

Note from Father Tim Farrell

Recently, the Farmington City Council voted three to two against a resolution by Sean Sharer of our parish and a Council Member which would support all human life.

Those voting against this beautifully-written resolution were Mayor Nate Duckett and Councilwomen Janis Jakino and Linda Rogers.

I was there and was very disappointed in our City Council. But the fight goes on. We do not despair.

As I was leaving the Council Chambers, I saw a huge crowd of supporters of the resolution and they were disappointed as I was but all were so kind and gentle in that moment. Thanks to all who came out.

For the life of me, I do not understand the reasoning of our mayor or the two council women. Mayor Duckett stated that he "did not feel the City Council was the right venue for such a resolution" and that although his personal beliefs support the resolution, he did not feel "like it was something the City Council should pass because it would be symbolic." Does that sentiment sound familiar?

If Farmington had stood up as it should have and voted in this resolution, it would have joined Lea County and Roswell in supporting the protection of human life. But politics won out.

Katelyn Cardenas, the Respect Life Coordinator at Sacred Heart Parish in Farmington who was a major reason the resolution came up for a vote, said, "The people of Farmington are disappointed; disappointment is a gross understatement. I'm shocked that Mayor Duckett initially told us he was a pro-life Christian, and he couldn't believe that this was even a political issue at a previous council meeting. Then to turn around and lecture us . . . How could you make such a contradicting statement that you're a pro-life Christian in one sentence and then tell us it's a woman's right to choose and there's nothing we can do about it – meaning you're OK with it?"

Katelyn and other pro-lifers will not give up. "We're not going to quit," she said. "We have momentum behind us . . . We're not going to quit because we know what's on the line."

To contact your city council to give your opinion on this issue, please email as follows:

Mayor Nate Duckett: mduckett@fmtn.org; Linda Rogers District 1: lrogers@fmtn.org; Sean Sharer District 2: ssharer@fmtn.org; Jeanine Bingham-Kelly District 3: jbkelly@fmtn.org; Janis Jakino District 4: jjakino@fmtn.org.

In Christ,
Rev. Timothy W. Farrell
Pastor

Senior Youth Group

The Senior Youth Group will be having a Halloween Party next Sunday, Oct. 27th, at 5:30 p.m. at the Family Center! All 9th-12th graders are invited! Younger children are invited come to the Family Center that evening as well for trick-or-treating and get some candy. Trick-or-Treaters may stop by the Family Center anytime from 5:30 to 7 p.m. when the Senior Youth members will be handing out candy to these little ones. Look forward to seeing everyone there!!

Christopher Shay
Youth Leader



The Basics of Alzheimer's Disease

The Alzheimer's Association, New Mexico Chapter will give a free presentation on Wednesday, Oct. 23rd, from 10 a.m. to Noon on the Basics of Alzheimer's Disease. This will be held at the Aztec Cultural Center, 101 South Park Ave. in Aztec.

(OVER)

Upcoming Holy Day of Obligation

Friday, Nov. 1st is a Holy Day of Obligation. All Saints' Day is a solemn holy day of the Catholic Church celebrated annually on November 1st. The day is dedicated to the saints of the Church; that is, all those who have attained heaven. It should not be confused with All Souls' Day, which is observed on November 2nd, and is dedicated to those who have died and have not yet reached heaven.

Although millions, or even billions of people may already be saints, All Saints' Day observances tend to focus on known saints --that is those recognized in the canon of the saints by the Catholic Church.

All Saints' Day is also commemorated by members of the Eastern Orthodox Church as well as some protestant churches, such as Lutheran and Anglican churches.

Generally, All Saints' Day is a Catholic Holy Day of Obligation, meaning all Catholics are required to attend Mass on that day, unless they have an excellent excuse, such as serious illness.

Other countries have different rules according to their national bishop's conferences. The bishops of each conference have the authority to amend the rules surrounding the obligation of the day.

All Saints' Day was formally started by Pope Boniface IV, who consecrated the Pantheon at Rome to the Virgin Mary and all the Martyrs on May 13 in 609 AD. Boniface IV also established All Souls' Day, which follows All Saints.

(<https://www.catholic.org/saints/allsaints/>)

MASSTIMES: Vigil Mass the day before will be at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 31st. Mass on the holy day of obligation will be at 8:15 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 1st.



Question:

Why do we pray to saints?

Answer:

Have you ever heard jokes about Catholics and big families? Well, our family is much, much bigger than most of us can imagine! Our family transcends the here and now. It includes heaven! Your great, great grandmother may have passed away, but does that make her any less your family? Of course not! We have a similar perspective when it comes to our baptized Christian community. We are brothers and sisters in Christ and that extends beyond the grave.

The saints are women and men who have led such exemplary lives on earth we can be certain that they're in heaven. That means their focus is on worshipping God and loving all that God loves, including us. When we pray to saints, we're actually asking for their prayers. If something challenging is going on in your life, you might consider asking someone close to you for their prayers. When we ask for the intercession of saints, we're inviting them into our needs and concerns. I hope we're ready to help a loved one who needs it. The saints are ready to pray for us, so we can grow in relationship with God, love our neighbor, and join them in heaven one day!