



St. John Vianney Church 2901 Good Intent Road Deptford, NJ 08096

Reverend Joseph L. Pham, Pastor
Reverend Christopher T. Mann, Parochial Vicar
Reverend Michael M. Romano, Weekend Assistant
Mr. Nicholas A. Danze, Permanent Deacon
Mr. Frank Dunleavy, Permanent Deacon
Sr. Michele DeGregorio, Principal
Sr. Vilma Butron, Director of Religious Education

Web Site: <a href="www.TheInfantJesusParish.org">www.TheInfantJesusParish.org</a>
School Web Site: <a href="www.stmargarets-rs.org">www.stmargarets-rs.org</a>
E-Mail: <a href="mailto:TheInfantJesusParish@comcast.net">TheInfantJesusParish@comcast.net</a>
FAX: 856-384-8123



St. Margaret Church 845 Third Street Woodbury Heights, NJ 08097

### MAILING ADDRESS: 334 BEECH AVENUE, WOODBURY HEIGHTS, NJ 08097-1317

RECTORY 334 Beech Ave. 848-0047

Hours: 9-12, 1-4, 6:30-8:30 PM **Monday-Friday**  RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Classes held: 773 Third Street Mail sent: 334 Beech Ave. 845-5251

Office Hours: Mon & Thurs 9 AM- 8 PM E-mail: reledakaccd@comcast.net ST. MARGARET SCHOOL 773 Third Street 845-5200

Office Hours: 8 AM -2:30 PM

CONVENT 745 Third Street 848-6049

Please no calls between 4-7 PM

### MASS SCHEDULE

**Saturday Mass Schedule** 

4:00 PM at St. Margaret Church 6:00 PM at St. John Vianney Church

**Sunday Mass Schedule** 

8:30 AM at St. Margaret Church 10:00 AM at St. Margaret Church 11:30 AM at St. John Vianney Church 4:00 PM at St. Margaret Church Holy Day Vigil: 7:00 PM at St. John Vianney Church & St. Margaret Church

Holy Days: 8:30 AM, 12 Noon and 7:00 PM at St. Margaret Church

Week Days:

6:45 AM in the Convent (school days only) 8:30 AM in Our Lady of Guadalupe Chapel

### **CONFESSION SCHEDULE**

Saturdays: 9:00-9:30AM; 2:30-3:30 PM at St. Margaret Church 5:15-5:45 PM at St. John Vianney Church

### TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME September 18, 2016 ANNOUNCED MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, September 17

**4:00 PM** Larry Kratz (2nd Anniv) req. by the Cardoso family

6:00 PM People of the Parish

### Sunday, September 18

8:30 AM Liberatore Caccavale req. by his family 10:00 AM Mary & Harry Chuba req. by Donna, Karen, Michael & Nadine

**11:30 AM** JoAnn Armstrong req. by Dave, Chris & Mike **4:00 PM** Kay Monzo req. by Mr. & Mrs. Benny Storino

### Monday, September 19

**6:45 AM** Deceased Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Infant Jesus

8:30 AM Michael Tobin req. by Kelly & Bill Slough

### Tuesday, September 20

**6:45 AM** Ed Densten req. by Louise & Joe Avallone **8:30 AM** John Danze req. by the Macdonald family

### Wednesday, September 21

**6:45 AM** Frank & Marie Worstall req. by Peggy, Dave & Allie

**8:30 AM** Antonio LoGiudice req. by his wife, Chris & children

### Thursday, September 22

6:45 AM Fr. David Delzell req. by the Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Infant Jesus8:30 AM John Danze req. by the Knights of Columbus

### Friday, September 23

**6:45** AM Eleanor Brooks req. by Fr. Joe & Staff **8:30** AM Elizabeth Krott req. by Joanne & Harry McConville

### Saturday, September 24

**8:30 AM** Joseph Krott req. by Joanne & Harry McConville

**4:00 PM** George Cavallo req. by his wife **6:00 PM** Joanne Cassidy req. by Mary Welsh

### Sunday, September 25

8:30 AM People of the Parish

10:00 AM Michael Crumsho req. by his wife & children

**11:30 AM** Kevin Kane req. by Michelle Ronketty **4:00 PM** John C. Mendel req. by St. Margaret School faculty & staff

### **SANCTUARY LAMP**

The Sanctuary lamp at St. John Vianney Church is burning for the intentions of *Debbie Smizer* req. by her mom & dad.

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The Sanctuary lamp at St. Margaret Church is burning in loving memory of *Antonio LoGiudice* req. by his wife, Chris & family.



