

St. Joseph Catholic Church Newsletter

“St. Joseph Catholic Church brings Christ to our community and our community to Christ.”

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NET Team to visit St. Joseph's!

St. Joseph's is hosting a National Evangelization Team for our youth on Sunday, October 28th beginning with the community Mass at 5:00, food at 6:00 pm in the Social Hall and a retreat until 8:30 pm. All youth from 5th grade to 12th are invited. Hope to see you there!

Reminder: Our Parish Picnic will be on Sunday, November 4th after the 11:00 am Mass at St. Joseph School Gym and Cafeteria! Feel free to dress up as your favorite saint as we celebrate All Saints Day as well! Lots of food, fun, and games!



Pictures from SJS- St. Joseph School

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<https://www.facebook.com/STJOSEPHMACON/>



Our Catholic Faith Should Inform How We Vote

In a few weeks those of us who have registered to vote will have the opportunity to go to the polls and participate in the election of candidates for public office. Voting represents an outward manifestation of concern on our part for how the actions of those elected will, by their decisions and policies, not only affect us individually, but also the lives of others. As Catholics true to our Faith, we are a People of Life, and this life-affirming spiritual and moral philosophy should be uppermost in informing how we vote. This is especially true when it comes to those things which adversely affect the very existence of human life.



In the scheme of all things there exists a hierarchy of importance. The sun and moon are both important and both serve their purpose, but without the sun and what it provides, life could not exist, and so in order of importance, it ranks above the moon. This recognition of a hierarchy of importance in comparing and judging different things also applies when considering how we are to vote. Being Catholic means we are a people whose faith is in a living God, who is the Author of Life and in whom we "live and move and have our being". Human life was created by God in His image and likeness and so no human being has the right to take away the life of another except in self-defense or in the defense of society. How we vote should be an affirmation and proclamation of our respect for human life, especially in its most vulnerable stages. "The Gospel of Life must be proclaimed, and human life defended, in all places and at all times. The arena for moral responsibility includes not only the halls of government, but the voting booth as well. Laws that permit abortion, euthanasia, and assisted suicide are profoundly unjust, and we should work peacefully and tirelessly to oppose and change them." (*from Living the Gospel of Life: A challenge to American Catholics*) With internet search tools we have available to us very easy means to find which candidates support these kinds of laws and policies.



Yes, we should be concerned about the issues of hunger, poverty, unemployment, housing and healthcare. Concern for our brothers and sisters, taught and instilled by our Catholic faith, demands our solicitude for those who are in need. Beyond the generous charitable giving of Catholics and others, spending on social welfare, education and healthcare constitutes a very large part of government spending, regardless of which of the major political parties is in power. But life is foundational to all its necessities, since any and all needs are attendant to existence. Pope St. John Paul II wrote: "The right to life is the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights."

We have an obligation to find out what we can about the candidates running for office. A responsible voter is an informed voter. You can find out about a candidate by visiting their website to find out where they stand on various issues. If a candidate has already served in the state legislature or Congress, then that person's voting history is a matter of public record and can be accessed by the public. Research the candidates and ask people you know about a candidate's position and philosophy, especially when it comes to such issues as protecting the unborn, opposing euthanasia and providing crisis pregnancy services for women who find themselves in situations where abortion seems their only alternative.

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Of particular importance, when considering who to vote for, are those candidates who seek to occupy executive positions in government, such as governor or president. Persons running for these offices should get particular scrutiny when we do our research on a candidate, since part of their authority, should they be elected, will be to nominate judges. While it is true that in our state, judges run for re-election; but when there is a vacancy on a court, it is the governor who appoints a replacement. Almost without exception, it has been in the courts and not at the ballot box where pro-life laws have met defeat. This is because judges have the power to overturn or enjoin pro-life laws, and all too often they have done so. Keep in mind also that a governor or president can refuse to sign pro-life legislation.

