OCTOBER 4 MARCH 8, 2026APRIL 27, 2025

Formatted: Border: Bottom: (Single solid line, Auto, 2.25 pt Line width), Tab stops: 1.5", Left + 3.5", Left + 6", Left + Not at 3"

Monday October 5March 9, 2026 April 28, 2025

6:30 Frances E. Marinucci req. by Janda Family
8:00 Mark Burgmann req. by Susan Guest
6:30 Teddy Graham req. by Caitlin Barnard
8:00 Frank W. Olson req. by Donna & Patrick McGrath
6:30 Michael DeLauro req. by Alicia & Brian Graham
8:00 Jessie Lucarini req. by Jack & Diane

Tuesday October 6day March 10, 2026April 29, 2025

6:30 George Sullilvan req. by Lisa & Indie Clark6:30 Sadie & Ed Devlin req. by Monica/Fred Bloesch
8:00 Anne O'Shea req. by Husband Ron
6:30 Joanne Cox req. by Colleen & Mike Frisco
8:00 George Sullivan req. by Stephen & Linda Stearn Kenneth Lehman req. by Catherine Bongard

Wednesday October 7March 11, 2026y April 30, 2025

6:30 Michael Traynor req. by Cheryl Traynor6:30 Carolyn McCann req. by Fred & Monica Bloesch
8:00 Tiffanie Polidora req. by Colleen & Mike Frisco
6:30 Bridget Higgins req. by Mom, Dad & John
8:00 Thomas Elmer req. by MotherLarry McCole req. by Janet Zagney

Thursday October 8March 12, 2026May 1, 2025

6:30 Dorothy Massaro req. by Jim Colombo6:30 Dr. Alisa Devlin req. by Monica & Fred Bloesch
8:00 Carolyn DeSautel req. by Susan Guest
6:30 Florence Hall req. by Joanne & Dan Cistone

8:00 Joseph Mallon req. by Family8:00 Bob Irwin req. by Irwin Family

Friday October 9March 13, 2026May 2, 2025

6:30 Romayne Seamon req. by O'Neil Family6:30 Linda Dluoik req. by Marianne & Paul Klein
8:00 Tiffanie Polidoro req. by Jessica & Dennis McKee

6:30 Patricia Marrone req. by D. Daughn/R. Ricci9:00 Leon Flanagan req. by Mom & Dad
8:00 Frank Pfeiffer req. by Monica Maio8:00 William Dalton req. by Fran & Ed Kubala

Saturday October 10March 14, 2026May 3, 2025

8:00 Frank Broscius req. by Suarez Family8:00 Carolyn McCarthy req. by Ricciardi Fam. Rose Ricciardi req.by Colleen & Patrick Ricciardi
5:00PM Richard Bupp req. by Barbara Bupp5:00PM Peter Coyne req. by Jennifer WrezenRichard Dittert req. by Mena Dittert

Sunday October 11March 15, 2026May 4, 2025

6:30 Bridget Higgins req. by Mom, Dad, JohnWilliam Dalton req. by Spatafore Family Sheila Malone req. by Kathryn & Chris Hanratty
8:00 Sophia Colombo req. by FamilySadie & Ed Devlin req. by Bloesch FamilyHoly Soules in Purgatory req. by Mary Elmer
10:00 Patricia Alexy req. by O'Days Family Stacey & Charles Bechtle req. by Son Michael Marilyn L. Fluehr req. by Susan Guest
12:00 Kellyann Corrigan req. by Miller FamilyRichard MacQuaid req. by Elizabeth MacQuaidHelen & Gerard Booklet req. by Family

LITURGY SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 11MARCH 15, 2026MAY 4, 2025

Mass	*Communion*	*Lectors*
5:005:00PM	R. Hill	V. Haggerty
	R. Gola	R. Gola S. Michelli
	S. Donohue	
	C. HillC. Gola	S. Wilson
6:30AM	S. Brown	J. Hopkins
	S. Brown	J. Robbins S. Brown
	M. Konopka	
8:00AM		J. Sweeten J. Teson
	J. Teson	J. Sweeten
	M. McGovernR. Juliano	
	J. SweetenA. Lozada	
	J. Teson	
10:00AM	T. Cullen	P. Cullen
	D. Makowiecki	P. Kolman
	T. Cullen	P. Kolman P. Kolman L. Makowiecki
	D. Makowiecki	
	N. Burnosky	P. Cullen

