

MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR ...



Last week I wrote that we cannot vote for a candidate who supports an intrinsically evil position, but what if both candidates in a particular race support intrinsically evil things? What are we supposed to do then? That is the subject of this week's column.

When both candidates have intrinsically evil positions then we have three options. The first option in this situation is to do a balancing act. We must ask ourselves a few questions first we must look at the relative degree of evil. If one candidate's positions are obviously less evil on the whole then we should support that candidate. For this we should take into account the good positions as well as the bad of both candidates and way them against each other. If we cannot determine that one is less evil than the other then we must try to determine if one is more likely to put into action their positions. For example, if one candidate is strongly pro-choice and has stated that one of the main items they will pursue is abortion on demand with little to no regulation and the other is pro-choice but says that leaving things to the states is acceptable then we should vote for the candidate who advocates for that. To put this succinctly we must try to determine who is the lesser of two evils. This process involves a great deal of effort and research about the relative positions of the various candidates. Many people do not wish to go to the effort but if we are going to be faithful to both our faith and our duty as citizens, we must do it.

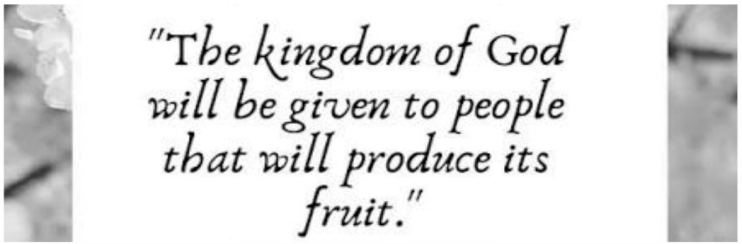
In our country we think of or political system as a two-partysystem, but in reality, there are many parties. Here in Kentucky, I believe there are 23 registered political parties. This brings us to the next option. If neither of the two main party candidates is acceptable for moral reasons then we must examine the so called “third-party” candidates. Many people make the argument that we should not vote for “third-party” candidates because they stand no chance of winning and so, “A vote for third party candidate X is really a vote for major party candidate Y.” From a moral perspective this is nonsense. The only candidate the we are expressing support for when we vote is the candidate we vote for not some other candidate who hypothetically may benefit from our vote. Second, morally speaking we must vote for the candidate whose positions most closely reflect our moral principles regardless of the party. We may, however, make small concessions to the reality of electability. So,we may vote for a major party candidate whose positions are less close to our own than a third-party candidate if we think it is likely that they may do good once elected, but this column is about when we find both major party candidates unacceptable. So, if we find ourselves unable to support either of the major party candidates, then vote for a third-party candidate or independent candidate.

Finally, we have a third option. This is truly a refuge of last resort. We can choose to not vote in that particular race. This must be a conclusion we reach only after researching all of the candidates on the ballot in our particular state. It must not be motivated by laziness or apathy, but rather an educated, informed decision that none of the candidates for the office are morally acceptable. This decision is not one that should be undertaken lightly, but if we truly believe that we cannot in good conscience vote for any available candidate this is a morally acceptable option. However, this decision cannot morally be a blanket decision, (eg I'm not voting at all this year) rather it must be a decision that is specific to one particular race, (eg I'm not voting for governor/president/senator this year).

-Fr. Daniel Dillard

MASS INTENTIONS

October 4, 2026			
Sun	10/04	07:00 AM	Joe Bittel, Jr.
		10:30 AM	St. Martin Parishioners
Mon	10/05	07:00 AM	NO MASS
Tue	10/06	07:00 AM	Jason Roberts
Wed	10/07	06:55 AM	Barbara Dixon
Thurs	10/08	07:00 AM	Johnny Simms
Fri	10/09	07:00 AM	Patricia Bumm
Sat	10/10	04:00 PM	Patricia Osborne
Sun	10/11	07:00 AM	Judy Peak
		10:30 AM	St. Martin Parishioners



COMING UP IN & AROUND OUR PARISH

OCTOBER 4	Faith Formation 9:00-10:15	
OCTOBER 5	MEN’S CLUB MEETING 7:00pm	
OCTOBER 12–16	FALL BREAK	
OCTOBER 21	EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION PRAYING THE IMMACULATE HEART ROSARY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ADORATION 5pm	
OCTOBER 24	Decorate your trunks to win a gift card! Trunk or Treat Chili Supper after 4:30 Mass	
OCTOBER 25	Faith Formation 9:00-10:15	
OCTOBER 28	Finance Council Meeting 5pm Parish Council Meeting 6pm	
NOVEMBER 1	ALL SAINTS DAY	

