



I love you, O Lord, my strength.
O Lord, my rock,
my fortress, my deliverer.

Psalm 18:2-3

Copyright © J.S. Paluch Co. Inc.
Photos:
© David San Segundo/Adobe Stock
Excerpt from the Lectionary for Mass
© 2001, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCB.

*Thirtieth Sunday
in Ordinary Time*

2020 **25**
October

Anyone who has read the Pentateuch (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) from beginning to end appreciates the massive influence of the law on our ancestors in faith. In fact, what Christians call the Pentateuch (Greek for “five books”), Jewish tradition calls the Torah (“teaching” or “law”). In the first five books of the Bible, there is no escaping the law, its meticulous detail and relentless regulations, decrees, and pronouncements from God to Moses and Aaron. Also common in these books, alas, are stories of God’s chosen people going astray. The predominance of the law reminds us that we are creatures with a tendency to sin; God provides the law to us beloved children to regulate our behavior and help us live more peacefully on earth.

IMITATING GOD

Laws would be entirely unnecessary if we lived perfect lives. As we know all too well, however, we often fall short of the good intentions that we cherish in our hearts. Perhaps the law would even be unnecessary if we lived alone, isolated

from other people. After all, what hermit in a cave actually needs a commandment to charge no interest on a loan? But God’s design for humanity includes togetherness. And when we live together, we tend to step on each other’s toes. Thank God for laws that help us to live in community with justice and compassion.

Underlying every one of God’s laws is an eternal longing for fairness and fullness. What’s more, God’s own self—a vibrant community of Father, Son, and Spirit—reveals the deep joy of living in peace with self and neighbor. The Trinitarian nature of God—three persons in one God—astonishes us with its commitment to fruitful love. Love is gratuitous and lavish, constantly producing and giving of itself. The more generously we love God, self, and neighbor, the more we will know that, as Saint Paul says, “love is the fulfillment of the law” (Romans 13:10).

Today’s Readings: Ex 22:20-26; Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51;
1 Thes 1:5c-10; Mt 22:34-40

Copyright © 2020, J. S. Paluch Company, Inc., 3708 River Road, Suite 400,
Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158 1 800 621-5197. With Ecclesiastical Approbation.

PASTOR: Rev. Michael T. “Mike” Snider
PERMANENT DEACON:

Temporary

Mass Times: Sat., 5:00PM & Sun., 9:00AM

Tues. – Fri. 8:00AM

Confessions: Tues. & Wed. 9:00-10:00AM

WEDNESDAY 5:00 PM

Reconciliation:

Saturday & Sunday: 45
minutes before Mass

Marriage or Baptism:

Contact the parish office six
(6) months prior to the
anticipated date 903-769-3235

Holy Spirit

Catholic Church

1612 S. FM 2869

Holly Lake Ranch, TX 75765

Church Phone: 903-769-3235

Fr. Mike Snider

Cell Phone: 903-490-3883

www.holyspirthollylake.com

holy.spirit2@yahoo.com

Welcome Visitors!

We hope that you have enjoyed celebrating Mass with us and felt welcomed in our church as your “home away from home.” Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for years, you are invited to join our parish family. Please come again!

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We remember in our prayers all the sick, especially the following:

Molly Dunn. Richard Schuetz. Regina Davies. Jo Hoffman. Tammy Johnson. Carolyn Simmons. Elayne Hayes. Dianne & Gary Laudt. Gayle McCloskey. Randy Epp. Shay Mikalonis. Dwight Nunley. Wanda & George Duke. Fleming Family. Carolyn Shannon. Doris Hoffman. Jo Ann Crowell. Ann Richardson. Jacob Stephens. Frankie Durst. Mary Margaret Ellison. John Kominis. Ester Coronel. Diane Stanley. Chase Larsson. Elise Sugg. Joann Rayl. Judy Fazzio. Marsha & Marty Blahitka. Carolyn Edwards. Joshua Larsson. Avery Boultinghouse. Wanda Stephens. Jim & Geri O'Neil. We list the names of our sick Parishioners. Friends and Relatives for one month. **We remember in our prayers all those who have recently died, especially: Wanda Thompson.**