~~OCTOBER 4~~ ~~MARCH 8~~

2026~~APRIL 27, 2025~~

12:00PM M. Hall J. Guiffre ~~P. Cargan~~ ~~B. Gibbons~~
J. Spear ~~M. Hall~~ R. Spear ~~B. Gibbons~~

~~J. Spear~~

PRIEST MASS SCHEDULE FOR SUN~~N~~DAY, OCTOBER 11, ~~MARCH 15,~~ 2026 ~~MAY 4, 2025~~

5:00~~5:00~~PM~~M~~M ~~Fr. John~~ ~~Fr. John~~

6:30A~~A~~M Fr. Kirk~~Kirk~~ ~~Kirk~~

8:00AM Fr. Kirk~~Kirk~~

10:00AM Fr. John~~Fr. John~~

12:00PM Fr. John~~Fr. John~~

PRAYER
for the infirm of our parish

All sick parishioners, their relatives, and friends:
~~**Theresa Fochtman – friend of Kilrain Family**~~
~~**Carmen Bianco – friend of Kilrain Family**~~
~~**Pat Erdman – friend of Zegarski Family**~~
~~**Tina Dunleavy – relative of Mary Ann & Karen Zegarski**~~
~~Caroline Conway – friend of Joyce Rainier~~
~~Tony Busch- husband of Jane Busch~~

~~Suzanne O'Neill- parishioner~~

All deceased parishioners, their relatives, and friend:

Carol Divon – wife of Peter Divon

Frank Schweitzer – brother-in-law of Susan Shebby
Thomas Coffey – brother of Joan Bernstein
Peter Sipps – brother of Amy Sipps
~~Marie Murray – parishioner~~
~~Frank Daley – husband of Lillian Daley~~

~~Ed Lis- husband of Reenie Lis~~

~~Raymond DeSautel- parishioner~~

For those in the armed forces: Justin Erbrick-Army; Cassidy Hess-Navy; Connor McGuigan-Marines; Matthew Benner-Navy; Dylan Cariss-Army Reserve; Tristan Cariss-Air Force; Brindin Wilkus-Marines; Jordan Olszewski-Army; Jack Coffey-Air Force; Jacob Gizzi-Marines; Joseph Pitts-Air Force; Brendan Vizza-Marines; Andrew Morrison, Marine Corp; Eric Charles Taylor-Navy; Emma Marks-Navy; Ryan Sylvester-Air Force; ~~Kyle Higgins-Army;~~ ~~Justin T. Erbrick-Army;~~ Sean Conroy-Navy~~; Joseph Erbrick, III-Marines~~; Joseph Costick-Coast Guard; Christopher Smith-Navy; Alex McAneney-Air Force; Brian McGinty-Marines; ~~Dan O'Brien-Air Force; Ashley O'Brien-Air Force;~~ Daniel Patty-Navy; Michael Sheppard-Air Force; Hoku Teson-Army; John McFillin-Navy; Trevor O'Malley-Army; Daniel Taylor-Air Force; Stephen Winther-Marines; Bobby Winther-Navy; Amanda Smith-Navy~~; Joseph Patty-Army; Christian Curtis-Marines; Thomas Campbell-Marines~~

On Sunday, September 27, 2026, one boy received the sacrament of Baptism by which he was incorporated into the Body of Christ:
Blake Matthew Stahl – son of M/M Matthew Stahl

~~D~~**Divine Mercy Prayers** are on the third Sunday of each Month after the 10 AM Mass. All are welcome.

Hospital Visits – If you are in the hospital and would like a visit from a priest, please call the rectory office at 215-637-7515. Due to HIPPA laws, we are unable to get information from the hospital – we must hear directly from the patient and/or family.

CONGRATULATIONS to this past weeks FOOTBALL MANIA WINNERS: #3510, 4117, 3615, 3611, 4059 and 3560.

