

October 2019 Messenger

FR. MIKE'S CORNER

This month of October has been designated by Bishop Menees as the beginning of forty days of prayer and fasting for the unborn and the legal and accepted practice of taking their lives on demand.

In lieu of this are two articles dealing with this issue in this month's *Messenger*.

Over the last forty-plus years since our Supreme Court's decision, *Roe vs. Wade*, our nation has become desensitized to the death of millions of babies. It has become a right for women as well as an illegitimate means for men to escape the moral responsibility of their self-centered sexual gratification.

The Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin is joining an international effort of an organization called **40 Days for Life**. The stated purpose of the organization is to sponsor "an internationally coordinated 40-day campaign that aims to end abortion locally through prayer and fasting, community outreach, and a peaceful all-day vigil in front of an abortion business". The forty days begins September 25th through November 3rd.

This is not only an opportunity for pro-life people around the world to pray, fast, and publicly demonstrate their opposition to, as well as their horror, that instead of protecting the most vulnerable among us, we take their lives as a matter of momentary convenience and a means to deal with the consequences of promiscuity. This is also an occasion to not allow ourselves an inner resignation to accept this murderous practice as a "necessary evil" (that is now and forever the "new normal").



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- October 10-Men's Club
- October 13-Vestry Meeting
- October 25-Men's Bible Study
- October 26-Workday

Fr. Mike's Corner (cont.)



In the Bible we are told of a large portion of one of the twelve tribes of Israel who were the sons "Of Issachar, men who had an understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do". (I Chronicles 12:32) These people exemplify what God has ordained His people to be. We are to be those who live in a state of intentional awareness, who understand the sovereign involvement of God's hand on our time, and embrace the requisite duties required of us who are disciples of Jesus in our times.

Have a blessed October.

Fr. Mike



Homecoming ***November 17, 2019***

On Sunday, November 17, 2019, we at St. John's will celebrate our heritage with Homecoming Sunday.

Our goal is to locate and contact as many former parishioners who previously worshipped with us here at St. John's.

We will begin the morning at 9:00 a.m. with Holy Eucharist to be celebrated by *Bishop Eric V. Menees*.

Immediately following Holy Eucharist, the gathered congregation will enjoy Sunday Brunch in Brandon Hall. Cafe 12:2 in Porterville will assist with the catering of our Sunday Brunch providing the hot dishes and the ACW will be providing salad, breads, and desserts. Should you wish to assist with food preparation, please contact either ACW President Marti Bennett or Carolyn Peterson. If you have names AND contact information for any of our former members, please send them to the church office or email them to Fred Knutson (fredk93257@yahoo.com). Letters of invitation are scheduled to be mailed in early October to insure our friends have time to make plans and arrangements if coming from outside the area.

BreakPoint: Illinois' Grotesque "Reproductive Health Act"

Nothing to do with Health

By: John Stonestreet and Roberto Rivera

Category:, Christian Worldview

I've mentioned a few times that the possibility that Roe v. Wade might be in play, overturned, or at least rolled back, has prompted a significant uptick in state action on abortion. Some states are moving to limit abortion, hoping to be the source of the case that will be considered by the Supreme Court. Other states are racing to ensure that unrestricted abortion remains available within their borders.

In other words, the possible demise of Roe in no way signals the end of this decades-long struggle against abortion. The struggle has only shifted from the federal courts and Congress to the states.

Already this has led to radically extreme pro-abortion bills being passed in various states. Gone are protestations and hand-wringing that abortion is a "tragic necessity." Instead, abortion is increasingly treated as a positive good. In fact, a few states seem to be in a competition for who can pass the most radical laws.

The leader in this grotesque competition at the moment: Illinois.

Last week, the Illinois legislature approved the so-called "Reproductive Health Act" and sent it to the governor for his signature. I use the descriptive "so-called" because in it "reproductive health" means abortion. That's it. Nothing else. Full stop.

