

We, the Christian family of All Saints Roman Catholic Church, seek to proclaim the Kingdom of God to all through education, service, & the Sacraments in preparation for Eternal Life.

—All Saints Parish Mission Statement

MASS SCHEDULE

(A.S.)= All Saints. (S.J.)= St. John

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sat. Feb 18 5:30 PM (A.S.)

Catholic Press

Sun. Feb 19 8:30 AM (S.J.)

For the People of AS & SJ Parishes

10:30 AM (A.S.)

Mary Ripley +

Mon. Feb 20 8:10 AM (A.S.)

Lillian Johnson +

Tue. Feb 21 Out of Parish.

Bud Vandiver +

Ash Wednesday

Wed. Feb 22 8:10 AM (A.S.)

Good Lent

12:10 PM (S.J.) Noon

For Grace of Penance

6:35 PM (A.S.)

Dean Berry+

Thu. Feb 23 7:00 AM (A.S.)

All Souls Day Intentions +

9:00 AM (Hold. Mem. Home)

For Grace of Almsgiving

Fri. Feb 24 8:10 AM (A.S.)

Special Intention (B.D.)

Sat. Feb 25 7:30 AM (A.S.)

For Grace of Prayer

1st Sunday of Lent

Sat. Feb 25 5:30 PM (A.S.)

Tawni Walton

Sun. Feb 26 8:30 AM (S.J.)

Larry Ebmeier+

10:30 AM (A.S.)

For the People of AS & SJ Parishes

Sacrament of Penance

(Confession)

All Saints: Daily before Masses.

Saturday at 4:45 to 5:20 p.m.

Sunday before 10:30a Mass if poss.

St. John's: Sunday at 8 to 8:20 am.

Or By Appointment: Call for a time.

Pray the Rosary every day!

All Saints Catholic Parish

1204 Logan Street
Holdrege, NE 68949

Parish & School Office: 1204 Logan St., Holdrege. (308)995-4590 Fax: (308)995-2217

E-mail addresses: church@asholdrege.org school@asholdrege.org

Pastor: Fr. Thomas Lux Rectory: 1308 Logan, (308)995-9561. Cell Phone: 991-4991

On the Web- Church www.allsaintscatholicchurch.catholicweb.com. School www.ascscatholicweb.com



Jesus said to the paralytic, "I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home."

He rose, picked up his mat at once, and went away in the sight of everyone.

They were all astounded & glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this." - Mk 2:11-12

Stewardship of Treasure- A Way of Life

Thank you for doing your part.

Stewardship received last week- Thank you!

	All Saints	St. John's
Adult Envelopes	\$ 1,543.00	\$ 160.00
Average weekly Auto Pay	\$ 426.92	\$ -
Loose Plate	\$ 55.00	\$ 14.00
Youth envelopes	\$ 3.50	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 2,028.42	\$ 174.00

Total Offertory to Date (Fiscal Yr. 7/1/11 to 6/30/20112)

Year to Date Actual	\$ 139,223.00	\$ 9,863.15
FY 2011-12 Budget	\$ 115,178.42	\$ 12,400.00
Difference	\$ 24,044.58	\$ (2,536.85)

Fiscal Year (07/01/11-06/30/12) **weekly giving budget:** *All Saint's: **\$3,650**; *St. John's: **\$400**.

Special Collections

Catholic Press-SNR	\$ 320.00	\$ 15.00
ASC School	\$ 175.00	\$ -
Guardian Angel	\$ -	\$ -

Catholics Come Home

Know any inactive Catholics?

Please refer them to

www.CatholicsComeHome.org for answers to their questions & much more.

Lenten Regulation - Diocese of Lincoln:

Ash Wednesday & Good Friday are days of fast & abstinence.

All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.

Fasting means eating 1 full meal w/ 2 smaller meals, which together do not equal the full meal.

No snacks or eating between meals allowed.

Fasting obliges Catholics between the ages of 18 & 59.

