



# St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church

Temperance, Michigan

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

April 2, 2017

“The Antonian”

“I am the Resurrection and the Life,” says the Lord.

“Whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will never die.”

### ST. ANTHONY’S DIRECTORY

#### PASTOR

**Father Brian Hurley**.....734-854-1143 fatherbrianhurley@stanthonytemperance.org  
**Rectory**.....734-854-1143 4605 St. Anthony Road, Temperance, MI 48182  
**Fax**.....734-854-4622 **Parish E-mail**.....stanthony@bex.net  
**Web site:** stanthonytemperance.org

#### OFFICE STAFF:

Michelle Lindsey, Parish Secretary: 734-854-1143 Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 9am - 4pm  
Linda Moeltner, Business Office: 734-854-8445 Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday: 9am - 3pm  
busadmin@stanthonytemperance.org

#### DIRECTOR OF LITURGY & MUSIC

Eric Hite.....419-266-0571.....ehite820@gmail.com

#### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)

Ginny Stout, RE Coordinator.....734-854-1160 Office Hours: Monday - 10am - 6pm  
dredu@stanthonytemperance.org

**Padua Hall:** 734-854-9120 4611 St. Anthony Road

**Kenna Hall:** 734-854-9162 4635 St. Anthony Road

#### Weekend Mass Schedule

**Saturday** (Sunday Vigil) (OF-MC): 5:00pm

**Sunday** (OF-MC): 9:00am & 11:00am

**Holy Days:** Check Bulletin & Website

#### Sacrament of Penance

**Saturday:** 3:30-4:30pm;

**First Wednesday:** 6:30-7:30pm (September - May)

**Second Tuesday:** 6:00-6:30pm (September - May)

#### Devotions

**First Friday:** 7:00pm Mass (OF-LM) **First Saturday:** 9:00am Mass (EF-MC)

**O. L. of Perpetual Help & Prayer** - Wednesday @ 6:15pm

#### Prayer Blankets

Sandy Maenle.....734-847-7813

#### Prayer Chain

Miriam Dressel.....734-888-1192

### † Our Sacramental Policy †

Six-month Parish registration and participation are required for Baptism, Confirmation and Marriage.

**Baptisms:** Arrangements must be made in advance and parents must attend a baptism class. The Church requires that at least one of the parents be a practicing Catholic, and the Godparents must be active, practicing, fully initiated Catholics at least 16 years of age. If two Godparents: must be 1 male & 1 female; if one Godparent: may be male or female.

**Marriage:** Arrangements must be made at least nine months in advance. Please call the rectory office. Officiate at the ceremony must be St. Anthony Parish Pastor or a family member.

**Funerals:** Officiate must be St. Anthony Parish Pastor or a family member.

**Please note:** The services of the Parish Organist are used for all sacramental liturgies.

For more details regarding our Sacramental policies and procedures, please refer to the Sacrament link on our Parish web-site.

### Lenten Schedule for the Week

††††

#### Confessions

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

6:30-7:30pm

††††

#### Stations of the Cross

First Friday, April 7, 2017

7:00pm

Followed by Mass

with Exposition, Benediction

### K of C Breakfast Buffet



NEXT WEEK

April 9, 2017

8:30am - 11:30am

in Kenna Hall.

All are welcome!



Don't miss Fr. Brian Hurley on

Annunciation Radio,

Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, from 11am-12pm

during the Spring Sharathon.

Tune to 89.7 WNOG and call in your pledges to 888-215-0624 during Father's hour and really show how our parish supports Annunciation Radio! As a non-profit apostolate, Annunciation Radio depends solely on listener support.

Please listen and support Catholic radio during the Sharathon, April 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup>.