There's nothing in the bill about the state's rising maternal mortality rate or the disparity in health and mortality disproportionately affecting African-American women, who are six times more likely to die in childbirth than their white counterparts. No, instead the Act is solely focused on making it beyond easy for Illinois women to get an abortion in that state. In fact, it's not too much of a stretch to say that the only place Illinois can go from this "Reproductive Health Act" is to make abortion mandatory.

The Act opens by stating that "Every individual has a fundamental right to make autonomous decisions about the individual's own reproductive health, including the fundamental right to use or refuse reproductive health care."

ADDRESS CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS

Help us save on postage by receiving the Messenger via e-mail. If you would like to receive your copy of the monthly Messenger by e-mail, please notify the church office at Saint-JohnsPorterville@gmail.com or telephone us at 559/784-6080.

If you have a new address or a correction, please let us know.

Thank you.

BreakPoint: “Reproductive HealthAct” (Cont.)

HAPPY

OCTOBER

BIRTHDAY

1. Jessie Lance

1. Sheridan Doyel

12. John Yarbro

16. Sal Massaro

23. Lynda Cordova

The right to “refuse reproductive health care”? What does that even mean? Are women in Illinois forced to use contraceptives or go to the doctor? Of course not. This is only the first example of how this bill is filled to the brim with loose and dangerous language.

Two paragraphs later, the Act states it bluntly, “A fertilized egg, embryo, or fetus does not have independent rights under the laws of this State.” That means a man who kills a pregnant woman could only be charged with one homicide, not two. Or that a man who intentionally punches a pregnant woman in the stomach and causes a miscarriage would only be charged with assault on the woman. How the loss of the child would be described and handled isn’t clear. The only thing that’s clear is that this kind of devastating language has been used in past times to legally justify history’s greatest horrors.

And it gets worse. The Act arguably opens the door for non-physicians to perform abortions. Its definition of “health care professional” includes “advanced practice registered nurse, physician assistant, or person acting under the supervision of one of the above.”

It’s not clear who “a person acting under the supervision of one of the above” might be, but it brings to mind the punchline from those commercials “No, I’m not a doctor, but I did stay at a Holiday Inn Express.” So what does “acting under supervision” mean? Does the supervisor have to be in the same room? In the same building? The same county? The workers responsible for misadministering anesthesia in Philadelphia were under the supervision of Kermit Gosnell, and we all know how tragically that worked out.

When this provision is combined with the Act’s explicit exemption of abortion from the state’s Ambulatory Surgical Treatment Center Act, it becomes clear, as one opponent put it, that this Act “goes much further and does much more” than just preserve the right to abortion in a possible post-Roe world. In essence, as one of its supporters stated, it advances the idea that “there is nothing more intrinsic to freedom than bodily autonomy.”

When you start with that bad idea, there’s nowhere to go but down, and there will be many, many victims strewn along the way.

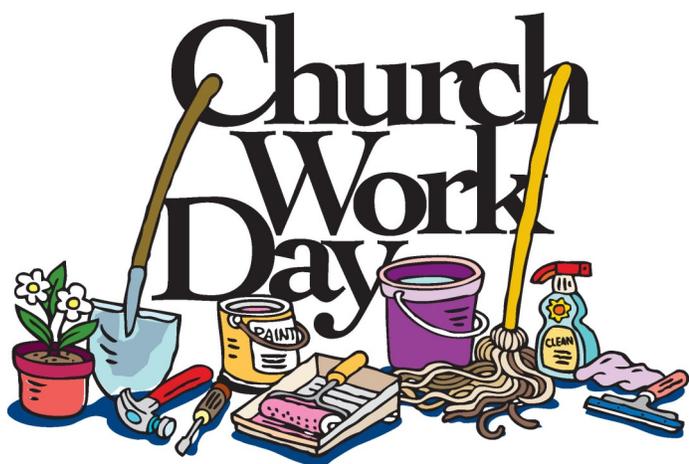
UPCOMING *Mark Your Calendars* **EVENTS** 