St. John Catholic Parish

105 E. Niobrara Street
Smithfield, NE

February 19, 2012

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

It's astonishing to some people that we Catholics will spend time talking to a priest about our deepest faults. Confession of sins and being assured of God's forgiveness is not something that everyone readily understands. But when we take the time to really acknowledge our sinfulness, to admit to ourselves, to God, and to another person (the priest) what we have done wrong, we can experience the healing that comes from the confession of our sins.

The Gospel today explicitly reminds us that the forgiveness of sins is connected to healing. When we confess our sins, make an act of contrition, and receive absolution we are healed in that sacrament. The paralyzed man who was dropped through the roof in front of Jesus by his friends had his sins forgiven. Much to the astonishment of the crowd, the paralytic got up, rolled up his mat, and walked out the door. It was that easy.

There is a lot of misconception about the sacrament of penance. Once a person gets over the hurdle of fear or shame though, it really is as easy as the actions of the paralyzed man. There was a lot of work on the part of others to get him in front of Jesus. They had to carry him there, open the roof, and lower him down. **And before we go to confession, there is some work we have to do.** We have to examine our conscience, and be willing to be honest with ourselves and with God. But after that it's easy. We sit down, tell the priest our sins, receive a penance, pray a prayer of contrition, receive absolution, and then go on our way.

It is the work of reconciliation that takes much longer, sometimes even a lifetime. Because sin fractures relationships, confession really is the easy part. It is what we do afterwards to heal the wounds that is the most demanding. It is a good thing Lent begins on Wednesday!

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Abstinence means eating no meat nor soup nor gravy made from meat. Abstinence obliges all Catholics over the age of 14.

Sickness, hard manual labor, pregnancy, etc., automatically excuse a person from these obligations. Nevertheless, it should be pointed out that these are serious obligations. In cases of doubt or question, the priest who hears a person's confession should be consulted.

From the Desk of the Pastor-

Dear Parish Family,

Congratulations to those making their First Confession today, Sunday @ 4 pm. Thank you to their parents and catechists for preparing them.

Ash Wednesday is February 22- this Wednesday. Plan now to pray and fast and study during Lent in preparation for Easter. We have Stations of the Cross, Daily Mass, Adult study of the Faith opportunities including the Catholicism series by Fr. Barron. What will you do for Lent? Now is a good time to ask the Lord what He wants you to do. The Catholicism Series starting this Thursday and next Sunday will be the same episode. You can come to either. You can come to the weeks you are able. See www.catholicismseries.com for info.

Training for Extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist to those who are home-bound will be Saturday, 2/25, at 9:30 A.

Speak to Fr. Lux now to be trained.

Bishop Bruskewitz & the bishops of the United States are calling us to exercise faithful citizenship to protect religious freedom and conscience rights. Please contact Nebraska's federal reps. to thank them & encourage them to continue to work for the support of Respect for Rights of Conscience Act (H.R. 1179, S. 1467). www.usccb.org/conscience

Thank you to the A.S. Parish Council members who served coffee & rolls last week & to those who did attend.

Thank you to all who adjusted your routine for the change in Mass times last Sunday morning. Apologies to those who were not aware of the change until it was too late. You tried your best.

Thank you to all who helped celebrate Mardi Gras at Elwood Senior Center.

Thank you to Alan & Jeff Svoboda for installing a humidifier in the rectory.

In XT's Love, Fr. Lux

Lector and Acolyte

Acolytes and Lectors

♦ **Day of Recollection** on next Sunday, Feb 26, 2-4pm. All Acolytes and Lectors, all Candidates and their families are welcome to attend.

Fr. Baker will be the leader.

♦ **Last Instruction** today, Sunday; Feb 19 from 2-4:30pm.

♦ **Installation Mass** at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln on Sunday, March 25, at 3pm.

Candidates should arrive by 2:30 PM.

Daddy-Daughter Date Night (preK-Fourth Grade) Dads, treat your daughters (to a special night at the Y in Holdrege on Friday, Feb. 24, from 6:30-8 p.m. Enjoy a sweet treat & a creative activity. Make special memories to last a lifetime. Please register by Feb. 20. This program is open to both Y members & non-members. As with all Y programs, financial assistance is available if needed.

