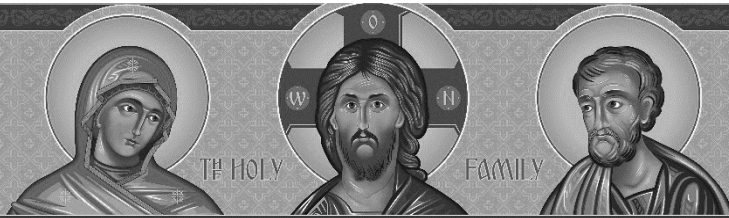


Holy
Family



Catholic
Parish

8th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C – 2nd of MARCH 2025

FIRST READING : Ecclesiasticus 27:5-8

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, so too the defects of a man appear in his talk. The kiln tests the work of the potter, the test of a man is in his conversation. The orchard where a tree grows is judged on the quality of its fruit, similarly a man's words betray what he feels. Do not praise a man before he has spoken, since this is the test of men.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM : Psalm 91(92):2-3,13-16



℟ Lord it is good to give thanks to— you.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to make music to your name O most High to proclaim your love in the morning, and your truth in the watches of the night. ℟

The just will flourish like a palm tree, and grow like a Lebanon cedar. ℟

Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. still bearing fruit when they are old, still full of sap, still green to proclaim that the Lord is just, in him, my rock, there is no wrong. ℟

SECOND READING : 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: *Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your sting?* Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

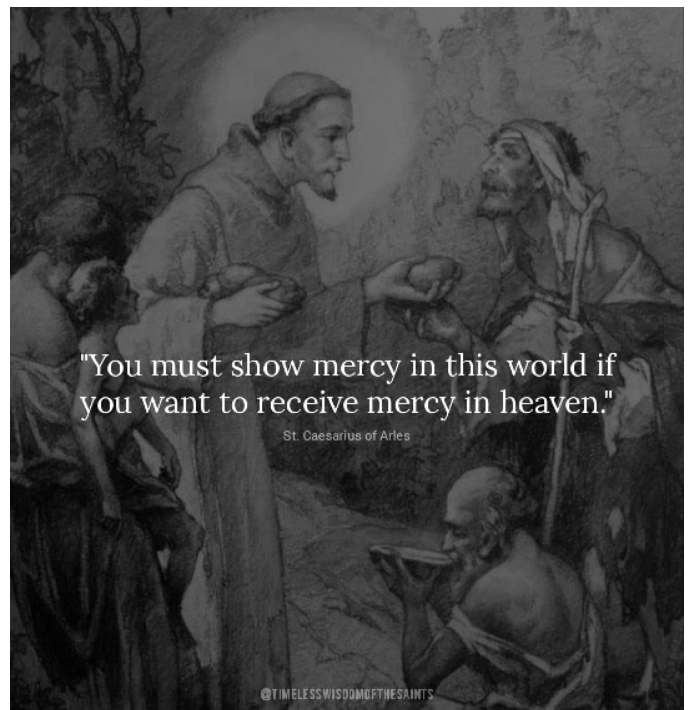
GOSPEL : Luke 6:39-45

Jesus told a parable to his disciples: 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye. 'There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit: people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out of what fills his heart.'

A. **P**

Musical notation for the Gloria Patri, consisting of ten staves of music. The notes are square and the rhythm is indicated by vertical stems.

A-ter nos-ter, qui es in cæ-lis: sancti-fi-cé-tur
no-men tu-um; advé-ni-at regnum tu-um; fi-at vo-lún-
tas tu-a, sic-ut in cæ-lo, et in terra. Panem nostrum
co-ti-di-á-num da no-bis hó-di-e; et dimítte no-bis
dé-bi-ta nostra, sic-ut et nos di-mít-timus de-bi-tó-ri-bus
nostris; et ne nos indú-cas in tenta-ti-ó-nem; sed
lí-be-ra nos a ma-lo.