**Remember** Please pray for the repose of the souls **Those who** of:

Have Died Joanne K. Tarpey, Margaret Huffnell, Peggy Daly (Pat Krott's sister)





Please pray for our parishioners who are in the hospital, nursing home or who are homebound: Dolores Alba, Anthony Apicella, Marge Aregood, Joe Avallone, Larry Benecke, Philomena Aureli, Dorothy Bennis, John & Philomena Bertagnali, Chloe Bruce, Rose Bruno, Delphine Byrwa, Bill Cassidy, Mark Cesarano, Colleen, Barbara Costroff, Reverend Robert Dunphy, Thomas Fisher, Gerri Foster, Kim Gaughn, Audrey Greco, Christine Hastings, Anne Heimerl, Deacon Brian Kearney, Deacon Bob Kenney, Melba Manzano, Elaine Marchiafava, Joan McCarthy, Alice McCullough, Marie Megan McMichael, Joe and Karen McGuire. Metallo, Lucille Nelson, Carmela Paladino, Eugene Pappert, Angelo Perna, Carmella Popjoy, Terry Rosato, Gary Shephard, Ken Spadafora, Coreen Welch, Sandra Wilson, Bernadette Young, Richard Zuber.

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### GOD BLESS AMERICA!

We continue to pray for our men and women overseas especially, Ryan

Berthold, Justin Gousha, Shawn Jarrell, Becky & Nick Johnson, Brian Schwartz, Rob Solome, Sarah Turse, Charity Winkler & Lt. Carlo Aragoncillo. If someone has returned home, we ask that you let us know. Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform in our time of need. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

This Sunday at the 10:00 am Mass, our Catechists will be blessed and commissioned to teach the faith to our children who are preparing for the reception of the Sacraments of Penance, Holy Communion, and Confirmation. Our parish is so blessed with faithful and dedicated Catechists.



They are busy people too, they are busy with their work as well as their families' duties and obligations. However, God bless them, they are willing to sacrifice their time and energy to care for the faith of our children. Out of love for God and care for our children, they use their God-given-gifts to evangelize, to educate, and to form the children in the faith and moral values taught by Jesus Christ. The role of Catechists are formatively so essential to the lives of our children. Their love of God and good example of faith will be reflected in our children's future spirituality. However, with all caring efforts, dedication, and good will of our Catechists, parents are still the primary teachers of their children's faith. When hearing children's confessions, it is heart-breaking when they confess "Father I missed Mass on Sunday." When asking: "Why did you miss Sunday Mass?" They answer: "Because my Mom/Dad did not bring me to Mass". They learn in Religious Education classes that missing Mass on Sundays is a sin and that is why they feel so bad and go to confession, so that their sins will be forgiven. As our Religious Education Program is starting this week, parents, please take time to care for your children's faith by bringing them to the classes and most importantly to Sunday Mass as well. - **Fr. Joe** 



### **OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS**

September 11 - \$13,855.00 Peter's Pence - \$ 1,405.00

Thank you for your continuing support. Please make your checks payable to: "Infant Jesus Parish"

Today's second collection is for the <u>Catholic</u> <u>University</u>. Please be as generous as your means permit. Thank you.

### COLLECTION FOR FLOOD VICTIMS <u>IN LOUISIANA</u>

Our Bishop, Most Reverend Dennis Sullivan, has asked all parishes in the diocese to take up a special collection to assist our brothers and sisters in Louisiana who are suffering greatly after recent floods. This special collection will be taken up next weekend <u>September 24/25</u>. May God see your good hearts and repay you a hundredfold.



### House of Charity Thank You!!

Due to your kind generosity, we have reached and surpassed our House of Charity goal of \$160,694.00. You have pledged \$146,911.11 (plus approximately \$15,348.15 from United Way for a grand total of \$162,259.26). Thank you again for your sacrifice.

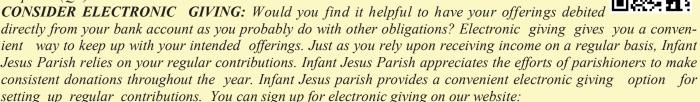
Now that we have made our goal in PLEDGES we need to collect all our pledges. Please continue to make your payments on your pledge to ensure Infant Jesus Parish receives the 10% back to offset the costs of some of our major repairs!

### Legion of Mary

The Legion of Mary meets on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM in the Ministry Center. The Legion of Mary is a worldwide Catholic lay apostolate that fosters faith, prayer and evangelization under the mantel of Our Blessed Mother. For more information, call Kathy at 856-535-7617.

### Donate from your smart phone!

Infant Jesus Parish now offers a mobile version of our online giving page to make it easy for you to give anytime from your smart phone. Simply scan the image you see here using your phone's Quick Response (QR) code reader!



www.theinfantJesusparish.org



## Infant Jesus Parish Ministries

### KING'S MEN

The *King's Men* ministry helps men fulfill their role as Leader, Protector, Provider in their families. We meet Saturdays at 7:00 AM in the Ministry Center. Please join us! This week, we are reminded that no slave can serve two masters. Often as men, ambition and pride can prevent us from understanding God's will in our life. Challenge for the week: think about how you invest your time and energy on a typical Sunday...how does it build up your family and / or relieve suffering around you?

### RELA

Do you know anyone interested in becoming Catholic or completing their Sacraments? If so, Father Chris Mann can answer their questions and help in either endeavor. Please call 856-848-0047 and ask for Father Chris! Anyone wanting to join the RCIA Team should contact Father Chris. There are many ways to serve in RCIA, so do not hesitate to inquire. Many hands make light work.



