

Brothers and Sisters of Our Parish Family,

Science can tell us amazing things about life, for instance: Your heart will beat more than 3.2 billion times over your lifetime. It began beating when you were 3 weeks and 1 day old. Before you were born, your heart beat approximately 54 million times!

But, while science can only speculate on life's origin, the Bible is definitive: Life is from God! In fact, St. John, in his gospel, says *"the Father has life in Himself" and "He gave to His Son...life in Himself"* (5.26). All life, eternal and physical, is from *Him* and of *Him*. We celebrate life in all its forms, because it is God's gift.

We speak about human life as being "sacred." Why? Genesis tells us that *"God blessed them, saying, 'Be fertile and multiply'"* (1.27f). When Adam became the father of a son *in his likeness, after his image*, he named him Seth (cf. Gen. 5.3). Human beings beget other human beings—in their image, in **God's image**. Sacredness is passed from one generation to the next.

466: Why must human life be respected?

• **"Human life must be respected because it is sacred."**

While all of God's creation deserves to be treated with respect, human life has sacredness/sanctity. The pronouncement that **we are made in God's image** is what sets us apart from other creatures. It's true from the moment we're conceived; it is not something we gain at a later point in our mother's pregnancy or at birth

In fact, the sanctity of human life is the basis for human equality. We all share this quality equally. It is granted by God and can never be lost.

The image of God—that stamp of His likeness that we all bear—cannot be erased and must never be ignored. It was there at our creation and is the heritage of every member of the human race. Nothing changes it—neither age nor illness, not even death.

A human being bears God's image despite being disabled, incapacitated, or even comatose; regardless of any level of virtue, intellect, skill, ability, power, or anything else, we all bear God's image equally. Even the vilest sinner existing in unrepentant opposition to God bears His image. How do we know? Because God has said so.



Because there are people who think that the sanctity of human life is inconvenient, that it gets in the way of scientific progress, we have things like stem cell research using aborted babies, three-parent embryos, and "death with dignity."

Nothing nonhuman has ever been born of human parents. Yet, there are scientists and philosophers who would like us to believe that if a person were unable to do certain things, he or she is subhuman. By their definition, this category would include babies not yet born, newborn infants, the profoundly disabled, and those who have become unconscious.

We, on the other hand, trust that all human offspring bear the image of God, regardless of ability. And human history has shown that demolishing the biblical pro-life ethic is a very dangerous thing to do.

Peace and Blessings,

Father Conrad

Sat. - Jan. 20 - 3rd Sunday Ordinary Time

4:00 PM +Ted Irzyk
Req. Bernice Fastoso

Sun. - Jan. 21 - 3rd Sunday Ordinary Time

10:00 AM +Zdzislaw Grygielko
Req. Wife & Children

Mon. - Jan. 22 - Day of Prayer

7:30 AM For the Legal Protection of
Unborn Children

Tues. - Jan. 23 - Weekday

7:30 AM OLPH Parishioners,
Living & Deceased

Wednesday, Jan. 24 – Saturday, Jan. 27

7:30 AM No Morning Masses

Sat. - Jan. 27– 4th Sunday Ordinary Time

4:00 PM +Irene Lavado (2nd anniv.)
Req. Family

Sun. - Jan. 28 - 4th Sunday Ordinary Time

10:00 AM +Helena Bobrowiecki
Req. Polish Women's Business &
Professional Club

Mon. - Jan. 29 - Weekday

7:30 AM +Mary Witkowicz (1st anniv.)
Req. Walter & Mary Ann
Polchlopek

Tues. - Jan.30 - Weekday

7:30 AM Father Alan B.M. Wharton, F.I.
(Birthday Blessings)
Req. Tim Schemm

Wed. - Jan. 31 - St. John Bosco

7:30 AM Friars, Relatives, & Benefactors of
the Franciscan Order, Living & Deceased

Thurs. - Feb. 1 - Weekday

7:30 AM OLPH Parishioners
Living & Deceased

Fri. - Feb. 2 - Presentation of Our Lord

7:30 AM +Adolph Andrelczyk (10th anniv.)

Sat. - Feb. 3 - Weekday

7:30 AM Special Intention

Sat. - Feb. 3 - 4th Sunday Ordinary Time

4:00 PM +Marie Louro
Req. OLPH Bingo

SUN. - Feb. 4 - 4th Sunday Ordinary Time

10 AM +Jeannette Robida
(5th anniv.)
Req. Tobojka Family

TODAY'S BULLETIN will be for this weekend and next. There will be no bulletin next weekend.

UNDECORATING after Christmas is never as much fun as getting into the Christmas spirit while decorating. "Thank You" to the enthusiastic crew who took down, packed up, and put away trees, wreaths, garlands, and nativity set for another year: Michael Gonet, Fred Kalisz, Kevin Michalski, and Joe Sobolewski. Despite fewer helping hands, these men tackled this big job quickly and efficiently.

The poinsettias will remain in church as long as they retain their beauty—or until Ash Wednesday, whichever comes first.

OLPH BINGO is an enjoyable Thursday evening pastime and a nice opportunity for socializing. Doors open at 4:30, and the games begin at 6:45. Come early and enjoy some of the weekly specials from the kitchen.



LENT WILL BE HERE before we know it—February 14th is Ash Wednesday. If you signed up in December for *Best Advent Ever*, you know what an awesome spiritual journey you took preparing for Christmas.

Best Lent Ever is another free e-mail program that will guide you on a incredible 40-day journey to become the-best-version-of-yourself, making this a truly life-changing Lent.

Simply sign up at BestLentEver.com/ParishSignUp. Starting Ash Wednesday, you will receive daily e-mails with short inspirational verses, practical tips to incorporate into your daily life, and encouraging stories from Dynamic Catholic team members.

Throughout Lent, all who participate will discover how to open their hearts to God and do more that just give up chocolate for Lent...leading to the **best Lent ever. It's awesome—and it's free!**