IVF and CATHOLIC TEACHING

The first few weeks of President Trump's governance have been a whirl wind of Executive Order enactments; with many of them simply enacting common sense policy and being highly praiseworthy. For example, he rightly pardoned numerous Pro-Life heroes and activists, who had been unjustly and cruelly imprisoned by the Biden Administration for peacefully praying outside abortion clinics. Further, he rightly cancelled the thousands of racist DEI programs running in numerous federal institutions across the country. He also rightly outlawed all transgender chemical-castration and bodily-mutilation of children in federally funded medical centers nation-wide. Additionally, he rightly banned men who pretend to be women from performing in women's sports. These changes signal a return to sanity on these fronts.

However, recently President Trump has signed an executive order expanding funding and access to IVF - In Vitro Fertilization (Artificial Insemination) because he thinks it will help build families. He promised this during his campaign, and many Catholics opposed it, and directly criticized it. Sadly, he has gone through with it. It is not surprising given his vague protestant background, and his not being Catholic; and thereby not having access to a moral teaching authority which gives light and clarity on such matters as these. However, it is objectively depraved, gravely immoral, a travesty for the abused children produced in this industry, and harmful to the Pro-Life movement. Given the global spotlight on this Industry from Trump's Executive Order, it is worth considering and highlighting what the Church authoritatively teaches about it; especially given that many Catholics are unaware of it, or are confused about it.

The Church teaches that IVF is immoral because it breaches numerous moral principles in seeking to create a designer baby.

- (1) It attempts to play God, removing the moment of conception (procreative end) from the conjugal act undertaken to achieve it (unitive end), and dominating it with human technical skill and manipulation. It replaces the conjugal act rather than assisting its natural achievement. A child has a right to be conceived by its parents from their bodies in an act of love; within the body of its mother; and to know who those parents are.
- (2) It is not Pro-Life. Only 7% of human embryos created via IVF will result in a live birth. 93% of these lives created are frozen indefinitely, miscarried, or aborted. It sacrifices approximately 10 lives to achieve one.
- (3) It treats human life with callous disregard. Over 1,000,000 embryos are frozen at -256°C in the U.S. This 'freezing' of human life in a laboratory at its very beginnings, is a grave offense against human dignity. Discarded embryos (humans) are often used for medical experimentation and killed in the process, which is gravely immoral.
- (4) It is subject to the huge temptation to select only the healthy and genetically pure embryos. Thereby, it is part of a eugenics movement, rejecting the 'unfavorable' in favor of the 'pure'.
- (5) It treats human life as a commodity to be bought and sold; to be ordered and designed, and to be received or discarded at will. This is where it supports an industry of surrogacy, where babies are ordered, paid for, and delivered by a 'host-carrier'. And now sadly, often for homosexual couples; which adds another serious offense against the child. This can end in lawsuits, abandoned children, and then abortion, when a baby is rejected by both the 'host-carrier' and the 'client-customer', due to a discovered in-utero disability; or when fights ensue over who 'owns' the child. This is akin to modern day approved-slavery, where human beings are bought and sold, received or rejected, at the whim of a buyer or a seller. It is gravely immoral.

All of this is a huge mistake by Trump and something which Catholics around him should try to talk to him about.

This youtube video depicts this immoral Industry accurately.

BUILD-A-BABY: <https://youtu.be/e6VYza7JE6s>

Here follow some excerpts from the Church's official Documents on this topic.

POPE JOHN PAUL II, EVANGELIUM VITAE, THE GOSPEL OF LIFE, 1995, # 14

"The various techniques of artificial reproduction, which would seem to be at the service of life and which are frequently used with this intention, actually open the door to new threats against life. Apart from the fact that they are morally unacceptable, since they separate procreation from the fully human context of the conjugal act, these techniques have a high rate of failure: not just failure in relation to fertilization but with regard to the subsequent development of the embryo, which is exposed to the risk of death, generally within a very short space of time. Furthermore, the number of embryos produced is often greater than that needed for implantation in the woman's womb, and these so-called "spare embryos" are then destroyed or used for research which, under the pretext of scientific or medical progress, in fact reduces human life to the level of simple "biological material" to be freely disposed of."

CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Gift Of A Child

2373 Sacred Scripture and the Church's traditional practice see in large families a sign of God's blessing and the parents' generosity.

2374 Couples who discover that they are sterile suffer greatly. "What will you give me," asks Abraham of God, "for I continue childless?" and Rachel cries to her husband Jacob, "Give me children, or I shall die!"

2375 Research aimed at reducing human sterility is to be encouraged, on condition that it is placed "at the service of the human person, of his inalienable rights, and his true and integral good according to the design and will of God."

2376 Techniques that entail the dissociation of husband and wife, by the intrusion of a person other than the couple (donation of sperm or ovum, surrogate uterus), are gravely immoral. These techniques (heterologous artificial insemination and fertilization) infringe the child's right to be born of a father and mother known to him and bound to each other by marriage. They betray the spouses' "right to become a father and a mother only through each other."

2377 Techniques involving only the married couple (homologous artificial insemination and fertilization) are perhaps less reprehensible, yet remain morally unacceptable. They dissociate the sexual act from the procreative act. The act which brings the child into existence is no longer an act by which two persons give themselves to one another, but one that "entrusts the life and identity of the embryo into the power of doctors and biologists and establishes the domination of technology over the origin and destiny of the human person. Such a relationship of domination is in itself contrary to the dignity and equality that must be common to parents and children." "Under the moral aspect procreation is deprived of its proper perfection when it is not willed as the fruit of the conjugal act, that is to say, of the specific act of the spouses' union Only respect for the link between the meanings of the conjugal act and respect for the unity of the human being make possible procreation in conformity with the dignity of the person."

2378 A child is not something owed to one, but is a gift. The "supreme gift of marriage" is a human person. A child may not be considered a piece of property, an idea to which an alleged "right to a child" would lead. In this area, only the child possesses genuine rights: the right "to be the fruit of the specific act of the conjugal love of his parents," and "the right to be respected as a person from the moment of his conception."

2379 The Gospel shows that physical sterility is not an absolute evil. Spouses who still suffer from infertility after exhausting legitimate medical procedures should unite themselves with the Lord's Cross, the source of all spiritual fecundity. They can give expression to their generosity by adopting abandoned children or performing demanding services for others.

RECENT BIOETHICAL TEACHING DOCUMENTS FROM THE MAGISTERIUM

Also, here are 2 recent Church Documents from the Magisterium giving Official Teaching on bioethics, which cover these topics well and in depth.

One came out in 1987, and then other in 2008 due to the developments in the science. The Church wanted to reply to the new technologies.

DONUM VITAE (The gift of life)

https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_19870222_respect-for-human-life_en.html

DIGNITAS PERSONAE (The dignity of the Person)

https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20081208_dignitas-personae_en.html

BISHOP'S PASTORAL LETTER

Also, here is a very good Pastoral Letter from an American bishop, +Burbidge, of Arlington, which summarizes the Church's Teaching, and makes good reply to some of your human concerns.

<https://www.arlingtondiocese.org/2025/01/22/the-christian-family-in-vitro-fertilization-and-heroic-witness-to-true-love/>

It is worth googling all these documents and making a thorough study of them if you want to understand all the reasoning behind the Church's position.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN:

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty,
the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him,
for he is your health and salvation!
All you who hear
Now to His altar draw near,
join in profound adoration!

Praise to the Lord,
let us offer our gifts at His altar;
let not our sins and transgressions
now cause us to falter.
Christ the High Priest,
bids us all join in His feast,
gathered with Him at the altar.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things
is wondrously reigning,
and as on wings of an eagle,
uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen,
all that is needful has been,
sent by His gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord who will prosper
your work and defend you;
Surely his goodness and mercy
shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew, all the almighty
can do, as with his love he befriends
you.

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in
us adore Him! All that has life and
breath, come now with praises before
Him! Let the Amen,
Sound from His people again,
gladly forever adore Him!

OFFERTORY HYMN:

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing:
Alleluia, alleluia,
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favour
to our fathers in distress;
praise him still the same forever,
slow to chide and swift to bless:
Alleluia, alleluia,
Glorious in his faithfulness.

