

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

1020 Springvale Road ~ Great Falls, Virginia 22066

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

NOVEMBER 24, 2019

Pastor: Rev. Jerry J. Pokorsky
Direct line to Pastor (703-759-3520)
No text messages please

PHONE NUMBERS

Parish Office: 703-759-4350, FAX 703-759-3753
Pastor: Rev. Jerry J. Pokorsky
Direct line to Pastor 703-759-3520
No text messages please
Religious Education: 703-759-3530
Siena Academy: 703-759-4129
Office Hours: Monday - Friday - 9:30 am to 1:30 pm
Closed on Federal Holidays

PARISH WEB SITE:

www.saintcatherineschurch.org

MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday: 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 Noon*
*Novus Ordo Latin Mass
Saturday: 8:30 am & Vigil Mass 5:30 pm
Weekdays and Federal Holidays: 8:30 am
(except Wednesdays 12:15 pm)
Holy Days: See "Mass Intentions" and
website for Holy Day Mass schedule.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 7:45 am - 8:15 am
(except holy days and holidays)
Saturdays: 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM - Baptismal Catechesis is required for parents one month (30 days) before the baptism; Godparents are encouraged to attend. To make Baptismal arrangements for both class and ceremony, call the Parish Office.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY - In accord with the regulations of the Bishop of Arlington, couples must contact a priest and begin preparation at least six months prior to the wedding. Parish registration is required. Living together before marriage is sinful and harmful to future marriage. Couples who are living together will be asked to live separately during the preparation time.

24 HOUR EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Every Wednesday and First Friday beginning at 9:00 AM and ending before Mass the following morning. For questions please contact Diane Cieslak at 703-678-3919 or polskagirl65@gmail.com

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - required for all children first grade through high school attending non-Catholic school. Please contact the Director of Religious Education, Kim Livaudais, for information at stcatherinesreoffice@gmail.com or 703-759-3530.

CATHOLIC INQUIRY: If you or someone you know would like to inquire about becoming Catholic, please call the Parish Office 703-759-4350.

PARISH REGISTRATION - Please call the Parish Office to register; if you are moving out of the parish; or if you have a change of address and/or phone number.

SICK CALLS - Contact Parish Office for visits and/or Communion calls to shut-ins, sick and hospitalized, also in cases of serious illness or death. 703-759-4350.

PRAYER FOR SICK OR DECEASED - Contact Parish Office for mention in the bulletin.

BULLETIN DEADLINE:

The bulletin deadline is 11:00 am two Fridays preceding the weekend of distribution. Please contact Parish Office for earlier deadlines during holidays.

SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING November 24, 2019

"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." (LK 23:42-43)

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, November 23

8:30 am Joao Valentin Toste

5:30 pm Sister of William Allard+

SUNDAY, November 24

8 am Pro Populo

10 am Adam Statz+

12 pm James D. Messer+

MONDAY, November 25

8:30 am Bishop Antons Justs+

TUESDAY, November 26

8:30 am Ava Condon+

WEDNESDAY, November 27

12:15 pm Jadwiga Chen & Chen Chik Fen+

THURSDAY, November 28 Thanksgiving Day

8:30 am Joseph Manickavasagam+

FRIDAY, November 29

8:30 am Dorothy Hoyt+

SATURDAY, November 30

8:30 am Rebecca Mikel+

5:30 pm Michael Inglesby+

SUNDAY, December 1

8 am Pro Populo

10 am Marie J. Buscema+

12 pm Patricia J. Lengi+

PLEASE PRAY FOR Lee Ashman+; Thomas Ballweg+; Colonel Paul White, deployed in Baghdad; Mickie Teetor+, Nora Boland+; Fr Cornelius O'Brien+; Fr Ed Tewes+; Laurence & Carol McCarty ; John Glorioso+; Alice Basile+; Frank Kurt Cylke +, Bernard DeLury+, Adam Joshua Statz+ Call rectory for additions.

Parish Financial Fun Facts

The Parish has only one checking account. This makes it possible to push more of the excess funds into savings. The checkbook balance is typically less than \$75,000. Last year, the savings account earned \$38,509.

Oops! Found it necessary to cancel the Advent Vespers due to unforeseen circumstances. Take all those dates off your calendars. Regrets.

On the Morality of Gun Control -- Rev. Jerry J. Pokorsky Saturday, February 24, 2018: After

delivering a homily indicting Catholic Senators (Democrat and Republican) who voted against legislation that would render illegal the killing of unborn babies with a developed nervous system, I received a response in a letter:

"I look forward to hearing your next political homily, similar to the one on abortion a few weeks ago. Please state the Catholic position on mass murder, and, in that context, list the Catholic Republicans in Congress who block any reasonable assault-weapons ban. You might need to extend church hours since the list will, undoubtedly, be extensive. Thank you."