### Traveling Vocation Chalice

April 2 The Oswald Family

April 9 The Torio Family

April 16 Mike Holup Family

April 23 \*Host Family Needed



**† MASS SCHEDULE †**

Key to Abbreviations:

- EF - Extra-ordinary Form (Trad. Latin Mass)
- OF - Ordinary Form (New Rite; Novus Ordo)
- LM - Low Mass; MC - Missa Cantata (Sung)

**Monday, April 3, 2017**

**8:30am † Arnold Maenle** by Sandy Maenle  
(OF-LM) (5th Anniversary of Death)

Monday of Passion Week (Trad.)  
St. Richard (1253), B. of Chichester (Hist.)  
St. Irene of Thessalonica (304), V., M. (Hist.)

**Tuesday, April 4, 2017**

**8:30am Brian James & Family**  
(OF-LM) by Barbara James

St. Isidore of Seville (636), B., D. (New, Trad.)  
Tuesday of Passion Week (Trad.)

**Wednesday, April 5, 2017**

**8:30am † Jack, Pat, & Peter Carey**  
(OF-LM) by Dan Carey on Behalf of the Family

St. Vincent Ferrer (1419), Pr., R., "Angel of the  
Apocalypse" (New, Trad.)  
Wednesday of Passion Week (Trad.)  
Bl. Juliana of Mount Cornillon (1258), V. (Hist.)

**Thursday, April 6, 2017**

**9:00am † Anna Sepesy** by Tim Sepesy  
(OF-LM) on Behalf of Family & Friends

Thursday of Passion Week (Trad.)  
St. Marcellinus of Carthage (413), M. (Hist.)

**First Friday, April 7, 2017**

**9:00am † Jonathan Scout**  
(OF-LM) by Steve & Pat Miller

**7:30pm † Connie LaPointe**  
(OF-MC) by John Eicholtz  
St. John Baptist de la Salle (1719), Pr. F./Bros.  
Christian Schools (New)  
Friday of Passion Week (Trad.)  
Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Trad.;  
Fri. in Passion Week)  
St. Herman Joseph (1241), Pr. R. (Hist.)

**Saturday, April 8, 2017**

St. Julie Billiard (1816), V. (Trad./some places)  
Saturday of Passion Week (Trad.)

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**Sunday Vigil Mass**

**5:00pm † Jamel Jomaa**  
(OF-MC) by Jamie & Pat Jemaa

**Sunday, April 9, 2017**

**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**  
(New, Trad.)

**9:00am † Bernie Rochowiak**  
(OF-MC) by Kevin & Karen Nusbaum

**11:00am The People of St. Anthony**  
(OF-MC)

St. Gaucherius (1140), Ab. (Hist.)  
St. Mary of Cleophas (1st C.) (Hist.)



Please keep in your prayers all our service men and women, especially those currently serving in Iraq or Afghanistan, especially  
★ Kenneth Lee Ziegler, Jr, Army  
★ Master Sgt., Gerald Hughes

**Readings for the Week**

**Monday, April 3:**

Daniel 13:1-9,15-17,19-30,33-62;  
John 8:1-11

**Tuesday, April 4:**

Numbers 21:4-9; John 8:21-30

**Wednesday, April 5:**

Daniel 3:14-20,91-92,95; John 8:31-42

**Thursday, April 6:**

Genesis 17:3-9; John 8:51-59

**First Friday, April 7:**

Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-42

**Saturday, April 8:**

Ezekiel 37:21-28; John 11:45-56

**Sunday, April 9:**

Matthew 21:1-11  
Isaiah 50:4-7  
Philippians 2:6-11  
Matthew 26:4--27:66

**Easter Food Baskets**

St. Anthony will be accepting donations for Easter Food Baskets for the less fortunate this holiday season.