Thank you for your continued support of our food pantry. Your donations are helping us to feed approximately 12 to 15 families per week that come to us for food. Currently our pantry is low on the following items: cereal,

pancake mix & syrup, pasta & sauce, canned meats, canned fruits, jelly, soup, mac & cheese, crackers & granola bars. Please keep us in mind when you do your food shopping and pick an item or two as your budget allows for our pantry. Thank you & may God bless you always!

### What is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry is a system through which members of Infant Jesus Parish are trained and organized to help provide Christian caregiving to members of our congregation and community.

This will multiply the amount of caring ministry Infant Jesus can provide by giving us a whole team of skilled caregivers who are equipped to bring Christ's healing love to people who are grieving, in crisis, or experiencing other stresses in life. More info to follow...

### **COMFORTING MINISTRY**

### Looking for a ministry to join?

Are you looking for a ministry to join but have only a limited amount of time to contribute? Consider joining the *Comforting Ministry*. There is no minimum time requirement and we will train you on making the visits and assisting at the Mass. If you are interest in this wonderful Ministry, call the rectory for further information. We are looking for caring people who want to assist our parish family members in their time of need.

### WOMEN'S CLUB CORNER

Announcing the Infant Jesus Parish Women's Club Kick Off September Meeting !!!!

Tuesday, September 20th at 7:30PM in the Ministry Center!!!!

Come on out ... Bring a friend ... Or TWO !!!!!
We meet every 3rd Tuesday of the Month ... We work together ... Pray together ... and laugh together !!

If you have any questions ... ask anyone that spoke at your mass this weekend ... or give me a call Neen Raspa 856-468-6430 ... See ya Tuesday Night !!!

Radio City Music Hall's Christmas Spectacular: Sunday, November 20, 2016 - Buses will depart St. Margaret's School Parking Lot at 8:00 AM arriving in New York City at 10:00 AM. You will have time on your own and attend the 2:00 PM Show at Radio City Music Hall. You are asked to be in line a half hour before the show. The show lasts about 90 minutes. The bus will depart New York City immediately following the show approximately 4:00 PM. We will arrive at St. Margaret's School Parking Lot around 6:00 PM. Cost for transportation and show is \$125.00. Payment is due at time of reservation. Seats are located in the Orchestra and are limited so don't delay! Cost includes orchestra show ticket, motor coach and bus driver gratuity. For reservations or info please email Neen Raspa at neenie@comcast.net or call 856-468-6430



Please consider volunteering to visit the sick and bring them Communion at Inspira Hospital, Woodbury. We are looking for volunteers for one or more days a month. For more information, please contact Anne

Pirillo at <u>Annemarie.Pirillo@camdendiocese.org</u> or at (856)278-8866 for more information.

### Religious Education

Registration for 2016-17 Sessions is still open. Class sizes are limited and filled on a first come first placed basis. Registration Forms are available on the parish website <a href="http://www.theinfantjesusparish.org">http://www.theinfantjesusparish.org</a>. We cannot guarantee books and materials will be available for your child at the Open House if forms are received past Sept. 8th.

**Open House for** Fall Level 1- 7 is Sunday, Sep. 18th at 11:15 AM in St. Margaret's School Gym. We encourage you to attend the 10 AM Mass before the open house at 11:15 as we celebrate Catechetical Sunday.

Fall Classes Start the week of Sep. 19th

**Important Upcoming Parent Meetings**: Meetings are for Infant Jesus Parish Parents of both **SMS** & <u>Fall RE</u> (CCD). **At Least 1 parent needs to attend (1) of these meetings** for the appropriate Level/Grade of your child/children. All meetings are held in St. Margaret's School.

**Grade/Level 8 for Religious Education**: Monday, Sept. 19th @ 6:45 PM **Grade 8 for St. Margaret School:** Thursday, Sept. 22nd at 6:00 PM

Level/Grade 1: Sunday, Sept. 25th at 8:30 AM or Monday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 PM Level/Grade 7: Monday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 PM or Thursday, Sept. 29th at 6:15 PM Level/Grade 6: Thursday, Oct. 13th at 6:15 PM or Monday, Oct. 17th at 6:45 PM Level/Grade 2: Sunday, Oct. 23rd at 8:30 AM or Monday, Oct. 24th at 4:30 PM

SUNDAY SCHOOL - This is an opportunity for children ages 3 through kindergarten to actively learn about Jesus at their level through Bible Stories, Music and Crafts. Classes are held during the 10:00 AM Mass at St. Margaret's School. Our First Class is Sunday, Sept. 25th. If you can't make the first class you are welcome to start at any time. Registration forms are available on the parish web site or at the rectory. Any questions please call Ms. Janet at the rectory (856-848-0047)

### SAVE THE DATE!!

St. Margaret Regional School Fall Family Hoedown!

