

Dear Parishioners,

Our homily 2 weeks ago was on the topic of *LIFE-GIVING RULES*: our Sunday Mass obligation. **WE CAN DO THIS! TOGETHER, LET'S MAKE IT A PRIORITY.** Here is some of the information I presented. The NY Times article I quoted entitled *The Benefits of Church*:

*ONE of the most striking scientific discoveries about religion in recent years is that going to church weekly is good for you. Religious attendance — at least, religiosity — boosts the immune system and decreases blood pressure. It may add as much as two to three years to your life.*

Here are a few of the quotes I used from **the Catechism of the Catholic Church**:

**2176** The celebration of Sunday observes the moral commandment inscribed by nature in the human heart to render to God an outward, visible, public, and regular worship "as a sign of his universal beneficence to all."

**2178** This practice of the Christian assembly dates from the beginnings of the apostolic age. The *Letter to the Hebrews* reminds the faithful "not to neglect to meet together, as is the habit of some, but to encourage one another."

**2180 & 81** On Sundays and other holy days of obligation [FIVE: Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> Mary Mother of God; Aug 15<sup>th</sup> Assumption; Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> All Saints; Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> Immac. Conception; Dec 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas] the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass.....unless excused for a serious reason *OR DISPENSED BY THEIR OWN PASTOR*\*\*.....Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin.

*\*\* I should have but did not include the dispensation by pastor in my homily. I couldn't figure out practically speaking how this would work. Once again, no one needs dispensation if missing for serious, unavoidable reasons. This decision is not always black & white—there is grey area that requires us to make a judgment call. For reasons for which you would like a dispensation it would be most helpful if you contacted me at 952-856-1050 1 week in advance. A few examples where pastor dispensation might apply include: going on a cruise where Mass is not offered, camping in a very remote location, long distance air travel, traveling as a guest with others who are not Catholic.*

Some examples of serious, unavoidable reasons to miss Mass (not requiring a dispensation): *Sickness, disability, dealing with an emergency, lack of transportation, inclement weather, unavoidable work obligations, have to care to ill children & impossible to find family/friends to care for them.*

**1857** For a *sin* to be *mortal*, three conditions must together be met: "Mortal sin is sin whose object is grave matter [such as missing Sunday Mass without a good reason] and which is also committed with full knowledge and deliberate consent."

Since missing Mass without a good reason is a mortal/grave sin, we refrain from receiving Holy Communion until we confess this sin in the sacrament of reconciliation.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions,

Fr. Gregory

*"What kind of Sunday is it for a Christian if an encounter with the Lord is missing?"* Pope Francis

# Joint Leadership Team Update

4/22/2018

## Town Hall-

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Town Hall Meetings. We had roughly 75 people at each of the parish meetings. This demonstrates the love and concern you have about the future of our parishes. The engagement was very encouraging and respectful. Thank you everyone!

We intend to collate and publish all comments from the Town Hall meeting by the weekend of April 29th. Names will be removed, but nothing else will be altered so that we maintain transparency with the feedback we have received. If you have submitted a comment and would prefer that it not be made public, please notify Sherry Witte to have your comment removed. Again, names will not be associated with individual comments. The feedback will also include the comments that were made during the meeting thanks to our note takers, Kelli Starkey and Brian Willems. The information will be lengthy; therefore we will have a link on our webpage to access the comments. We will also have a few copies in the back of the church/narthex. Please reserve these copies for individuals that do not have access to the internet.

The Joint Leadership Council is passing this information to the respective Parish Finance Councils to address as these are campus specific decisions. We anticipate another opportunity for further Town Hall discussion now that the challenges have been introduced and parishioners have had more time to think this through. A date will be announced at a later time.

## Faith Formation-

We have voted to have Faith Formation split between campuses for the 2018-19 year. Classes will start at Ascension and transition to St Bernard's at the mid-year point.

## Ministry Leader Interviews-

Between now and May 22nd, ministry leaders will begin to be contacted by a member of the JLT, Parish Council or Finance Council to be interviewed. As mentioned during the Town Hall, we are beginning our organizational chart. To begin this process, we need to meet with each ministry leader to thank them for their service, get to know the ministry, and ask their opinion of the future potential of the ministry. This will help us take an overall assessment to determine how to best proceed. This may be an in person meeting, phone call, or email according to your preference.

***“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”***

***Matt 28:19-20***

# Congratulations to the Class of 2018

---

*Nolan Braunwarth  
Kenny Feist  
Richelle Hoen  
Nicholas Holliday  
Megan Jacques  
Ashley Louwagie  
Abbie Luskey  
Max Meuleners  
Melissa Miller  
Alex Pederson  
Gabrielle Strand  
Curtis Urness  
Mary Wenisch  
Jack Wickenhauser  
Nathan Worm*

"May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your  
plans succeed." Psalm 20:4





# ONE MILLION ROSARIES FOR UNBORN BABIES



**May 4th(Friday), May 5th(Saturday), and May 6th(Sunday) • 2018**

*Can the goal of 1,000,000 Rosaries for unborn babies be reached?*

Absolutely! But, only if many people will pray at least one Rosary(May 4th - 6th) for an end to the surgical and non-surgical killing of unborn human persons.

Please, be one of the persons who will participate in the multinational **ONE MILLION ROSARIES FOR UNBORN BABIES.**

To register:

Use the form below and send it to the address that is printed on the form, or you may register by going to:



[www.SaintMichaelTheArchangelOrganization.org](http://www.SaintMichaelTheArchangelOrganization.org)

*All things therefore whatsoever you would that men should do to you, do you also to them.*

- The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew(chapter 7, verse 12a).

*Let other people know about the ONE MILLION...*

- 1) For Friday, May 4th - Contact schools and encourage them to participate.
- 2) For Saturday, May 5th - Gather with others at an abortion facility to pray the Rosary.
- 3) For Sunday, May 6th - Ask the parish priest(s) to lead the Rosary before or after Mass(es).

*(For more ideas, write to the address below or go to the website that is printed below on the left side.)*

**Saint Michael the Archangel Organization  
P. O. Box 42141  
Memphis, Tennessee 38174  
U.S.A.**



Unborn Baby

*I encourage the faithful to...pray the Rosary for unborn human life through the campaign of the Saint Michael the Archangel Organization.*

- Abp.(now Cardinal) Raymond Burke in 2008

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nation you live in: \_\_\_\_\_

I am registering  Rosary/Rosaries as part of the May 4th - 6th, 2018 ONE MILLION ROSARIES FOR UNBORN BABIES prayer event.

(send to: S.M.T.A.O.; P. O. Box 42141; Memphis, Tennessee 38174; U.S.A.)