Items needed are:

- Canned fruits & vegetables
- Potatoes (bag or instant)
- Macaroni & Cheese • Rolls • Eggs
- Hams (cash or gift cards to purchase them will also be accepted)
- Any other items that will make a holiday meal

*There are containers in the Narthex for all donations. Any fresh items (potatoes, rolls, eggs, hams, etc.) should be brought no sooner than the weekend before Easter. We will be collecting donations through Monday, April 10. We will be packing the baskets and handing them out on Wednesday, April 12.*

*If anyone knows a family who could use a basket, please call Linda Sloan (734)856-5991 or the Parish Office.*



Holy Hour at the  
Monastery of the Visitation  
(1745 Parkside Blvd. Toledo)  
April 9, 2017; 4:00pm  
Evening Prayer (Vespers), The Rosary,  
Homily and Benediction.

**This Week's Calendar**



Monday, April 3, 2017

8:30am - Mass  
4:45-6pm - Religious Ed. - Grades 1-8;

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

8:30am - Mass

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

8:30am - Mass  
6:15-7pm - Perpet. Help & Prayers  
6:30-7:30pm - Confessions  
7:30-10pm K of C - K. Hall Meeting Room

Thursday, April 6, 2017

9:00am Mass  
7:00pm - Choir Practice

First Friday, April 7, 2017

9:00am - Mass  
† 7:00pm - Stations of the Cross; Followed  
by Mass with Exposition & Benediction

Saturday, April 8, 2017

K of C Breakfast Set-up - Kenna Hall  
3:30-4:30pm - Confessions  
5:00pm - Sunday Vigil Mass  
Palm Sunday, April 9, 2017  
9:00am & 11:00am - Mass  
8:30-11:30am - K of C Breakfast Buffet  
- Kenna Hall

*Next Sunday, weather permitting, a procession with Palms will precede the 11:00am Mass. The procession will begin in the Narthex for anyone wanting to participate.*

**Our Monthly Food Collection** is the second Sunday of each month. Please bring non-perishable food or personal care items next weekend for the less fortunate.

**The Offertory Story**

**March 26, 2017**

# Env. assigned: 289; # Env. used: 117  
Envelope total \$10,482.00  
Loose: \$ 364.00  
Children's Envelopes: \$ 4.75  
**Total \$10,850.75**  
**Weekly Budget amount..\$ 5,250.00**  
+Over/-Under Budget \$+ 5600.75  
**Year To Date +- \$ -1,825.10**

**Other:**

Books, CD's \$ 2.00  
Candles \$ 87.50  
Easter Flowers \$ 225.00  
Funeral Donation \$ 150.00  
Hall Rental \$ 100.00  
Lamb Dinner \$ 10.00  
Mass Intentions \$ 150.00  
Rel. Ed. Tuition \$ 75.00  
Rosary Makers \$ 120.00  
Rummage Sale \$ 290.00  
**Total for Other: \$ 1,209.50**

**Upcoming Events**

- **K of C Breakfast** - April 9
- **Right to Life of Michigan Dinner**  
- April 27
- **Rummage Sale** - May 3 & 4
- **St. Luke Production "Faustina"**  
- May 12



April 27, 2017  
Burton Manor, Livonia  
**Special Guest Speaker**  
**Lisa Kratz Thomas**

Lisa Kratz Thomas was born into a Catholic family in the 1950s and raised in a Maryland suburb of our nation's capital. Compelled by a hunger for love, a thirst for freedom and carrying the shame of abortion, she spiraled into the dark world of drug addiction. Later she became a prostitute and homeless drug addict on the streets of Washington, DC.

Lisa saw the light and overcame her guilt, shame, and remorse. By devoting herself to dispelling the idea of throwaway lives, Lisa has been able to motivate, inspire, and help men and women, drug addicts, alcoholics, and offenders not only believe that second chances are possible, but attainable.

Her newest book, *Light in Our Darkness*, written with former radio co-host and longtime friend Kathy Gray, focuses on the value of life, all life. This book shatters the delusion that some lives are considered throwaways while some are considered indispensable. Lisa is the mother of two grown children and lives in Fredericksburg, Virginia with her husband.



