

## Fear Not

**E**asier said than done. There is so much to be afraid of today: war; the loss of life and the devastation caused by it; unemployment and poverty; illness and the pain and diminishment that often accompany it; the threat of ecological collapse; to say nothing of personal anxiety and trauma. The readings for this Sunday all speak of the hardships that loom over every life.

But these hardships are not the last word. Jeremiah ends his announcement of gloom on a positive note: “Praise the LORD, / For he has rescued the life of the poor / from the power of the evildoers!” (Jeremiah 20:13). The psalm of lament picks up the same message: “the LORD hears the poor” (Psalm 69:34).

Saint Paul insists that sin and death don’t win: “...How much more did the grace of God...overflow for the many” (Romans 5:15). Caught in the throes of misfortune, people cry out—but God responds.

It is in the Gospel that the reassurance of God’s care unfolds. The struggles described there are real, but they will not last. The imagery employed to characterize God’s care is picturesque and extraordinarily tender. If God is attentive to the lowly sparrows, how much more will God be attentive to us? Even more personally, God knows us so well that the very hairs on our head are counted. The admonition here is clear: Never fear! If catastrophes threaten, don’t be afraid! Even if they engulf you or carry you away, don’t be afraid. It is only temporary. God is always there, attentive to our needs, so fear not!

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR *Reflection*

- ✱ *What societal situation frightens you most? Here is where you might pray for trust in God’s loving care.*
- ✱ *What might you do to change, even so slightly, what frightens you?*



# Dear Padre,

## Why does the Church oppose stem-cell research, especially when it has the potential to cure illnesses like Parkinson's disease?

**S**tem cells are unspecialized cells with the ability to divide and produce a variety of more specialized cells. Scientists hope that one day they can be coaxed into specific kinds of cells that can cure disease or repair diseased organs.

In its 2008 statement On Embryonic Stem Cell Research, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops noted that there are two kinds of stem cells. Adult stem cells come from umbilical cord blood, adult tissue, and placenta. The bishops say they “can be obtained without harm to the donor and without any ethical problem.”

Embryonic stem cells, on the other hand, are obtained by destroying embryonic human beings in the first days of development. Since harvesting these cells involves the deliberate killing of humans, obtaining or using this kind of cell is immoral. This is why the Church has opposed extending federally funded stem-cell research beyond currently existing cell lines.



ELENA PAVLOVICH / SHUTTERSTOCK

Although stem-cell research may hold vast therapeutic potential, it's never permissible to sacrifice a human being for the good of others. The bishops clarify the moral hazards when they say, “The same ethic that justifies taking some lives to help the patient with Parkinson's or Alzheimer's disease today can be used to sacrifice that very patient tomorrow, if his or her survival is viewed as disadvantageous to other human beings considered more deserving or productive.”

Catholics should support further research on adult stem cells, which show great promise, and resist efforts to expand research using embryonic cells.

From *Sexuality and Morality: Answers for Modern Catholics*,  
© 2014, Charles E. Bouchard, OP (Liguori Publications)

### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*There is a tendency to justify transgressing all boundaries when experimentation is carried out on living human embryos. We forget that the inalienable worth of a human being transcends his or her degree of development. In the same way, when technology disregards the great ethical principles, it ends up considering any practice whatsoever as licit.*

—LAUDATO SI', MAY 24, 2015



## Calendar

### Monday

JUNE 22

Weekday

2 Kgs 17:5–8,

13–15a, 18

Mt 7:1–5

### Tuesday

JUNE 23

Weekday

2 Kgs 19:9b–11,

14–21, 31–35a, 36

Mt 7:6, 12–14

### Wednesday

JUNE 24

Nativity of

St. John the Baptist

Is 49:1–6

Acts 13:22–26

Lk 1:57–66, 80

### Thursday

JUNE 25

Weekday

2 Kgs 24:8–17

Mt 7:21–29

### Friday

JUNE 26

Weekday

2 Kgs 25:1–12

Mt 8:1–4

### Saturday

JUNE 27

Weekday

Lam 2:2, 10–14,

18–19

Mt 8:5–17

### Sunday

JUNE 28

Thirteenth Sunday in

Ordinary Time

2 Kgs 4:8–11, 14–16a

Rom 6:3–4, 8–11

Mt 10:37–42

## **BULLETIN NEWS 6-21-2020**

**The Mass will be live-streamed on Facebook from St. Patrick Church in Jonesburg, at 7:00 AM and from St. Joseph Church in Martinsburg, at 9:00 AM, on Sunday, June 21.**

