



St. Anthony's of Farnham

"Serving the Lake Shore Community"

417 Commercial Street / PO Box A9

Farnham, NY 14061

Rectory: 549-1159 / Fax: 549-7742 / Parish Hall 549-2867

Email: stanthonyfarnham@aol.com

Website: www.stanthonysfarnham.org

REV. JAMES W. FLISS, PASTOR

Parish Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Regular Mass Schedule: Saturday 4:00 PM ; Sunday 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM

Daily Mass Schedule: Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. 9:00 AM, Thurs. 7:00 PM

Holy Days: As announced

<p>TrusteesSandra Hooge Frank Zeffiro, Jr. SecretarySue Cummings Business ManagerEleanor Cox Parish Council President..Theresa White Director of Religious EducationKathleen Brachmann Youth MinistryKeith Dash RCIA.....Needed Sacramental Program.....Kris Dash</p>	<p>Music MinistrySharon Valites Mike Cerabone Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors Coordinator.....Marcia Ernst LiturgyDonna Roof Parish Advocate for the Disabled..... Sharon Valites Children's Liturgy of the Word...Michele Baumgarden "Witnesses for Christ"</p>	<p>Family LiturgyTheresa White Parish Vocation Coordinator.....Kris Dash Spiritual Life & Worship.....Needed Respect Life.....Legion of Mary Buildings & Grounds.....James Hooge CustodianGeorge Cordia Cemetery SextonCharles Walker Scout Troop #421 Wayne Ames Marriage Preparation.....Keith & Kris Dash</p>
---	--	--

SACRAMENTAL MINISTRIES

CELEBRATION OF EUCHARIST "Do this in memory of me.."

RECONCILIATION "Peace is my gift to you..."

Confessions - Thursday evening 6:00 - 6:30 PM

Saturday afternoon 3:00 - 3:30 PM

BAPTISM "Unless you are born again..."

Arrangements can be made with the parish priest. Parents should be registered in our parish. Baptismal classes are held for parents the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM - only when needed. Call the rectory one week in advance.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY "What God has joined..."

Engaged couples should phone the rectory to make an appointment with the parish priest to set the date and time for their wedding at least six months in advance. Attendance at a Pre-Cana Conference is also required.

CARE OF THE SICK "Come to me you who are weary..." Please

notify the rectory office for a pastoral visit to any family member who is sick, confined at home, hospitalized or in a nursing home. Arrangements for the reception of sacraments of the Eucharist can be made through the rectory office. Ministers of the sick are available to bring communion to shut-ins on a weekly basis.

The Sacrament of the Anointing of the sick is administered each First Thursday after the 7:00 PM Mass and upon request.

ADULT INSTRUCTION AND RCIA "Go and teach all nations..."

Adults interested in the Catholic faith are cordially invited to contact the rectory office for information about Adult Inquiry Classes, the Catechumenate, and preparation for adult reception of the Sacraments of Christian Initiation (RCIA) .

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION "By their fruits you will know them..."

For those who have been asked to be sponsors for Baptism or Confirmation, we gladly issue recommendations for parishioners who: (1) are baptized and confirmed; (2) are at least 16 years old; (3) are registered for at least 6 months; (4) attend Mass regularly; (5) if married, have done so in conformity with the laws of the Church; (6) if they are parents, are sending their children to Catholic School or Religious Instructions; (7) if they are students, are attending Catholic School or Religious Instructions.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP "That they may all be one..."

We always welcome new members to our parish family. Please contact the parish priest or the rectory.

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ February 3, 2019

St. Paul reminds us that of all of the gifts that God gives to us, love is the greatest. How can we best show our appreciation of what God has given us? If God is calling you to a Church vocation, call Fr. Andrew Lauricella at 847-5535. You can also check out the "Priest of the Month" stories on our website – www.buffalovoactions.org.