Thursday, October 10	Men's Club	6:00PM
Sunday, October 13	Vestry Meeting	10:30AM
Friday, October 25	Men's Bible Study	7:00AM
Saturday, October 26	Workday/Cleanup	9:00AM-Clean

Saturday, November 2	Men's Club Dinner @Rosa's	6:00PM
Sunday, November 10	Vestry Meeting	10:30AM
Thursday, November 14	Men's Club	6:00PM
Saturday, November 16	Set up Day for Homecoming	9:00AM
Sunday, November 17	Homecoming Event	10:30AM
Friday, November 29	Men's Bible Study	7:00AM

Saturday, December 7	Christmas Bazaar	9:00AM-1:00PM
Sunday, December 8	Vestry Meeting	10:30AM
Thursday, December 12	Men's Club	6:00PM
Sunday, December 22	Christmas Service	9:00AM
Friday, December 27	Men's Bible Study	7:00AM

If anyone has any changes or corrections, please send a message to SaintJohnsPorterville@gmail.com or leave a note in the office.



**Saturday,
October 26
Hope to see
you there!**

Breakpoint: ‘Carpe Diem Redeemed’

The Christian View of Time

By: [John Stonestreet](#) and G. Shane Morris

Category: [Christian Worldview](#)



One of my all-time favorite quotes comes from Abraham Kuyper and was repeated over and over by Chuck Colson: “There’s not a single square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign over all, does not cry out: ‘Mine!’” Working out the implications of that grand truth in the reality of our everyday lives will take a lifetime.

As Christians, we often acknowledge Christ’s rule over things like human dignity, marriage, and maybe even our finances, but we often miss how central a Christian view of *time* is to a truly Christian worldview. Thus, we often find our time hijacked, assumed, taken for granted, killed, wasted, and even forgotten.

Os Guinness thinks it’s time to change our view of time. His new book, “[Carpe Diem Redeemed: Seizing the Day, Discerning the Times](#),” explores and explains how different views of time shape our culture and our individual lives.

For example, Eastern religions embrace a cyclical view of time. “All that is, once was, and will be over again.” In this conception, history runs like a wheel, forever returning to the same point. Even we, in a sense, will return according to this view, reincarnated according to the dictates of Karma.

The cyclical view ultimately robs our lives of meaning, because our choices change nothing. Time and everything in it are illusions. Salvation consists of escaping the cycle, and along with it, every love, longing, and purpose we know as human beings.

The “chronological” view of time is the one that dominates our culture, according to Guinness, and is held by both optimists and pessimists. Enlightenment thinkers, and many secularists today, see time as that inevitable, upward march toward greater knowledge, peace, and civilization. We started as apes, but we’re on our way to becoming ‘gods.’

After two world wars, the Holocaust, Communism, and Islamic terrorism, chronological optimists are, well, more rare than they used to be. More common, especially in popular culture, are chronological pessimists. They, to quote Shakespeare, view time and history as “a tale, told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.”

For the chronological pessimists, all that’s left is to “seize the day” in that [Dave Matthews](#) and “[Dead Poets Society](#)” sort of way. In other words, live it up while we can... for tomorrow we die.

BreakPoint: 'Carpe Diem Redeemed' (cont.)

What so many Christians miss is just how revolutionary the Judeo-Christian view of time is, over and against these other views. Guinness calls it a “covenantal” understanding of time, the view that the structure and purpose of history have been revealed by a God who stands outside of it, having created it. Genesis’ opening line, “In the beginning, God...” frames this view, and the rest of Scripture points to a grand purpose which is being wrought by our Creator, in partnership with His image-bearers.

The covenantal view of time is the unique contribution of the Judeo-Christian worldview. History’s goal is neither utopian fantasy nor nihilistic despair. Even history’s darkest evils cannot thwart that for which time was instituted. And we, as humans, have a part to play. Our actions *matter*.

“Human enterprise has significance and solidity...” Guinness writes, “under and alongside God, history is transformed from terror into task.”

