

## “Contraception? Why not?”

...This was the provocative phrase that first caught my eye one winter morning twenty years ago when I opened my tiny mailbox outside the student lounge. Some upperclassmen had been given a case of cassette tapes similarly labeled during their recent trip to Washington, DC to attend the annual March for Life. They had asked the permission of the dean to place a cassette in the mailbox of each seminarian. Several weeks went by before I picked up the cassette and popped it into my car radio (remember when we used to listen to music on cassettes?) to listen to it on my drive home for the off-campus weekend.

I was **STUNNED** at what I heard! To say it changed my life would be a gross understatement. Don't get me wrong: I have always understood that the Church forbids contraception within marriage (to say nothing of sex outside of marriage which is, in and of itself a serious sin), I just never really understood why. What I discovered in listening to this cassette was a cogent, articulate explanation not only of the “what” but of the “why” regarding this teaching which has been largely ignored even by many otherwise faithful Catholics. At this point, you may be debating with yourself about whether you should continue reading. I beg of you, please, PLEASE continue reading, even if this subject makes you uncomfortable.

Dr. Janet Smith was the speaker on the cassette. I later learned that she was an accomplished professor of philosophy who had been studying *Humanae Vitae*, and the sociological impact of contraception for years. The talk was actually a presentation that she had given to a group of seminarians in Columbus, OH, in which she summarized *Humanae Vitae*, the 1968 Papal document which re-iterated the Church's longstanding prohibition of artificial birth control. In her talk, she went on to speak about *Natural Family Planning*, various *effective* modern methods which married couples may legitimately employ if they have some serious reason to avoid the potential for childbirth at some given point in their marriage. Until I had listened to this talk, like many Catholics, I didn't understand the reason behind *Humanae Vitae* nor did I understand that there were legitimate alternatives to chemical and barrier methods.

In her talk, Dr. Smith restates four prophetic predictions made by Blessed Pope Paul VI in his controversial papal letter issued on July 25, 1968. I would like to briefly list them here:

*Contraception would "lead to conjugal infidelity and the general lowering of morality."*

*"The man" will lose respect for "the woman" and "no longer (care) for her physical and psychological equilibrium" and will come to "the point of considering her as a mere instrument of selfish enjoyment and no longer as his respected and beloved companion."*

*Contraception would place a "dangerous weapon... in the hands of those public authorities who take no heed of moral exigencies."*

*Contraception would lead man to think that he had unlimited dominion over his own body.*

For those of you over 40 reading this, I would like you to stop and ponder each of those points. Can you honestly say that these things have **not** come to pass? In my own lifetime (I was born 8 years after H.V. was written) I have seen each of these areas clearly demonstrated:

Conjugal infidelity has led to rampant divorce and television and popular media clearly indicate a general lowering of morality across the board.

The Pornography epidemic I referenced a few weeks ago is a classic demonstration of man considering woman “as a mere instrument of selfish enjoyment”

China's brutal “One Child” policy with forced abortions and infanticide is but the most extreme example of this. A less extreme, but nevertheless disturbing, instance is the practice of tying humanitarian aid to contraception and sterilization in poor countries.

In Vitro Fertilization, Embryodestructive Stem Cell Research and selective abortion of children with disabilities (like Down Syndrome) are but three examples of this.

One of the saddest things I have ever heard was an elderly priest – now deceased – who told me that he hadn't preached on this topic since the early 1970s because he feared he would drive people away. As a result (for he was not the only priest who felt this way) two entire generations have grown up in effective ignorance of the Church's positive teaching on the Truth, Meaning and Beauty of Marriage and human sexuality. Dr. Smith's talk not only helped me understand the Church's teaching on contraception, but also instilled in me a desire to know “the why?” behind all that the Church teaches (both “thou shalt” and “thou shalt not”). In the coming weeks, I hope to share more information on the Good News about sex and marriage. In the meantime, I would encourage you to read more from Dr. Janet Smith at [www.janetsmith.org](http://www.janetsmith.org). I would also encourage you to read the entire text of Blessed Pope Paul VI's landmark encyclical, *Humanae Vitae* at [www.newadvent.org/library/docs\\_pa06hv.htm](http://www.newadvent.org/library/docs_pa06hv.htm).