~~**Hospital Visits -** If you are in the hospital and would like a visit from a priest, please call the rectory office at 215-637-7515. Due to HIPPA laws we are unable to get information from the e hospital - we must hear directly from the patient./family.~~

Formatted: Border: Bottom: (Single solid line, Auto, 2.25 pt Line width), Tab stops: 1.5", Left + 3.5", Left + 6", Left + Not at 3"
Formatted: Font: 10 pt
Formatted: Font: 10 pt
Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Underline
Formatted: Font: 10 pt
Formatted: Underline
Formatted: Font: 10 pt
Formatted: Font: Bold
Formatted: Justified
Formatted: Font: 11 pt
Formatted: Left
Formatted: Left
Formatted: Font: 11 pt
Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Bold, No underline, Font color: Custom Color(RGB(68,114,196))
Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Bold, No underline, Font color: Custom Color(RGB(68,114,196))
Formatted: Font: 12 pt, Bold, No underline, Font color: Custom Color(RGB(68,114,196))
Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Bold, No underline, Font color: Custom Color(RGB(68,114,196))
Formatted: Font: 10 pt, No underline, Font color: Custom Color(RGB(68,114,196))
Formatted: Font: 10 pt, No underline
Formatted: Font: 11 pt
Formatted: Font: 11 pt
Formatted: Font: 10 pt, No underline
Formatted: Centered, Indent: Left: 0", First line: 0"
Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Font color: Black

~~MEMORIAL FUND~~

~~Thank you to the following for their donation in memory of~~
~~*Pat Alexy:*~~
~~Dale & Donna Duxbury and Mary Clare Decker.~~

Our Lady of Fatima World Apostolic Foundation will hose a HOLY HOUR at Our Lady of Calvary on Tuesday, October 13 at 7:00PM. All are invited to attend.

SAVE THE DATE
Oktoberfest is October 17, 2026 from 12PM to 7PM. This is a family fun event. Please plan on attending to make this a successful parish fundraiser. Thank You!!

The Parent Auxiliary of Troop/Cub Pack 460 is once again holding its PURSES and POWER TOOLS BINGO FUNDRAISER. The event will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2026. All proceeds benefit Troop/Cub Pack 460. The Bingo is from 7:00PM – 11:00PM with the doors opening at 6:30PM at Our Lady of Calvary School Gym. Tickets are $ 40.00 and tables can be reserved. There will be door prizes, raffle baskets, and a 50/50. For tickets, questions, or if any business or person would like to donate to our basket raffle, please text or call Sstephanie West 267-68-85334 or Sara Janiszewski 610-742-8173. Tickets can also be purchased in the school gym on Thursday nights from 7-8PM.

Scouting America Troop 367 of St. Christopher Churchi s pleased to announce that Our Lady of Calvary parishioners and 2023 grade school graduate, MATTHEW R. CRONIN has attained the rank of Eagle Scout. Matthew led his Eagle Scout project, Spiritan Service Memorial at Holy Ghost Prep. He earned 36 merit badges as a Scout.

CANDLELIGHT ROSARY PROCESSION
October 7, 2026 at 6:15PM
In honor of Our Lady of the Rosary
will be held at St. Katherine of Siena Parish, 9700 Frankford Avenue – rain date is October 8 at 6:15PM. We will walk down Grant Avenue to Torresdale Avenue, Torresdale Avenue to Fitler Street, cross over Frankford Avenue and back to church. For those unable to walk, a simultaneous Rosary will be held in the church with Exposition. We invite you to join us in honoring our Blessed Mother and to pray for peace. For more information call 215-637-7548, x224.

Our Lady of Calvary is hosting a **Holy Hour** each Wednesday in October from 7 to 8PM. This month the theme is ALL ABOUT MARY. The Holy Hour will begin with Evening Prayer and include Lectio Divina, a talk about our Blessed Mother, followed by Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. The schedule is as follows:

10/14 Fr Nguyen	Our Lady of Guadalupe
10/21 Deacon Kuhn	Our Lady of Lourdes
10/218 Fr Maloney	Blessed Mother's Hand in the fall of the Soviet Union

St. Thomas Aquinas Parish presents CASH AND GIFT CARD BINGO on October 24, 2026 at Fr. Crehan Hall, 121 Belmont Ave, Croydon. Doors open at 5:30PM – games