February 3, 2019

DAILY MASSES & INTENTIONS

Mon.	02/04	9:00 AM	Walter Klyczek for a Happy Retirement requested by a Friend
Tues.	02/05	9:00 AM	Mother's Day Intentions
Wed.	02/06	9:00 AM	All Souls
Thurs.	02/07	7:00 PM	Father's Day Intentions
Fri.	02/08	9:00 AM	All Souls requested by St. Philip the Apostle Church
Sat.	02/09	4:00 PM	Mother's Day Intentions
Sun.	02/10	9:00 AM	Rosemarie Raab requested by Bud & Kathy Brachmann
		11:30 AM	People of the Parish

*If the Mass is being offered for your loved one, or for your intention, and you would like to carry the Offertory Gifts, please tell an Usher before Mass. ~Intentions are \$15, and a Mass card is available - **please call the office or stop by the rectory. MANY WEEK END AND WEEK DAY MASSES AVAILABLE!** Dedications to your loved one can be offered by signing up for a **MEMORIAL FLOWER VASE, OR WINE~HOST~CANDLE** offering. The available dates and sign-up sheet are located on the bulletin board near the Children's Room.*

NEXT WEEKEND MINISTRY SCHEDULE

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 9, 2019 4:00 PM

LECTOR Theresa Boatner
MINISTERS Jill Pallante, Keith & Kris Dash, Mary Fran O'Connell
ALTAR SERVER Needed

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2019 9:00 AM

LECTOR Tom Postle
MINISTERS Kathy Barreca, Rose Cerabone, Tony Cerabone, Shirley Szczublewski
ALTAR SERVER Ryan Kief, Alexis Serio

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 10, 2019 11:30 AM

LECTOR Tony Montoro
MINISTERS Colleen Roberts, Kim Zukowski, Mary Matthews, Eileen Brittain
ALTAR SERVER Needed

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANTHONY'S

Sunday Feb. 3	9:00 & 11:30 AM Mass Family Liturgy during 11:30 AM Mass, grade 9 Rel. Ed. 9:45-11:00 AM / Youth Ministry 12:15-1:30 PM
Monday Feb. 4	9:00 AM Mass Legion of Mary 11:00 AM
Tuesday Feb. 5	9:00 AM Mass Boy Scouts 7:00-8:30 PM (Wood Working) St. Agatha - Memorial
Wed. Feb. 6	9:00 AM Mass AA Meeting 8:00 PM St. Paul Miki & Companions - Memorial
Thurs. Feb. 7	6:00-6:30 PM Confessions 7:00 PM Mass – Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick
Friday Feb. 8	9:00 AM Mass St. Jerome Emiliani, St. Josephine Bakhita – Optional Memorial
Saturday Feb. 9	3:00-3:30 PM Confessions 4:00 PM Mass Blessed Virgin Mary – Optional Memorial
Sunday Feb. 10	9:00 & 11:30 AM Mass Rel. Ed. 9:45-11:00 AM / Youth Ministry 12:15-1:30 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

February 18 – Parish Council meeting 7:00 PM
 February 23 – Spaghetti Dinner with Wine Tasting
 March 2 – First Penance Class, 2nd Grade, 9:30 AM
 March 2 – Coffee House 7:00 – 10:00 PM

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Mary Adams, Mayme Barone, Eileen Barry, Andrea Battaglia, Laura Bley, Robin Block Sr., Michael Bolistrieri, John Brackett, Sheri Buczkowski, Victoria Busch, Theresa Campisi, Daniel Carriero, Penny Carriero, Diane Catalfu, Lucille Chiapparo, Gene Ciminelli, Jerry Clark, Arica Clear, Michael Collopy, Florence Conover, Joe Cook, Callan Cooke, Amy Crawford, Rev. Edward Czarnecki, Jonah Eric DeLang, Katlin DeMaria, Carol A. Doino, Dave Dudek, Raymond Dunkel, John Durusky, Jack Fescio, Joe Ficialiano, Emily Gibbs, Debbie Godfrey, Dorothy Govenettio, Megan Granich, Sue Hall, Harold Green, Fred Gugino, Rose H aak, Billy Hamm, Martha Hunt, Orin Kelkenberg, Kerry, Kristen Kielbasa-Cummings, Marke Lantry, Kathy Leiker, Sue Licht, Troy Little, Judy Lohr, Collin Lyford, Rebbecca Hall Marshall, Mary Mazur, Barbara Morin, Sheri Niedermeier, Julie Ortel, Kira Palermo, Michael Pawelek, Rylee Pierce, Gabriel John Polizzi, Carol Privitera, Nina Reghetti, Jim Ross, Marie Ann Scalise, Justin Schmidle, Robert S. Sciandra, Ralph Schweers, Lynn Sellick, Joe Siciliano, Jim Smith, LouAnn Stevenson, Brett David Sturble, David Tackley Sr., Ruth Taggart, Robert Tamulski, Lisa Thompson, Shirley Trask, Sharon Valites, BethAnne Van Horn, Don Waite, Gene Welty, Gregory Winger Jr., Ed Wroz, Matthew Young, Chris Zgoda, Judith Zielinski, Doreen Zimpfer.