-Fr. Joseph Totton



700 W Maple St.  
Plattsburg, MO 64477  
Office Phone: 816-539-2634  
Email: [stann001@centurytel.net](mailto:stann001@centurytel.net)

Father Joseph Totton, Administrator  
Phone: 816-294-9841  
Email: [fathertotton@gmail.com](mailto:fathertotton@gmail.com)

# ST. ANN'S PARISH

Sunday, July 22, 2018

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

*This Week's Mass Times:*

*Tuesday 6pm Traditional Latin Mass  
followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

*Wednesday & Friday : 8 am*

*Thursday : 6pm*

*Feast of Sts. Ann & Joachim*

*Saturday: 4:00 pm Sunday: 10 am*

*Confessions: Tuesday 5:30pm: Saturday 3pm*

### Legion of Mary

Sherry Kutz, President  
Hank Lagerman, Vice President  
Carleen Miller, Secretary  
Eileen Lagerman, Treasurer

### Faith Formation Team

Teresa Marie Koch—Leader  
Roxanne Durando  
Greg Kittelson  
Terry Miller

### Knights of Columbus

Grand Knight  
Steve Van Horn



### Parish Council

Paul Broderick  
Randy Dalinghaus  
Carole Harris  
Diane Hon  
Marge Kinney  
Julie Moran  
Eric Niemann  
Claudia Ziegler

### Altar Society

Loretta Broderick, President  
Pat Clingan, Vice President  
Shirley Schwery, Secretary  
Lori Broderick, Treasurer

Email: [stann001@centurytel.net](mailto:stann001@centurytel.net)

Website: [www.stannplattsburg.org](http://www.stannplattsburg.org)

Business Manager: Marge Kinney

Coordinator of PSR - Roxanne Durando  
(816) 724-9478

Hall Rental: Leave a message on the office phone

To Protect our Children:

Report Abuse

Ombudsman: Jenifer Valenti – 816.812.2500  
Diocesan Victim Advocate, Kathleen Chastain,  
at 816.392.0011 or [chastain@diocesekcsj.org](mailto:chastain@diocesekcsj.org)



# Ministry Schedule

**Saturday, July 21: 4 pm**  
**Ushers:** Open  
**Lectors:** Clare Pelzel & Bill Lueckenotte  
**EMHC:** Charlie Harper & Judy McKowen

**Sunday, July 22: 10 am**  
**Ushers:** Mindy Beall, Eric Whitlow, JC Roberts & Vince Seiler  
**Lectors:** Karen Trotter & Dino Durando  
**EMHC:** Mary Ann Downey & Joan Seiler

**NURSING HOME MINISTRY**  
 Mary Ann Garton

**MONEY COUNTERS**  
 Paul & Lori Broderick

**Saturday, July 28: 4 pm**  
**Ushers:** Open  
**Lectors:** Clare Pelzel & Bill Lueckenotte  
**EMHC:** Della Mallen & Judy McKowen

**Sunday, July 29: 10 am**  
**Ushers:** Eric Niemann, Herman Gillotte, JC Roberts & Vince Seiler  
**Lectors:** Terry Miller & Paul Broderick  
**EMHC:** Vince Seiler & Chris Broderick

**NURSING HOME MINISTRY**  
 Volunteer

**MONEY COUNTERS**  
 Eric Niemann & Cathy Hanson

 *Mass Intentions*

**Saturday, July 21: 4 pm** **People of the Parish**

**Sunday, July 22: 10 am** **+ Mark Schwery**  
 By: Al & Shirley Schwery

**Tuesday, July 24: 6 pm** **Private Intention**

**Wednesday, July 25: 9 am** **+ Norman Thorson**  
 By: Vince & Joan Seiler

**Thursday, July 26: 6 pm** **Gloria Price**  
 By: Frank & Gina Watton

**Friday, July 27: 8 am** **Harlen Carter**  
 By: Gina Watton

**Saturday, July 28: 4 pm** **People of the Parish**

**Sunday, July 29: 10 am** **+ Deceased Members of the Knights of Columbus**  
 By: Knights of Columbus

*Weekend Collection July 14 & 15, 2018*

Envelopes: \$1,573 Plate: \$118.50 Candles: \$36  
 Maintenance Fund: \$1,088 Nat'l Catholic Register: \$3

**Total Parish: \$2,818.50**  
**2nd Collection: July 21 & 22 - Missionary Plan of Cooperation**

**Collections:**  
**July to Date: \$ 7,942.50**  
**July Budget: \$11,831.42**  
**Year-To-Date: \$ 7,942.50**  
**Yearly Budget: \$141,977.48**

**Thank you for supporting St. Ann's Parish**

**MEETINGS**

**Parish Council: Wed. August 8th, Parish Hall - 6:00pm**  
**Adoration: 1st Friday of month - August 3, 8:30am - 12**  
**Altar Society Meeting - Next mtg in Sept.**  
**Knights of Columbus: 3rd Tues. of the month 6:45 pm**  
**Church Cleaning: July - Group 2**  
**Donut Sunday: July 22 - Open**