Please pray for the men and women active military service from our parish community:

New active recruit, Reid Patrick Hope, US Marine (Nephew of Mike & Wanda Stephens). 2LT Joseph Chandler, U.S. Army (Nephew of Mike & Margaret Jernigan) Seaman Logan Adkinson (great grandson of Fr. Mike). Jay Guajardo, Navy Rescue School (Great Nephew of Lex & Liza Forster). Senior Airman, Natalie York (Daughter of Steve & Julie York). Pvt First Class Randall Scheaffer US Army (Grandson of Carlos & Pat Gallardo). Lt. Col. William P Shea. (Nephew of Deacon Sam and Nancy Mullen). Colonel John Anthony Fontana. U.S. Army (Son of John & Mary Fontana). Ensign Gary Buchanan; 2ndLt. Blake Gaughan (Nephews of Jess & Eva Corrigan). Paul Moreno E4 AMT 3rd Class (Grandson of Kathy & Dale Boman). Staff Sergeant Daniel Hodan. U.S. Army (Grandson of Ron & Barbara Eamma). Warrant Officer Michael Hauck (Son of Jerry & Vicki Hauck & brother of Cathy Ellis) & Seaman Rainer Hauck (Grandson of Jerry & Vicki Hauck & nephew of Jeff & Cathy Ellis).

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — You shall not oppress an alien, for you yourselves were once aliens in Egypt (Exodus 22:20-26).
Psalm — I love you, Lord, my strength (Psalm 18).
Second Reading — You became imitators of the Lord, so that you became a model for all believers (1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10).
Gospel — You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:34-40).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Eph 4:32 — 5:8; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 13:10-17
Tuesday: Eph 5:21-33; Ps 128:1-5; Lk 13:18-21
Wednesday: Eph 2:19-22; Ps 19:2-5; Lk 6:12-16
Thursday: Eph 6:10-20; Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10; Lk 13:31-35
Friday: Phil 1:1-11; Ps 111:1-6; Lk 14:1-6
Saturday: Phil 1:18b-26; Ps 42:2, 3, 5cdef; Lk 14:1, 7-11
Sunday: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; Ps 24:1-6; 1 Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a



Would you like to learn how to make rosary?

Every Friday after 8:00am Mass. We would love it if you would like for us to teach you how to make rosaries. This is a way to meet and get to know some of Holy Spirit's sweetest and funniest women. We do wear masks & social distancing. Call Jean Kelley 903-857-9868 for details.

Mass—Intentions

- Sat 10/24** Parishioners
- Sun 10/25** Beau Funk (Carolyn Bonicard)
- Tue 10/27** James Hayes+ (Knights of Columbus)
- Wed 10/28** Our President and First Lady
- Thurs 10/29** Bertha+ Bernardo+ Esther+ (Rocio Bailey)
- Fri. 10/30** Jim Hayes+ (M/M Stephens)
- Sat. 10/31** Parishioners

PARISH SUPPORT

Average weekly amounts through Sept. 30, 2020:
 Expenditures (excluding parking lot repairs) \$ 3,734
 Regular and debt & maintenance collections \$ 3,660

Attendance 10/17 Sat. 39 & 10/18 Sun. 44

POPE'S UNIVERSAL INTENTION FOR OCTOBER:

The Laity's Mission in the Church. That by the virtue of baptism, the laity, especially women, may participate more in areas of responsibility in the Church.



Election Day Adoration

7am - 7pm, Tues., Nov. 3rd

TIME SLOTS ARE STILL OPEN
PLEASE NOTIFY CATHY ELLIS

We need adorers! Our nation needs prayer during these tumultuous times now more than ever. God chastises those He loves, but He is merciful too. We can plead for Him to keep destruction from us just as He did for Abraham with Lot in Sodom. Just as He did for Hezekiah by granting him 15 more years of life. We can ask our Blessed Mother to intercede for us on election day just as she did at the Battle of Lepanto and the Wedding Feast of Cana.