**If you would like to reserve a place at one of the Parish tables, please call the parish Office 734-854-1143.**

**Pray without Ceasing**

**Saint Joseph Catholic Church**  
2238 Manhattan Street, Erie, Mi.  
**16<sup>th</sup> Annual Lenten Fish Fry**  
**4:30-7:30 p.m.** every Friday from  
**March 3 through April 14.**

**....Let us Pray for....**

- |                      |                   |                    |
|----------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Maria Baer           | Margaret Gotha    | Frank Parker       |
| Gretchen Brautigan   | Debbie Grycza     | Andrew Phillips    |
| Toni Breininger      | Steve Haman       | Rachel Renn        |
| Chris Brown          | Beth Huner        | Kaye Ritzenthaler  |
| Abby Bunting         | JoAnn Huntwork    | Adrian Sandelin    |
| Don & Shirley Carter | Rosemary Jacobs   | Kathy Simms        |
| Katy Coburn          | Michael Katafiasz | Larry Simms        |
| Bonnie Cornprobst    | Bud LaPlante      | Steve Smith        |
| Lowell Cousino       | Martin LaVoy      | Mazie Sue Springer |
| Amy Crumm            | Audrey Lawrence   | Vic Stevens        |
| Linda DeFalco        | Robert Lehman     | Tom Townsend       |
| Janie Delauter       | Brenda Liwo       | Carole VanBrandt   |
| Jim Drake            | Ron Liwo          | Teresa VanHove     |
| Larry Dusseau        | Linda Luchansky   | Virginia VanKirk   |
| Cynthia Dvorsky      | Dick MacAdams     | Aaron Vyse         |
| Terry Dvorsky        | Sandy Maenle      | Pat Webber         |
| Albert Failer        | Edward Malik      | Vicki White        |
| Scott Ferguson       | Raymond Mueller   | Peter Williams     |
| Stephanie Gelsey     | Steve Murzynski   | Kathy Young        |
|                      | Patty Muskat      |                    |



**Holy Thursday - Good Friday**  
**"Come and keep watch with Me."**

Following the 7:00pm Mass on Holy Thursday evening, the Blessed Sacrament will be reserved in the Tabernacle at the side altar of the church for adoration. There must be at least one person in the church at all times; we'd like to have as many people as possible be here through the night.

A sign-up sheet has been posted on the Chapel Door; please take a minute to check your schedule and see when you can spend an hour with our Lord on this Night of His Holy Passion. You may contact the Parish Office to sign up, or write it directly on the sheet on the door of the Chapel. Please come and spend an hour with our Lord; wouldn't it be beautiful to have the church full!

**SAVE THE DATE**

for a special program for the Lenten Season entitled  
**"Call of the Crucified Heart:**  
**A Program with Relics of Christ's Passion".**

**St. Michael the Archangel Church** will host the presentation on **Tuesday, April 4 at 7:00 p.m.** This event allows participants of all ages, in any level of spirituality to deepen and grow in their faith. A unique collection of relics has been brought together in a program of meditations, music and prayers commemorating the events of Passion of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Rare collections such as the *Relics of the Passion* are generally seen only in Rome or the Holy Land. We encourage you to join us for a special opportunity that is sure to touch your heart and connect you with the roots of your faith in Christ's Passion.

*Liturgical Assignments for April 8 & 9, 2017*

Mass	Priest	Lector	Altar Servers
<b>Saturday, 5:00pm Mass</b>	Fr. Brian	1. D. Strzelewicz 2. J. Rawski	J., J. & L. Rawski
<b>Sunday, 9:00am Mass</b>	Fr. Brian	1. R. Oehlers 2. Eric Hite	T. Dietrich; C. Oswald
<b>Sunday, 11:00am Mass</b>	Fr. Brian	1. M. Lindsey 2. Eric Hite	S. Holup; S. Updike



