

Marriage in the Image of God: Why Contraception is Inherently Evil

And when the third night is past, thou shalt take the virgin with the fear of the Lord, moved rather for love of children than for lust, that in the seed of Abraham thou mayst obtain a blessing in children (Tobit 6:22 DRV).

Three “goods” express the beauty and purpose of Marriage: The Good of Fidelity, the Good of Unity, and the Good of Children. When a married couple embraces all three, a fourth good emerges: The Good of the Spouses. Sacred Scripture has affirmed this truth from Genesis to Revelation, and the Church has protected this truth in her teaching since the resurrection of Jesus.

Being created in the Image of God, a man and woman in marriage imitate the self-gift of love between the Persons of the Holy Trinity. The Church teaches that the love between the Father and the Son is so full and real that it is a Person, the Holy Spirit. Likewise, authentic love between a husband and wife is so real that it may become a person, their child. This Image of God makes the conjugal act so sacred, reserves it for marriage, and gives it the purposes of unity and procreation (c.f. Tobit 6). The exclusive, total gift of body and soul in marriage as expressed in the conjugal act expresses and fulfills the Good of Unity and brings about the Good of Children.

By safeguarding both these essential aspects, the unitive and the procreative, the conjugal act preserves in its fullness the sense of true mutual love and its orientation toward man's exalted vocation to parenthood” (Catechism 2369).

Contraception distorts the purpose of marriage as intended by God. When the spouses do not give themselves totally to the other, the unitive purpose of marriage is frustrated. Contraception mars this purpose by withholding a total gift of



self. By intention, contraception frustrates the procreative purpose because it disallows the transmission of life—which is essential to the Image of God in Man. Rather than expressing the Image of God in marriage, the use of contraception distorts that image in sin (Catechism 2366). As is written in Sacred Scripture:

For they who in such manner receive matrimony, as to shut out God from themselves, and from their mind, and to give themselves to their lust, as the horse and mule, which have not understanding, over them the devil hath power (Tobit 6:17 DRV).

The Church is not deaf to the objection that marriage without contraception can be difficult, but she reminds her flock of the words of Christ, “*If any man would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me*” (Mt. 16:24). Christ also says that “*My yoke is easy and my burden is light*” (Mt. 11:30). The Church recognizes and encourages the use of natural means—abstinence during fertile periods—to space the birth of children and determine their number in a family (Charter of the Rights of the Family, art. 6). In this way, the conjugal act in marriage becomes a purposeful pursuit of fidelity, unity and—God willing—the procreation of children.

Marriage is a beautiful expression of the Image of God. When lived to its fullest, a sacramental marriage brings about what it signifies: The union of Christ and His Church. What a beautiful purpose to pursue in your marriage!



Catholics United for the Faith: 1-800-MY FAITH [693-2484], Cuf.org.

Ask about our FAITH FACTS:

- ☒ Choose Life That They Might Live – The Truth About Birth Control
- ☒ Marriage in God's Plan – Discovering the Power of Marital Love
- ☒ Reproductive Technologies

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* HARRISON COUNTY * CATHOLIC CHURCHES



Sacred Heart Church
Hopedale



St. Matthias
Freeport



St. Teresa of Avila
Cadiz

OCTOBER 25, 2026
30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FOR OUR VISITORS

RESTROOM FACILITIES

FREEPORT ST. MATTHIAS - The restrooms in St. Matthias are located off of the gathering room behind the worship area.

CADIZ - ST. TERESA - There are no restrooms in the church itself. Restrooms are located in the Activity Center which is the building right next to the church at the back of the parking lot.

HOPEDALE - SACRED HEART - The restrooms are located in the basement of the church but you have to go outside and down to the front of the church to access the basement and restroom facilities.