MINISTER SCHEDULE

Saturday, October 3rd — 4:00 PM	
Lector:	Lillian Chapman Robynn Clark Nicholas Fischer Jena Hayden
Altar Servers:	Isaac Self & Noah McBride
Sunday, October 4th —7:00 AM	
Lector:	Sherry Krampe
Eucharistic Ministers:	Will Clayton Lauren Ebelhar Erica Tapp
Altar Servers:	Luke Murphy & Will Murphy
Sunday, October 4th — 10:30 AM	
Lector:	Krystal Medley
Eucharistic Ministers:	Cheryl Clark Debi Hopkins Darlene Berry
Altar Servers:	Hayden Edge & Jude Evans
Saturday, October 10th — 4:00 PM	
Lector:	Allen Self Jeff McCarthy Steve Bittel Bonnie Bittel
Altar Servers:	Grayson McCarty & Molly Knott
Sunday, October 11th —7:00 AM	
Lector:	MacKenzie Murphy
Eucharistic Ministers:	Betty Hamilton Darlene May Mike Wade
Altar Servers:	Hagan Ebelhar & Eli Murphy
Sunday, October 11th — 10:30 AM	
Lector:	Debi Hopkins
Eucharistic Ministers:	Bobby Kennedy Nancy Greenwell Stacy Thompson
Altar Servers:	VOLUNTEER & Spencer Medley
	TODAY’S MUSIC: 735 (BB) 714 1027 1030 Rejoice, the Lord is King Praise to the Lord One Bread, One Body Alleluia! Sing to Jesus
Ritual Song	TODAY’S READINGS: # 1272

STEWARDSHIP

September 27, 2026	
<i>Not all income is reflected in weekend collections which do not consider expenses. Budget income less expenses may reflect something different.</i>	
Regular Collections:	\$ 3,794.00
Building Fund:	\$ 100.00
Special/Designated Collections:	\$ 155.00
(1) TOTAL:	\$ 4,049.00
Weekly Budget:	\$ 11,096.15
(2) Collections (YTD):	\$ 140,287.87
Budget (YTD):	\$ 144,250.00
Over/(Under):	\$ (3,962.13)
=====	
(1) This Sunday <u>Last Year</u> (09/272025):	6,069.00
(2) Collected <u>Last Year</u> Year-to-Date:	\$144,667.24

FAITH FORMATION

FAITH FORMATION FOR CHILDREN:
Sessions are from 9:00-10:15 am in the parish center. We serve Preschool through 8th grade children, regardless of faith affiliation, and all are welcome to attend. Parents are welcome to visit. Even if you have not registered your children, you may still come! Forms are on tables in the entry of church, or contact Debi Hopkins, 270-316-2580.

If your child is already attending, please make sure to turn in those papers and fees asap. :) We do not meet EVERY week, so be sure to pick up a schedule. There is an optional, free“snack” breakfast offered between 8:30-9:00 am in the parish hall. A special “Treasure” here at Faith Formation is the Preschool-Kindergarten-1st Grade class. Many families don’t consider sending a preschooler or kindergartener to a parish program. It’s a missed opportunity. This is a great chance to have your children engage in age-appropriate sessions, with caring leaders, guiding them in activities centered on themes from that Sunday’s Gospel (Lectionary-based). Please consider bringing your child, grandchild, niece or nephew, or godchild to a Faith Formation session to try it out. We all try to do so much for the young ones in our lives. This is can be an important way to express your care for them.

Will my child still be living as a Catholic into adulthood?
For a few weeks, there will be excerpts in the bulletin from an article in the National Catholic Register: <https://www.ncregister.com/cna/raising-catholic-kids-new-study-suggests-whatsuccessful-parents-have-in-common>

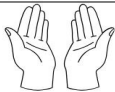
Important data: The study titled “Raised Catholic: Who Stays and Who Goes?” was done by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University in conjunction with the Peyton Institute for Domestic Church Life. Dr. Gregory Popcak, a widely cited Catholic counselor and co-executive director of the Peyton Institute, stated that the overall conclusion of the study was that children who grow up in a warm and affectionate home — spending time with their family in fun, prayer, and service to others — are more likely to remain Catholic as adults.