**ADORERS FOR HOLY THURSDAY: After 7:00pm Mass Until 12:00 Midnight**  
**GOOD FRIDAY: 12:00am - 12:00PM Noon**

<b>Thursday Hours</b>	<b>Name</b>	
Following Mass until 9:00pm	1. <u>Greg &amp; Karen Baer</u>	3. _____
	2. <u>Stephen &amp; Natalie Holup</u>	4. _____
9:00pm to 10:00pm	1. _____	3. _____
	2. _____	4. _____
10:00pm to 11:00pm	1. _____	3. _____
	2. _____	4. _____
11:00pm to 12:00am Midnight	1. <u>Paul Bazydlo</u>	3. _____
	2. <u>Anne Herman</u>	4. _____
<b>Friday Hours</b>	<b>Name</b>	
12:00am Midnight to 1:00am	1. _____	3. _____
	2. _____	4. _____
1:00am to 2:00am	1. _____	3. _____
	2. _____	4. _____
2:00am to 3:00am	1. _____	3. _____
	2. _____	4. _____
3:00am. to 4:00am	1. <u>Yavonne Thoma</u>	3. _____
	2. _____	4. _____
4:00am to 5:00am	1. _____	3. _____
	2. _____	4. _____
5:00am to 6:00am	1. <u>Mary Kolasinski</u>	3. _____
	2. _____	4. _____
6:00am to 7:00am	1. <u>JoAnn Rawski</u>	3. _____
	2. _____	4. _____
7:00am to 8:00am	1. <u>Lois Ingersoll</u>	3. _____
	2. _____	4. _____
8:00am to 9:00am	1. _____	3. _____
	2. _____	4. _____
9:00am to 10:00am	1. _____	3. _____
	2. _____	4. _____
10:00am to 11:00am	1. _____	3. _____
	2. _____	4. _____
11:00am to 12:00pm Noon	1. _____	3. _____
	2. _____	4. _____

# Schedule of Services for Lent & Easter - 2017

## Stations of the Cross

Fridays of Lent @ 7pm

April 7 (Followed by Mass with Exposition and Benediction)

## Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays: 3:30 – 4:30pm

Tuesday, April 11 11:00am - 12:00pm - 2 priests available  
6:00pm - 6:45pm

Wednesday, April 12 7:00pm - 8:00pm - 2 priests available



## HOLY WEEK

**Palm Sunday, April 9**

Masses: Saturday: 5pm; Sunday: 9:00am & 11:00am  
Procession with Palms before 11am Mass

**Holy Thursday, April 13**

**Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7:00pm**  
*Following Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church until Noon on Friday; sign-up sheets will be on the Chapel door.*

**Good Friday, April 14**

**12Noon - 3:00pm:** Stations of the Cross; Rosary; Divine Mercy Novena, Sacred Music, Mid-day Prayer  
**3:00-4:30pm:** Liturgy of the Lord's Passion with veneration of the cross & reception of Holy Communion

**Holy Saturday, April 15**

**Church Decorating** 9:00am

*(No Confessions Today)*

**Blessing of Food** 12:00pm

**Easter Vigil Mass** 9:00pm

**Easter Sunday, April 16**

Masses: 9:00am & 11:00am



## *Lenten Regulations on Fast & Abstinence*

**Abstinence** from meat is observed on **Ash Wednesday, Good Friday**, and all the **Fridays of Lent** by all Catholics 14 years and older. Abstinence forbids the use of meat, but not of eggs, milk products, or condiments made of animal fat. Permissible are soups flavored with meat, meat gravy, and sauces.

**Fasting** is observed on **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday** by all Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59.

Those bound by this rule may take only one full meal. Two smaller meals are permitted as necessary to maintain strength according to one's needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. Ordinary liquids are allowed.