Lenten Adult Education-

Catholicism- Come see the highly acclaimed new series shot around the world featuring Fr. Robert Barron - Thursdays at 7 PM starting 2/23 or Sundays at 6 pm starting 2/26. in All Saints Library. Sessions will be 1.5 hours.

Seven Last Words of Jesus Study on Wednesdays at 4 pm to 5 pm starting this Wednesday, 2/22

Share the Word Bible Study Wednesdays from 1:30-3pm in the "old kitchen"

Women of Grace Bible Study- call Kathy Long 995-8790

All Saints	Saturday, February 18	Saturday, February 25
Rosary:	Barb Dinges	Carol Erickson
Greeters:	Dan & Kim Powers	Ed & Janice Erickson
Servers:	Leo C, Kendrick B, Nick J	Dallas H, volunteer, Braden P
Gifts:	Charles & Kathy Rowell	Andrew & Amy Weides
Lector:	Karen Stute	Karen Stute
Ushers:	Ken Stute, Ron Andrijeski	Ken Stute, Ron Andrijeski
Acolyte:	Larry Gibbons	Larry Gibbons
Music:	Guitar Group	Guitar Group
St. Johns	Sunday, February 19	Sunday, February 26
Rosary:	Ann Forster	Gertie Fox
Acolyte:	Bert Oyler	Bert Oyler
Lector:	Dick Bennett	Dick Bennett
Servers:	Tyrell Younger, Chance Younger	Tyrell Younger, Chance Younger
Gifts:	Youth	Mark Taute family
All Saints	Sunday, February 19	Sunday, February 26
Rosary:	Chuck Burr family	Diane Ostgren
Greeters:	Mark & Carla Andrijeski	Frank & Carol Boysen
Servers:	Michael M, Tim K, Lane B	volunteer, volunteer, Parker H
Gifts:	Martin & Christina McIntire	Luke & Becky Deaver
Lector:	Chuck Birgen	Chuck Birgen
Ushers:	Chadd Jacobson, Jeff Berney	Chadd Jacobson, Jeff Berney
Acolyte:	Mark Andrijeski *Volunteer	Mark Andrijeski *Volunteer
Music:	Choir	Becky Deaver & Bill Yochum

Parish Trustees

All Saints..... Kathy Rowell & Mark Kreutzer
 St. John..... Tom Wilcox & Mike Gardine
 A.S. Parish Council Members..... Steve Golus (P), Linda Fegter (VP), Darlene Clinch (S), Mike Corkery, Christina McIntire, Aaron Pistulka, Denise Smith.
 ASCS Advisory Board Members..... Kim Powers (C), Laura Gardner (S) Heather Florell, Tim Hoeft, Dave Janssen, Kim Powers, Vic Young.

Devotional Schedule

Rosary..... 20 minutes before each Mass
 Divine Mercy Prayers..... 10 minutes before the weekend Rosary
 1st Fri./Sat. Devotions..... after 1st Fri./Sat. Mass
 Communion Calls & Services.. Speak to Fr. Lux
 Adoration Hours..... Thursday before 1st Friday- 7:30 am-9 pm

Organizations

Legion of Mary Saturdays at 8:15 a.m.
 Knights of Columbus..... 1st Mon. of month meeting 7 pm
 Altar Society Sept-May..... 2nd Monday of month 7 pm
 Parish Council..... 3rd Monday of the month 7 pm
 ASC School Advisory Council... 4th Monday of the month 7 pm
 CYO (Hi. Schl.) 3rd Sun. & Jr. CYO (Jr. Hi.)- See bulletin.
 Jon & Chris Karn (H.S.) 995-2762 allsaintshscyo@atcjet.net
 Jannelle Pfeifer (Jr.Hi.) 995-6299 AllSaintsJrCYO@yahoo.com
 Food & Fellowship..... Fawn Hamling 995-6029
 Prayer Chain... E-mail: church@asholdrege.org or Call Fawn Hamling 995-6029
 Sacred Heart Enthronement Kathy Rowell- 876-2271 or (krowell@atcjet.net)

