON!

IS EVERYTHING UP FOR GRABS?
- A Catholic Critique of Moral Relativism
- A practical, down-to-earth explanation of what moral relativism is:

The notion that all beliefs are relative and there is no such thing as "objective" truth.

HOW CAN WE RECOGNIZE IT?
This evening will...
Exposes the seven fatal flaws of moral relativism,
Offers sample dialogues for speaking with moral relativists, and
Explain how Catholics can respond to moral relativist arguments in a friendly yet effective way.

FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 19TH
7:00 PM IN CHURCH
OVERFLOW IN PARISH CENTER

WHY BE CATHOLIC?
Ten Answers to a Very Important Question

Why Be Catholic?:
Ten Answers to a Very Important Question
Buy on Amazon

NO FEE OR RESERVATION

EVENT WILL BE LIVESTREAMED ON THE PARISH YOUTUBE: SETON NAPLES

SEATING WILL BE EVERY OTHER PEW AND FACE MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED
USCCB: INAUGURATION CONTINUED

Catholic bishops are not partisan players in our nation’s politics. We are pastors responsible for the souls of millions of Americans and we are advocates for the needs of all our neighbors. In every community across the country, Catholic parishes, schools, hospitals, and ministries form an essential culture of compassion and care, serving women, children, and the elderly, the poor and sick, the imprisoned, the migrant, and the marginalized, no matter what their race or religion.

When we speak on issues in American public life, we try to guide consciences, and we offer principles. These principles are rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the social teachings of his Church. Jesus Christ revealed God’s plan of love for creation and revealed the truth about the human person, who is created in God’s image, endowed with God-given dignity, rights and responsibilities, and called to a transcendent destiny.

Based on these truths, which are reflected in the Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights, the bishops and Catholic faithful carry out Christ’s commandment to love God and love our neighbors by working for an America that protects human dignity, expands equality and opportunities for every person, and is open-hearted towards the suffering and weak.

For many years now, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has tried to help Catholics and others of good will in their reflections on political issues through a publication we call Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship. The most recent edition addresses a wide range of concerns. Among them: abortion, euthanasia, the death penalty, immigration, racism, poverty, care for the environment, criminal justice reform, economic development, and international peace. On these and other issues, our duty to love and our moral principles lead us to prudent judgments and positions that do not align neatly with the political categories of left or right or the platforms of our two major political parties. We work with every President and every Congress. On some issues we find ourselves more on the side of Democrats, while on others we find ourselves standing with Republicans. Our priorities are never partisan. We are Catholics first, seeking only to follow Jesus Christ faithfully and to advance his vision for human fraternity and community.

I look forward to working with President Biden and his administration, and the new Congress. As with every administration, there will be areas where we agree and work closely together and areas where we will have principled disagreement and strong opposition.

Working with President Biden will be unique, however, as he is our first president in 60 years to profess the Catholic faith. In a time of growing and aggressive secularism in American culture, when religious believers face many challenges, it will be refreshing to engage with a President who clearly understands, in a deep and personal way, the importance of religious faith and institutions. Mr. Biden’s piety and personal story, his moving witness to how his faith has brought him solace in times of darkness and tragedy, his longstanding commitment to the Gospel’s priority for the poor — all of this I find hopeful and inspiring.

At the same time, as pastors, the nation’s bishops are given the duty of proclaiming the Gospel in all its truth and power, in season and out of season, even when that teaching is inconvenient or when the Gospel’s truths run contrary to the directions of the wider society and culture. So, I must point out that our new President has pledged to pursue certain policies that would advance moral evils and threaten human life and dignity, most seriously in the areas of abortion, contraception, marriage, and gender. Of deep concern is the liberty of the Church and the freedom of believers to live according to their consciences.

Our commitments on issues of human sexuality and the family, as with our commitments in every other area — such as abolishing the death penalty or seeking a health care system and economy that truly serves the human person — are guided by Christ’s great commandment to love and to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters, especially the most vulnerable.

For the nation’s bishops, the continued injustice of abortion remains the “preeminent priority.” Preeminent does not mean “only.” We have deep concerns about many threats to human life and dignity in our society. But as Pope Francis teaches, we cannot stay silent when nearly a million unborn lives are being cast aside in our country year after year through abortion.

Abortion is a direct attack on life that also wounds the woman and undermines the family. It is not only a private matter, it raises troubling and fundamental questions of fraternity, solidarity, and inclusion in the human community. It is also a matter of social justice. We cannot ignore the reality that abortion rates are much higher among the poor and minorities, and that the procedure is regularly used to eliminate children who would be born with disabilities.


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PLANNING FOR TOMORROW

Even in the midst of COVID-19 restrictions, we still wish to provide our Parishioners with important information and resources to help you both today and tomorrow. As a result, we have partnered with the Catholic Community Foundation of SW Florida to host a complimentary seminar and free one-hour education sessions to provide the knowledge you need to make critical health, legal and financial decisions for yourself and/or a loved one. Private education sessions are limited and reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Attendees will obtain important information on:

- Avoiding Guardianship
- Wills vs. Trusts
- Probate
- Durable Power of Attorney
- Beneficiary Designations
- Healthcare Surrogates
- Advanced Directives
- Financial Planning
- Planned Giving and more.

Referrals to local Catholic attorneys and financial advisors will be available to private education session participants that are interested.

**OPTION 1: Seminar**
Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021, 9:00AM-11:00AM in the Parish Center

**OPTION 2: Private Session**
Thursday, March 4, 2021, 9:00AM-4:00PM in the Parish Center

Reserve your place to day by calling 941-486-4722 or email ccf@dioceseofvenice.org
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