Father like, he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Widely yet his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Praise with us the God of grace.

COMMUNION HYMN:

Godhead here in hiding, whom I do adore,
Masked by these bare shadows,
shape and nothing more,
See, Lord, at thy service
low lies here a heart.
Lost, all lost in wonder
at the God thou art.

Seeing, touching,
tasting are in thee deceived:
How says trusty hearing?
that shall be believed;
What God's Son has told me,
take for truth I do;
Truth himself speaks truly
or there's nothing true.

On the cross thy godhead
made no sign to men,
Here thy very manhood
steals from human ken:
Both are my confession,
both are my belief,
And I pray the prayer of the dying thief.

I am not like Thomas,
wounds I cannot see,
But can plainly call thee
Lord and God as he;
This faith each day deeper
be my holding of,
daily make me harder,
hope and dearer love.

O thou reminder, of Christ crucified,
Living bread, the life of,
us for whom he died,
Lend this life to me then;
Feed and feast my mind,
There be thou the sweetness,
man was meant to find.

Jesus, whom I look at,
shrouded here below,
I beseech thee send me,
what I long for so,
Some day to gaze on thee,
face to face in light,
And be blessed forever,
with thy glory's sight.

RECESSIONAL HYMN:

Cause of our delight,
O Splendour of our race,
Hail! Full of grace, radiant in light,
Holy Mary, shine in our night.

Heaven, hear, rejoice,
your Queenship to acclaim
and praise your name,
by God's own choice
Holy Mary, be thou, our voice.

Flower like the rose,
e'en in the midst of thorn,
all those who mourn,
deep your heart knows,
Holy Mary, comfort bestow.

Brightest Dawn, you shine,
the sun completes your vest,
O Mother blest of the divine,
Holy Mary, give us new wine.

NEXT SUNDAY:**9th March 2025****1st Sunday of Lent (Yr C)***Deut 26:4-10; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13;***LITURGY ROSTER**

Readers: C. Tagiilima, L. Ahio
Prayers of the Faithful: T. Molloy
Offertory: Hatzaw Family
Special Ministers: P. Capundag

CHURCH CLEANING*No Church Cleaning – 24hr Adoration***SUNDAY CUP OF TEA ROSTER***Tongan Community***ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK****3 Mar:** *Vera Sadgrove, Myra Woodcock, Ben Stanley***4 Mar:** *Betty Dyer***5 Mar:** *Florence Lorigan***6 Mar:** *Elizabeth Luoni***7 Mar:** *Darin Keeler***8 Mar:** *Jack O'Sullivan, Wilfred Cross***PARISH FINANCES**

Parish	\$2,891.60
Priest	\$1,445.80
Total AP's and Cash	\$4,337.40

HOLY FAMILY PARISH NOTICES**Ash Wednesday****5th March 2025**

9am and 7:30pm

*Don't forget to drop your old palms
at the office on Tues, Thurs, Fri
before 4th March*

Stations of the Cross

starts **Friday 7th March at 7pm** then
every Friday during Lent.

Palm Leaves: Do you have a palm tree?

The palm trees we used to get our palm
leaves from for the crosses and Palm
Sunday have been cut down and now we
need to find a new tree we can cut from.

24hour Adoration - Fri 7th March starts after
Stations of the Cross to Sat 8th March at 6pm.
We need help with Fri 8pm to 9pm, 11pm to
12am, Sat 11am to 12pm.

*If you can help us with either the Palm leaves
or Adoration, please see Ellen, ph 098346677
email: hffparish@xtra.co.nz*

Sacramental Programme – 1st

Reconciliation: Our Parish Sacramental
Programme starts on Saturday 15th March
and registration closes 22nd March. *Please
note: that if you would like your child or
children to receive – Confirmation and 1st
Holy Communion this year – they will need
to receive preparation for this sacrament
first. Please see Ellen or email – your child's
name (age) and your contact details to
hffparish@xtra.co.nz*

Church Parking – Please do not park on the
grass or block the front driveway and access to
the parking behind the hall. There is ample
parking available behind the Church and Hall.