We are happy to honor requests for prayers for the sick especially when they are in the hospital, in rehabilitation, in hospice or in a post op recovery. When they are improved we remove their names to make room for others. **Those of you who call in requests should notify us when they are better.**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

January 27, 2019 Weekly Offertory \$ 2,677.00
Catholic Relief Services \$ 444.00

**Reflecting on the Gospels with Sister Janet–February 3, 2019
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

In today's Gospel we see Jesus the prophet. Yet his own people were upset because they realized Jesus was going to teach all people, even the Gentiles. They wanted to be the only ones. Jesus recalled for them a story in the Old Testament to remind them that God's call is for everyone. They still rejected Jesus. They did not understand that God had sent Jesus to teach everyone.

PARISH NEWS

FAMILY LITURGY: A "Special Thank You" to the 9th Grade Students, their teachers and families, for the preparation of and their participation in this weekend's liturgy during Sunday's 11:30 AM Mass.

ANOINTING MASS, Thursday, February 7th, we invite you to join us for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. If you are in need of the healing and strength of Christ in your life, plan now to attend. Mass is at 7:00 PM.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS NEEDED! Please prayerfully consider your gifts and how you are being called to use them. We need Eucharistic Ministers. St. Anthony's will offer training, or there is training available at SS Peter & Paul Parish, 66 East Main Street, Hamburg in the Social Center/Gym on Saturday, February 23rd, 9AM-3PM. RSVP by Feb. 11th at 648-1725.

FRUIT OF THE VINE – WINE TASTING 'FUN' RAISER AND SPAGHETTI DINNER! Saturday, February 23, 2019, 4:30-7:30 PM, St. Anthony's Church Hall, 417 Commercial St. Wine tasting and Spaghetti Dinner, featuring premium Finger Lakes wines hand-crafted by O-Neh-Da and Eagle Crest Vineyards. Wine tasting is free with a paid Adult Dinner for \$10. Sealed bottles of wine will be available to purchase! Dinner includes a plate of Spaghetti and Meatballs, Salad, Bread/butter, Dessert and Beverage! Adult Dinner \$10; Child 6-12 \$5; Under 5 are Free! (*Wine tasting for 21 yrs. and older*)

COFFEE HOUSE: We've been pretty lucky so far, eh? But you know that colder weather is coming! You know that hibernation mode will kick in! You also know, at some point you'll want to escape hibernation! **THE COFFEE HOUSE IS BACK!** Please mark your calendar for Saturday, March 2nd, 7:00-10:00 PM. We're looking for Artists, Musicians, Poets, Storytellers, Bakers and Servers - Anyone who can contribute to the Fun! Please contact Mike Cerabone 698-4565.

ST. JOSEPH'S TABLE: Saturday, March 16, 2019 after the 4:00 PM Mass in the Church Hall. There will be Spaghetti, Pizza, and many more traditional meatless dishes. Free to everyone! Please plan on joining us for this wonderful celebration. Monetary donations, meatless dishes and desserts are happily accepted! As the event draws closer, meatless recipes will be available at the doors of the Church.

LECTOR & EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER SCHEDULES are ready and available to be picked up at the side entrance of the Church.

LEGION OF MARY

"It is the duty of nations as well as of men to owe their dependence upon the overriding power of God. It is proven by all of history, that those nations are blest whose God is the Lord." ~*Abraham Lincoln*

CATHOLIC CHARITIES: Here when you need it. When there is nowhere else to turn, Catholic Charities is a beacon of hope and support for those most in need. Across the eight counties of Western New York, Catholic Charities is ready to provide basic and emergency assistance whenever crisis strikes. Your Appeal gift helps keep this safety net in place for so many of your neighbors in need. You can help them find hope in the midst of devastation. Check out our new gift designation options when making a secure donation online at www.ccwny.org/donation or by calling Catholic Charities at 716-218-1400. Help your neighbor find hope.