Friday, September 30th

6 to 9 PM - SMRS Gym & Parking Lot

Square Dancing, Chili-Cook Off Contest, Food and Stuff a Scarecrow! Don't forget to bring your own scarecrow clothes – we provide the stuffing and display!

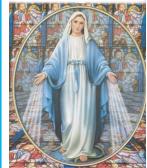
Indoor and Outdoor Activities – Hoedown attire welcome.

\$15 Per Family – Send your payment and ticket request to the SMRS Advancement Office.

Cook an amazing pot of chili? \$5 contest entrance fee for your pot of chili. Contact the Advancement Office Lbrady@stmargarets-rs.org

Additional Events: pumpkin decorating \$1, pony rides \$2 and ice cream truck \$3. Family Activities & Food open at 6pm. Square Dancing starts at 7pm Help us to count you in for the fun:

RSVP to http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YMBL



### MARIAN PILGRIMAGE

Saturday, October 1st
Basilica of the National Shrine
of the Immaculate Conception,
Washington, D.C.

Infant Jesus Parish will have a bus to the Basilica. The bus will leave St. Margaret Church park-

ing lot at 7:15 AM *sharp*! Concert of Sacred Music, Procession of Parishes, the Holy Rosary, Sacrament of Confession. Holy Mass in the Great Upper Church with Bishop Dennis J. Sullivan, D.D. We will return at approximately 7:30 PM. You can bring your lunch or you can buy it at the Basilica. The **cost** is \$25 per person. Please contact Bob Heenan (856-468-3708) to reserve your seat.

### ATTENTION ALL CENTENARIANS!

Our good Lord has blessed some among us with the gift of 100 years. If you are one of those 100 or more years young, or soon to celebrate your 100th birthday, the Camden Diocese VITALity Catholic Healthcare Services wants to know who you are so that we can recognize you and celebrate your wonderful life. If you or a family member would send us your name, address, phone number, parish, age and birthday, we would be most grateful. You can send it to: VITALity Catholic Healthcare Services, Diocese of Camden, 631 Market St., Camden, NJ 08102 or e-mail it to: Gerard.jablonowski@camdendiocese.org.



### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

### Saturday, September 24, 2016

**4:00 PM** Kathryn Schmidt, Vince Brandolini, Joanne McConville, Bob Heenan **6:00 PM** Evelyn Iacovone, Margie Mantzell, Mary Feret

### Sunday, September 25, 2016

8:30 AM Joan Badie, Jim McHugh, Pat Reiners, Loretta Petito

**10:00 AM** Maria & Mike Frain, Dawn Capone, Sr. Michele

11:30 AM Rich Whelan, Jim & Pat McGuinness 4:00 PM Kathy Smith, Joan Rodgers, Christina LoGiudice



### Saturday, September 24, 2016

**4:00 PM** Bob & Jonathan Law **6:00 PM** Rob Dietrich

### Sunday, September 25, 2016

8:30 AM Kelly Puitz, Maura Kelly 10:00 AM Joe Capone 11:30 AM Debby Pascale 4:00 PM Katie Gerardi



### **ALTAR SERVERS**

### Saturday, September 24, 2016

**4:00 PM** Team 14 **6:00 PM** Team 17

### Sunday, September 25, 2016

8:30 AM Team 2 10:00 AM Team 5 11:30 AM Team 8 4:00 PM Team 11

### PLEASE SUPPORT OUR LOCAL ADVERTISERS

Abbey Carpet & Floor Boucher Funeral Home Fanelli Chiropractic

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun., Sept. 18 Women's Club Membership Drive at all Masses
Catechetical Sunday - 10:00 AM Mass
Choir - 10:15 AM (SJV)
Deeper Dimensions - 7:00 PM (MC)

Mon., Sept. 19 Rel Ed 4:30/6:45 PM
Finance Council - 6:30 PM (B)
Level 8 Parent Meeting - 6:45 PM (8A)
Prayer Group - 7:30 PM (MC)

Tues., Sept. 20 Frasatti Fellowship - 7:00 PM (FSC) Women's Club - 7:30 PM (MC)

Wed., Sept. 21 Legion of Mary - 10:00 AM (C)
Youth Choir - 6:15 PM (SMC)
RCIA - 7:00 PM (C & D)
Back to School Night - 7:00 PM (gym)
Choir - 7:15 PM (SMC)

Thurs., Sept. 22 Rel Ed - 6:00 PM Level 8 Parent Meeting - 6:00 PM (8A) Fr. Joe's Installation Mass - 7:00 PM NA - 8:00 PM (C)

Fri., Sept. 23 Alliance of 2 Hearts - 7:00 PM (FSC)

Sat., Sept. 24 Kings Men - 7:00 AM (B)

Sun., Sept. 25 K of C Breakfast - 7:30 AM (gym)
Rel Ed - 8:30 AM
Level 1 Parent Meeting - 8:30 AM (8A)
Sunday School - 10:00 AM
Choir - 10:15 AM (SJV)
Deeper Dimensions - 7:00 PM (MC)

### Installation Mass for Father Joe Thursday, September 22nd at 7:00 PM

Please join us for Mass on Thursday, September 22nd at 7:00 PM when Bishop Sullivan will officially install Father Joe as pastor of Infant Jesus Parish. Mass will be celebrated at Infant Jesus Parish/St. Margaret Church. Light refreshments will be served immediately following Mass at McKeever Hall.