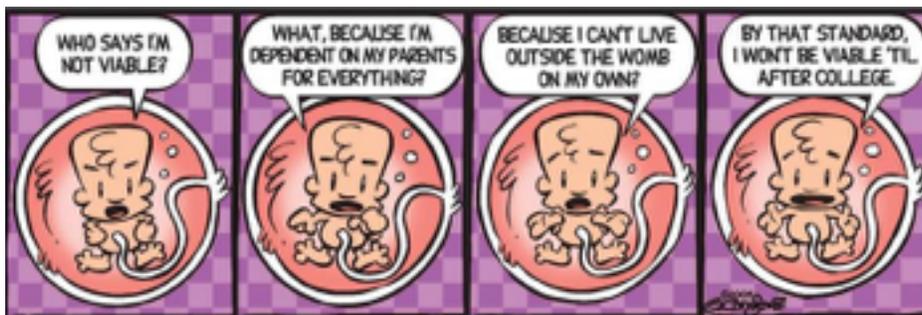
In summary:

- (1) Do your homework and find out what you can about those running for elective office. If a candidate is supported by an organization such as NARAL, or supports Planned Parenthood, this tells you that the person has positions which are in opposition to Church teaching when it comes to the fundamental right to life.
- (2) Vote. If for some reason you cannot go to the polling place, you have the option of getting an absentee ballot.
- (3) Pray. Always. Especially for those candidates who end up being elected to public office, that they will always do what is right and just in carrying out their responsibilities.

This is an article from the Respect Life Committee whose mission is to "teach respect for all human life from conception to natural death and to organize for its protection by delivering the Church's message of God's life to all so as to bring about a renewed culture of life in our parish, our community and our country." If you would like more information about the Respect Life Committee please contact Kathryn McCannon at: kathrynmccannon@hotmail.com



Umbert the Unborn



*I can do all things
through Christ
who strengthens me.*

Philippians 4:13

Our New Seminarian Emmanuel Antwi

My name is Emmanuel Antwi and I come from Ghana in West Africa. I am a seminarian for the Catholic Diocese of Savannah and have been studying since August of 2016 at St. Vincent De Paul Regional Seminary in Boynton Beach, Florida where I have completed my second year of theological studies. Before I came to the United States, I was a seminarian at St. Gregory the Great Provincial Seminary in Ghana, where I completed my studies in Philosophy. My mother's name is Mrs. Cecilia Antwi and she is a retired school teacher. My father, Joseph Ben Antwi, was a Police Officer, and he passed away in May 2016. I have three elder brothers: Patrick, Godwin, and Vincent, who are all happily married. My entire family lives in the Ashanti Region of Ghana.

I am in the process of completing my Pastoral Year as a seminarian here at St. Joseph Catholic Church. One may be wondering what I mean by "pastoral year." As part of our formation in my seminary, each seminarian is assigned to a particular parish for a period of one year, after he has completed his second year of theological studies. A pastoral year is more of "an internship before ordination." To be more specific, a pastoral year gives us a practical application of the many things we study in the seminary.

The New Program for Priestly Formation states that: "The whole training of seminarians should have as its object to make them true shepherds of souls after the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, teacher, priest, and shepherd. To be a true 'shepherd of souls' means standing with and for Christ in the community, the Christ who teaches and sanctifies and guides or leads the community." Therefore, during this year, in a more profound way, I desire to prayerfully discern both the spiritual and practical aspects of being a true "Shepherd of souls."

As part of my pastoral year program, I will be helping out at Daybreak, which is a homeless shelter here in Macon. I would like to offer some assistance and encouragement to our homeless brothers and sisters as they look forward to getting back on their feet. I will also be visiting our School to share the joy of the Gospel with the kids. Above all, I will prayerfully avail myself to the various ministry opportunities here at St. Joseph's. This will include: helping out with Dinner and Doctrine on Wednesday evenings, helping to teach the RCIA class, and helping out with the activities of the various ministries and groups in the Church.

I am already enjoying my stay here at St. Joseph Catholic Church. I am looking forward to a successful and a spirit-filled pastoral year program. Please keep me in your prayers as I continue to discern my vocation to the priesthood. Know that the entire parish family is always in my prayers. May God continue to shower his blessings upon all of us.



Attention Parishioners- from the Health Ministry

I am very blessed and excited to serve as the new coordinator of the Health Ministry. However, in order to make the ministry successful, I need help from the congregation. Please let me know what events/activities you would like to see in the future from the Health Ministry. For example we are planning to offer a CPR class and a cancer/chronic illness support group. Let me know if you have any ideas! Thank you and blessings always, Angela Hochell 706-361-1427 ahochell@msn.com