FAITH MOMENT REFLECTION: Love is a fundamental human capacity. Each one of us possesses the ability to love. St. Paul teaches about true, authentic love in today's scripture reading from Corinthians – and we learn what it is and what it isn't. Anyone who has attended a wedding is probably familiar with this scripture. "Love is patient. Love is kind. It is not jealous. It does not seek its own self-interests." Note how St. Paul uses adjectives that describe these selfless qualities of love. He then goes on to say love rejoices with the truth. Showing true love calls us to discover the truth about God's purpose for us and our world, and then to act on it. Love is not merely an emotion, awareness or desire. It is an action grounded in truth and selflessness. To love is to be motivated to help another. To be kind...considerate...to do what's right – especially where others' needs are concerned. True, authentic love is God's greatest gift. And as St. Paul writes..."love never fails." *Today's Faith Moment was provided by Christ the King Seminary. You can listen to Faith Moments on WBEN radio 930AM, WLOF101.7FM or at www.faithmomentsonline.org*

CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION IN ELMA TO HOST THE MARRIAGE IN CHRIST SEMINAR The Marriage in Christ ministry seeks to help married couples renew their love and affection for each other and for the Lord, strengthen their unity as a couple, and learn how to recognize the presence of God in ordinary life. The Church of the Annunciation will be hosting the Marriage in Christ seminar on the five Fridays of March (1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th) from 7:30 to 9:30 pm, in Selbert Hall, 7580 Clinton St. Elma. The seminar consists of a weekly group meeting for teaching and discussion, as well as an at-home component to help spouses spend quality time with each other. The seminar cost is \$85 per couple, \$45 for Annunciation parishioners. (Ask your pastor if he will sponsor you.) To register call Deb at 683-5254. For more information call Theresa at 937-7837. Learn more about the Marriage in Christ ministry at www.marriageinchrist.com. As a couple, please prayerfully consider attending the March seminar, it could change your life!

~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY! Jeanette Ball, Kenneth Ballard, Kristen Bauer, Mike Bauer, Joseph Bellanti, Kyle Benzing, John Bifaro, Frank Blajszczak, Nicholas Borcz, Bud Brachmann, Thomas Brachmann, Mike Broginski, Richard Buczkowski, Rodney Buerger, Tony Caber, Daniel Carrero, Peter Chiavetta II, Olivia Costa, James Cox, Matthew Crane, Douglas Czora, Laura Dentice, Michael Doetterl, Michael Farrell, Vincent Ferraro, Paityn Flickinger, Gary Forth, Mary Ann Geary, Melissa Ginnitti, Michael Ginnitti, Julie Goodwin, Patrick Gorman, Justin Hubert, Ken Jakiel, Brendan Janik, Danielle Janik, Jessica Jurynec, Walter Klyczek, Patricia Kobel, Brody Korhummel, Logan Kwilos, Mary Jayne Lewandowski, Ian Mancuso, Frederick Manguso, Kristina Mayes, Kimberly McFarland, Colleen Mergenhagen, Henry Michnik, Micaela Michnik, Brian Murphy, Laura Nobsch, John Novak, Deborah Pawlak, Phil Pericak, Marie Pinker, Matthew Postle, Victoria Privitera, Judith Pruett, Christine Reinert, Linda Reinert, Bryan Richards, Eugene Rigby, Herman Rosenlund, Thomas Rosenlund, Kaylea Schiedel, Steven Schilling, Lucas Schlenker, Craig Scholl, Evan Scholl, Matthew Scholl, Phil Schott, Gail Schwartz, Jessica Sills, Susan Sills, William Sills, Leah Stonitsch, Mark Valites, Charles Walker, Phillip Waterman, Theresa White, Blaise Wiktor, Kevin Wild, Elaine Wojda, Amelia Zieba.

SHOP AT HOME AND EARN MONEY FOR ST. ANTHONY'S: Visit <http://shop.com/stanthonyfarnham>, set up your account, and use the referring email: emaycee195@gmail.com

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults): Needed – Someone who would like to share their Catholic faith with those who want to learn about it! Please speak to Father Jim for information and further details.

ST. ANTHONY'S SHIRTS: T-shirts, sweatshirts & hooded sweatshirts are available to purchase. They are here at St. Anthony's! If you would like to purchase or order a non-stock item, please fill out an order form (at Church entrances). Great Christmas Gifts !!

ST. ANTHONY'S COOKBOOK can be purchased for \$3 each or two for \$5. If you would like to purchase, please call or stop by the Church Office.