Please RSVP by calling the rectory at 856-848-0047 or email <a href="mailto:theinfantJesusparish@comcast.net">theinfantJesusparish@comcast.net</a> no later than Friday, September 16th. Thank you.

### 2016 - Welcome Back! September Breakfast

### Knights of Columbus Monthly Fundraiser

Enjoy a delicious breakfast with family and friends.





Buffet:

Scrambled Eggs

Bacon

Fresh Sausage

Home Fried Potatoes

Coffee, Tea, Juice, and Other Beverages.

Vanilla Pancakes

French Toast

- Various Gourmet types

Rolls or Bagels- Butter

Sponsored by:



St. Margaret's Council 13259

DATE:

Sunday, September 25

TIME:

7:45 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

PLACE:

St. Margaret's School

Father McKeever Hall **Third Street** Woodbury Hts., N. J.

Adults: 12 yrs and up: \$7.00

Children: Ages 0 – 5 yrs. **FRFF** 

Ages 6 to 11 yrs. \$3.00

### TAKE-OUT AVAILABLE

MotorCycle Ministry Sunday Have your Ride Blessed after Mass

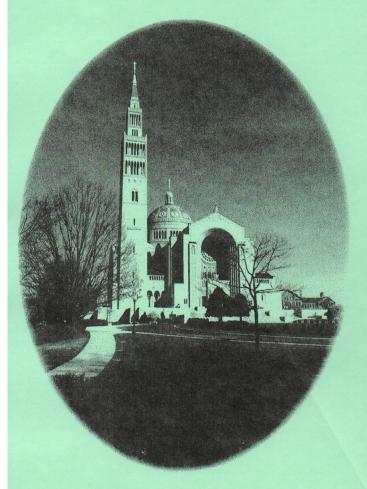


Proceeds benefit various charitable causes, Right To Life, St. John of God School, Student Scholarships, Seminarian sponsorship, and other Parish projects.

> If interested in joining the Knights, please contact Kevin Rice 856-686-0396 or Charlie Durr 856-468-1399

### Diocese of Camden Marian Pilgrimage Schedule

To the Basilica of the National Shrine Of the Immaculate Conception Saturday, October 1, 2016



9:30-11:00: Arrive at the Basilica. Confession is available. Time to explore the Shrine, for private prayer and to visit the gift shops.

**11:00**: Official Welcome. Concert of Sacred Music.

12 Noon: Time for lunch.

1:30: Procession of Parishes, with their banners, in the Great Upper Church. Multi-Lingual Rosary and Crowning of the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**3:00**: Holy Mass with Bishop Dennis Sullivan.

Departure following Mass.

Infant Jesus Parish will have a bus to the Basilica. The bus will leave St. Margaret Church parking lot at 7:15 AM *sharp*! Concert of Sacred Music, Procession of Parishes, the Holy Rosary, Sacrament of Confession. Holy Mass in the Great Upper Church with Bishop Dennis J. Sullivan, D.D. We will return at approximately 7:30 PM. You can bring your lunch or you can buy it at the Basilica. The **cost** is \$25 per person. Please contact Bob Heenan (856-468-3708) to reserve your seat before the bus is full.

# VOTER'S GUIDE for SERIOUS CATHOLICS

Nothing in this voter's guide should be construed as an endorsement of any particular candidate or political party.

### HOW THIS VOTER'S GUIDE HELPS YOU

If you take your Catholic faith seriously then this voter's guide is for you. It will help you cast your vote in an informed manner consistent with Catholic moral teaching and fundamental human rights. This guide will help you tell the difference between candidates' positions that are morally acceptable and ones that are so contrary to fundamental moral principles that they are inconsistent with public service.

On most issues that come before voters or legislators, the task is selecting the most effective policy to implement or apply a moral principle. Good Catholics must embrace the principles, but most of the time there isn't a specifically "Catholic position" on the best way to implement that principle. But some issues concern "non-negotiable" moral principles that do not admit of exception or compromise. One's position either accords with those principles or does not. No one endorsing the wrong side of these issues can be said to act in accord with the Church's moral norms.

As the Holy See has pointed out: "Democracy must be based on the true and solid foundation of non-negotiable ethical principles, which are the underpinning of life in society" (CPL 3).

This voter's guide identifies five issues involving nonnegotiable moral values in current politics and helps you narrow down the list of acceptable candidates, whether they are running for national, state, or local offices.

You should avoid to the greatest extent possible voting for candidates who endorse or promote intrinsically evil policies. As far as possible, you should vote for those who promote policies in line with moral law.

In many elections there are situations where all of the available candidates take morally unacceptable positions on one or more of the non-negotiable issues.