It needs to be said right off, of course, that a homily on the evil of abortion is about as political as a homily condemning the Holocaust. Regardless, if my correspondent would identify any politician who was in favor of placing weapons – including daggers and box cutters – into the hands of criminals and psychotics for purposes of mass murder, I would happily identify them by name. And I would invite the same boos and hisses I invite for any politician who doesn't lift a finger to protect the lives of unborn babies.

But on such matters, here is my answer in a nutshell:

Abortion is intrinsically evil and thus opposing it is not political.

Guns are not intrinsically evil. On the contrary, the Catechism teaches not just the right but the duty to use lethal force, if necessary, to defend oneself and those towards whom we have a responsibility. The same right to life that condemns mass murder requires the use of a gun to wound or kill if necessary to save life. Keeping guns away from mass murderers is obviously a moral duty, but guns in themselves are not intrinsically evil, unlike abortion.

Every firearm can be used in an assault, so the label "assault rifle" is a political, rather than a moral, one.

Priests and prelates have no pertinent expertise in crafting gun control legislation or, for that matter, in preventing the arming of rogue states. Those killed by a butter knife, an AK-47, or a neutron bomb are equally and indifferently dead. In each case, the resort to arms will be judged just or unjust by the same moral criterion.

The Church must always uphold the integrity of justice, and justice not only permits but requires defense of the innocent against unjust aggressors, i.e., those who inflict harm without due cause.

But is a “reasonable assault-weapons ban” a moral imperative in our day in view of the increasingly frequent school shootings (not to mention violence in the cities)?

Here there arise some truly political questions that need thoughtful consideration and rigorous analysis – by the laity. The ones I am about to list certainly are not exhaustive. (I do not presume to exercise priestly authority here, but I am, after all, a citizen, too.)

What is a “weapon”? Obviously, handguns and rifles are weapons. But so are box cutters on airplanes. Nearly 3,000 people were murdered with assaults that began with box cutters in the hands of terrorists.

The difficulty of defining a “weapon,” however, doesn’t disappear when restricting the conversation to fire sticks. What is an “assault weapon”? A tank? A machine gun? A repeating Winchester rifle? An M-16? The real question is: how might legislation keep these weapons out of the hands of criminals and the mentally disturbed?

The question of crafting criminal laws threatening to inflict just punishment, it seems to me, is far easier to evaluate with moral criterion than regulatory laws. Front-end regulatory laws such as a “reasonable assault weapons ban,” in contrast, are far more complicated because not only do the laws need to envision an ever-expanding universe of definitions, there are serious questions of effectiveness and the morality of infringing on the right to self-defense. And it should be recognized that in the aftermath of violence, hysteria and emotionalism easily disrupt clear thinking.

With respect to the question of effectiveness: What kind of gun control is “reasonable”? How do outlaws obtain guns? Is it true – or just a clever phrase – that if guns are outlawed only outlaws will have guns? What is the experience in cities with strict “gun control” laws? What is the experience of political entities with

“conceal and carry” regulations? What are the facts?

All of these questions are clearly beyond the competence of the clergy. Questions of gun violence causality need a continuing dispassionate investigation by the laity and the experts among them. (My educated guess is that pornography plays a large part in causality. When the porn fails to satisfy, a twisted mind seeks other methods of excitement. And of course at root is the breakdown of the family including legalized abortion. Disrespect of unborn human life begets disrespect of all human life.)

Who among us would not like to see a world without violence, where guns were only used for hunting and sport? But the effects of Original Sin remain and we have a natural right to self-defense. (Alas, whenever I try to “Visualize World Peace,” I end up visualizing a police state.)

These are difficult times, with a broken culture contributing to a breakdown on a wide scale of our civilization, leading to countless acts of violence. So pronouncing on the morality of banning guns should not be made by a cleric in the exercise of his prophetic office. There are too many moving parts, questions of fact and causality, and good faith prudential judgments where believing Catholics can disagree in good conscience. But underlying moral principles remain and need proper application.

At times, a clean gun in good working order can be the solution – as in just war, just police action, and acts of personal self-defense. But legislation regulating the procurement and possession of guns, to preserve the liberty and order and security essential to a free society, is the business of the laity.

Attorney Harvey Silverglate argues in his book Three Felonies a Day, even the most honest and informed citizen “cannot predict with any reasonable assurance whether a wide range of seemingly ordinary activities might be regarded by federal prosecutors as felonies.” Silverglate even claims that the average American does something about three times a day that could be turned into a federal crime by an enterprising or overreaching prosecutor. 1)

In 1996 well-known automobile racer Bobby Unser was convicted of a federal crime and sentenced to six months in prison. Why? Because he got lost in a blizzard in Colorado for two days while snowmobiling, and was guilty of "unlawful operation of a snowmobile within a National Forest Wilderness Area." 2) Robert Blandford, Diane Huang, David McNab and Abner Schoenwetter — three American seafood dealers and one Honduran lobster-fleet owner — had no prior records. Yet they were given hard time in 2001 for "importing lobster tails that were the wrong size and that were packaged in clear plastic bags rather than in cardboard boxes." The three men were sentenced to eight years; Huang, the mother of two young children, was sentenced to two.