## Knightly News April, 2017



Dedicated to keeping you informed on the activities of the  
Fr. John A. Kenna Knights of Columbus Council 11430

(We will continue to deviate from the established format of reporting on the last meeting due to the fact that we DIDN'T HAVE a March meeting!! Explanation to follow..) We have made it halfway! Laetare Sunday was last Sunday. Dare we privately celebrate the fact that we are achieving the goals we set up for ourselves around Ash Wednesday or should we bemoan the fact that we have fallen short in our quest for improving our life in the Lord. As for me, the giving up of sweets has turned out to be the easiest goal and the vow to reshape my life and actions to be in accord with the Lord's wishes has turned out to be the toughest. 70+ years of doing things MY way and not necessarily the LORD'S way has created a tough hill to climb. There is still time to make some needed changes. Am confident that you can also find areas of improvement in your relationship with the Lord. I urge you to take advantage of the time remaining in both Lent and your life to make those changes. Remember that this is a time for love as well as renewal.

As mentioned earlier, we didn't have a meeting in March due to the high winds and subsequent power outage at Kenna Hall. Power did not return until late Saturday night which forced us to cancel the monthly Breakfast Buffet. I do apologize to anyone who arrived Sunday morning expecting to be delighted by the tasty fare usually presented by our capable cooking staff but were forced to leave still hungry. We felt your pain and will be there in April to serve you!!

The 3 main virtues of the Knights of Columbus are CHARITY, UNITY and FRATERNITY. I believe that we experienced these virtues in a very vivid way this month on several occasions. During the power outage, a group of dedicated Knights gathered on the Saturday prior to the scheduled Breakfast Buffet to map out our strategy to deal with the outage. We agreed to a 'cut-off' time, waiting till the last possible moment to cancel the get-together. Some guys took frozen food home to store in their home freezers rather than have it go bad. Others made arrangements to delay or cancel the pickup of food. All were willing to extend themselves for the good of the organization. Special thanks go to an anonymous fellow Knight for his extraordinarily generous contribution to our Council when he realized the loss we suffered as a result of not holding the breakfast. What a great tribute to these honorable men.

We also experienced these virtues on March 18<sup>th</sup> when we hosted a major degree ceremony in Kenna Hall. 7 new members from Monroe and Lenawee Counties joined the Knights thru the First Degree Ceremony. They joined 11 others to complete the Second and Third Degree rites. Congratulations to **Ben Kniss, Chuck Brancheau** and **Coady Torio** for achieving full knighthood on that day. Our Council is very proud of you.

Please plan on attending our **April Breakfast Buffet**. It will be held on 4/9/2017. This is where friends meet!!

If you will be driving around the Lambertville area on **Palm Sunday** weekend, you will probably see some of your Knights at various intersections offering you a **Tootsie Roll** for a donation of any kind. Please be generous as the net proceeds all go to area organizations helping those folks with intellectual disabilities. We also ask that you be careful as our guys will be in or near the traffic flow.

Since we had no March meeting, we had no name drawn in the Attendance game. We will resume the fun game at the April get-together. If you are a K-C member, why not come to the April meeting and try your luck by signing up for the game. You COULD be the next winner.

Why not join with your brother Knights? We meet every 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at 7:30 PM in Kenna Hall.

We invite all men 18 yrs. or older who are practical Catholics to join a great bunch of guys. Just mention your interest to any of our officers or give me a call.

Ron Dressel, Past Grand Knight (734-856-2331)

# Catholic Services Appeal 2017

Dear Friends in Christ,

Each year, all parishes in the Archdiocese of Detroit embark upon the CSA (Catholic Services Appel) Drive. The CSA is a required collection taken up for the general operational expenses of the Archdiocese of Detroit. It helps to subsidize Catholic institutions that may not necessarily be connected to or funded by a particular parish. Among these special services are Campus Ministry, Telecommunications, Hospital and Prison Chaplaincies, Central Service Offices, which provide direct assistance to individual parishes, the Marriage Tribunal, and the like. Since the CSA provides for 62% of the operating budget of the Archdiocese, we are assessed or taxed a specific amount we are asked to meet. Our assessment is based upon many factors, including parish registration, Sunday collections, and financial status of the area within our parish boundaries.