SCRIPTURE FOR THIS WEEK

SUN - Exodus 22:20–26, Psalm 18:2–3, 3–4, 47, 51, 1 Thessalonians 1:5c–10, Matthew 22:34–40

MON - Ephesians 4:32–5:8, Psalm 1:1–2, 3, 4 and 6, Luke 13:10–17

TUE - Ephesians 5:21–33, Psalm 128:1–2, 3, 4–5, Luke 13:18–21

WED - Ephesians 2:19–22, Psalm 19:2–3, 4–5, Luke 6:12–16

THU - Ephesians 6:10–20, Psalm 144:1b, 2, 9–10, Luke 13:31–35

FRI - Philippians 1:1–11, Psalm 111:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, Luke 14:1–6

SAT - Philippians 1:18b–26, Psalm 42:2, 3, 5cdef, Luke 14:1, 7–11



✱ HARRISON COUNTY CATHOLIC CHURCHES ✱

St. Teresa of Avila (Cadiz) - Sacred Heart (Hopedale) - St. Matthias (Freeport)

Parish Offices: 143 E. South St. - Cadiz, OH 43907

Pastor: Rev. Frederick Kihm

(740) 942-2211 - email: d_vargo3@yahoo.com or fkihm@diosteub.org

<https://www.harrisoncountycatholicchurches.org>

ST = at St. Teresa, SH = at Sacred Heart, SM = at St. Matthias

The Rosary is recited one half hour before all weekend Masses.

*Confessions will be heard after Mass at Sacred Heart and St. Matthias and
Tuesdays after 4:30 PM Mass at St. Teresa*

10/24/2026	SAT	4:30 PM	ST	People of Our Parishes
10/24/2026	SAT	7:00 PM	SM	Betty Carter (Ron & Jean Prince) - 5896
10/25/2026	SUN	9:30 AM	ST	Robert Zantene (Family) - 5680
10/25/2026	SUN	11:00 AM	SH	Robert Jackson, Sr. (Jerry Jackson & Family) - 5819
10/26/2026	MON			NO MASS
10/27/2026	TUE	4:30 PM		NO MASS
10/28/2026	WED	4:30 PM		NO MASS
10/29/2026	THU	4:30 PM		NO MASS
10/30/2026	FRI	12:15 PM		NO MASS
10/31/2026	SAT	4:30 PM	ST	Sharon Leck (Julie Leck - Meyer Family) - 5861
10/31/2026	SAT	7:00 PM	SM	George Luch, Jr. (Ron & Jean Prince) - 5716
11/01/2026	SUN	9:30 AM	ST	Abigail Anderson (Allison Anderson)
11/01/2026	SUN	11:00 AM	SH	People of Our Parishes

2026 D/PSC: Thank you to our parishioners of our three parishes for making their 2026 goals. Therefore, the 2026 Diocesan Parish Share Campaign is done for this year.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION CLASS: will be held Sunday, November 1st at 8:30 AM— 9:20 AM before the 9:30 AM Sunday Mass. We will meet in St. Teresa’s Activities Center. (Next class: November 15th).

MOMS PRAYING FOR THEIR CHILDREN: was formed by women who would like to pray for their children and the children of the world. They will begin with a rosary with intercessory prayers and then private prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament for the remainder of the hour. They will meet every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. Hope you can join them at 3:30 PM in Sacred Heart Church on October 26th, November 9th and 23rd. Contact: Emily Gray at (740) 491-0526, if you have any questions.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMASSALE SET-UP: Volunteers are needed to help unpack and price items for our annual CWC Christmas sale held at Sacred Heart Hall. We will began working on Monday, October 26th, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM and the evenings 6:00 - 8:00 PM. We will be working the same time during the week until the sale is all set up. (We will not be setting up on the weekends.) Consider this a personal ask for your help! Questions: call Karen, 740-937-2062 or her cell 740-381-4446. We appreciate all the help that you can give. Thank you.

PRAY AND TAKE ACTION — to Protect Women and Babies from the Abortion Pill: The USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities is inviting Catholics to join a focused effort of prayer and action to stop the spread of abortion pills by invoking the intercession of St. Joseph, Defender of Life. Join us in prayer from now until the end of October! For facts and resources about abortion pills visit: respectlife.org/abortion-pills. (From the office of Marriage, Family & Respect Life of the Diocese of Steubenville).