We need to pray that legal voting is upheld and preserved and that the polls are places of peace. We can pray that people are motivated to get out and vote and that candidates show civility no matter the outcome. We must pray that God blesses America.

Can you give an hour to pray for our nation? **Father is offering Mass at 6:30am** and then each adoration slot is on the half hour for example 7:00a-7:30a, 7:30a-8:00a and so forth. **You can sign up on the holy spirit website, holyspirthollylake.com or you can email Cathy Ellis at cathy.ellis@gmail.com**



Let us pray unceasingly
 (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

Dispensation: The entire diocese of Tyler remains dispensed from the Sunday and holy day Mass obligation until further notice.

+++++ +++++ +++++ +++++ +++++ +++++ +++++ +++++

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Food donations: Blessings to all of our givers! We could use pudding, fruit, jello cups; pasta & pasta sauce. Plastic container is located in the **parish hall** for now. Please call or email Bob Mailliard at 903-769-3963 or theduckdude@att.net if you know someone that needs help or if you have questions for Bob.

CONFESSION ONLY Tues., Oct. 27th 9:00—10:00AM. If you have an emergency and need Fr. Mike call him on his cell # 903-490-3883.

Annual Knights of Columbus Pro-Life Baby Shower

This will be Knights of Columbus fifth baby shower event will be held for two weekends; Oct. 31st & Nov. 1st and Nov. 7th & 8th. This year, the Knights will again be supporting the Building Blocks, Living Alternatives Ministry (<https://livingalternatives.org/building-blocks/>).

The Building Blocks Ministry offers practical help to parents that encourages and renews hope for the future. It's a unique earn-while-you-learn program where moms and dads earn points for going to doctor appointments, attending parenting classes, and meeting with parenting mentors.

A portable play pen will be located in the entry to the parish hall for donated items, including: baby wipes, diapers (newborn to size 4), fall and winter clothes (newborn to 2T), bedding, car seats, babies and children's toys, and, of course, monetary donations.



Sunday, Nov. 1st "All Saints Day" & Daylight Savings Time

Sat., evening Oct. 31st roll back you clocks one hour before you go to bed.

Due to the time change on Nov. 1st, Fr. Mike is **moving the weekday Mass from 8:00am to 9:00am beginning Tues., Nov. 3rd.**

Temporary Weekend Mass held in parish hall: Sat., Oct. 26th at 5:00pm and Sun., Oct. 27th at 9:00am.

Protocols for weekend Masses:

1. **Limitations on Attendance:** Limited seating maximum 81 seats are available. In order for the households to maintain at least 6-foot separation.
2. **Wear a mask that covers mouth & nose.**
3. **No socializing** in the parish hall. Avoid touching door handles, restrooms closed. Enter & exist double glass doors into the parish hall to the left of the overhang.
4. **Chairs** set-up 6-foot separation. Please **DO NOT MOVE CHAIRS.**

Cenacle of Life: Cenacle of Life devotion each **Wed. from 3:30—4:30pm.** Please join us in church as we pray two rosaries for an end to abortion, euthanasia and all sins against the sanctity of human life. **Questions call Vicki 817-637-9382**

Fr. Mike is offering a **men's bible study** and a **women's bible study.** If interested please call/text Fr. Mike on his cell 903-490-3883. Leave your name and contact number.

Would you like to pray the Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament?