Education

All Saints Catholic School: (Aug. to May) Grades K-4th
 Mon.-Thurs 8 am.-3:20 pm. Fri. 8 am.-1:30 pm.
 Little Saints Pre-school (Aug. to May) ages 3 to 5
 3 yr. old: T/Th 8-11am. 4/5 yr. old: M/W/F 8-11 am Pre-K: M-Th 12:15-3:15 pm
 CCD (Religious Ed.) (Sept.-May) Call Deb Corkery or Fr. Lux 995-4590
 Grades K-6th Wed. 5:10-6:30 pm. Grades 7-12th ... Wed. 7:10-8:30 pm.

Adult Education

Baptism Class: Call office for info. (Preferably before birth of child.)
 Marriage Prep. Class: Call for info at least 6 mos. before you plan to marry.
 Fertility Care Call Kathy Burr- 995-8046
 Instructions in the Faith Class Call office for information.
 Share the Word- Wed. 1:30 pm @ A.S.- Call Rosemary 995-5453
 Review of the Faith- Thu. 7 pm @ A.S. Call Fr. or Angie 995-6710.

Diocese of Lincoln

Ash Wednesday Day of Recollection for men and women—**February 22**, at St. Michael's Church, 7th and Creighton Ave., Hastings, NE.
Speaker: Fr. James Benton
Theme : *It Is Mercy I Desire*
 Rosary - Conference – Confession – Mass & Ashes @11 am – Lunch – Stations of the Cross – Conference.
 Cost \$5 plus meatless salad to share.
 Sponsored by LDCCW

Spaghetti Supper at McCook-St. Patrick Church. Sunday, Feb. 19, 5 to 7 pm. Adults \$6 at the door. (\$5 in advance), Children (ages 6-12) \$3. Raffle.

Lenten Retreat Opportunity for Couples

"My Spouse: The Concrete Presence of Christ in my Life"

Led by

Deacon James Keating, PhD
 Dir. of Theological Formation at The Institute for Priestly Formation
 Saturday, Feb. 25th,
 9am-noon
 St. Vincent de Paul Church, Omaha
 Cost is \$20/couple

Passport2Purity Daddy-Daughter Date Night (grades 5 and older) Is purity something that is difficult to bring up w/ your pre-teen or teen daughter? Join other dads & daughters in a supportive environment at the YMCA on Friday, Mar. 16, from 6:30-8 p.m. Pastor Kenton Birtell will speak about positive choices as reflected in the book "Passport2Purity." The evening will include hors'douevres, dessert and a keepsake photo.

Penitential Disciplines of Lent

The Christian faithful, during Lent, are clearly conscious of the need to turn the mind towards those realities which really count, which require Gospel commitment and integrity of life which, through self denial of those things which are superfluous, are translated into good works and solidarity with the poor and needy.
 (Directory on Popular Piety & the Liturgy, #125Cong. For Divine Worship & the Discipline of the Sacraments-Vatican City December 2001)

Prayer for the Intercession of St. Monica

O God, You are the comfort of those who mourn, and the Savior of all who trust in You. Blessed Monica's loving tears moved You to convert her son, Augustine. Help us, who pray to You for the salvation of our sons and daughters too. May we also grieve for our sins, and win the grace of your pardon, through the intercession of this loving saint, through Christ Our Lord. Amen.
 February is the month for Orleans Deanery to pray daily for the return of children to the Church with this prayer and by Daily Mass.

Youth Ministry

SKY Camp (Catholic Summer Camp for Youth) is a three day (3 days, 2 nights) camp for students entering grades 6-9. 9 camps offered between May 29 and June 25. Carpool opportunity available for camp #3 please call the parish office for more info.

Boy and Girl Scout Awards Mass is Sunday, March 18, 2012 at 2:00 PM at the Cathedral. For more information, contact Fr. Barnhill at 308-697-3722.

