



With both the holy season of Lent and our annual School Auction looming on the horizon, there's lots to keep us busy these next few weeks! But a busy Parish is a happy Parish - that's what we're meant to be!

In the bulletin today you'll find our Lenten schedule, beginning with Ash Wednesday Masses this coming Wednesday. I encourage everyone to make a good Lent. You only get out of something what you put into it - no pain, no gain! You don't want Easter to arrive and find you wishing you had done more! Our faith is too important to take a back seat to everything else going on in our lives.

The Auction is sold out, we have an increased number of sponsors, lots and lots of auction items have been donated, and scores of raffle tickets have been turned in. All-in-all, it looks like it may be a most successful St. Rose School Auction! This time next week we'll know for sure. Keep its success in your prayers!

I can't thank everyone enough for your understanding and support in this difficult time of the abuse claims against me. Such situations can easily leave someone feeling alone and abandoned, so you can be sure how much I appreciate your loving concern. As I said at the Parish Council meeting this past week, I have every expectation that all of this will be resolved in my favor, but getting there may well be messy!

Between the articles in the *Post-Dispatch* and the *Leader* and the statement from the Archdiocese and what I've written here, you probably know as much as anyone else. There are no surprises waiting to be sprung on you. We've been through mediation and depositions are currently being taken in the John Doe case. Nothing is happening yet in the Christian Hornbeck case. I'll certainly keep you posted as much as I can.

In the meantime, please keep me in your prayers. I've put myself and the whole situation in God's hands - and what better place could it be?!

Today we have 2 interviews with prospective candidates for Principal of St. Rose School. While we still mourn the sudden and tragic loss of Kathy Compton, we're looking forward to having a new St. Rose Principal in place. Here, too, I'll keep you posted. Although the interviews are today, we won't necessarily make a final decision today.

When I put the Holy Week schedule in last week's bulletin, I put in the wrong time - the correct time for Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday is 6:30 pm.

Have a wonderful week ahead and be sure of my appreciation, prayers, and good wishes always. And, as always, "Thanks!" for all you do to help make St. Rose Parish the wonderful place it is!



"WELCOME!"

All of us at St. Rose extend a warm "Welcome!" to Owen Vincent Reams, the son of Logan Reams and Rachel Guzman who was baptized at St. Rose on Sunday, February 20th. May his newfound faith bring him and his family nothing but grace and peace!

THIS WEEK'S QUOTE

"Do not think that love, in order to be genuine, has to be extraordinary. What we need is to love without getting tired."

St Mother Teresa



Q&A

Q: "I know the Catholic Church is opposed to artificial birth control. But why is natural family planning acceptable?"

A: Men and women are made for procreation. That's not only from the Bible, that's from physiology and genetics as well. By the way we're put together, by our very body parts, men and women are constructed to procreate.

Last week's references to "the conjugal act", and the instruction that every conjugal act has to be open to procreation, reminds us that this act between a husband and wife is sacred and that it contributes to God's continued creation of the world.

Artificial birth control - be it surgical (vasectomies or tubal ligations), mechanical (prophylactics), or chemical/hormonal (contraceptive pills) - seeks to sterilize the conjugal act. To make this sacred act fruitless and empty makes it something God did not intend it to be. To make such a serious effort to circumvent God's will is sinful, whether it's successful or not.

The difference between natural family planning and artificial birth control is that one is natural - cooperating with the fertility cycle God has already implanted in men and women - and one is not. To cooperate with God is far different from trying to undo His plan for us.

However, the use of natural family planning is not absolute. The instruction about the use of natural family planning has this caution: *The Catechism of the Catholic Church* [CCC #2368] states: "A particular aspect of this responsibility concerns the regulation of births. For just reasons, spouses may wish to space the births of their children. It is their duty to make certain that their desire is not motivated by selfishness but is in conformity with the generosity appropriate to responsible parenthood."

... to be continued.



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FIRST RECONCILIATION



"CONGRATULATIONS on Your First Penance!"

This coming Saturday, March 5th, our Parish Second Graders, both from PSR and SRLS, will, for the first time, receive absolution in the Sacrament of Penance. Bella Allen, Byron Bequette, Lola Byrd, Nicholas Carey, Luke Govero, Maysen Gunnett, Connor Guzman, Sienna Guzman, Joseph Heine, Dominic Johnson, Kegan Johnson, Ava Karsch, Abel King, Auggie Lambert, Emalee Milton, Camden Moore, Zane Morton, Levi Pinson, Stella Price, Camden Thompson, Cruz Vega, Chloe Winckel, & Mason Wren. Special "Thanks!" to their parents and teachers for bringing them to this important moment in their young lives. And may they be a good example to us of the importance of coming before the Lord and asking Him for His mercy and forgiveness. This is their final preparation prior to their First Holy Communion which will take place on the Sunday after Easter - Divine Mercy Sunday - April 24th.



"CONGRATULATIONS!"

All of us at St. Rose extend our heartfelt good wishes to Alex Jeffrey Wickerham and Britny Nicole Dane who were married at St. Rose on Saturday, February 19th. May their new life together in Christ bring them nothing but happiness and peace!