



MASSES FOR THE WEEK
 February 4—February 10
 EACH MASS IS OFFERED FOR
 THE INTENTIONS OF EVERYONE
 PRESENT AND FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

4:00 p.m. Ree Alario; Michael M. Gahagan; Gus Guidry; May Guidry; Cammarata Guizzardi Family; Charles Husson, Jr.; E. Elizabeth Jackson; Judy McAllister; Marlene Morris; Robert J. Schoen; Betty Thibodeaux; Carrol Thibodeaux

5:30 p.m. MaryAnn Ciravolo; Sister CorMarie Foley; Ruth E. Hoffman; Father Stanley Klores; Monica I. Versteeg; Albert Weidenbacher

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

9:30 a.m. Chase Bordelon; Roberta W. Bruley; Jane O. Chatelain; James J. Cunningham, Jr.; Keith E. Gisleson; Joseph Maselli; Norma McClellan; Ed Orozco; Jeremy Reed; John H. Schroder, Jr.; Sean M. Stilts

11:00 a.m. Jean M. Berrigan; Barry Brechtel; Larry Hartzog; Dorothy Luquet; Robert J. Schoen; George Von Bodungen

5:30 p.m. Ruth E. Hoffman

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6

11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List

12:00 p.m. Johnnie A. Bistes; Alice Cohen; Ruth E. Hoffman

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

11:30 a.m. Becky Brechtel; Father Victor Celio; Virginia Voelker

12:00 p.m. Johnnie A. Bistes; Bob Conlin; Ruth E. Hoffman; Jean Dominguez;

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List

12:00 p.m. Johnnie A. Bistes; Ruth E. Hoffman; Stephen Luccioni; Jack Nibert

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9

11:30 a.m. Becky Brechtel; Father Victor Celio

12:00 p.m. Johnnie A. Bistes; Ruth E. Hoffman; Jack Nibert

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

11:30 a.m. Purgatorial List

12:00 p.m. Johnnie A. Bistes; Ruth E. Hoffman

GREGORIAN LATIN MASS—Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Septuagesima Sunday

Benediction—Third Sunday after the 9:30 A.M. Mass.

The Living Flame of the Sanctuary Light
In Memory Of

Joseph Maselli and Joseph Maselli III



Votive Candles on the altar of the Sacred Heart

In Memory Of

Johnnie Ann Cangelosi Bistes



Votive Candles on the altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In Memory Of

Ruth Ellen Noetzel Hoffman

WEEKEND OFFERING—January 29, 2012

First Collection \$ 7,839

Second Collection* \$ 1,739

* Maintenance and Restoration

RESPECT FOR RIGHTS OF CONSCIENCE ACT

Never before has federal law forced citizens to purchase what violates their deeply held beliefs and ethical convictions. But now the Administration is forcing us to act as if pregnancy were a disease to be prevented at all costs. For many Americans that means choosing between violating our consciences and forgoing health care -- literally an unconscionable dilemma.

Cardinal-designate Timothy Dolan, president of the USCCB is urging Catholics and the public at large to speak out in protest.

1. Go to the web site: <http://www.usccb.org> and click on **URGENT ACTION ALERT** for more information about this ruling, and contact information for your U.S. Representative and two Senators.

2. Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard: 1-202-224-3121.

3. Call your Members' local offices.

4. Additional information is available in the vestibule of the church.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES COLLECTION—FEB. 11 & 12, 2012

On the weekend of February 11 & 12, the annual second collection to benefit Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans will be held. This collection raises crucial undesignated dollars for Catholic Charities to respond to the needs of the poor and vulnerable across the eight civil parishes of the archdiocese. To learn more about the services of Catholic Charities, please visit www.ccano.org

SOLEMN REQUIEM MASS SPONSORED BY PURGATORIAL SOCIETY

St. John the Baptist Church

Tuesday, February 14, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

1139 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd. (formerly Dryades St.)

Parking on premises; enter through the gate on South Rampart Street.

ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH TO SPONSOR A ST. JOSEPH'S ALTAR—MONDAY, MARCH 19, 2012

Monetary donations are now being accepted to defray the cost of preparing food and building the altar. Please make checks payable to Ozanam Inn; place them in the collection basket or deliver the checks/cash to the rectory office. For more information contact Jessie: 525-4413.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS—ATTENTION GARDENERS

There are still some Christmas poinsettias in the courtyard waiting to be picked up by their donor, to be planted in someone's garden.

COFFEE AND REFRESHMENTS

After the Sunday morning Masses; in Monsignor Reynolds Hall, directly behind the rectory. Everyone is invited.

STAY INFORMED—WWW.OLDSTPATRICKS.ORG

Visit our website: www.oldstpatricks.org for the latest bulletin and news along with the history and photos of St. Patrick's Church.

*Eucharistic Adoration; Rosary;
 Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament :
 Every Sunday 3:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.*

PRAYERS FOR THE FAITHFUL

For the sick of our parish and those who have asked for our prayers especially: Bradley Alpaugh; Jim & Betty Azcona; Pierce Blakeman; Becky Brechtel; Tony Clesi; Charlotte Colas; Howard Comeaux; Walton Lamar Edwards III; Marilyn Eguchi; Kathleen Gaudet;; Johnson Family; Jerry Harris; Anthony Lavese; Albert Leonhard; Louise Nelson; Jan Neumann; Miriam Ogden; Beverly Orillion; Sr. Paulette Paille, O.P.; My Pham; Carmen Quintanilla; Peter Robbins; M. Santos; James Seese; Eleanor Smith; Mary Silva; Raymond Spain; Sandy Turkington; Nell Pape Waring

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A THREAD FOR WEAVING JOY

Excerpt from an address given by Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap. at the *Cardinal O'Connor Conference on Life*

The American Jesuit scholar Father John Courtney Murray once said that “Anyone who really believes in God must set God, and the truth of God, above all other considerations.”

Here’s what that means. Catholic public officials who take God seriously cannot support laws that attack human dignity without lying to themselves, misleading others and abusing the faith of their fellow Catholics. *God will demand an accounting.* Catholic doctors who take God seriously cannot do procedures, prescribe drugs or support health policies that attack the sanctity of unborn children or the elderly; or that undermine the dignity of human sexuality and the family. *God will demand an accounting.* And Catholic citizens who take God seriously cannot claim to love their Church, and then ignore her counsel on vital public issues that shape our nation’s life. *God will demand an accounting.* As individuals, we can *claim* to believe whatever we want. We can posture, and rationalize our choices, and make alibis with each other all day long -- but no excuse for our lack of honesty and zeal will work with the God who made us. God knows our hearts better than we do. If we don’t conform our hearts and actions to the faith we claim to believe, we’re only fooling ourselves.

We live in a culture where our marketers and entertainment media compulsively mislead us about the sustainability of youth; the indignity of old age; the avoidance of suffering; the denial of death; the nature of real beauty; the impermanence of every human love; the oppressiveness of children and family; the silliness of virtue; and the cynicism of religious faith. It’s a culture of fantasy, selfishness, sexual confusion and illness that we’ve brought upon ourselves. And we’ve done it by misusing the freedom that other -- and *greater* -- generations than our own worked for, bled for and bequeathed to our safe-keeping.

What have we done with that freedom? In whose service do we use it now?

John Courtney Murray is most often remembered for his work at Vatican II on the issue of religious liberty, and for his great defense of American democracy in his book, *We Hold These Truths*. Murray believed deeply in the ideas and moral principles of the American experiment. He saw in the roots of the American Revolution the unique conditions for a mature people to exercise their freedom through intelligent public discourse, mutual cooperation and laws inspired by right moral character. He argued that -- at its best -- American democracy is not only compatible with the Catholic faith, but congenial to it.