### **Fr. Austin's Schedule**

Saturday, June 20	Mass @ Montgomery 5:00 PM Intention: Our parish Family
Sunday, June 21	Mass @ Jonesburg 7:00 AM
Sunday, June 21	Mass @ Martinsburg 9:00 AM
Sunday, June 21	Mass @ Montgomery 11:00 AM Intention: Valerie Readey Neudecker
Monday, June 22	
Tuesday, June 23	Mass @ Montgomery 5:30PM Intention: + Robert Merz Catholic Education Meeting @ Montgomery 7:00PM
Wednesday, June 24	Mass @ Jonesburg 8:30AM Mass @ Wellsville 5:30PM Finance Council Meeting @ Montgomery 7:00PM
Thursday, June 25 <sup>th</sup>	Mass @ Montgomery 8:00AM Intention: + Howard & Madeline Benney Parish Council Meeting @ Jonesburg 6:00PM
Friday, June 26 <sup>th</sup>	Mass @ Martinsburg 7:45AM

*Congratulations to the following couples as they celebrate their special day.*

*Charles and Pat Korman - 47 years of marriage on June 23*

*Chris and Carla Parker - 20 years of marriage on June 24*

### **Financials for the month of May 2020**

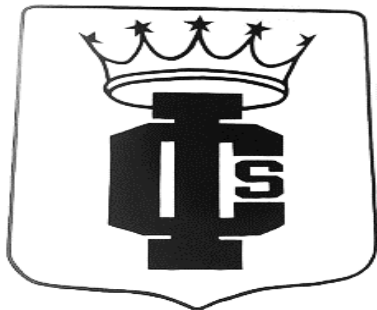
Parish Income: \$42,066.72, SBA Income: \$29,777.64, Total Income: \$71,844.36, Expenses: 52,685.64 Difference: \$19,158.72

### **Financials for the week of June 14, 2020**

Actual: \$6,206.00, Needed each week: \$11,775.43, Difference: (\$5,569.43)

Catholic Missourian: \$42.00 Cornerstone Campaign: \$150.00 Communication & Education: \$270.00 Capital Improvements: \$46.00

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SCHOOL GRADUATES



*Jade Raye Davis* daughter of Donald Davis and Heather Davis

*Hannah Elaine Davis* daughter of Chad and Bethany Davis

## NEW MASS SCHEDULES - "BETTER TOGETHER" BEGINNING JULY 2020

I wanted to give all of you a quick Mass schedule beginning in July.

The weekend Mass schedules remain the same

**Weekend Masses: Montgomery:** Saturday 5:00pm (Confession 4:30pm-4:50pm)  
Jonesburg: Sunday 7:00am (Confession 6:30am-6:50am)  
Martinsburg: Sunday 9:00am (Confession 8:30am-8:50am)  
Montgomery: Sunday 11.00am

The new weekday Masses will be as follows:

**Weekday Masses:** Wellsville: Tuesday 5:30pm  
Jonesburg: Wednesday 8:30am  
Montgomery: Thursday 8:00am  
Martinsburg: Friday 7:45am

## BLOOD DRIVE – JULY 7

United Methodist Presbyterian Church is sponsoring a blood drive on Tuesday, July 7, 2020, from 1:00 to 6:00 PM. Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: CARDS to schedule an appointment.

Walking With God? Walk with us! The Benedictine Sisters of Perpetual Adoration invite single women, ages 18 - 40 who are considering religious life, to attend a Virtual Monastic Experience via Zoom July 12-14, 2020. We hope to digitally show discerners around, introduce some of our Sisters and share some tips on prayer and discernment. The experience will include one hour of input each day. There will also be an opportunity to connect with the vocation director one on one. There is no cost to attend. Visit our website to learn more: [www.benedictinesisters.org](http://www.benedictinesisters.org). To register, please call Sr. Maria Victoria at (660) 944-2221 ext. 127 or e-mail [vocation@benedictinesisters.org](mailto:vocation@benedictinesisters.org).