<https://www.mic.com/articles/86797/8-ways-we-regularly-commit-felonies-without-realizing-it>

You might be a redneck – if you think the stock market has fence around it. 2) You might be a redneck if... you have refused to watch the Academy Awards since "Smokey and the Bandit" was snubbed for best picture. 3) You might be a redneck if... you've been on television more than five times describing what the tornado sounded like. 4) You might be a redneck if... your family always goes to the movies in groups of 18 or more 'cause they were told 17 and under are not admitted. 5) Now, it's true I married my wife for her looks... but not the ones she's been givin' me lately. 6) You might be a redneck if... you had to remove a toothpick for your wedding pictures. 6) You might be a redneck if... you have to go outside to get something out of the 'fridge.7) Changing a diaper is a lot like getting a present from your grandmother – you're not sure what you've got but you're pretty sure you're not going to like it. 8) You might be a redneck if... you think "fast food" is hitting a possum at 65 miles an hour. 9) If you've ever made change in the offering plate, you might be a redneck. 10) You might be a redneck if... you've got more than three cousins named 'Bubba'. 11) You know yer a redneck when you take a load to the dump and bring back more than you took. 12) You might be a redneck if... your toilet paper has page numbers on it. 13) You might be a redneck if... you ever won first prize in a tobacco spittin' contest. 14) You might be a redneck if... you've ever cut your grass and found a car. 15) You might be a redneck if... your the gas pedal on your car is shaped like a bare foot. (Jeff Foxworthy)

AROUND THE PARISH

Annual Christmas Greens Sale. On Saturday 30 November and Sunday 1 December, the Pro-Life Committee will be selling Christmas greens after all the Masses. This is a wonderful tradition at St. Catherine's with the proceeds going to support A Woman's Choice. The Greens Sale offers large and small wreaths, advent candles, and candle holders. If you have questions, please contact Mark Poirier at mark.g.poirier@gmail.com. (for the November 17th bulletin)[Exp. Date: 12.02.19]

SIENA ACADEMY NEWS

Dear Parishioners,

As we celebrate Thanksgiving Weekend, I give thanks for being back here at Siena Academy and for the many blessings received through your prayers and support. Please, trust in my prayers for you and your families. God bless.

Sister Janet Siepker, FSE
Head of School

1) Siena Academy's Annual pie sale will take place after all masses November 23-24th! Please consider buying a pie to support Siena Academy or making a donation in lieu of buying one.

2) Palio Di Siena 5k and Fun Run - We Need Your Help! As you know, this year's 5k will be held on April 25, 2020. This is our main fundraiser for the year, and our objective is to close the budget shortfall that we experienced last year. This is an ambitious goal, and our hope is to double the amount raised last year via corporate sponsors.

In order to achieve this goal, we need to significantly increase the number of volunteers involved to help with our sponsorship campaign. The sponsorship coordinator, Rory Nugent, will be in the parking lot during morning drop-off on 11/20 to ask for your help. If you would like to volunteer now, you can contact him directly at rknugent@gmail.com. Thank you in advance for whatever help you can provide.

3) Parents should remind their children to bring winter clothing for outdoor recess. Please mark all items with your family's name so if they get lost we can return them to you.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

WEDNESDAYS: and FIRST FRIDAYS

24 hour Eucharistic Adoration begins, on Wednesdays, after the 12:15pm Mass and ends at 8:25 am the following morning. On First Fridays, exposition begins after the 8:30 am Mass. To volunteer, contact Diane Cieslak: 703-678-3919 or polskagirl65@gmail.com.

St. Lucy Food Drive at St. Catherine of Siena
THANK YOU, St. Catherine of Siena Parishioners. Your generosity is truly inspiring. You donated 3,485 pounds of food and \$785.00 for the St. Lucy Food Bank, Catholic Charities Diocese of Arlington. Just imagine how many poor children will enjoy warm meals this winter, how many elderly poor will not go hungry. Your generosity impacts countless lives. Huge thanks to our intrepid students who ran through rain squalls to carry our parishioners' blue bags from their cars to the St. Lucy truck [Exp. Date: 11.25.19]

Pro-Life Rosary. On the last Saturday of each month, St. Catherine's parishioners offer the Holy Rosary for the unborn and their parents at the abortion business on South Washington Street in Falls Church. Participants meet at the clinic at 7:30 am (or carpool from the area at 7:00 am) and return shortly before 9:00 am to attend Saturday Mass in Reston. This is a powerful witness; please consider joining us. For information, please contact Mark Poirier at mark.g.poirier@gmail.com. [Exp. Date: TBD]

The Padre Pio Council Knights of Columbus
Knight of the month is Jim Hanlon, Jr. The Family of the month is the Lipovsky Family. [Exp. Date: 12.01.19]

Knights Of Columbus – If you are interested in learning more about the Padre Pio Knights of Columbus or joining the Knights, please contact David Livaudais, davidlivaudais7@aol.com, 703.254.4210.

