

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 6, 2020



SAINTS CYRIL AND  
METHODIUS PARISH

FARNOST' SVÄTÝCH  
CYRILA A METODA



A Personal Parish Established To Serve The Slovak Catholic Community In The Archdiocese Of Detroit



# 23<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault  
between you and him alone. If he listens to you,  
you have won over your brother.” - Mt 18:15

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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# MASS Intentions

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## September 5, First Saturday – Sobota

- 9:00AM **Mass Inside Church**  
For the Members of the Rosary Society  
❖ For Ibrahim Aziz ❖ †Cristina Cambare
- 5:30PM **Outdoor Mass**  
For Monir & Alia Korkis & Family  
❖ For Kevin Aziz ❖ For Nedhal Aziz  
❖ For Joseph Morraye req. Sister, Mary  
❖ †Gary Gasparski req. Family ❖ †Joe Basirico  
❖ †Marie, Douglas, & Molly Obriecht

## September 6, 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Nedela

Ex 33:7-9; Rom 13:8-10; Mt 18:15-20 (127)

- 7:30AM **Mass Inside Church**  
For Fr. Libor Marek (B'Day) ❖ For Kola Peter Gojcaj  
❖ †Mary Surman & Family ❖ †Michelle Levell  
❖ †Richard Walczyk ❖ †Eileen Rolling  
❖ †Mazen Shango ❖ †Mark Shango ❖ †Gene Kucharek
- 9:30AM **Outdoor Mass**  
For Fr. Libor Marek (B'Day) ❖ For Andrew Melnyk  
❖ For Kola Peter Gojcaj ❖ For James Wilkins (B'Day)  
❖ For Brian & Lisa Koziol & Family  
❖ For William & Theresa Melnyk ❖ †Anna Sutherland  
❖ †Virginia Pierce req. Cindy & Dennis Zitny  
❖ For the Deceased Members of the Knights of  
Columbus St. Nicholas Council & their Families
- 11:30AM **(Slovak) Mass Inside Church**  
In Thanksgiving req. Kola Peter Gjočaj ❖ For the Holy  
Souls in Purgatory ❖ For Fr. Libor Marek (B'Day)  
❖ For Lamia, Vera, and Bearg Deza ❖ †Jozef Petr  
❖ †Julia Mary Gulas ❖ †Albert Balaz
- 6:00PM **(Tridentine) Mass Inside Church**  
For the Intentions of All Parishioners
- 8:30PM **Outdoor Mass**  
In Thanksgiving req. Marie Kerry  
❖ For Fr. Libor Marek (B'Day)  
❖ For Therese Maria Faustina Gielegem (3rd B'Day)  
❖ For Patrick, Stephanie & Emmanuel Korkis  
❖ For Ho's Family req. Kim Nguyen ❖ †Eleanor Bobola  
❖ †Claire Kuza ❖ †Sana Shamas ❖ †Anansa Bakko  
❖ †Luce Grishi & Family

## September 7, Monday – Pondelok

- 12:00PM **Mass Inside Church**  
For Greg Langlois req. Langlois Family  
❖ For Julius Aziz ❖ For Sophia & Family  
❖ †Gertrudes Atienza ❖ †Norman Hanna  
❖ †Barry Rechtzigel (5th. Ann.)

## September 8, Tuesday – Utorok

- 6:00AM **Outdoor Mass**  
For the Holy Souls in Purgatory ❖ For Luba Korytowsky  
❖ For Fictoria Hannakeachel Family
- 12:00PM **Mass Inside Church**  
For the Holy Souls in Purgatory ❖ For Bryan & Michael  
Garcia (B'Days) ❖ †Richard & Esther Baginski

## September 9, Wednesday – Streda

- 12:00PM **Mass Inside Church**  
In Thanksgiving req. Kola Peter Gojcaj  
❖ For Mong Ching ❖ For Mia Debczak  
❖ †Donald Weil II req. James D. Weil  
❖ †Cynthia Yanik req. Fam. ❖ †Mary Klebans req. Fam.