Formatted: Border: Bottom: (Single solid line, Auto, 2.25 pt Line width), Tab stops: 1.5", Left + 3.5", Left + 6", Left + Not at 3"
Formatted: Font: 8 pt
Formatted: Indent: Left: 2.5", First line: 0.5"
Formatted: Font: 10 pt
Formatted: Left, Indent: Left: 2.5", First line: 0.5"
Formatted: Indent: Left: 2.5", First line: 0.5"
Formatted: Left, Indent: Left: 2.5", First line: 0.5"
Formatted: Font: 8 pt
Formatted: Font: 10 pt
Formatted: Indent: Left: 2.5", First line: 0.5"
Formatted: Centered
Formatted: Centered, Indent: Left: 0", First line: 0"
Formatted: Font: 8 pt
Formatted: Indent: Left: 2.5", First line: 0.5"
Formatted: Font: 10 pt
Formatted: Font: 10 pt
Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold
Formatted: Font: 8 pt
Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold
Formatted: Centered
Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold
Formatted: Font: 10 pt
Formatted: Font: 10 pt
Formatted: Font: 8 pt
Formatted: Font: 10 pt

~~OCTOBER 4~~ ~~MARCH 8~~

2026~~APRIL 27, 2025~~

start at 7PM. Tickets are $30 per person – over 18 only. BYOB and BYOS. For tickets: Marie Kelly 215-788-3331. Sponsored by Ladies of the Knights of Columbus #4765 proceeds benefit St. Thomas Aquinas Parish.

AL ANON Meeting at 7:00PM on Sundays in the lower church meeting room.

Ignite Your Soul with God's Burning Love

Carmelite Bible Study Series

In this transformative 7-week journey, let St. Therese – our visual teacher of the Little Way, whom Pope St. Pius X called the "greatest saint of modern times" – and St. Elizabeth of the Trinity- the gifted pianist and auditory teacher of silence and contemplation – together with St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross, lead you into the depths of Carmelite spirituality, where ordinary souls are consumed by God's burning love.

Come and receive a complimentary blessed oil of St. Therese!

Monday, October 5
Monday, October 12
Monday, October 19
Monday, October 26
Monday, November 2
Monday, November 9
Monday, November 16

Time: 6:30PM at Our Lady of Calvary Lower Church

All are welcome! Bring your Bible (optional)-no sign-up

See you there! ***Fr. Ryan***

All are welcome to attend **CALVARY SENIORS MEETINGS -**at Regina Coeli Hall, 9617 James Street. We meet every Tuesday – doors open at 9:30 and meeting begin at 10:30.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY - All are welcome to attend Wed – Oct 14 The Value of Memories **~~STATIONS OF THE CROSS~~** ~~will be on Fridays during Lent with Deacon John Teson. Stations will begin at 7:00PM.~~

~~LENTEN HOLY HOUR WITH BENEDICTION~~ ~~will be held at 7:00PM until 8:00PM on Wednesdays beginning:~~
~~March 18~~
~~March 25~~

~~We begin with Evening Prayer, including Lectio Divina, have a talk, then end with Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction. This Lent our Focus is on the Sacraments as Seeds of Grace.~~

~~LENTEN BIBLE STUDY SERIES~~

~~Don't Journey alone this Lent!~~
~~Walk with Jesus through the desert and be transformed by the Grace of Easter~~
~~Tuesday March 10~~
~~Tuesday March 17~~
~~Tuesday March 24~~
~~Monday March 30~~
~~At Our Lady of Calvary Parish Lower Church Meeting Room at 6:30PM.~~
~~All are Welcome~~
~~Bring your Bible (optional)~~
~~No sign-up necessary~~
~~Let this Lent transform your heart~~
~~See you there! Fr. Ryan~~

~~Annual Palm Making at Our Lady of Consolation on Monday, March 23rd thru Friday, March 27 from 8PM-8PM. We'll teach you what to do Lots of fun & camaraderie. To volunteer, please call Tony 215-837-7666 or email **tonyvolpe22@hotmail.com**~~
~~Palm sale on Saturday, Mar 28 and Sunday, Mar 29.~~

FUEL COLLECTION will be the second collections on the weekend of March 14 and 15, 2026.

The three recent snowstorms and cold weather have wreaked havoc on our expenses at the Church and School. Aside from the very costly heat, snow removal and salting expenses, the decline in our Mass attendance and the related weekly offerings have put us in a vulnerable position with regard to meeting our expenses. I implore you to be a generous as possible in your offerings and make up any you may have missed. Our Church and School budget depend on your generous commitment to your parish.

Following is the expenses we have incurred since December, 2025 until February, 2026 (not including the last snowstorm).