Third order Dominicans – All Parishioners are invited to share in the apostolic mission of the Dominican Order of Preachers by study, prayer and preaching. Meetings are usually every 1st Saturday at 9:30 am in Padre Pio Hall following Mass and rosary. Contact Julian Heron at julianheron@msn.com or 202-349-3859.

Opus Dei – Evening of Recollection: A priest of the Opus Dei prelature presents an “Evening of Recollection” for women on the 3rd Monday of each month from 7:30 pm to 9:15 pm in the Church. Confessions: A priest of the Opus Dei

Prelature offers Confessions on Monday morning after the 8:30 am Mass until 11 am. For more information, contact Daryl Glick at 703.689.3433 x201.

OVER 50 CLUB
New members welcome.
Call Judy Mahanes
(703) 759-3997

The Over 50 Club is an organization for senior parishioners within our community and surrounding areas to gather for prayer, fun and fellowship. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 11:15 am to 1:30 pm. New Members are welcome. Our annual dues are \$20.00. For Further information call Judy Mahanes (703) 759-3997 or Marian and David Wilson (703) 404-1245. Expiration TBD]

Adorers needed for our all day and all night Eucharistic Adoration –. Every Wednesday and First Fridays: If you are able to volunteer to spend time with Our Lord, please contact Diane Cieslak at 703-678-3919 or email her at polskagirl@gmail.com [Expiration TBD]

Around the Diocese

For more details see our website (SeeWebSite)
<http://saintcatherineschurch.org>

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington
presents three outstanding seminars a year on important topics. This one, on December 4, 2019, is particularly timely as we enter the Season of Advent. The speakers are always first rate, time is allotted for Q&A, lunch is complimentary. And, it's a wonderful way to learn how others contribute to their parishes. Thank you & blessings, Lynn Hanlon lhanlon@verizon.net Carla Lanzara clanzara@gmail.com St. Catherine of Siena Parish Liaison Network representatives. [Exp. Date: 12.05.19]

Join us at St. Paul VI Catholic High School on Thursday, December 5th from 7:00PM to 9:00PM at our annual Sip and Shop in the PVI cafeteria at 10675 Fairfax Blvd, Fairfax. (See Web Site)

Days of Recollection for Men and Women Discerners - Could Christ be calling you to the priesthood or religious life? Take a step to find out. The Office of Vocations will hold a day retreat for men on Saturday, December 14, and a day retreat for women on Sunday, December 15. (See Web Site)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

stcatherinesreoffice@gmail.com 703.759.3530

CCD SCHEDULE - Grades 1 through high school
Monday Evenings 5:00 to 6:15; 6:30 to 7:45
GRADES 1-8 and High School Classes: November 25
Classes: December 2, 9, 16
HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES BEGAN on October 21

HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION: ALL PARENTS OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS are encouraged to register your child for at least one of the high school classes offered this year. The 10-session *Theology of the Body* class for boys began on October 21, and runs through mid-January.

If there is enough interest, a girls' session of Theology of the Body will be held beginning in January. Please call the Office of Religious Education if you are interested in your daughter participating in this class.

A 10-session *Apologetics* Class will be offered beginning in February from 5:00 to 6:15 each week.

An 8-week high school *Scripture* class will be offered beginning in February from 6:30 to 7:45. Details are available on the parish website.

High school registration forms are available outside the Office of Religious Education. Please call or email the Director of Religious Education for more information.

HOMESCHOOL AND CATHOLIC SCHOOL FAMILIES: Please fill out a registration form (available on the parish website under "Religious Education/Important Forms") so we are able to keep you informed about Sacrament preparation and corresponding deadlines.

Do not write in this space

FORMED.ORG – *Formed* is a dynamic on-line web-based digital platform from the Augustine Institute available 24/7. This series is designed to help you grow in your faith at all levels – how you think, pray and live. Better yet, access is FREE to all Saint Catherine of Siena parishioners and families anywhere, anytime, on computers, tablets or phones. So even though you have a busy schedule, you can still learn and grow in your faith. Go to <https://formed.org> and set up your username and password, then enter our parish code – **F6KWXM**. Each registered family has access. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about our faith from the best Catholic authors and presenters.

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