Fr. Mike is encouraging Holy Spirit parishioners to pray the Rosary before the Sat., Vigil and Sun., Mass. Join us at 4:30pm on Sat., and 8:30am on Sun., in the sacred space in the parish hall. The hall will fit the maximum amount of people to attend weekend Mass in order to stay within the protocols. **Promised graces are guaranteed!**

Holly Lake Ranch/Hawkins FM2869 Life Chain 2020

The National Life Chain is the largest peaceful, prayerful, pro-life, public witness in the world. More than 1500 cities across the US and Canada are expected to participate on Sundays in October and November. Christians should attend the local Life Chain to help build a resolute army of Christians who are pro-life in both word and deed. Let us engage the enemy, boldly and unashamed, until the curse of legal abortion is swept from our land and again provide security and freedom for every citizen, born and unborn. Holy Spirit Catholic Church will be participating in the 2020 Life Chain on FM 2869 on Sunday, November 8 at 2:00 until 3:00 PM. More Information will be in future bulletins, or call Richard Boultinghouse, Life Chain Committee Chairman, at 903-769-4257 or rbhouse61@aol.com.



Wanda Thompson passed on Sun., Oct. 18, 2020. The funeral Mass is being held at Holy Spirit on **Wed., Oct. 28, 2020 at 10:00am.** The rosary makers will begin a rosary before Mass beginning at 9:30am. Please remember our safety protocols.

Nov. Second Collections: Oct.30th & 1st: "Building & Maintenance Fund." 7th & 8th: "Christmas Flowers." 21st & 22nd: "Catholic Charities—Diocese of Tyler."

Temporary Weekday Mass Times held in church: Tues. — Fri. at 8:00am.

Protocols for weekday Masses:

1. **Wearing a mask that covers mouth & nose.**
2. **No socializing** in the Narthex. Avoid touching door handles, restrooms closed. Enter & exit same set of double glass doors into the church through the overhang.
3. **In church alternating every other pew.** Households must maintain at least 6-foot separation.
4. **Limited seating maximum 31.** In order for the households to maintain at least 6 feet separation.

***Holy Spirit Ministries Schedule
November 2020 ~ January 2021***

DATE	Day	EM s	LECTORS	USHERS	SERVERS	ACOLYTES
11/07/20	Sat	Ruth Barber Marcie Scott	Marie Hanson Debi Nunley	David Barber George Smith	Jason Coronel	Charlie Clymer
11/08/20	Sun	Ken Pregeant Patsy Pregeant	Pat Bonneville Brother Mark OSB	Joe Fazzio Jeff Leingang	Zachary Ellis	Jeff Ellis
11/14/20	Sat	Rebecca Niebrugge Jeanette Sterner	Cathy Keefe Bridget Rich	Al Murfin Sven Sterner	Jason Coronel	Charlie Clymer
11/15/20	Sun	Jane Bidlack Jean Kelly	Randy Munoz Lou Masferrer	Pat Hanna Ken Pregeant	Marie Liske	Gerry Hauck
11/21/20	Sat	Diane Laudt Jean Kelly	Melinda Hlavenka Ruth Barber	Jess Corrigan Michael Jernigan	Jason Coronel	Charlie Clymer
11/22/20	Sun	Randy Munoz Shirley Munoz	Vicki Hauck Eloise Sanchez	Lex Forster Mary Kastl	Zachary Ellis	Jeff Ellis
11/28/20	Sat	Marie Hanson Bridget Rich	Jeanette Sterner Rebecca Niebrugge	Cathy Keefe Samantha Coronel	Jason Coronel	Charlie Clymer
11/29/20	Sun	Ruddie Anderson James Cormier	Jane Bidlack Steve York	Joe Fazzio Jeff Leingang	Marie Liske	Gerry Hauck
12/05/20	Sat	Ruth Barber Marcie Scott	Lindy Moseley	David Barber George Smith	Jason Coronel	Charlie Clymer
12/06/20	Sun	Ken Pregeant Patsy Pregeant	Pat Bonneville Lillian Speights	Lex Forster Mary Kastl	Zachary Ellis	Jeff Ellis
12/07/20	Mon	Rebecca Niebrugge Jeanette Sterner	Debi Nunley Marie Hanson	Al Murfin Sven Sterner	Jason Coronel	Charlie Clymer
12/08/20	Tues	Jane Bidlack Jean Kelly	Lou Masferrer Randy Munoz	Pat Hanna Ken Pregeant	Marie Liske	Gerry Hauck
12/12/20	Sat	Diane Laudt Jean Kelly	Bridget Rich Cathy Keefe	Jess Corrigan Michael Jernigan	Jason Coronel	Charlie Clymer
12/13/20	Sun	Randy Munoz Shirley Munoz	Vicki Hauck Eloise Sanchez	Joe Fazzio Jeff Leingang	Zachary Ellis	Jeff Ellis
12/19/20	Sat	Marie Hanson Bridget Rich	Ruth Barber Melinda Hlavenka	Cathy Keefe Samantha Coronel	Jason Coronel	Charlie Clymer
12/20/20	Sun	Ruddie Anderson James Cormier	Steve York Jane Bidlack	Pat Hanna Ken Pregeant	Marie Liske	Gerry Hauck