Church Heat	$1,972.75
School Heat	$24,926.70
Snow Removal/Salting	$12,500.00

May God bless all of you and keep you safe and warm until the joy of Spring is upon us.

Formatted: Border: Bottom: (Single solid line, Auto, 2.25 pt Line width), Tab stops: 1.5", Left + 3.5", Left + 6", Left + Not at 3"
Formatted: Font: 10 pt
Formatted: Font: 8 pt
Formatted: Border: Between : (No border)
Formatted: Border: Top: (No border), Bottom: (No border), Left: (No border), Right: (No border), Bar : (Single solid line, Auto, 0.5 pt Line width)
Formatted: Font: 9 pt, Not Italic
Formatted: Font: 9 pt
Formatted: Font: 10 pt
Formatted: Centered
Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold
Formatted: Font: 9 pt
Formatted: Font: 10 pt
Formatted: Border: Bar : (Single solid line, Auto, 0.5 pt Line width)
Formatted: Font: 10 pt
Formatted: Font: 9 pt
Formatted: Border: Top: (No border), Bottom: (No border), Left: (No border), Right: (No border), Bar : (Single solid line, Auto, 0.5 pt Line width)
Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold
Formatted: Centered, Border: Between : (Single solid line, Auto, 0.5 pt Line width, From text: 1 pt Border spacing:), Bar : (Single solid line, Auto, 0.5 pt Line width)
Formatted: Font: 9 pt, Bold, Italic
Formatted: Font: 8 pt
Formatted: Border: Between : (Single solid line, Auto, 0.5 pt Line width, From text: 1 pt Border spacing:), Bar : (Single solid line, Auto, 0.5 pt Line width), Box: (Single solid line, Auto, 0.5 pt Line width)
Formatted: Font: 9 pt
Formatted: Font: 9 pt
Formatted: Underline
Formatted: Font: 10 pt
Formatted: Font: 10 pt
Formatted: Centered
Formatted: Centered
Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold, No underline

OCTOBER 4 MARCH 8,

2026APRIL 27, 2025

RDC (Respect, Develop and Compete) Girls Grade School Summer Basketball Camp on Monday, June 22 thru Thursday, June 25 – 3rd to 89th grade at St. Ephrem Grade School Gym. Doors open at 8:30AM, ends 3:00PM. Registration is $165 per camper, hold your spot with $55. Camp link: RCH CAMP LINK. Questions – rdcjustbasketball@gmail.com

CALVARY SENIORS – Meetings are held on Tuesday at Regina Coeli Hall (across from Torresdale train station), 9617 James Street. Doors open at 9:30AM and meetings begin at 10:30AM.

Divine Mercy Novena – starting Good Friday (immediately following the Good Friday 3PM service) as our Lord instructed St. Faustine to Pray! The Novena will continue thru Divine Mercy Sunday on April 27.

Archdiocese of Philadelphia Office for Life and Family is sponsoring WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS on May 3, at 5:15PM at the Cathedral Basilica of Ss. Peter and Paul, 1723 Race Street. This is celebrating couples who have been married 1-5 years, 10, 25 and 50 years. Register at Phillycatholiclife.org

TEMPORARY ENVELOPES – Please remember before placing a temporary envelope in the Offertory basket at Mass to write your name and address on the front of the envelope. Temporary envelopes are located right inside the front doors of the Church. Thank you for your continued support of Our Lady of Calvary Parish.

CALVARY SENIORS meet every Tuesday at Regina Coeli Hall (across from Torresdale train station), 9617 James Street. Doors open at 9:30 and the meeting starts at 10:30.

Run for the Roses – Fundraiser to benefit Sr. Joan Ames Scholarship Endowment (Little Flower High School) on May 3, 2025 at The Brookside Manor at Somerton Springs from 5-9PM. Live viewing of the 151st Kentucky Derby, Buffet dinner, dress to impress contest, silent auction, Raffles & DJ Bananas entertainment – tickets $75/person – cash bar. Tickets https://bit.ly/RosesEvent

ARCHBISHOP RYAN HIGH SCHOOL 50th YEAR REUNION – 1975 will be held on Friday, May 30, 2025 from 7PM to 11PM at the Southampton Room, 2980 Southampton Road. Tickets on sale at www.arhs.me/class75reunion Email friendsofryan.team@gmail.com for questions.

