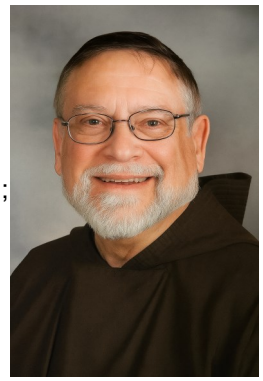
Joint Group Meeting Notice
There will be a joint meeting at **6:00 PM on Monday, January 12**, in the **Coral Hall**. This meeting will include members of the **Altar Rosary Society** and **Christian Mothers**.

MUSIC BINGO - Mark your calendars....St. Thomas More University Parish is holding another Music Bingo on Friday, February 6, 2026 in the church lounge. The doors open at 5 pm. For dinner; games begin at 6:30 p.m. Limited seating....first come...first serve. Come early! Refreshments available for purchase. 50-50 and basket raffles. Free entrance...and free to play. Unique prizes. Even if you don't want to play bingo, come enjoy the music and fellowship. For questions, please contact Deb Lezanic at 724-349-1306.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OFFERS SERVICES FOR ADULTS: Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg provides volunteer services to older adults (age 60 and older), including supportive and regular visits, telephone calls, greeting cards and other mailings to prevent loneliness and isolation and brighten a person's day. Emergency food boxes can also be delivered to those who meet eligibility requirements. To become a client, contact Deborah Klinvex at 724-837-1840 or dklinvex@DioceseofGreensburg.org

CATHOLIC ENGAGED ENCOUNTER WEEKENDS AVAILABLE IN DIOCESE OF PITTSBURGH: Catholic Engaged Encounter weekends will be held March 28-29 and Oct. 3-4 at the Spiritan Center in Pittsburgh. The weekends begin Saturday morning and end Sunday afternoon. A team of two trained married couples, along with a priest, facilitate and guide the program. For more information or to register, visit pittsburgh.engagedencounter.com/ . An Engaged Encounter weekend is one of the accepted wedding preparation programs in the Diocese of Greensburg.



Dear Parishioners,

January always brings some deep topics for our consideration, topics like **mutual relations with other Christian churches** [the Ecumenical Movement]; **common citizenship in the United States** among persons of **diverse racial backgrounds** [the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.]; and, **respect for all human life** [anniversary of the Supreme Court Decision permitting abortion].

Our Diocese takes a lead in alerting us to opportunities to observe these events. Let me share some ideas sent to us by Deacon Will Newhouse, a permanent deacon for our Diocese, who communicates to all of us in the **Diocese regarding pro-life activities**. Bill's areas of concern include activities like the Annual *National March for Life* to be held in Washington, DC, on **Friday, January 24, 2026.** Bill also alerts us readers and listeners to the associated events, like an Opening Prayer Vigil for Life and on Thursday, January 22, with a Mass be 5:00 PM and a Holy Hour for Life beginning at 7:00 PM.
The National Prayer Vigil will conclude with the Closing Mass at 8:00 AM on January 23 in the Great Upper Church of the Shrine.

Every year **a spirit of excitement** takes hold of the many pilgrims, especially of the young persons who attend from our Catholic parishes, our parochial schools, and Catholic colleges and universities as well as from Catholic Campus Centers. Think of a parade down the wide streets and boulevards of Washington, DC, often in very cold temperatures and frozen precipitation. Think, too, of nationally recognized motivational speakers rallying on the pilgrims as the March begins towards the United States court**. Think of making your voice heard.**

Yet another portion of the day involves "lobbying" our elected representatives in Congress. Several times I have had the privilege of speaking to our congressmen and women and have generally found them to be respectful and attentive to hearing our positions. In a few instances, I found that they had firmly held positions at odds with our own, and in a few instances, these staff persons were willing to debate or argue points with us. **We will likely encounter more people adamantly certain that babies-in-the-womb have intrinsically less value than the women who carry them within their bodies.**

One of the **more disturbing bits of information** that Deacon Newhouse passed on tells us that just before the Christmas recess, *the Pennsylvania House of Representatives* voted on **Bill 1957 which holds that abortion remains an option up to the very day of birth.** That causes me to shutter and shiver for more than one reason: Have we become so heartless as to think that we can terminate the life of a child hours before the child would have emerged from the womb? Has our society convinced itself that the child-in-the-womb amounts to an intrusion to be excised rather than a person to be born? And, how many couples have grieved over a child who did not survive long after birth, fully aware of the personhood of the baby as potentially a living, breathing, loving member of a family? This seems like a calloused treatment of poignant emotions, bound to end in sorrow and distress.

While significant battles remain to be fought on the local, State level, **our witness on the national stage must remain consistent, reasoned, moral, rooted in faith, and oriented to future life**. The Diocese will again be providing bus service to the events in Washington, DC, with a bus departing from Indiana, early the morning of the March. Since this March for Life will happen on a Friday, would you consider joining those from Indiana for a moral and spiritual adventure? See the telephone number elsewhere in the bulletin write-up and call to join our Witness to Life. Just plan to dress warmly and let the driving up to someone else. You will feel good about the witness you gave.

Father John