

Father Jim's Weekly Bulletin Article for January 21,2018

The Sanctity of Human Life: Tomorrow is the anniversary of the Roe v Wade decision that effectively legalized abortion. Take time to pray. Take time to pray throughout the day. Pray for lives lost and for lives touched. Pray for the family of our nation which has lost so many of its children. Celebrate the lives that are part of your life. Receive them, treasure them, be amazed by them. Celebrate the lives you touch. Celebrate the lives of those who touch you.

Readings for next week: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35; Mark 1:21-28

Reflection: Celibacy was once a highly regarded virtue and discipline in Christian life. By setting aside one of the great gifts of creation, celibates hoped to free their minds and souls for communion with God, and their hands for service to God's people. The discipline of celibacy is now being challenged as an unnecessary and unreasonable demand upon priests and religious. We forget that all of us are called to devote our entire lives to God and to service. For many that devotion happens through marriage. Together with our spouse we give thanks to God who unites us, and celebrate our love by reaching out in love to and through the Church. We are treated to a vision of God's love that simply could not happen any other way. The choice for celibacy reflects the absolute nature of God's love and self-gift. It challenges us to love with the same abandon. There is nothing that love will not sacrifice for the good of the beloved. Like marriage, celibacy reveals an aspect of God's love we may not otherwise see. The loss of either gift would leave us blind to the most important gift of all, that of God's everlasting love for his people.

1. Describe your life as a reflection of God's love.
2. Share a moment of prayer with someone important to you.

Prayer: Father, you bless us through many lives and gifts. Each person is a revelation of your face, each moment a sign of your presence. Treat us to visions of your glory.