FEED THE HUNGRY: Please remember to support those in need in our community by donating non-perishable food OR clothing to Operation Good Neighbor. Collection boxes are at the entrances of our church. Your support helps fight hunger 365 days a year! **OPERATION GOOD NEIGHBOR:** Operation Good Neighbor has two locations – one in Evans at 2030 South Creek Rd., Evans NY 14112, Food Pantry on Tuesdays 1-2,7-8pm and Clothing on Tuesdays 12-2, Fri 10-2, Sat. 10-1pm.; and at Most Precious Blood School, 22 Prospect St., Food Pantry on Tues.1-5pm. See posters on bulletin boards for eligibility guidelines.

ST. PADRE PIO Anointing of the Sick Healing Mass at St. John the Baptist R.C. Church, 6895 Boston Cross Rd., generally held the second Wednesday of each month, 7:00 PM, also offering Eucharistic Adoration the same day following 8am morning Mass. 941-3549.

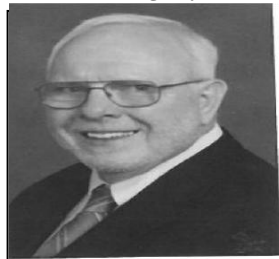
ST. FRANCIS PIEROGI TEAM: The Pierogi Team is diligently working for the Spring Sale Session of Farmers Cheese, Sauerkraut, and Potato/Cheddar Pierogis to be on sale beginning Wednesday, February 6, 2019. Place orders/pick up at the Social Center, 4263 St. Francis Dr. 10am-Noon on Wednesday and Saturdays. Donation is \$5 per half dozen, \$10 per dozen. Info or place order – Bernadette Sikorski 822-1599.

DONATE ELECTRONICALLY: Online you can make a donation on our website: www.stanthonyfarnham.org.
Smartphone: You can Text to Donate: Text to *716-215-2401 (Simply text amount to the *number and follow

- prompts to complete)
- Give+ Mobile App: Download "GivePlus Church" to set up donation. Search zip code 14061 for our church.
- QR Code: Download QR Code reader App, Scan the code with your smartphone.....as seen here.....→
follow prompts to complete transaction.



PLEASE NOTE: Any articles to be published must be submitted by Wednesday 10:00 AM to be included in the weekend bulletin. Pulpit announcements will be limited to emergency announcements only. Please plan ahead. Thank you.



THOMAS "TOM" VAN WIE
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson
The Certo Team
"Helping you find your way HOME"
CELL: 716-984-8661
TVWAMBIT@gmail.com
www.TheCertoTeam.com
4779 Transit Rd., Ste. 17
Depew, NY 14043
716-668-7000 Fax:716-668-6804



**Looking for a rewarding career or volunteer opportunity?
Life-Changing Careers Start Here!**



Apply online! www.people-inc.org/careers
or call for more information 716.322.7050

**LATIMORE - SCHIAVONE
FUNERAL HOME, INC.**

John A. Latimore ... Joseph S. Schiavone

549-3311

**Plan Today for Peace of Mind
Tomorrow
"Personalized Service"**

ANGOLA, NEW YORK 14006

BARONE LIQUOR STORE

Mike & Karyl Lyn Kreuter

**Local Wine and Liquor
Store**

**364 Central Avenue
Silver Creek, NY 14136
716-934-3533**

VALVO Candies, Inc.
Fine Chocolates
Lawn Decorations
Religious Items, Fund Raising

Rte. 5 & 20,
Silver Creek, NY 14136

934-2535 FAX: 934-4926

**TIMM HEATING
& AIR CONDITIONING
PLUMBING HEATING
COOLING**

SINCE 1953

716-549-5113

BILL TIMM
Owner

458 SYCAMORE AVENUE
ANGOLA, NY 14006

**ADDISON FUNERAL
HOME**

Randolph J. Addison & Scott J. Addison
262 North Main Street,
Angola, NY 14006
716-549-1100

www.addisonfuneralhome.com

*"Pre planning today will relieve loved ones the
stressful decisions of tomorrow - Guaranteed Price Pre
Need Contract"*

**THE BRANT-FARNHAM
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Located in Brant Town Hall

- DURING THE BLIZZARD OF 1977, THE SCHOOLS IN WNY WERE CLOSED FOR A WEEK. MR. BILL HOUSTON WAS SUPERINTENDENT OF LAKE SHORE CENTRAL SCHOOLS AND NEVER CLOSED THEM...EVER...UNTIL THEN!