Alumni Mass & All-Class Reunion for St. Charles Borromeo School, Bensalem, PA on Saturday, May 17, 2025 – 5:00PM Mass – gathering immediately following Mass in the Cafeteria. BYOB, appetizers, hoagies and wraps, dessert, music, school tours, 50/50. Suggested donations $ 10 per person. RSVP to Colleen at 215-606-5396 /

Al Anon meeting at 7:00PM on Sundays (in person) in the lower church meeting room.

BULLETIN SPONSOR OF THE WEEK
STATE ROAD AUTO TAGS

Page 2/203

Page 2/203

The National Catholic Bioethics Center

LIVING A CATHOLIC LIFE
To Assist but Not Replace

The Church's guidance on infertility treatment focuses on whether a procedure assists or replaces the act of conjugal inter-course. Long-standing Catholic teaching affirms that the unitive and procreative meanings of sexual intercourse may never be separated. The *unitive* character of the conjugal act is the physiological expression of love through which the married couple become one flesh. The *procreative* character of the conjugal act is its openness to the gift of life. This aspect expresses the willingness of the couple to cooperate in God's act of creation.

Some of the procedures employed to help couples conceive involve the destruction of human embryos. These are obviously immoral. So, too, are procedures that engender human embryos in such numbers that all cannot implant and some are simply being used to maximize the chances of others implanting." The use of gametes from donors other that the spouses (heterologous fertilization) also violates "the covenant of marriage, the unity of the spouses, and the dignity proper to parents

Formatted: Border: Bottom: (Single solid line, Auto, 2.25 pt Line width), Tab stops: 1.5", Left + 3.5", Left + 6", Left + Not at 3"
Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold
Formatted: Font: 11 pt
Formatted: Font: 10 pt
Formatted: Font: 8 pt, Bold
Formatted: Centered
Formatted: Left, Border: Between : (Single solid line, Auto, 0.5 pt Line width, From text: 1 pt Border spacing:), Bar : (Single solid line, Auto, 0.5 pt Line width), Box: (Single solid line, Auto, 0.5 pt Line width)
Formatted: Font: 8 pt
Formatted: Font: 8 pt
Formatted: Font: 10 pt
Formatted: Font: 10 pt, Not Bold
Formatted: Font: 8 pt
Formatted: Font: Not Bold
Formatted: Font: 8 pt
Formatted: Font color: Custom Color(RGB(68,114,196))
Formatted: Font: 8 pt
Formatted: Font: 8 pt
Formatted: Left
Formatted: Border: Between : (Single solid line, Auto, 0.5 pt Line width, From text: 1 pt Border spacing:), Bar : (Single solid line, Auto, 0.5 pt Line width)

and the child" (US Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Ethical and Religious Directive for Catholic Health Care Services*, 6th ed., dirs., 39, 40). These directives, cast in the negative, set forth clear prohibitions against certain types of reproductive technology.

Scientific techniques that help married couples achieve conception (homologous fertilization) have proven more difficult to evaluate. Directive 38 of the *Ethical and Religious Directives* states that medical procedures which assist but do not replace the marital act are licit and may be used to help married couples conceive, but the directive provides no example. By contrast, directive 41 reiterates the principle that no procedure may be used which "separates procreation from the marital act in its unitive significance" and then gives a clear and unambiguous example of replacing; extracorporeal conception. Thus, in vitro fertilization (IVF) is immoral. It unites genetic material in a laboratory dish and so violates the unitive meaning of the conjugal act.

Donum vitae (or the Instruction on Respect for Human Life in Its Origin and on the Dignity of Procreation) appeared in 1987 in response to the growing use of IVF and the many moral questions it raises. The document represents the current state of Catholic moral reasoning on the distinction between assisting and replacing. Importantly, interventions upon human reproduction are not to be rejected simply because they are artificial, but "they must be given a moral evaluation in reference to the dignity of the human person, who is called to realize his vocation from God to the gift of love and the gift of life." Man is a substantial union of body and soul who expresses his "absolutely unique singularity" not only "by his spirit, but by his body as well" (introduction, 3).