If you are unable to serve on your assigned date, please switch with someone else. Thanks.

***Holy Spirit Ministries Schedule
November 2020 ~ January 2021***

	Day	EM s	LECTORS	USHERS	SERVERS	ACOLYTES
12/24/20	Thurs	Ruth Barber	Jeanette Sterner	David Barber	Jason Coronel	Charlie Clymer
		Marcie Scott	Rebecca Niebrugge	George Smith		
12/25/20	Fri	Ken Pregeant	Lillian Speights	Lex Forster	Zachary Ellis	Jeff Ellis
		Patsy Pregeant	Pat Bonneville	Mary Kastl		
12/26/20	Sat	Rebecca Niebrugge	Marie Hanson	Al Murfin	Jason Coronel	Charlie Clymer
		Jeanette Sterner	Debi Nunley	Sven Sterner		
12/27/21	Sun	Jane Bidlack	Randy Munoz	Joe Fazzio	Marie Liske	Gerry Hauck
		Jean Kelly	Lou Masferrer	Jeff Leingang		
12/31/20	Thurs	Marie Hanson	Lindy Moseley	Cathy Keefe	Jason Coronel	Charlie Clymer
		Bridget Rich		Samantha Coronel		
01/01/21	Fri	Randy Munoz	Vicki Hauck	Pat Hanna	Zachary Ellis	Jeff Ellis
		Shirley Munoz	Eloise Sanchez	Ken Pregeant		
01/02/21	Sat	Diane Laudt	Cathy Keefe	Jess Corrigan	Jason Coronel	Charlie Clymer
		Jean Kelly	Bridget Rich	Michael Jernigan		
01/03/21	Sun	Ruddie Anderson	Jane Bidlack	Lex Forster	Marie Liske	Gerry Hauck
		James Cormier	Steve York	Mary Kastl		
01/09/21	Sat	Ruth Barber	Marie Hanson	David Barber	Jason Coronel	Charlie Clymer
		Marcie Scott	Debi Nunley	George Smith		
01/10/21	Sun	Ken Pregeant	Pat Bonneville	Joe Fazzio	Marie Liske	Jeff Ellis
		Patsy Pregeant	Lillian Speights	Jeff Leingang		
01/16/21	Sat	Rebecca Niebrugge	Melinda Hlavenka	Al Murfin	Jason Coronel	Charlie Clymer
		Jeanette Sterner	Ruth Barber	Sven Sterner		
01/17/21	Sun	Jane Bidlack	Lou Masferrer	Pat Hanna	Zachary Ellis	Gerry Hauck
		Jean Kelly	Randy Munoz	Ken Pregeant		
01/23/21	Sat	Marie Hanson	Rebecca Niebrugge	Jess Corrigan	Jason Coronel	Charlie Clymer
		Bridget Rich	Jeanette Sterner	Michael Jernigan		
01/24/21	Sun	Randy Munoz	Eloise Sanchez	Lex Forster	Marie Liske	Jeff Ellis
		Shirley Munoz	Vicki Hauck	Mary Kastl		
01/30/21	Sat	Diane Laudt	Lindy Moseley	Cathy Keefe	Jason Coronel	Charlie Clymer
		Jean Kelly		Samantha Coronel		
01/31/21	Sun	Ruddie Anderson	Steve York	Joe Fazzio	Zachary Ellis	Gerry Hauck
		James Cormier	Jane Bidlack	Jeff Leingang		

If you are unable to serve on your assigned date, please switch with someone else. Thanks.