But he had a caveat. It’s the caveat that George Washington implied in his Farewell Address, and that Charles Carroll -- the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence -- mentions in his own writings. In order to work, America depends as a nation on a *moral* people shaped by their *religious* faith, and in a particular way, by the *Christian* faith. Without that living faith, animating its people and informing its public life, America becomes something alien and hostile to the very ideals it was founded on.

This is why the same Father Murray who revered the best ideals of the American experiment could also write that “Our American culture, as it exists, is actually the quintessence of all that is decadent in the culture of the Western Christian world. It would seem to be erected on the triple denial that has corrupted Western culture at its roots: the denial of metaphysical reality, of the primacy of the spiritual over the material, [and] of the social over the individual . . . Its most striking characteristic is its profound materialism . . . It has given citizens everything to live for and nothing to die for. And its achievement may be summed up thus: It has gained a continent and lost its own soul.”

Catholics need to wake up from the illusion that the America we

now live in -- not the America of our nostalgia or imagination or best ideals, but the real America we live in here and now -- is somehow friendly to our faith. What we’re watching emerge in this country is a new kind of paganism, an atheism with air-conditioning and digital TV. And it is neither tolerant nor morally neutral.

As the historian Gertrude Himmelfarb observed more than a decade ago, “What was once stigmatized as deviant behavior is now tolerated and even sanctioned; what was once regarded as abnormal has been normalized.” But even more importantly, she added, “As deviancy is normalized, so what was once normal becomes deviant. The kind of family that has been regarded for centuries as natural and moral -- the ‘bourgeois’ family as it is invidiously called -- is now seen as pathological” and exclusionary, concealing the worst forms of psychic and physical oppression.

My point is this: Evil talks about tolerance only when it’s weak. When it gains the upper hand, its vanity always requires the destruction of the good and the innocent, because the example of good and innocent lives is an ongoing witness against it. So it always has been. So it always will be. And America has no special immunity to becoming an enemy of its own founding beliefs about human freedom, human dignity, the limited power of the state, and the sovereignty of God.

A friend of mine has a son with Down syndrome, and she calls him a “sniffer of souls.” I know him, and it’s true. He is. He may have an IQ of 47, and he’ll never read *The Brothers Karamazov*, but he has a piercingly quick sense of the people he meets. He knows when he’s loved -- and he knows when he’s not. Ultimately, I think we’re all like her son. We hunger for people to confirm that we have meaning by showing us love. We need that love. And we suffer when that love is withheld.

These children with disabilities are not a burden; they’re a priceless gift to all of us. They’re a doorway to the real meaning of our humanity. Whatever suffering we endure to welcome, protect and ennoble these special children is worth it because they’re a pathway to real hope and real joy. Abortion kills a child; it wounds a precious part of a woman’s own dignity and identity; and it steals hope. *That’s* why it’s wrong. *That’s* why it needs to end. *That’s* why we march.

The task you need to take home with you today is this. Never give up the struggle that the March for Life embodies. No matter how long it takes; no matter how many times you march -- it matters, eternally. Because of you, some young woman will choose life, and that new life will have the love of God forever.

The great Green Bay Packer theologian, Vince Lombardi, liked to say that real glory consists in getting knocked flat on the ground, again and again and again, and getting back up -- just one more time than the other guy. That’s real glory. And there’s no better metaphor for the Christian life. Don’t give up. Your prolific witness gives glory to God. Be the best *Catholics* you can be. Pour your love for Jesus Christ into building and struggling for a culture of life. By your words and by your actions, be an apostle to your friends and colleagues. Speak up for what you believe. Love the Church. Defend her teaching. Trust in God. Believe in the Gospel. *And don’t be afraid.* Fear is beneath your dignity as sons and daughters of the God of life.

Changing the course of American culture seems like such a huge task; so far beyond the reach of this gathering today. But St. Paul felt exactly the same way. Redeeming and converting a civilization has already been done once. It can be done again. But we need to understand that God is calling you and me to do it. He chose *us*. He calls *us*. He’s waiting, and now we need to answer him. Thanks, and God bless you.