A Night of Caring for Camp Kateri Targeting a Bright Future

March 24, 2012

5pm Mass at Stone Creek, McCool Junction
 5:45-6:45pm Social Hour & Silent Auction
 6:45pm Dinner & Music
 8 pm Auction

RSVP by March 14, more info contact Deb Cabela at dcabela@lps.org

Tickets \$30 per person.

A table of 8 (\$240) comes with complimentary drink tickets.



World Youth Day 2013 – Rio de Janeiro:

The Diocese of Lincoln has organized a WYD trip for those who will be 16 by July 14, 2013. The cost is \$3,800 for a 16-day trip from July 14-29 that includes all lodging and travel to Sao Paulo, Mariana and Rio, as well as most meals.

Registration has been extended to February 29, 2012! Forms available at: dioceseof-lincoln.org (Youth Ministry). For more information, call Jeff or Sarah at the Family Life Office, 402-488-2040. *Please note that we extended the deadline for registration. All payments are refundable through the end of the year, so there's no risk in registering at this time.*

Readings for the Week

of February 19, 2012

Sunday: Is 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25/2 Cor 1:18-22/Mk 2:1-12

Monday: Jas 3:13-18/Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday: Jas 4:1-10/Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20--6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32

Next Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

Seminarian of the Week

Murphy James Lierley
 Studying College 2 at
 St. Gregory the Great Seminary.
 Hometown Grant, NE
 Siblings 2 sisters.

GOD CANNOT BE OUTDONE IN GENEROSITY?

Prayer Intentions

Troops	Pat Storz	Shanna Turek
Ron Hill	Special Intent.	Stacie Pistulka
Dan Gitt	Joe Buettner	Robert Hanson
Bette Traill	Connie Brooks	Gloria Nelson
John Ohmes	Wanda Aldrich	Donald Hanson
Thelma Kaps	Bud Vandiver	Mary J. Gardine
Phyllis Colgan	Amy Schroeder	Colleen Cordell
Tawni Walton	Jeffrey Krukemeyer	Sandy Medinger
Zoe Darner	Mary Sigl	Ray Stehno
Harold Dale	Katie Reed	Nick Poppo (Iraq)
Kris Colgan	Anna Peters	Julie Zimmerman
Kirk Colgan	Myron Wendland	Daniel Ward
Ethan Svoboda	Jadyn Babst	Sylvia Sattler
Will Breen	Harold Erickson	Lupe Clark
Bill Karn	Levi Moore	Rosemary Hoban
Ann Hart		
Matilde Rios +	Michael Morgan +	Raymond Lux +

Intentions kept on list for 2 weeks unless the request is renewed or a longer period of prayers is made clear. Permission of those being prayed for is needed.

Birthdays/Anniversaries

2/19	Stacy Buettner, Peggy Morton, Christian Newth
2/20	Jon Hamling,
2/21	Marianne Chesterman, Bud Vandiver
2/22	Cindi Brestel, Allison Nedrig, Carter Newth, John Thorburn
2/23	Chuck Birgen, Dennis Storz
2/24	Carol Boysen, Ines Estrada, John Sattler Dan & Mary Jones
2/25	Dwayne Kudlacek
2/26	Wanda Aldrich, Morgan Hamling, Kay Johnson, Tricia Latter Mike & Mary Jane Gardine

Life and Money with Phil Lenahan© – www.VeritasFinancialMinistries.com

Sirach 31:1-11 describes the attitude we should have toward riches. On the one hand, we have a responsibility to create wealth. On the other hand, wealth can be an impediment to our

relationship with God.

A steward of Providence understands how to create wealth, remain detached, and use it for good.

Our Community

Ministerial Association Prayer
Intention for this week:
Moses Hill Covenant

Feed My Starving Children is coming to Holdrege. Rotary Club & the Phelps County Ministerial Association are planning an August '12 event. of packing special food. They need your help. See www.fmssc.org. Stay tuned for more



February 22-April 1, 2012

40 Days for Life is a focused pro-life campaign that has mobilized over 400,000 people worldwide, saved more than **3,500** lives from abortion, led to the conversion of **43** abortion workers, & seen **9** abortion facilities close.