In such situations, a citizen will be called upon to make tough choices. In those cases, citizens must vote in the way that will most limit the harm that would be done by the available candidates.

In this guide we will look first at the principles that should be applied in clear-cut races, where there is an unambiguously good moral choice. These same principles help lay the groundwork for what to do in situations that are more difficult.

Knowing the principles that are applied in ideal situations is useful when facing problematic ones, so as you review the principles you should keep in mind that they often must be applied in situations where the choice is more difficult. At the end of the guide we will offer practical advice about how to decide to cast your vote in those cases.

### YOUR ROLE AS A CATHOLIC VOTER

Catholics have a moral obligation to promote the common good through the exercise of their voting privileges (CCC 2240). It is not only civil authorities who have responsibility for a country. "Service of the common good require[s] citizens to fulfill their roles in the life of the political community" (CCC 2239). This means citizens should participate in the political process at the ballot box.

But voting cannot be arbitrary. "A well-formed Christian conscience does not permit one to vote for a political program or an individual law that contradicts the fundamental contents of faith and morals" (CPL 4). A citizen's vote most often means voting for a candidate who will be the one directly voting on laws or programs. But being one step removed from law-making doesn't let citizens off the hook, since morality requires that we avoid doing evil to the greatest extent possible, even indirectly.

Some things are always wrong, and no one may deliberately vote in favor of them. Legislators, who have a direct vote, may not support these evils in legislation or programs. Citizens support these evils indirectly if they vote in favor of candidates who propose to advance them. Thus, to the greatest extent possible, Catholics must avoid voting for any candidate who intends to support programs or laws that are intrinsically evil. When all of the candidates endorse morally harmful policies, citizens must vote in a way that will limit the harm likely to be done.

### THE FIVE NON-NEGOTIABLE ISSUES

These five issues concern actions that are intrinsically evil and must never be promoted by the law. (For information on additional issues, see the appendix at the end of this guide.) Intrinsically evil actions are those that fundamentally conflict with the moral law and can never be performed under any circumstances. It is a serious sin to deliberately endorse or promote any of these actions, and no candidate who really wants to advance the common good will support any action contrary to the non-negotiable principles involved in these issues.

### 1. Abortion

The Church teaches that, regarding a law permitting

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abortions, it is "never licit to obey it, or to take part in a propaganda campaign in favor of such a law, or to vote for it" (EV 73). Abortion is the intentional and direct killing of an innocent human being, and therefore it is a form of homicide.

The unborn child is always an innocent party, and no law may permit the taking of his life. Even when a child is conceived through rape or incest, the fault is not the child's, who should not suffer death for others' sins.

#### 2. Euthanasia

Often disguised by the name "mercy killing," euthanasia is also a form of homicide. No person has a right to take his own life, and no one has the right to take the life of any innocent person.

In euthanasia, the ill or elderly are killed, by action or omission, out of a misplaced sense of compassion, but true compassion cannot include intentionally doing something intrinsically evil to another person (EV 73).

### 3. Embryonic Stem Cell Research

Human embryos are human beings. "Respect for the dignity of the human being excludes all experimental manipulation or exploitation of the human embryo" (CRF 4b). Recent scientific advances show that medical treatments that researchers hope to develop from experimentation on embryonic stem cells can often be developed by using adult stem cells instead. Adult stem cells can be obtained without doing harm to the adults from whom they come. Thus there is no valid medical argument in favor of using embryonic stem cells. And even if there were benefits to be had from such experiments, they would not justify destroying innocent embryonic humans.

#### 4. Human Cloning

"Attempts... for obtaining a human being without any connection with sexuality through 'twin fission,' cloning, or parthenogenesis are to be considered contrary to the moral law, since they are in opposition to the dignity both of human procreation and of the conjugal union" (RHL I:6).

Human cloning also involves abortion because the "rejected" or "unsuccessful" embryonic clones are destroyed, yet each clone is a human being.

### 5. Homosexual "Marriage"

True marriage is the union of one man and one woman. Legal recognition of any other union as "marriage" undermines true marriage, and legal recognition of homosexual unions actually does homosexual persons a disfavor by encouraging them to persist in what is an objectively immoral arrangement.

"When legislation in favor of the recognition of homosexual unions is proposed for the first time in a legislative assembly, the Catholic lawmaker has a moral duty to express his opposition clearly and publicly and to vote against it. To vote in favor of a law so harmful to the common good is gravely immoral" (UHP 10).

### **RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

Another important value under attack today is religious liberty. The threats to religious liberty in the United States have become so serious that, in a meeting with U.S. bishops, Pope Benedict XVI stated:

"It is imperative that the entire Catholic community in the United States come to realize the grave threats to the Church's public moral witness. . . . Of particular concern are certain attempts being made to limit that most cherished of American freedoms, the freedom of religion. Many of you have pointed out that concerted efforts have been made to deny the right of conscientious objection on the part of Catholic individuals and institutions with regard to cooperation in intrinsically evil practices. Others have spoken to me of a worrying tendency to reduce religious freedom to mere freedom of worship without guarantees of respect for freedom of conscience."