FARNHAM'S 125th ANNIVERSARY HISTORY BOOK ~ Now available for sale - 209 pages! ** fully packed with local history - INCLUDING a section on St. Anthony's Church! Visit the Farnham Village Hall or Brant Town Hall to get your copy - ONLY \$25.00 EACH! "SHOP LOCALLY!"

*Town of Brant Historian, Patty Friend
Meetings the 3rd Wednesday each month at
7:00 PM- Everyone is welcome!*

Another Look at Contraception

To some, the Catholic Church's consistent teaching against birth control may seem outdated. Yet with each passing year, evidence of contraception's negative consequences keeps piling up, revealing profound repercussions on women, children, families, and society.

Some Contraceptives Can Cause Early Abortions

Advocates of contraception claim it doesn't cause abortions. However, that claim rests on an inaccurate redefinition of "pregnancy" as beginning only *after* an embryo successfully implants in the mother's uterus. This, then, excludes from the meaning of abortion all pills and devices that cause the death of an embryo *before* implantation. Yet it's scientifically indisputable that a new human life begins when an embryo first forms at fertilization—6 to 8 days *before* implantation.

Physicians' textbooks and handbooks reveal that some types of contraception sometimes work by preventing a living, developing, embryonic baby from reaching the uterus and successfully implanting, which results in his or her death.ⁱ

Physical Risks for Women

Contraception also presents significant health risks for women. Combined oral contraceptives (COCs), as well as contraceptive patches and the "ring," have long been known to cause cancer (of the breast, cervix, and liver).ⁱⁱ They also substantially increase the risk of potentially life-threatening blood clots,ⁱⁱⁱ which have resulted in heart attacks, strokes, and hundreds of deaths in healthy young women.

Intrauterine devices (IUDs) present other risks. For example, the following are just some of the warnings by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) about one common IUD: septic shock and death may occur in the event of pregnancy; about half of pregnancies are ectopic; the device may embed, perforate, or penetrate the uterine wall, resulting in its migration outside the [uterus], adhesions, peritonitis, intestinal perforation/obstruction, abscesses, and erosion of adjacent internal organs.^{iv}

Through the Church's teaching, God invites us to a fuller, richer, deeper way of life and love.

From Pill to Poverty

Without the contraceptive pill, the sexual revolution couldn't have happened. Few women were willing to risk pregnancy outside of marriage. Economist George Akerlof has shown how that dynamic abruptly changed with the contraceptive pill, leading to "the feminization of poverty."^v

Told that the pill would prevent pregnancy, women had sex without the promise of marriage. Because women controlled the decision to contracept, give birth, or undergo abortion, however, many men reasoned that they were not responsible for children conceived outside marriage. Indicating men's denial of responsibility: "shotgun marriages" soon plummeted, while out-of-wedlock births nearly tripled. In less than two decades (1965-1984), abortions among unmarried women grew from an annual 88,000 to 1,271,000.

Throughout the past decade, at least 40 percent of children each year are born to unmarried mothers who are often left struggling in poverty to raise children alone. According to Child Trends, "in 2015, 43 percent of children living in single-mother families were poor, compared with 10 percent of children living in married-couple families."^{vi} Poverty and the absence of a child's biological father in the home are two of the strongest predictors of poor academic, emotional, and behavioral outcomes in children.

Contraception Is Unreliable

How could abortions and nonmarital births skyrocket if women are contracepting? With typical use, most contraceptives are far from reliable, especially for teens, who are twice as likely as adults to become pregnant while using contraceptive pills, patches, or rings.^{vii} Every year, *one million* of the 11 million U.S. women on the pill become pregnant, and 40% of them undergo abortions.^{viii}

What Does Our Catholic Faith Offer?

God's love is generous, sacrificial, life-giving, and forever. As humans made in God's image, we are called to imitate the eternal giving and receiving of love that is the Holy Trinity. We can do this in a unique way through marriage—a vowed communion of a man and a woman who enter a “one flesh” union open to bringing forth a new human life. “The whole meaning of marriage is present and signified”^{ix} in each act of marital sex, so the love-giving and life-giving purposes of sex should not be separated.