Citing Pope St. John Paul II's *Familiaris consortio*, the instruction concludes that when homologous IVF is employed, "the generation of the human person is objectively deprived of its proper perfection: namely, that of being the result and fruit of a conjugal act in which the spouses can become 'cooperators with God for giving life to a new person'" (II.B.5). The replacement of the sexual act deprives sexuality of its properly procreative significance and consequently mars the inherent dignity of the married couple, the marital bond, and the conjugal act itself.

Moreover, such procedures also rob the child of his innate right to a birth ordered by the procreative capacities of his parents who act in service to the Creator: "In his unique and unrepeatable origin, the child must be respected and recognized as equal in personal dignity to those who give him life." As such, "he cannot be desired or conceived as the product of an intervention of medical or biological techniques; that would be reduce him to an object of scientific technology"" (II.B.4c). Although married couples have a right to the conjugal act, they have no equivalent right to have or possess a child.

Clearly IVF replaces the conjugal act, but homologous artificial insemination may be licit when "the technical means is not a substitute for the conjugal act but serves to facilitate and to help so that the act attains its natural purpose" (II.B.6). The question thus arises, How is one to determine when a procedure legitimately assists (and so does not replace) the conjugal act? *Donum vitae* gives us several clear guideposts. Such assistance must (1) fully preserve the unitive and procreative meanings of the conjugal act, (2) respect the inherent dignity of the spouses and of the child to be conceived, and (3) not bring the fruit of that act under the control and dominion of laboratory techniques.

The last criterion would appear to be the decisive one, because it sets the standard according to which we may judge when the goods of the other two criteria have been harmed. These are both caused by technological domination of the conjugal act. In the words of *Donum Vitae*, "Medicine which seeks to be ordered to the integral good of the person must respect the specifically human values of human sexuality." When medical technology ignores this standard, "the medical act is not, as it should be, at the service of conjugal union but rather appropriates to itself the procreative function and thus contradicts the dignity and the inalienable rights of the spouses and of the child to be born" (II.B.7).

++

This column was adapted from Edward J. Furton, "To Assist but Not Replace," *Ethics & Medics* 22.11 (November 1997). For more information on this topic, please visit www.ncbcenter.org.

~~These are the issues being raised and addressed: **State by State** *In New York, a jury awarded a detransitioned woman $2 million in damages after having been pressured into a double mastectomy when she was a teenager. In Fox Varian v. Kenneth Einhorn, PhD, et al. the jury found that the doctors and psychologists ignored the applicable procedures and standards of care~~

Formatted: Border: Bottom: (Single solid line, Auto, 2.25 pt Line width), Tab stops: 1.5", Left + 3.5", Left + 6", Left + Not at 3"
Formatted: Superscript
Formatted: Font: Italic
Formatted: Font: 11 pt, Not Bold
Formatted: Font: 11 pt
Formatted: Font: 8 pt
Formatted: Font: 9 pt
Formatted: Font: 8 pt
Formatted: Indent: Left: 2.5", First line: 0.5"
Formatted: Font: 8 pt

when the then-teenager was consulting them.

*Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton filed suit against a nurse practitioner whose organization, "Her Safe Harbor," was shipping chemical abortion drugs across state lines into Texas, in violation of Texas state law.

*Virginia Gov. Abigail Spanberger signed a ballot initiative for the upcoming elections in November, the "Right to Reproductive Freedom Amendment," which, if passed, would establish a state constitutional right to abortion throughout all stages of pregnancy, with limited restrictions.

Federal Courts *A high school pro-life club has petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to hear their case after having been censored from putting out a poster with an image of pro-life activists holding signs that said, "Defund Planned Parenthood." The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals had upheld the censorship, hence the appeal to the Supreme Court.

*Right to Life Michigan, among other pro-life groups, filed suit in federal court against Michigan for a new state law that would prohibit discrimination on the basis of "termination of pregnancy." The Alliance Defending Freedom, representing the organizations, argued that the law violates the pro-life organizations' First Amendment rights.

National

*The American Medical Association (AMA) and the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS) modified their positions on "gender-affirming care" for minors, aligning with more recent recommendations to delay surgical interventions until adulthood, amid increasing legal and medical scrutiny, including the jury verdict in the abovementioned Varian v. Einhorn. The ASPS specifically noted the "considerable uncertainty as to the long-term efficacy" of surgical interventions

**The National Institutes of Health* (NIH) announced that federal funds will no longer be used for research involving the fetal tissue of aborted babies. The policy will apply to all NIH grants, cooperative agreements, transaction award, research and development contracts, and the NIH Intramural Research Program. *A national campaign has recently launched to overturn the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in Obergefell v. Hodges, which legalized same sex "marriage" across the nation. The campaign, called "Greater Than," launched by non-profit *Them Before Us*, focuses on the effects of same sex "marriage" on the children of such unions.