To combat the assaults on religious liberty, Pope Benedict called for "an engaged, articulate, and well-formed Catholic laity . . . with the courage to counter a reductive secularism which would de-legitimize the Church's participation in public debate about the issues which are determining the future of American society" (Jan. 19, 2012).

### WHICH POLITICAL OFFICES SHOULD I WORRY ABOUT?

Laws are passed by the legislature, enforced by the executive branch, and interpreted by the judiciary. This means you should scrutinize any candidate for the legislature, anyone running for an executive office, and anyone nominated for the bench. This is true not only at the national level but also at the state and local levels. True, the lesser the office, the less likely the office holder will take up certain issues. Your city council, for example, will not vote on the legality of abortion, but may take up issues connected with local abortion clinics. It is important that you evaluate candidates in light of each non-negotiable moral issue that will come before them in the offices they are seeking.

Few people achieve high office without first holding a lower office. Some people become congressional representatives, senators, or presidents without having been elected to a lesser office. But most representatives, senators, and presidents started their political careers at the local level. The same is true for state lawmakers. Most of them began on city councils and school boards and worked their way up the political ladder.

Tomorrow's candidates for higher offices will come mainly from today's candidates for lower offices. It is therefore prudent to apply comparable standards to local candidates. One should seek to elect to lower offices candidates who support Christian morality so that they will have a greater ability to be elected to higher offices where their moral stances may come directly into play.

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### **HOW TO DETERMINE A CANDIDATE'S POSITION**

- 1. The higher the office, the easier this will be. Congressional representatives and senators, for example, have repeatedly seen these issues come before them and so have taken positions on them. Often the same can be said at the state level. In either case, learning a candidate's position can be as easy as reading newspaper or magazine articles, looking up his views on the Internet, or studying one of the many printed candidate surveys that are distributed at election time.
- 2. It is often more difficult to learn the views of candidates for local offices, because few of them have an opportunity to consider legislation on such things as abortion, cloning, and the sanctity of marriage. But these candidates, being local, can often be contacted directly or have local campaign offices that will explain their positions.
- **3.** If you cannot determine a candidate's views by other means, do not hesitate to write directly to the candidate, asking for his position on the issues covered above.

### **HOW NOT TO VOTE**

- 1. Do not just vote based on your political party affiliation, your earlier voting habits, or your family's voting tradition. Years ago, these may have been trustworthy ways to determine whom to vote for, but today they are often not reliable. You need to look at the stands each candidate takes. This means that you may end up casting votes for candidates from more than one party.
- **2.** Do not cast your vote based on candidates' appearance, personality, or "media savvy." Some attractive, engaging, and "sound-bite-capable" candidates endorse intrinsic evils, while other candidates, who may be plain-looking, uninspiring, and ill at ease in front of cameras, endorse legislation in accord with basic Christian principles.
- **3.** Do not vote for candidates simply because they declare themselves to be Catholic. Unfortunately, many self-described Catholic candidates reject basic Catholic moral teaching.
- **4.** Do not choose among candidates based on "What's in it for me?" Make your decision based on which candidates seem most likely to promote the common good, even if you will not benefit directly or immediately from the legislation they propose.
- **5.** Do not vote for candidates who are right on lesser issues but who will vote wrongly on key moral issues. This was underscored by Pope John Paul II regarding the life issues: "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). One candidate may have a record of voting in line with Catholic values except, say, for euthanasia. Such a voting record is a clear signal that the candidate should not be chosen by a Catholic voter unless the other candidates have voting records even less in accord with these moral norms.

#### **HOW TO VOTE**

- 1. For each office, first determine how each candidate with a real even if unlikely- chance of winning stands on each of the issues that will come before him and involve non-negotiable principles.
- 2. Rank the candidates according to how well their positions align with these non-negotiable moral principles.
- **3.** Give preference to candidates who do not propose positions that contradict these principles.
- **4.** Where every candidate endorses positions contrary to non-negotiable principles, choose the candidate likely to do the least harm. If several are equal, evaluate them based on their views on other, lesser issues.
- **5.** Remember that your vote today may affect the offices a candidate later achieves.

#### WHEN THERE IS NO "ACCEPTABLE" CANDIDATE

In some political races, each candidate takes a wrong position on one or more issues involving non-negotiable moral principles. In such a case you may vote for the candidate who takes the fewest such positions or who seems least likely to be able to advance immoral legislation, or you may choose to vote for no one.

A vote cast in such a situation is not morally the same as a positive endorsement for candidates, laws, or programs that promote intrinsic evils: Rather, it is an action aimed at limiting the evil, and an action that limits evil is good. As Pope John Paul II indicated regarding a situation where it is not possible to overturn or completely defeat a law allowing abortion, "an elected official whose absolute personal opposition to procured abortion was well known could licitly support proposals aimed at limiting the harm done by such a law and at lessening its negative consequences at the level of general opinion and public morality" (EV 73; also CPL, n.4).