## September 10, Thursday – Štvrtok

- 6:00AM **Outdoor Mass**  
For all Healthcare Workers ❖ For Alexandra Schultheis  
❖ For Meri Kasneci ❖ †Mary Klebans req. Family
- 12:00PM **Mass Inside Church**  
For Greg & Jean Wolf (32 Wed. Ann.)  
❖ For Monir Korkis (B'Day)  
❖ For Alexandra Schultheis req. Dan & Jan  
❖ For Gary & Annette Rudzewicz ❖ †Brian Czach

## September 11, Friday – Piatok

- 6:00AM **Outdoor Mass**  
For Alexa Lysik (B'Day)  
❖ †Angeline Funk ❖ †Thomas Langlois  
❖ †Michael Burke ❖ †Adelbert & Mildred Novotny
- 12:00PM **Mass Inside Church**  
For Tim & Victoria Roddy & Family  
❖ †Virginia Pierce req. Cindy & Dennis Zitny  
❖ †Maryann Ingrao ❖ For the Deceased Members &  
Families of 9/11 req. Shirley Polakowski

## September 12, Saturday – Sobota

- 9:00AM **Mass Inside Church**  
For the Members of O. L. Mother of Mercy Secular  
Disalced Carmelites  
❖ For Fr. Ben Kosnac ❖ For Grace Avery (B'Day)
- 5:30PM **Outdoor Mass**  
For the Holy Souls in Purgatory  
❖ For Renee Dzieciolowski  
❖ For Chris & Courtney DePerro (5th wed Ann.)  
❖ For Nedhal Aziz ❖ For Karen Miller (B'Day)  
❖ For the Gammo & Gill Families ❖ †Adam Johnson

## September 13, 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Nedela

Sir 27:30—28:7; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35 (130)

- 7:30AM **Mass Inside Church**  
In Thanksgiving req. Kola Peter Gojcaj  
❖ For Pam Mulligan & Family  
❖ For Constance Beste (B'Day) ❖ For Kevin Aziz  
❖ For the Menard and Daniel Families  
❖ For the Makarewicz Family  
❖ †Richard Walczyk req. Daphne Johnson  
❖ †Walter Bzdera ❖ †Roslyn Black  
❖ †Shirley J. Robinson req. Stephen Satkiewicz
- 10:00AM **Mass Inside Church**  
**\*Special Bilingual Holy Mass & Benediction of the Anniversary Cross**  
In Thanksgiving req. Kola Peter Gojcaj  
❖ For the Holy Souls in Purgatory  
❖ For a Special Intention req. Kola Peter Gjočaj  
❖ For the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima  
❖ For Chris Weil (B'Day)  
❖ For Andrew Melnyk  
❖ For Joy Wilkins (B'Day)  
❖ For Brian & Lisa Koziol & Fam.  
❖ For William & Theresa Melnyk ❖ †Robert Nowak Jr.  
❖ For Anna & †Paul Magusin ❖ †Julia Mary Gulas  
❖ †Virginia Pierce req. Cindy & Dennis Zitny  
❖ †Karen Jordan ❖ †Bill & Beverly Young
- 6:00PM **(Tridentine) Mass Inside Church**  
For Fr. Paul Czarnota req. RoseAnn Lebioda
- 8:30PM **Outdoor Mass**  
For the Intentions of All Parishioners

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time • September 6, 2020

Welcome

Jesus Christ, The High Priest

Fr. Libor Marek, Pastor • [lmarek@saintcyrils.church](mailto:lmarek@saintcyrils.church)

Fr. Juraj Nuota, Associate Pastor • [jnuota@saintcyrils.church](mailto:jnuota@saintcyrils.church)

Deacon Phil McCown • [wadephil@yahoo.com](mailto:wadephil@yahoo.com)

Deacon Gerald Smigell • [vgsmigell@gmail.com](mailto:vgsmigell@gmail.com)

Parish Office • [parishoffice@saintcyrils.church](mailto:parishoffice@saintcyrils.church)