**LEGION OF MARY will be meeting on Monday evenings at the home of Sherry Kutz.**  
**Please see Terry or Carleen Miller for directions.**

**REMINDER:**  
**Wednesday, August 15 is a Holy Day of Obligation**  
 Mass schedule as follows:  
 Tuesday, August 14 - 6pm (vigil) Mass St. Ann's  
 Wednesday, August 15 - 6pm Mass at St. Joseph, Easton

**Diocesan Visioning Process**  
 You are invited to Share and Be Heard  
 Bishop Johnston recently instituted a "visioning" process to develop a Mutually Shared Vision for our diocese.  
 The purpose of the process is to create a compelling Vision Statement (unifying theme) for the diocese. It will include three priorities—major areas of focus—for the diocese for the next 3 years and six goals that will lead to specific outcomes in the next 2-3 years.  
 Bishop Johnston invites every member of our local church to participate in their regional listening sessions in July. The locations have been chosen to reach as much of the diocese as possible in the time frame available. You may attend any one of the sessions.  
 Throughout the process Bishop Johnston asks everyone to join him in prayer (prayer following) for the fruitfulness of this effort.

One Heart and Mind; A Vision for Our Future  
 Diocesan Visioning Process  
*Listening Session Locations*  
**Monday, July 23, 7-8:30 pm: St Therese North, Parkville**  
**Tuesday, July 31, 7-8:30 pm: St. James, Liberty**

**DO YOU STRUGGLE WITH PORNOGRAPHY?**  
 Plan to attend the *My House Workshop for Men* in Kansas City August 9-11, 2018  
 This is a 3-day confidential, intensive for men striving to overcome and heal from unwanted sexual behaviors. It is geared to maximize investment of time and money by providing the equivalent of at least 8 months of individual therapy. It will enhance the work you might have started or jump start your journey towards healing.  
 For more information or to register today call: 816-786-6063 or email: [centerforhealing1128@gmail.com](mailto:centerforhealing1128@gmail.com)

Missionaries of St. Charles—Scalabrinians  
 Let us welcome Fr. Aldo Vendramin, C.S.  
 This weekend Fr. Aldo Vendramin, a representative of the Missionaries of St. Charles - Scalabrinians, will be in our parish preaching at all the Masses.  
 He shares with us the concerns and longings of the missionary activity that his Religious Order was entrusted in the Church: the care of migrant and refugee people.  
 He is sent by the Catholic Mission Office with the purpose of reminding each baptized Catholic of our common responsibility to teach all nations about God's salvation plan in Christ Jesus. A collection will be taken for the needs of the Missionaries of St. Charles Scalabrinians. Your generous donation will enable many missionary works to be accomplished in the world.  
 Thank you for your prayers and financial support.  
 To learn more about the Scalabrinians visit:  
[www.scalabrinians.org](http://www.scalabrinians.org)

**Prayer Corner**  
  
*"To everything there is a season and time... for every purpose under heaven." Ecc. 3-11*  
*"..a time to heal.."*  
**JB Lile, Tricia Wolf, Breanna Beall, Sandy Mathewson, Nancy Totton, Amy Spriesterbach**

**REMINDER**  
**Thursday, July 26th - 6 pm**  
 Fr. Totton will be joined by several priests in the celebration of a Solemn High Mass in the Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin Mass).  
 Benedictine Sisters will be singing  
**Sunday, July 29th**  
**10 am Mass**  
 Matthew Bobela and Polyphonic Choir will be singing  
**After Mass**  
 Celebrating our Parish Feast Day  
 Saints Ann & Joachim  
 Pot Luck and Cookout  
 Knights will provide hot dogs, buns and drinks.  
 All other food will be pot luck.  
 Mark your calendars, dust off your lawn chairs and come and have some fun with your parish family!

**Saint Patrick's Mexican Fiesta**  
 Save the date for the 49th annual Saint Patrick's Mexican Fiesta.  
**Friday August 3rd and Saturday August 4th**  
 On Friday we will be serving authentic Mexican food such as tacos, rice, beans, enchiladas, tamales, and more from the Knights of Columbus Hall located at 1205 N 49th Terrace. We will also have a live DJ, raffles, and drinks for everyone.  
 Saturday we will be back on the Saint Patrick's grounds located at 1723 South 12th Street. There will be more food, more drinks, a show, music, and activities for the kids. So, if you want to have some good ole family fun come on down.  
 Everyone is invited, and we hope to see you all there!  
 Saint Patrick's Church is looking for volunteers to help with the Mexican Fiesta this year.  
 If you would like to help please contact the co- chairs of the committee, Sandra Ortega (816) 261-3140 or Laurie Keller (816) 209-8127.  
 If you are in school this is a great way for you to get your community service hours.