CATHOLIC WOMAN'S CLUB MEETING NEWS: The CWC/K of C Christmas Dinner will be on December 6th, 2:00 PM at Sacred Heart Hall. Mark your calendar. Our Annual CWC Christmas Sale will be November 6th, 7th, 13th and the 14th, If you can work any time during the sale let Karen know so she can put you on the work schedule so all hours are covered.

ALL SOUL'S ENVELOPES: November 2nd is All Soul's Day. Please remember that the All Soul's envelopes have a place on the back to write the names of your deceased loved ones. You may turn in the envelopes at any time during November and it will be kept on the altars of our parishes throughout the month of November and will be prayed for at Mass.

VISIT A CEMETERY, A WORK OF MERCY: The month of November, especially All Souls' Day, is a traditional time for visiting graves of loved ones, as is the anniversary of their death.

If everyone, everywhere,
at all times and under all circumstances
followed the teachings of Jesus Christ
and His Church, the world would be
so much more like heaven, and
so much less like hell!

Fr. Fred Kihm

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Tammy Belon, Michael Beckler, Ginger Russell, Julie Meyer, Richard Kidd, Lisa and Baylor Barger, Joyce Antol, Celeste Coelho, Irma Filippi, Cherilynn Morgan, Dolly Ferraro, Joanne Raha, Ann (Fledderus) Crouse, Walter Carman, Holly & Niko Kirsch, Laura Griffin, Kaden and Suzy Cable, Melody Beckler, Jennifer Wright, Mike & Marilyn Belon, Pamela Kutcher, Michael Folio, Connie & Sam Gardner, Chris & Becky Wood, Darlene Powell, Douglas Forrester, Linda Hren, Thomas Hisrich.



PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR PARISH CHURCH IN YOUR WILL!

POPE LEO’S OCTOBER PRAYER INTENTION: For mental health ministry -- Let us pray that mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

YOUTH ENVELOPES: There are youth envelopes in the back of the church for children to use. It goes without saying that generosity is a virtue that needs to be learned at an early age.

K OF C ACCEPTING DONATIONS: The Knights of Columbus Council #4590 is accepting donations of nonperishable food items as well as laundry detergent, cleaning supplies and new or gently used clothing for the Cadiz Food Pantry. Please leave the items in the church basement (Hopedale) or in the Activity Center lobby (Cadiz). Monetary donations will also be accepted and may be dropped in the collection basket. Make your check out to the Knights of Columbus Council #4590 and on the memo line write: “Cadiz Food Pantry”. God bless you for helping the needy of Harison County.

RESPECT LIFE NOVENA: October 22 - 30. The annual Respect Life Month Novena prays for the protection of human life, from conception to natural death. Each day of the novena features a different pro-life prayer intention which is accompanied by a short reflection and suggested actions to help build a culture of life. Join thousands of Catholics in praying for life!
respectlife.org/respect-life-month-novena

THANK YOU FROM BR. PETER ELLIS: a thank you card from Peter Ellis came to the rectory. Peter wishes to thank everyone who sent him cards, gifts and their prayers. Please know that Peter is keeping you all in his prayers for remembering him so kindly.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #4590: will meet on Wednesday, October 28th, at 7:00 PM at Sacred Heart Hall. If you are interested in attending or joining the K of C, contact Barry Momyer, (412) 965-3522.

FR. FRED ON VACATION: Fr. Fred will be going on a long needed vacation starting next weekend, Oct. 24th. In his absence please call Blessed Sacrament Church should you need to call a priest (740) 264-0868. Confessions at St. Teresa will be held before the 9:30 AM Mass on Sunday starting at 9:00 AM.

Contributions & Donations

ST. TERESA
Regular: \$572.00
Building Fund: \$1,359.00

SACRED HEART
Regular: \$313.00
Building Fund: \$116.00

ST. MATTHIAS
Regular: \$230.00

GOD BLESS EVERYONE WHO HAS DONATED TO THE SUPPORT OF OUR CHURCHES!