Vote for Candidates who Respect and Protect Marriage and the Family

by [Bishop Joseph Strickland](#) | Sep 5, 2020 | Essays

In our consideration of morally coherent Catholic citizenship we have considered the fundamental Right to Life and the Right to Religious Freedom. Now, we turn to the urgent challenge of defending the first and most vital cell of society, marriage, and the family and social order founded upon it. In a [2016 interview](#), Cardinal Carlo Caffarra disclosed a letter he had received years earlier from Sr. Lucia, then the last surviving visionary of the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima. Sr Lucia wrote: "The final battle between the Lord and the kingdom of Satan will be about Marriage and the Family." Do not be afraid, she added, because whoever works for the sanctity of Marriage and the Family will always be fought against and opposed in every way, because this is the decisive issue. Then she concluded: "nevertheless, Our Lady has already crushed his head."

Pope St John Paul II, the Pope of the Family, wrote and spoke repeatedly about the attacks on Marriage and the Family. He also affirmed their essential and unchangeable nature. Those attacks on marriage and the family have now reached a fever pitch. This is evident particularly in the West, where marriage has been redefined to a point where it is no longer even discernible. And, those who stand in defense of marriage and the family are increasingly being disparaged and confronted with soft persecution.

The Attack on Marriage and the Family

The attack on Marriage and the Family rages all around us. And, it is intensifying. It is a part of a broader cultural struggle, a clash of worldviews, personal and corporate, and competing definitions of human freedom, human dignity, and the path to true happiness and human flourishing. We are involved in a contest over the foundations of what constitutes a truly human and just social order. As Catholic Christians, we must insist that marriage between one man and one woman, intended for life, and the family founded upon it, has been inscribed by the Divine Architect into the order of the universe. That is because they have. Truth does not change; people and cultures do; sometimes for good and sometimes for bad.

As for the position of the Catholic Church on marriage, it is crystal clear. Marriage between one man and one woman, indissoluble, unitive, and always open to procreation forms the foundation for the family, and the family forms the foundation of both the Church and the civil society. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith of the Catholic Church [explained it well in 2003](#).

"The Church's teaching on marriage and on the complementarity of the sexes reiterates a truth that is evident to right reason and recognized as such by all the major cultures of the world. Marriage is not just any relationship between human beings. It was established by the Creator with its own nature, essential properties and purpose."

"No ideology can erase from the human spirit the certainty that marriage exists solely between a man and a woman, who by mutual personal gift, proper and exclusive to themselves, tend toward the communion of their persons. In this way, they mutually perfect each other, in order to cooperate with God in the procreation and upbringing of new human lives."

Marriage and Family as God's Loving Plan

Faithful Catholics and other Christians should only support men and women for public office who will respect and protect marriage and the family. For the Jewish and Christian believer, from the first chapter of the first book of the Bible, the Book of Genesis (which means beginning) we discover the loving plan of God for marriage revealed in the context of the creation account. God fashioned man in His own image saying, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..." (Genesis 1:26)

The early Fathers of the Christian Church noted that the plural language in the creation account points to the Trinitarian nature of God. Though God is One, the Christian faith proclaims that God is a loving Trinity of persons in the perfect unity of perfect love. The Father, Son and Spirit are a gift to one another. The Oneness of God is not solitary, but rather the perfection of Divine Love, being given away to the other, in the reciprocity of the Trinitarian communion.