WEEKEND HOLY MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY HOLY MASS: 5:30PM (Vigil) – OUTDOOR

SUNDAY HOLY MASSES: 7:30AM, 11:30 (Slovak) & 6:00 (*Latin Tridentine*) - INDOOR

9:30AM & 8:30PM - OUTDOOR

WEEKDAY HOLY MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY - FRIDAY: 12:00PM – INDOOR

TUESDAY, THURSDAY & FRIDAY: 6:00AM - OUTDOOR

SATURDAY: 9:00AM - INDOOR

† For Indoor Holy Masses: Please continue to wear face masks and, if possible, bring hand sanitizer.

† For Outdoor Holy Masses: Please bring a folding chair and dress appropriately in case of inclement weather.

† Always check the website before you come to Mass for any last-minutes changes or cancellations.

CONFESSION SCHEDULE: (Registration Required)

Registration Forms for Confession are Available on the Parish Website: [www.saintcyrils.church](http://www.saintcyrils.church)

Confessions are outdoors by the Slovak cross and behind the church building. Please wear a face mask.

Monday, Wednesday & Friday: 10:30AM - 11:30AM

Tuesday & Thursday: 6:00PM - 7:00PM

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:

EVERY THURSDAY: 1:00PM - 7:00PM (in the Church)

OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY: 11:00AM - 12:00PM & 1:00PM - 2:00PM

THURSDAY: 11:00AM - 12:00PM & 1:00PM - 5:00PM

CHAPEL HOURS:

DAILY: 1:00PM - 10:00PM

**Holy Mass & Benediction of the Anniversary Cross • Sunday, September 13 ☩ 10:00AM**



2018 marked 100 years of the existence of our Parish. Expressing gratitude to God and remembering our Slovak heritage, a traditional wooden carved commemoration cross was designed and built on the parish grounds. We desire that it will remain a constant testimony to our roots and a place for drawing spiritual strength for all people.

A Solemn Benediction of the Commemoration Cross will take place on Sunday, September 13, 2020. The event will begin at 10:00AM with an outdoor Holy Mass celebrated by Most Rev. Robert J. Fisher, Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit, followed by the Solemn Benediction of the Commemoration Cross. (The 9:30AM & 11:30AM (Slovak) Holy Masses will be combined on this day.) Please bring a folding chair.

There will be a small outdoor Social after the 10:00AM Holy Mass.

Please bring individually-wrapped cookies or brownies before 9:00AM on Sunday, September 13.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY FATHER LIBOR Sunday, September 6



### Life Teen & EDGE Youth Group Ministries

Life Teen and EDGE Nights will begin on Monday, September 21, in-person, outside: (in the grassy area behind the main church building.)

Stay tuned for more information through our email updates. If you currently do not receive them and would like to be put on our mailing list, email: [lifeteen@saintcyrils.church](mailto:lifeteen@saintcyrils.church) or [edge@saintcyrils.church](mailto:edge@saintcyrils.church)

Parents, please register new **AND** returning teens at:  
[tinyurl.com/edgelifeteen](http://tinyurl.com/edgelifeteen).

Teens should be registered every year. Thanks!

We are looking for Life Teen Cor volunteers and parent "hall" monitors o mentor teens and help with the outdoor or virtual Life and EDGE Nights this fall. We are in need of at least four more volunteers to make these Nights happen.

If you have questions about volunteering, please contact:  
Alexandria Lewis: (586)641-7672 [lifeteen@saintcyrils.church](mailto:lifeteen@saintcyrils.church)

### Catechism Classes Begin • September 16

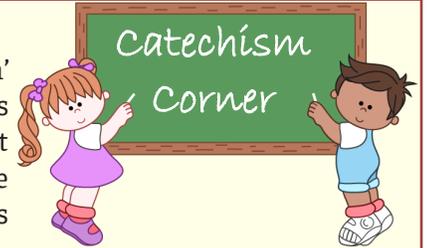
After prayer, research and much discussion, we have decided to do an 'in person' Catechism Program this school year. The number of students enrolled in the Religious Education Program is about 65 percent of what it has been in years past and although it is a little disappointing, it is understandable and we want to look at the positive as we appreciate that this will allow us to implement enhanced safety and cleaning procedures outlined by the Archdiocese and issued by the State of Michigan.