Grasping this view of time allows us to live what Guinness calls “prophetically untimely” lives precisely because we know how the story ends. But Guinness also goes beyond the heady theories to offer practical ideas on how to rightly seize the day, how to break our “slavery to the clock,” to work and rest and worship in light of this Christian understanding of time.

Annual Christmas Bazaar Fundraiser

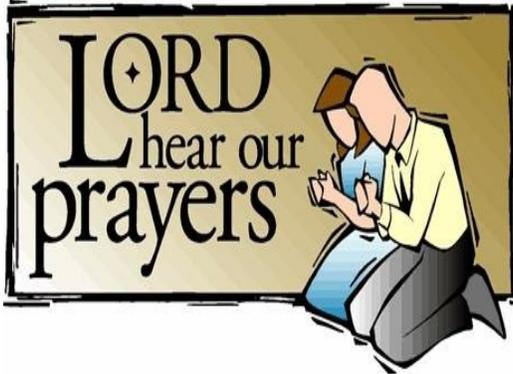
The Men’s Club will be selling a delicious BBQ hamburger lunch. Included is a grilled Hamburger with bun, potato salad, baked beans, lettuce, onions (grilled or not), tomatoes, all your favorite condiments, fresh fruit, and a drink. Raffle tickets will be mailed out to those on our mailing list next month, so be sure to send in your money and completed ticket stubs to be included in the drawing. A list of all the raffle items will be included in next month’s Messenger. Additional tickets will be available in the church office. We will also have a Rajah Elephant Sale, Silent Auction, Famous Baked Goods, Farmer’s Market, and a Craft section.



Hope to see you there and bring a friend or two!

Saturday, December 7, 2019 from 9:00a.m to 1:00p.m. in
Brandon Hall at St. John’s Church, 308 North D St., Porterville, CA 93257.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH PRAYER LIST



THOSE FOR WHOM WE PRAY

**Our Church and the clergy-
The Most Rev. Foley Beach**

And The Right Rev. Eric Menees, Bishop

**The Rev. Michael Law
The Rev. Dale Cox**

The Anglican Communion worldwide and especially our Diocese as we support our Bishop Eric.

For this congregation in the daily lives we lead.

For those who *have* served our country in military service and those who are *currently* serving.

For the growth of our church and its members.

For those in need of prayer:

Lori Perrin Shirley Perrin Ron Peterson
McLaughlin Family Charlotte Scribner

Those facing cancer: Carlos Lopez, and Meridith Morris.

Let us be **THANKFUL** to God for his many blessings.

St. John's Church Prayer List-All requests for prayer will be updated quarterly. Additions can be made at any time. If you would like requests to remain on the list after the first week of January, please contact Judy Adams at 784-8243 or, if you prefer, send an e-mail to SaintJohnsPorterville@gmail.com to contact Carla Miller. Please help us keep the list up to date and tell us when someone is better.

Service Schedule for October 2019

10/6/19

Celebrant: Fr. Michael Law

LEM: Casey Bennett

Lay Reader: Suzanne Law

Organist: Fred Knutson

Ushers: Tom & Jackie Newkirk

Altar Guild: Team 1

Counters: Jack & Judy Adams

10/13/19

Celebrant: Fr. Michael Law

LEM: Lynda Cordova

Lay Reader: Marti Bennett

Organist: Fred Knutson

Ushers: Jack & Judy Adams

Altar Guild: Team 2

Counters: Steve & Vicki Brown

10/20/19

Celebrant: Fr. Michael Law

LEM: Casey Bennett

Lay Reader: Lyn Trask

Organist: Nina Dikin

Ushers: Steve & Vicki Brown

Altar Guild: Team 3

Counters: Tom & Jackie Newkirk

10/27/19

Celebrant: Fr. Michael Law

LEM: Lynda Cordova

Lay Reader: Casey Bennett

Organist: Fred Knutson

Ushers: Jack & Judy Adams

Altar Guild: Team 4

Counters: Jack & Judy Adams