In the second chapter of Genesis we read, "It is not good for man to be alone" (Genesis 2:18). The two, male and female, coming together in marriage to become one, reflects this unity in communion. We are, by both nature and grace, social. The mutual expression of love, as gift to the other, lived within marriage, opens the married couple to participation in God's loving plan. If marriage is embraced as a Christian vocation, it also leads them to holiness, includes them in the gift of creation through procreation, and draws them into a partnership of love which births a family.

Marriage is intended to be a lifelong, indissoluble union of the spouses, male and female, always open to life and formative of family. Family, based on marriage between one man and one woman, is not only the first and most vital cell of society, it is the first school, first church, first hospital, first economy, first government and first mediating institution.

Marriage is the Future

Our convictions and claims concerning the nature and ends of marriage are not outdated notions of a past era but provide the path to building a strong future for society. Nor is our position defending marriage as solely possible between one man and one woman simply a religious position. There is a Natural Moral Law which can be known by all men and women through the exercise of reason.

Marriage is not unique to Christianity; it is revealed by that Natural Moral Law as a good for all of humanity. It has been so recognized across cultures for millennia. That Natural Moral Law is the ground upon which every great civilization has been built. It is the source for every great and authentic human and civil rights movement. The Natural Law gives us the moral norms we need to build truly human and just societies and govern ourselves. It should inform our positive or civil law, or we will become lawless and devolve into anarchy.

Civil institutions do not create marriage. Neither can they create some new "right to marry" for those whose relationships are incapable of achieving the ends of marriage. Government has long regulated marriage for the common good. For example, the ban on polygamy. And, age requirements were enforced to ensure that there was a mature decision as the basis of the Marriage contract.

Marriage is the first society into which children are to be born, learn to be fully human, grow in virtue, flourish, and take their proper role in families and communities. We must not be afraid to make the claim that children have a right to a mother and a father. They do. Of course, we should also care about the single parent family and the many broken homes which characterize this age.

However, their existence does not change the norm necessary for building a stable and healthy society – two parent, marriage bound families. Intact marriages and families are the glue of a healthy and happy social order. Faithful Catholics and other Christians must become a visible, palpable reflection of this truth about marriage and family in our own lives. To live a faithful marriage is now countercultural.

Male and Female

In the creation account found in the First Chapter of the Book of Genesis we also read these vitally important words, "God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." (Genesis 1:27) Our sexual difference as male and female is a gift – and a given. To reject the gift is to reject the Giver.

We do not choose to be male or female. We receive it as a gift, or we reject it. The notion that we can choose our sexual identification as male or female is but one more manifestation of the rebellion that started in the garden with Adam and Eve when they turned away from God's loving plan.

When our first parents succumbed to the lie that they could determine for themselves what is good and what is evil, the separation from God began. In theological terms, we call that sin. It is both an offense against God's loving plan and a wrong exercise of human freedom. Only a Savior could bridge that separation. Thank God that He sent One. His name is Jesus the Christ.

In His defense of marriage, Jesus referred to this Genesis account in insisting on the indissolubility of marriage: "*From the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this reason, a man shall leave his father and mother and ... the two shall become one flesh. What therefore God has joined together let not man put asunder*" (Mk 10:5-9; cf. Mt 19:4-9; Lk 16:18).

To reject sexual difference is to reject God's gift. Difference is not inequality of worth. Rather, it enables the gift of self to the other and a reciprocity, an exchange, which elevates us all. To strike

against true marriage is to strike against God's loving plan and design, built into creation from the very beginning, revealed by the Natural Law, and elevated by Jesus Christ to a Sacrament.

A New Missionary Age

The early Christians, with joy and integrity, spoke and lived a different way in a culture which did not accept their message. As a result, they sometimes stirred up hostility. Some of them were martyred in the red martyrdom of shed blood. Countless more joined the train of what used to be called "white martyrdom", by living lives of sacrificial witness and service in their culture, working hard and staying faithful to the end of a long life spent in missionary toil.