40 Days of Life is made up of 3 components: **Prayer & Fasting:** believers are invited to join together for 40 days of fervent prayer & fasting for an end to abortion, **Peaceful Vigil:** stand for life during a 40-day peaceful public witness outside the Lincoln Planned Parenthood facility, **Community Outreach:** help take a Positive, upbeat pro-life message to every corner of your city through media efforts, advocacy, & public visibility.

Learn how you can speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves by visiting www.40daysforlife.com/lincoln.

Lent is coming.

What will you do this year to grow closer to Jesus and to help others?



For family ideas this Lent visit orb.crs.org/resources/individual-and-family/

Word of Life

The Church's position on the matter of abortion is unambiguous. The child in his or her mother's womb is a human life which must be protected.

Abortion, which is the destruction of an innocent unborn child, is contrary to God's will, for the value and dignity of human life must be protected from conception to natural death.

The Church ... must be committed to offering help and support to women and couples tempted to seek an abortion, while remaining close to those who have had this tragic experience and helping them to grow in respect for life. **She acknowledges the courage of governments that have legislated against the culture of death** – of which abortion is a dramatic expression – in favour of the culture of life.

~ Pope Benedict XVI, Apostolic Exhortation *Africae Munus* (70), November 19, 2011

God loves you!



LENTEN FISH FRIES

6 Fridays during Lent
5:30-7:30pm in
All Saints Parish Hall.

1st one THIS Friday, Feb 24! Last is Mar. 30.

Stations of the Cross

beginning this Friday– thru Lent:

- ◆All Saints School: Fri. at 1 PM. (Not 3/2 or 3/9).
- ◆Family: Fri. @ 7:30 PM at All Saints.
- ◆CCD: Wed. @ 6 PM & 8 PM at All Sts.
- ◆St. John- Smithfield: Thursdays 7:00 PM.

All are encouraged to participate at any of the Stations of the Cross times.



Calendar of Events

All Saints Parish: Holdrege

Visit the parish website for a complete list of events for the parishes & school.

Normal Office hours: 7:30am-4 pm

Feb 19 Acolyte & Lector training 2-4:30 pm

First Reconciliation 4pm

Feb 20 Parish Council meeting 7pm

Feb 22 Ash Wednesday

CCD Classes-no ashes during class please attend the 6:35pm Mass

Feb 23 Mass at Holdrege Memorial Homes 9am

Feb 26 Acolyte & Lector Day of Recollection 2-4pm

Saint John Parish: Smithfield

2nd Sun. of Am. Legion Brunch- Bertrand Sr. Ctr ea. month:

3rd Sun. of Youth Mass 8:30 am.

each mo: Coffee & Rolls following Mass
Feb. ~ Rogene D. & Mary F.

4th Sun. of Altar Society Meets following Mass ea. month:

Open House

To honor **Gerie Fox** on her 100th Birthday.

Sunday, March 4th from 2-4 pm.

Elwood Senior Center, No gifts please!

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC SCHOOL:

Feb 27 Advisory Board meeting 7pm

91.5 Spirit Catholic Radio Network for the Christian Community! Also- www.spiritcatholicradio.com

SCRIP

Next order Feb 27 by 9am

SCRIP info/order form on Church website.

Stop and see what cards are on hand this weekend.

Our scrip program allows families to use multiple types of gift cards to shop in stores or online for the things they use everyday.

Give it a try! Stop by the table after Mass.

See what we have or what can be ordered. there are 100's of options available.

Still have questions about how the program works? Call the office we can tell you more!

AS Altar Society

Altar Society Dues -we need you!

58 women have paid dues

121 women have not paid dues

Please use the church collection basket to pay \$17.92

Thank you!