Catholics must strive to put in place candidates, laws, and political programs that are in full accord with non-negotiable moral values. Where a perfect candidate, law, or program is not on the table, we are to choose the best option, the one that promotes the greatest good and entails the least evil. Not voting may sometimes be the only moral course of action, but we must consider whether not voting actually promotes good and limits evil in a specific instance. The role of citizens and elected officials is to promote intrinsic moral values as much as possible while continuing to work toward better candidates, laws, and programs in the future.

### THE ROLE OF YOUR CONSCIENCE

Conscience is like an alarm. It warns you when you are about to do something that you know is wrong. It does not itself determine what is right or wrong. For your conscience to work properly, it must be properly informed-that is, you must inform yourself about what is right and what is wrong. Only then will your conscience be a trusted guide.

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Unfortunately, today many Catholics have not formed their consciences adequately regarding key moral issues. The result is that their consciences do not "sound off" at appropriate times, including on Election Day.

A well-formed conscience will never contradict Catholic moral teaching. For that reason, if you are unsure where your conscience is leading you when at the ballot box, place your trust in the unwavering moral teachings of the Church. (The Catechism of the Catholic Church is an excellent source of authentic moral teaching.)

### WHEN YOU ARE DONE WITH THIS VOTER'S GUIDE

Please do not keep this voter's guide to yourself. Read it, learn from it, and prepare your selection of candidates based on it. Then give this voter's guide to a friend, and ask your friend to read it and pass it on to others. The more people who vote in accord with basic moral principles, the better off our country will be.

#### APPENDIX:

### **Other Political Issues**

This voter's guide focuses on five non-negotiable issues. These were selected because they involve principles that never admit of exceptions and because they are currently being debated in U.S. politics, giving voters the opportunity to influence these issues through the candidates they elect. The guide does not focus on issues that do not meet the tests of non-negotiability and being "in play" politically.

#### Issues That Are Not Non-Negotiable

Some issues allow for a diversity of opinion, and Catholics are permitted leeway in endorsing or opposing particular policies. This is the case with the questions of when to go to war and when to apply the death penalty. Though the Church urges caution regarding both of these issues, it acknowledges that the state has the right to employ them in some circumstances (CCC 2309, 2267).

Pope Benedict XVI, when he was still Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, spoke of this in a document dealing with when Catholics may receive Communion: "Not all moral issues have the same moral weight as abortion and euthanasia. For example, if a Catholic were to be at odds with the Holy Father on the application of capital punishment or on the decision to wage war, he would not for that reason be considered unworthy to present himself to receive Holy Communion. While the Church exhorts civil authorities to seek peace, not war, and to exercise discretion and mercy in imposing punishment on criminals, it may still be permissible to take up arms to repel an aggressor or to have recourse to capital punishment. There may be a legitimate diversity of opinion even among Catholics about waging war and applying the death penalty, but not however with regard to abortion and euthanasia" (WRHC 3).

The same is true of many other issues that are the subject of political debate: the best way to help the poor, to manage the economy, to protect the environment, to handle immigration, and to provide education, health care, and retirement security. Catholics may legitimately

take different approaches to these issues. While the underlying principles (such as solidarity with the poor) are non-negotiable, the specific applications being debated politically admit of many options and so they are not "non-negotiable" in the sense that this guide uses the term.

### Issues That Are Not "In Play" Politically

There are additional issues that are non-negotiable but that are not "in play" politically. These may be evils that American politicians are not presently tackling, such as contraception (CCC 2370), or evils that American politicians are not presently advocating, such as genocide (CCC 2313). Unlike the five non-negotiables listed in the main part of this guide, Catholic voters generally do not have the ability to influence these issues through the lawmakers they elect because of the lack of debate among politicians.

- CCC Catechism of the Catholic Church
- CPL Doctrinal Notes on Some Questions Regarding the Participation of Catholics in Political Life (Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith)
- CRF Charter of the Rights of the Family (Pontifical Council for the Family)
- EV Evangelium Vitae: The Gospel of Life (Pope John Paul II)
- RHL Instruction on Respect for Human Life in Its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation (Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith)
- UHP Considerations regarding Proposals to Give Legal Recognition to
  Unions between Homosexual Persons (Congregation for the Doctrine
  of the Faith)
- WRHC Worthiness to Receive Holy Communion: General Principles (Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger)

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[Catholic Answers, Inc.] created, published and distributed the "Voter's Guide for Serious Catholics" ("VGSC"). The VGSC asserts that it is intended to help the reader vote for candidates for public office in a manner consistent with Catholic moral teachings. The VGSC identifies five issues it deems to be "nonnegotiable" issues and instructs the reader on how to narrow down the list of candidates to those who are acceptable based on the non-negotiable issues. The VGSC does not directly or indirectly make reference to any specific candidate, political party or election. Therefore, the content of the VGSC, standing alone, is not political campaign intervention because the VGSC does not support or oppose any specific candidate for public office. --Internal Revenue Service, Addendum to Letter 3609P, May 2, 2008



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