* The *United States Conference of Catholic Bishops* released a statement in support of the federal government's expansion of the Mexico City Policy, which prohibits the

Formatted: Border: Bottom: (Single solid line, Auto, 2.25 pt Line width), Tab stops: 1.5", Left + 3.5", Left + 6", Left + Not at 3"

use of federal funds for non-governmental organizations that promote or perform abortion overseas. The Policy now extends to non-governmental organizations that promote or perform services related to gender ideology.

*The U.S. Department of Education released new guidance reminding public schools to allow expressions of faith, including prayer, in public schools, so long as the school itself does not engage in religious activities or speech as an institution.

*The Pregnant Students' Rights Act failed to pass in the Senate after passing in the House of Representatives. The Act would have required colleges to provide information to pregnant college students about how to bring their pregnancies to term while still remaining in school.

Internation al*A Canadian member of Parliament introduced a bill that would repeal a part of the Medical Aid in Dying (MAID) program that would prohibit from participating in the program those whose sole basis for applying to the program is mental illness. The bill has the support of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, and it comes as experts warn that there seems to be a link between MAID and an increase in organ donations.

*President Trump announced his intention to hold an event on May 17, 2026, entitles "Rededicate 250 National Jubilee of Prayer, Praise, and Thanksgiving." Which will focus on rededicating the United States as "under God."

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is recited using ordinary Rosary beads of five de cades. The Chaplet is preceded by two opening prayers from the Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska and followed by a closing prayer.

1. Make the Sign of the Cross
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2. **Optional Opening Prayers**
St. Faustina's Prayer for Sinners
O Jesus, eternal Truth, our Life, I

Formatted: Border: Bottom: (Single solid line, Auto, 2.25 pt Line width), Tab stops: 1.5", Left + 3.5", Left + 6", Left + Not at 3"

Formatted: Font: 8 pt

Formatted: Indent: Left: 2.5", First line: 0.5"

Formatted: Font: Arial Rounded MT Bold, 8 pt, Not Bold, Underline

Formatted: Font: Arial Rounded MT Bold, 8 pt, Underline

Formatted: Left, Indent: Left: 2.5", First line: 0.5"

Formatted: Border: Bottom: (Single solid line, Auto, 2.25 pt Line width), Tab stops: 1.5", Left + 3.5", Left + 6", Left + Not at 3"

call upon You and I beg Your mercy for poor sinners. O sweetest Heart of my Lord, full of pity and unfathomable mercy, I plead with You for poor sinners. O Most Sacred Heart, Fount of Mercy from which gush forth rays of inconceivable graces upon the entire human ra ce, I beg of You light for poor sinners. O Jesus, be mindful of Your own bitter Passion and do not permit the loss of souls redeemed at so dear a price of Your most precious B lood. O Jesus, when I consider the great price of Your Blood, I rejoice at its immensity, for one drop alone would have been enough for the salvation of all sinners. Although sin is an abyss of wickedness and ingratitude, the price paid for us can never be equalled. Therefore, let every soul trust in the Passion of the Lord, and place its hope in His mercy. God will not deny His mercy to anyone. Heaven and earth may change, but God's mercy will never be exhausted. Oh, what immense joy burns in my heart whe n I contemplate Your incomprehensi ble goodness, O J esus! I desire to bring all sinners to Your feet that they may glorify Your mercy throughout endless ages (Diary, 72).

You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

(Repeat three times)

O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You!

3. Our Father

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name: Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, Amen.

4. Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus, Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death, Amen.

5. The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and is se ated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, th e holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

6. The Eternal Father

Eternal Fa ther, I offer You the

Formatted: Border: Bottom: (Single solid line, Auto, 2.25 pt Line width), Tab stops: 1.5", Left + 3.5", Left + 6", Left + Not at 3"

Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

7. On the 10 Small Beads of Each Decade

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

8. Repeat for the remaining decades

Saying the "

Formatted: Font: 8 pt