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3103 • FAX 202-541-3166

BULLETIN INSERT

Sweeping HHS Mandate Stands, Violating Conscience Rights and Religious Liberty Congress Must Act to Fix the Problem

On January 20, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) reaffirmed a rule that virtually all private health care plans must cover sterilization, abortifacients, and contraception. The exemption provided for "religious employers" was so narrow that it failed to cover the vast majority of faith-based organizations—including Catholic hospitals, universities, and charities—that help millions every year. Ironically, not even Jesus and his disciples would have qualified for the exemption, because it excludes those who mainly serve people of another faith.

On February 10, the Obama Administration made this rule final "without change"; delayed enforcement for a year against religious nonprofits that were still not exempted (our charities, hospitals, and colleges); and promised to develop more regulations to "accommodate" them by the end of that additional year. But, as explained below, that promised "accommodation" still forces them to pay for "services" that violate their religious convictions.

The original rule that violated our religious liberty so severely has not been changed, but finalized.

After touting meaningful changes in the mandate, HHS instead finalized the original rule that was first issued in August 2011 "without change." So the offensive definition of "religious employer"—which excludes our charities, hospitals, and colleges because they serve people of other faiths—is still in place, and those institutions are still subject to the mandate.

HHS has promised some kind of "accommodation," but only after the election.

HHS said it would take an additional year to develop more regulations to "accommodate" religiously-affiliated charities, schools, and hospitals that still fall outside the "religious employer" exemption. The impact of these additional rules will not be felt until after the election, the only point of public accountability for the Executive Branch. This eliminates an important incentive for HHS to provide the best protection for religious liberty

The promised "accommodation"—even at its best—would still force our institutions to violate their beliefs.

Under the proposed "accommodation," if an employee of these religious institutions wants coverage of contraception or sterilization directly from the insurer, the objecting employer is still forced to pay for it as a part of the employer's insurance plan. Since there is no other source, the funds to pay for that coverage must come from the premiums of the employer and fellow employees, even those who object in conscience.

There is no exemption for objecting insurers, secular employers, for-profit religious employers, or individuals.

The U.S. bishops defend religious liberty for all, and so have repeatedly identified all the stakeholders in the process whose religious freedom is threatened by the mandate—all employers, insurers, and individuals, not just religious employers. Now, all insurers, including self-insurers, must provide the coverage to any employee who wants it. In turn, all individuals who pay premiums have no escape from subsidizing that coverage. And only employers that are both non-profit and religious may qualify for the limited "accommodation."

We urgently need legislation to correct the mandate's threats to religious liberty and conscience rights. The Respect for Rights of Conscience Act has been introduced in Congress (H.R. 1179, S. 1467) to ensure that those who participate in the market for health insurance "retain the right to provide, purchase, or enroll in health coverage that is consistent with their religious beliefs and moral convictions."

ACTION: Contact your U.S. Representative by e-mail, phone, or FAX letter:

- Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Members' local offices.
- Send your email to Congress through www.usccb.org/conscience.
- Additional contact info can be found on Members' web sites at: www.house.gov and www.senate.gov.

MESSAGE: "Please co-sponsor and support the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act (H.R. 1179, S. 1467). The Obama administration's decision to mandate coverage of sterilization and contraceptives, including drugs that can cause an abortion, makes passage of this measure especially urgent. Please ensure that the religious liberty and conscience rights of all participants in our nation's health care system are respected."

WHEN: Now is the time to build co-sponsors and support. Please act today! Thanks!

LENTEN SUGGESTIONS

Increased Prayer:

- Wake up 20 minutes early and start the day in prayer.
- Daily Mass 1-2 times a week.
- An hour in Adoration a week.
- Go to Confession.
- Read Scripture daily.
- Go to a Lenten Bible study.
- Read a spiritual book.
- Start to pray a daily Rosary.
- Pray the Liturgy of the hours.
- Pray a Divine Mercy Chaplet.
- Stations of the Cross on Fridays.
- Pray for your enemies.
- Watch The Passion of the Christ and then meditate on Christ's life.
- Read about the life of a saint.
- Do an extra spiritual activity at Church
- Get involved in your parish if you aren't already.
- Memorize Scripture verses.
- Check out a book on spirituality from the parish library.