As we enter into the holy season of Lent, we would like you consider making your pledge and/or contribution to CSA for 2017 part of your Lenten observance for sacrifice. The amount assessed to St. Anthony Parish this year is **\$37,318**. In order to reach our goal, the recommended pledge amount will be **\$250** from each family

For your convenience, pledge forms can be found at the bottom of this page. Please complete the form and designate the amount of your pledge and the payment plan you prefer and return to the Parish Office. Pledges may also be made by calling the Parish Office 734-854-1143; sending your pledge via email ([stanthony@bex.net](mailto:stanthony@bex.net)) or by stopping by the Parish Office during regular business hours.

Your pledge can be made in several ways: paid in full and returned with your pledge form; a down payment returned with your pledge form, with the balance divided into quarterly payments, or divided evenly among 9 monthly payments. Credit card and automatic withdrawal payments will also be accepted. If you wish to contribute this way, please indicate on the line below and a form will be sent to you.

**Please note: If you sign up to make payments on your pledge, the payment schedule will not begin until July 2017.**

Please remember that we are required to make an accounting of all CSA cards for our Parish, so even if you are unable to pledge, we ask that you indicate that to the Parish Office as well.

I am grateful for your continued stewardship and prayers.

May God Be Blessed!

Father Brian Hurley  
Pastor, St. Anthony Parish

## CSA - 2017

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of total Pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount paid today \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Balance due \$ \_\_\_\_\_. Please bill me quarterly \_\_\_\_\_ or monthly (9 monthly payments) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I would like to pay by credit card (or) \_\_\_\_ I would like to pay by automatic withdrawal payments.

-- Please make checks payable to: **St. Anthony – CSA**



## **2700 BC or AD 2000—Which Is the More Pagan?**

**by Joe Sixpack**

There was a time in America when we called ourselves a Christian nation, and it was largely true. Many of us **would like to think it's still true that we are a Christian nation, but Christian commentators have been writing and preaching for decades that we are now living in a post-Christian era.** It only takes a cursory look at our society and culture to recognize these commentators are absolutely correct, and an unfortunate reality is that most of the cultural changes have been foisted upon us by government—that is, we the people.

In my lifetime the changes have been dramatic. When I was a child, abortion was codified in criminal law as murder, and to perform or procure an abortion would land you in prison. Infanticide, which is still codified as murder, is now legal under the guise of partial birth abortion. To be caught engaging in or soliciting homosexual sex would also get you a term in prison, but now homosexuals have a legal right to marry. Good grief! It's a wonder God hasn't treated us as He did Sodom and Gomorrah!

The saddest thing, to my way of thinking, is that we practicing Catholics have not escaped the paganization of our culture unscathed. We stand up for life by protesting against and working for the repeal of abortion, yet many (perhaps most) of those same pro-lifers are just as guilty of infanticide as those procuring and performing abortion. **I'm referring to those who use artificial contraception. Why are those people guilty of infanticide?** Because infanticide is defined as the unjust taking of the life of a child, and since life begins at conception a child exists at conception. Without exception, every artificial contraceptive has been proven to be an abortifacient, which means anyone who uses artificial contraceptives is guilty of procuring or performing an abortion — infanticide!

**Admittedly, many Catholics have never been taught that contraception is immoral, and it's sad that too many priests have told their parishioners who question the practice it's perfectly all right. (May God have mercy on those priests on the day of their judgement.)** However, most Catholics know the Church teaches contraception is a mortal sin...a sin worthy of eternal damnation. **Still, the vast majority of those Catholics think the Church's ban on contraception began with Pope Paul VI's encyclical in 1968 called *Humanae Vitae*.** They believe this because they also think modern chemical contraceptives are new to medical technology, but such thinking only demonstrates an ignorance of history.