At or near the top of almost any Catholic parent’s list of things they want for their children is for them to continue practicing their Catholic faith into adulthood. But recent statistics paint a sobering picture: In the United States today, only about 15% of children raised in Catholic households grow up to be faithful Catholic adults.

Among households that were successful in fostering lasting faith, children understood their parents to be open to hearing and talking about the children’s doubts and struggles when it came to faith — an environment where kids “didn’t feel like they would be lectured or scolded for having questions or struggles or doubts.” If a question arose that the parents didn’t have the answer to, they would pursue the answer together — “authoritative without being authoritarian,” Dr. Popcak noted.

Dr. Popcak said he hears often from parents on his EWTN radio show that their children have left the faith and they want to know what happened. He said he usually asks the parents what they did to live the faith inside the home, and many parents express confusion, saying they gave their children numerous faith-related opportunities outside the home. Over time, “We’ve sent the message to parents that it’s everybody ELSE’s job to evangelize their kids,” he commented. “I think this study reveals something that’s hidden in plain sight ... it completely challenges our entire approach to evangelization as a Church, because we invest all our time and resources into adult evangelization and youth ministry. And they’re all good — I’m not knocking any of that. But unless families are [living the faith at home], the other stuff doesn’t stick,” he explained. Data cited by the researchers show that the number of people who remain practicing Catholics, after being raised Catholic, in the United States has been steadily declining for decades. Catholic immigration helps to maintain the overall Catholic population, despite declining retention rates among native-born Catholics. Among those raised Catholic who leave the faith, about half become religiously unaffiliated and the other half adopts a new religious affiliation. The median age at which these former Catholics said they made the decision to leave the faith was 13, the researchers said. Debi’s take, so far: Knowledge is power. Positive change comes when we understand the context of the origin of a problem. Next week, I will share more of this important article from the National Catholic Register, highlighting what we all can do to turn this situation around. Keep the Faith!

-Debi Hopkins

 **WE PRAY TO THE LORD FOR:** All serving in foreign countries and all over the World, the victims of natural disasters, and for Gabe Bartley, Jack & Delores Beyke, Jimmy Dale Blandford, Justin Blandford, Kristin Bucio, Danny Campbell, Phillip Cecil, Darlene Cook, Allen Coomes, Cindy Coomes, Carolyn Crabtree, Theresa Crowe, Jean Dennis, Anita Dixon, Blaine Dockemeyer, Judy Duncan, Arlene Dunn, Delaney Ebelhar, Harold Ebelhar, Fred Greenwell, June Hamilton, Richard Hamilton, Wayne Hamilton, Bob Hayden, Lorraine Hayden, Rose Hayden, Meredith Hendershot, Tommy Hermann, Dena Hiller, Lucy Hines, Dan Hopkins, Steve Hopkins, Dorothy Howard, Julie Jackson, Donna Kamuf, Larry Kamuf, Jeremy Leet, Jeff Lucky, Brent McCarty, Ella Meyers, Debbie Millay, Theresa Murphy, Patrick O'Bryan, James Payne, Robbie Phillips, Theresa Rhinerson, Martha Riney, Carissa Roberts, Mark Roberts, Matthew Roberts Family, Will Roberts, Adam Rone, Barbara Schell, Jennifer Self & Family, Todd Self, Wayne Shelton, Aaron Simmons, Jimmy Simmons, Heather (Hopkins) Sorensen, Erica Tapp Family, Ashton Thompson, Ben Thompson, Justin Todd, Elenor Turner, Betty Wedding, Dee Dee Wethington, Jerry Wink, Patti Wink, Deborah Wright, Theresa Wyatt & any others in need of prayer.