Slowly, not only were people converted and baptized, but eventually their leaders and entire Nations followed suit. Resultantly, the Christian worldview began to influence the social order. The cultural climate changed significantly. It was the Christian faith, the lifestyle and the practices of these Christians which began to win the hearts of men and women. As a result, cultures once enshrined to pagan practices, such as plural marriage, homosexuality, infant exposure, and abortion began to change dramatically, and this dynamic continued for centuries.

It was Christianity that taught such novel concepts as the dignity of every person and their equality before the One God. Christians proclaimed the dignity of women, the dignity of chaste marriage and the sanctity of the family. Christianity introduced the understanding of freedom not simply as a freedom from, but as a freedom for, living responsibly and with integrity.

Christians insisted that freedom must be exercised with reference to a moral code, a law higher than the emperor, or the shifting sands of public opinion. Christians understood that choice, rightly exercised, meant always choosing what was right and that the freedom to exercise that choice brought with it an obligation and concern for the other.

The Christian faith presented a coherent and compelling answer to the existential questions that plagued the ancients – such as why we existed and how we got here? What was the purpose of life? Questions like how evil came into the world? And why we could not always make right choices? What force seemed to move us toward evil? And how we could be set free from its power?

Christian philosophy began to flourish, and the arts also flourished under the Christian worldview. Philosophies of government and economic theory began to be influenced by the principles derived from a Christian worldview. This can happen again. We are called to transform our own American and Western culture from within.

We are living in a new missionary age. We must remain faithful as Catholics to the unchangeable truths. The truth about marriage and the family is one of those truths. And, we live our obligations as Catholic citizens in a morally coherent manner. We should Vote for Candidates who Respect and Protect Marriage and the Family.



HENRY TROELL II
ChFC®, Agent



903-843-1104
Henry@henrytroell.com
www.henrytroell.com

Croley

FUNERAL HOME
Serving East Texas Since 1883

305 WEST HARRISON ST.
GILMER, TX 75644
903-843-2555

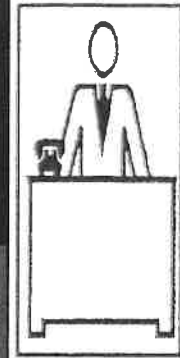
602 EAST BLACKBOURN ST.
HAWKINS, TX 75773
903-769-2144

www.croleyfh.net

catholicmatch[®]
Texas



CatholicMatch.com/myTX



*Your
ad
could be in
this
space!*

*Protecting Seniors
Nationwide*



Medical Alert System

\$29.95/Mo. billed quarterly



- One Free Month
- No Long-Term Contract
- Price Guarantee
- Easy Self Installation

Call Today! Toll Free 1.877.801.8608

WHY ADVERTISE IN YOUR LOCAL CHURCH BULLETIN?

GREAT COVERAGE - 97% of all households attending church take at least one church bulletin home every Sunday.

GREAT VALUE - 70% of all households are aware of and look at the advertising in the church bulletin and 68% of households surveyed when making a choice between businesses are inclined to choose the one who advertised in the church bulletin.

Learn More About Advertising in Your Parish Bulletin

Call us at 1-800-833-5941

Email: sales@jspaluch.com

ONE PARISH

Download Our Free App or Visit
MY.ONEPARISH.COM

Grow in your faith,
find a Mass, and
connect with your
Catholic Community
with OneParish!



FINDaPARISH.com

**The Most Complete
Online National
Directory of
Catholic Parishes**

Check It Out Today!

**Catholic Cruises and Tours and The Apostleship
of the Sea of the United States of America**
Take your FAITH ON A JOURNEY.
Call us today at 860-399-1785 or email
eileen@CatholicCruisesandTours.com
www.CatholicCruisesandTours.com



Get this weekly bulletin delivered by email - for FREE!

Sign up here:

www.jspaluch.com/subscribe

Courtesy of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc.



**SUPPORT THE ADVERTISERS
THAT SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY**