Anthropologists have proven that contraception is of much greater antiquity than medical and social historians thought. Extant medical documents from China as far back as 2700 BC and Egypt from around 1850 BC describe contraceptive methods. So from the very first century of the Christian era, Catholics were faced with the option **of following the more difficult Church teaching on procreative love or conforming to their pagan environment...** much as is the case today. Indeed, a pagan doctor from Ephesus named Soranos (AD 98-138) describes almost **twenty medically approved methods of contraception.** The premise used in his writings is that it's safer,



medically speaking, for the mother to prevent conception from taking place than to destroy the fetus in the womb.

The widespread practice of contraception in the first century of the Christian era was referred to euphemistically as “using magic” and “using drugs”. This is why the New Testament has prohibitions against magic (*mageia*) and drugs (*pharmakeia*) when listing things associated with sexual immorality (cf. Galatians 5:20; Revelation 21:8; 22:15, *et alia*). The *Didache*, meaning “teaching of the twelve”, is a first century document written while St. John the Apostle was still alive, and it’s a treatise of Catholic teaching. It condemns both abortion and contraception. Records from the first century tell us that people would first try “magic” to contracept, and if that was unsuccessful they would resort to Soranos’ methods. If his methods failed, women would resort to abortion. If abortion failed, they would use the Roman law that permitted infanticide—today known as partial birth abortion.

So contraception is nothing new under the sun. Before the end of the second century, St. Clement of Alexandria wrote a catechism called *Paidagogos*. It reflects a very balanced treatment of marriage. In it, Clement defended marital intercourse as good and holy. He wrote that marital “love tends toward sexual relations by its very nature,” and “sometimes nature (menstrual cycles) denies them the opportunity to perform the marriage act so that they may be all the more desirable because it is delayed.” However, Clement went on to tell us that “to indulge in intercourse without intending children is to outrage nature, whom we should take as our instructor.”<sup>1</sup>

Over the next several centuries these teachings were re-emphasized by Church Fathers such as Justin Martyr, Origen, Ambrose, Jerome, John Chrysostom, and Augustine. They taught it was wrong because it imitated the evil maliciousness of the pagans, placed carnal pleasure before the love that wants children, profaned the sacredness of the generative act, denied God’s grace to sustain a married couple who practice continence, debauched the human person by making him/her subject to unnatural lust, an injustice against the laws of God (mortal sin), and that it is irrational to have sexual intercourse while excluding the desire to have children.

**So none of the Church’s teachings on artificial contraception are new. The Church has always taught in perfect continuity what she teaches today, that the two fold purpose of marriage is unity and procreation—the giving of love and the giving of life. So when Pope Paul VI wrote *Humanae Vitae* in 1968, he was merely restating the Magisterial teaching of the holy Catholic Church.**

**This teaching on contraception isn’t one that may be chosen or rejected like someone picking and choosing what to eat in a cafeteria. Being a Cafeteria Christian is what Protestants did, which is why they broke away from the Church and became protest-ants...they protested Christ's immutable truths. Any Catholic who rejects any Magisterial teaching of the Catholic Church (and the ban on contraception is just that) is not a Catholic, but rather a protestant. In other words, when one rejects Magisterial Catholic teaching one places oneself outside the communion of the Catholic Church and is living in a state of mortal sin.**

This is one of those times when I regret that *What We Believe...Why We Believe It* is only two pages long. Not only could many pages be written on the topic of contraception and chaste married love, but entire books could be written on the subject. Indeed, many books have been written on the topic, and I would recommend readers go to such sources as Natural Family Planning International, the Couple to Couple League and Ignatius Press to learn as much as they can. Failure to learn and practice natural family planning could have eternal consequences—the difference between eternity in heaven and eternity in hell. That’s What We Believe...Why We Believe It.

Got questions? Go to [JoeSixpackAnswers.com](http://JoeSixpackAnswers.com).

<sup>1</sup> St. Clement of Alexandria, *Paidagogos*, II, 9-10