Happy Birthday

- 10/01 Janine Burmm
- 10/02 Daniel Dillard
Donna Johnson
- 10/03 Brent McCarty
Emmelia Evans
Nikki Knott
Carrie Krampe
- 10/05 Lucy Evans
- 10/06 Michelle Mayfield
- 10/07 Chelsea Kirtley
Mason Hardesty
Martin Krampe
- 10/08 Terry Blandford
- 10/11 Hannah Allen
Jacob Allen
Fred Coomes
- 10/12 Jerry Fischer
Cindy Hamilton
Rhonda Thompson
Grayson McCarty
- 10/14 Sarah Allen
- 10/15 Isaac Self
- 10/16 Sarah Brown
- 10/18 Steve Bittel
Jude Evans
Eleanor Blandford
- 10/20 Joseph Tapp
Kolbe Hayden
- 10/21 Whitney May
- 10/22 Caroline Harper
- 10/23 Eric Ebelhar
- 10/23 Lea Ann Wilson
- 10/25 Becky Marks
- 10/26 Claire Blandford
- 10/29 Susan Risse
- 10/30 Madison Ebelhar
Timothy Evans
- 10/31 Lillian Chapman

Happy Anniversary

- 10/05/24 Joseph & Whitney May
- 10/05/13 Kevin & Amythest Thomas
- 10/14/89 Mark & Kim Krampe
- 10/23/82 Rick & Tammie Thomas

FEAST OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI OCTOBER 4

Today we celebrate the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, one of the most beloved saints in the Church. Known for his deep love of God’s creation and his radical commitment to poverty and peace, Saint Francis reminds us to see the footprint of the Creator in all living things.

As we honor him today, let us reflect on how we care for our common home and those on the margins of our society.

“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love.” – Saint Francis of Assisi



The **Knights of Columbus** will be conducting their annual Tootsie Roll fund drive here on **October 17th & 18th**. Someone will be out front of church collecting and offering sweet treats! Be sure to get your Tootsie Roll fix!

ON SALE NOW!!
1 Ticket. 52 weekly drawings. You can win more than once!
Only 1,000 tickets sold.  Get yours while they last!

ST. MARTIN
PARISH
52-WEEK
Raffle
2026 / 2027

ONE \$300
WINNER DRAWN
EACH WEEK!

MORE INFORMATION & RULES
WWW.STMARTINOWENSBORO.ORG -TO PURCHASE
CALL 685-0339 - OPTION 2 IF NO ANSWER



♥KIDS CHALLENGE♥

This week, think about the “good fruit” Jesus wants us to produce. We may not have a vineyard to take care of, but God has given each of us special gifts, people to love, and opportunities to do what is right.

Each day, try to produce one piece of “good fruit.” Help someone without being asked, include someone who feels left out, forgive someone, share what you have, say something kind, or spend a few minutes talking to God.

At the end of the day, ask yourself: “What good fruit did I produce for God today?”

Challenge: Let others see God’s love through your words and actions! 🌱♥?

GOSPEL REFLECTION

THIS GOSPEL REMINDS US THAT EVERYTHING WE HAVE—OUR LIVES. TALENTS. TIME. RELATIONSHIPS. AND OPPORTUNITIES—IS ULTIMATELY A GIFT FROM GOD. LIKE THE TENANTS IN THE VINEYARD, WE ARE CALLED TO CARE FOR WHAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO US AND USE IT TO PRODUCE GOOD FRUIT.

IT ALSO CHALLENGES US TO THINK ABOUT HOW WE RESPOND WHEN GOD TRIES TO GUIDE US. SOMETIMES HIS MESSAGE COMES THROUGH SCRIPTURE. PRAYER. ANOTHER PERSON. OR EVEN A DIFFICULT EXPERIENCE. WE CAN CHOOSE TO LISTEN—OR IGNORE WHAT WE KNOW GOD IS ASKING OF US.

JESUS, THE “CORNERSTONE.” REMINDS US THAT OUR LIVES ARE STRONGEST WHEN THEY ARE BUILT AROUND HIM. GOD DOESN’T EXPECT PERFECTION. BUT HE DOES EXPECT US TO GROW. CHANGE. AND BEAR FRUIT THROUGH KINDNESS. FORGIVENESS. GENEROSITY. FAITH. AND LOVE.

THE QUESTION FOR US IS SIMPLE: WHAT KIND OF FRUIT ARE WE PRODUCING WITH WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN US? ♥

CHURCH
NEWS
ON THE
270-685-0339

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FORGOT YOUR BULLETIN?
WE’VE GOT YOU COVERED! 📞

Need to know what’s happening at St. Martin but don’t have your bulletin handy? Just call, and press 8, to stay connected!