Increased Almsgiving:

- When you fast from a meal, give the money you would spend to the poor.
- Use a coin box from and put all change into it for the poor.
- Volunteer with St. Vincent de Paul or another charitable organization.
- Spend more time with your parents.
- Visit a nursing home.
- Start tithing. (Giving 10% of one's income to Church and Charity)
- Make a pledge to a worthy charity.
- Forgive an old grudge.
- Invite someone to Church.

Share your faith with someone.

Give someone a Catholic tract or CD.

Exercise patience and love.

Speak in a pleasant tone to everyone.

Look for extra ways to help others.

Go out of your way to talk to someone who is shy or difficult.

Offer to watch a mother's child(ren).

Drive with love.

Write a letter to a relative you haven't seen in a while.

Increased fasting:

The following are good things we can fast from and have back at a later time:

Fast on bread and water on Fridays.

Fast from TV.

Fast from snacking or candy.

Fast from the radio in your car.

Fast from Facebook, Twitter, and/or the internet.

Fast from texting.

Fast from caffeine.

Do not use seasoning on your food.

Fast from alcohol (You should not drink at any time if you abuse alcohol or are not yet 21).

The following are things we fast from and continue to give up:

Fast from speeding.

Fast from sarcasm or gossip.

Fast from pornography.

Fast from envying what others have.

Fast from being lazy or procrastination.

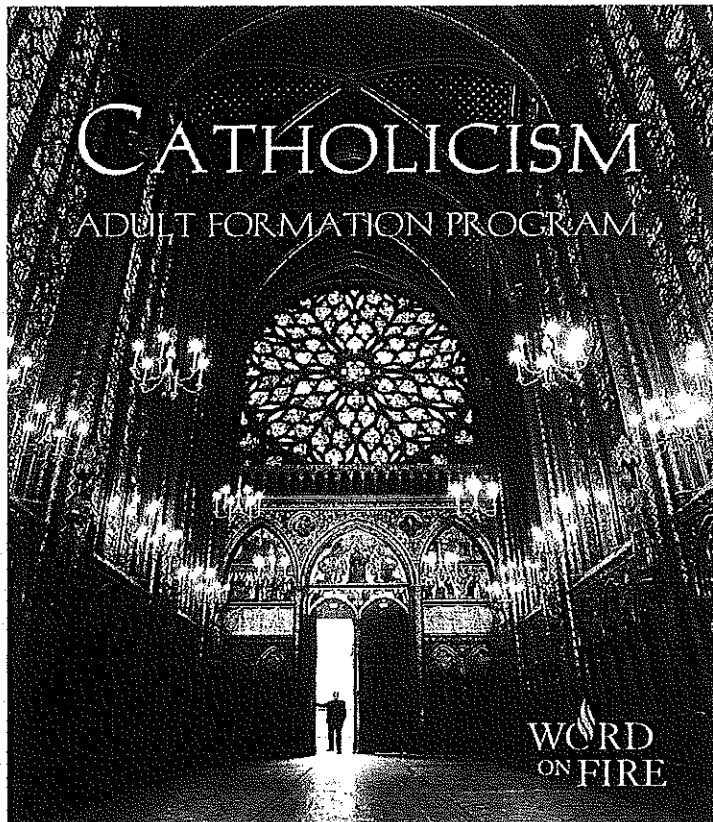
Fast from not studying / working hard.

Fast from complaining.

Fast from some other bad habit

CATHOLICISM

Journey Around the World and Deep into the Faith



"Simply the most vivid catechism ever created; a high-def illustrated manuscript for the twenty-first century; the best-ever film about the Catholic faith."

-Brad Miner, *The Catholic Thing* blog

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Father Robert Barron is an acclaimed author, theologian and podcasting priest from Chicago, and one of the world's great and most innovative teachers of the Catholic faith. He is the founder of **Word on Fire Catholic Ministries**.

Thursdays 7pm - 8:30p Sundays 6p - 7:30pm
@ All Saints.

To register, please fill out the following information and return it to the rectory or your parish representative: Fr. Luke

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Please return form by: _____

WORD
ON FIRE