At the same time, for serious reasons, in exercising responsible parenthood, a couple may “decide not to have additional children for either a certain or an indefinite period of time.”^x In these cases, “the Church teaches that married people may then take advantage of the natural cycles immanent in the reproductive system and engage in marital intercourse only during those times that are infertile.”^{xi}

Thanks to the research of countless doctors and scientists, modern, fertility awareness-based methods of natural family planning rival and even surpass^{xii} the effectiveness of contraceptives while posing no risks to mothers or unborn children. In fact, couples using such methods report better sex, improved communication, and the ability to identify underlying causes of infertility.^{xiii} (To learn more, visit www.foryourmarriage.org/family-planning.)

In short, through the Church's teaching, God invites us to a fuller, richer, deeper way of life and love.

ⁱ R.A. Hatcher et al., *Managing Contraception 2017-2018*. Tiger, Georgia: Bridging the Gap Foundation.

ⁱⁱ V.J. Cogliano et al., “Preventable exposures associated with human cancers,” *Journal of the National Cancer Institute* 103 (2011) 1827-1839, 1831; available at <https://academic.oup.com/jnci/article/103/24/1827/937010>; accessed April 21, 2018.

ⁱⁱⁱ A. van Hylckama Vlieg et al., “The venous thrombotic risk of oral contraceptives, effects of oestrogen dose and progestogen type: results of the MEGA case-controlled study,” *British Medical Journal* 339 (2009) b.2921; available at <https://www.bmj.com/content/339/bmj.b2921>; accessed April 21, 2018.

^{iv} Mirena Label, available at https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/drugsatfda_docs/label/2008/021225s019lbl.pdf; accessed April 21, 2018.

^v G.A. Akerlof et al., “An analysis of out-of-wedlock child-bearing in the United States,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 111:2 (1996): 277-317.

^{vi} <https://www.childtrends.org/indicators/children-in-poverty/>

^{vii} “The Daunting Downside of Condoms, Pills, and Injections,” *Managing Contraception*, Feb. 27, 2017; available at <http://managingcontraception.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/BTG-Daunting-Downside-2-2017E.pdf>; accessed April 21, 2018.

^{viii} *Ibid.*

^{ix} “Life Matters: Love and Marriage,” *Respect Life Program*, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (Washington, D.C.), 2011, available at <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/2011/upload/life-matters-love-and-marriage-bulletin-insert.pdf>; accessed April 21, 2018.

^x Paul VI, *Humanae vitae* (On the Regulation of Birth) (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1968), no. 10. See also Natural Family Planning Program, “Responsible Parenthood,” United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, available at <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/natural-family-planning/catholic-teaching/upload/Responsible-Parenthood.pdf>; accessed April 21, 2018.

^{xi} *Ibid.*, no. 16.

^{xii} The website of Facts About Fertility has up-to-date facts on fertility and the fertility awareness-based methods of family planning. The Medical Update (<https://www.factsaboutfertility.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Medical-Update-about-FABMs-April-2015-1.pdf>) shows the pregnancy rates of 7 methods; accessed April 21, 2018; R. Fehring and M. Schneider, “Extended effectiveness of an online Natural Family Planning service program,” *MCN The American Journal of Maternal Child Nursing* 42 (2017) 43-49; M. Manhart et al., “Fertility awareness-based methods of family planning: A review of effectiveness for avoiding pregnancy using SORT,” *Osteopathic Family Physician* 5 (2013) 2-8; available at <https://www.factsaboutfertility.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/2013-Manhart-et-al-Review-of-Effectiveness-Osteopathic-Family-Physician.pdf>; accessed April 21, 2018; R. Fehring et al. “Randomized comparison of two Internet-supported fertility awareness-based methods of family planning” *Contraception* 88 (2013) 24-30.

^{xiii} J.T. Bruchalski, MD, “Hope for Married Couples who Want to Have a Child,” USCCB Respect Life Program (2010); <http://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/respect-life-program/upload/Hope-for-Married-Couples-Who-Want-to-Have-a-Child.pdf>; F. Doyle, “My Slogan: Practice Saved Sex!”, <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/marriage-and-family/natural-family-planning/awareness-week/upload/Fletcher-Doyle-article.pdf>

Excerpts from *Humanae vitae*, © 1968 Libreria Editrice Vaticana, Vatican City. Used with permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted [Excerpted] from *Respect Life Program*, copyright © 2018, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C. All rights reserved.

Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

View, download, or order the U.S. bishops' pro-life materials! www.usccb.org/respectlife



fb.com/peopleoflife |



@usccbprolife |



@ProjectRachel