Classes begin Wednesday, September 16, at 6:15PM. Guidelines and a calendar were mailed to all families of registered students. Please let us know if you did not receive your envelope. Homeschool Students receiving a Sacrament this school year should receive a packet with testing information by the end of September.

If you have not registered your child because of your concerns regarding in-person Catechism classes, please call us and perhaps we can answer those concerns and possibly ease your mind with an alternate plan to in-person class.

We are truly grateful, that in these unusual times, our fervent volunteers, have once again given of their time and talent to assist the parents of our parish in teaching their children to encounter, grow, and witness the faith. Please keep them and all our families in your prayers.

Thank you, *Paul & Carroll Schuller*, [cschuller@saintcyrils.church](mailto:cschuller@saintcyrils.church), (586) 726-6911 parish, or (586) 254-9212



## Becoming Catholic RCIA Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (R.C.I.A.)

#### Adult Catholic Catechism Classes Begin Thursday, September 17

Do you know anyone who ...

- ◆ Is interested in becoming Catholic?
- ◆ Was never baptized or received First Holy Communion or Confirmation?
- ◆ Is interested in learning what the Catholic Church teaches?

This Fall, join a group of passionate Catholics as they teach and explore the treasures and riches of the Roman Catholic Faith. Together, we will discuss topics like: \*Faith & Reason \*The Bible and Sacred Tradition \*The Pope & Church Authority \*Purgatory \*The Blessed Virgin Mary \*Angels & Saints \*The Sacraments \*and so much more...

If you, or someone you know, has never been Baptized, Confirmed, or received First Holy Communion, and would like to; or if you have, but just want to learn more about what the Catholic Church teaches, now is your time to act!

This course will help you learn the Catholic Faith, prepare you to receive the Sacraments, and/or enter into full communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil on April 3, 2021.

The Ss. Cyril & Methodius RCIA meetings will begin in September and will be held in-person from 7:00PM – 8:30PM on Thursday evenings, beginning September 17. Maximum safety precautions and cleaning procedures, as outlined by the Archdiocese and issued by the State of Michigan, will be enforced. (Face masks will be required.)

If you have any questions, would like more information, or to sign up, please contact: *Ron Potempski*, (586) 879-3385



## Drop-off Food Drive & Flag Retirement Drive

Saturday, September 19 • 9:30AM - 11:30AM

Help stock the shelves at St. Christine's Food Bank

More and more families are not able to make ends meet and are coming to St. Christine's Community Services food bank for groceries. The food bank currently helps 195 families each week; a 35% increase since last fall. The need for food to feed these families is great. To help

stock the food bank, St. Cyril's will be sponsoring a non-perishable food drive at the Activity Center on Saturday, September 19, from 9:30AM to 11:30AM. The foods that are most needed are canned meats or tuna, cereal, salad dressings, and taco or pizza making kits but donations of any canned or packaged foods (no glass jars, please!) will be greatly appreciated. Please bring your donation in a sturdy cardboard box or a bag ready to be transported.

Because of current restrictions, this will be a drop-off food collection. What does that mean? It will be a lot like the drop off for Catechism. You will enter the Activity Center parking lot from 18 Mile Road and drive to the back of the building.

Please have your donations in your trunk (preferably) or back seat. Volunteers will direct you to place your donation in the back of the delivery truck or will do this for you while practicing social distancing. You will then continue around the Activity Center and exit to 18 Mile Road. To make the drop-off run smoothly and quickly,

If you are attending the 9:00AM Holy Mass, please park in the church's main lot.



If you are a parishioner and in need of food, please contact the Parish Office or speak with Fr. Libor or Fr. Juraj after Mass.

### Knights of Columbus FLAG RETIREMENT Drive

Also on Saturday, September 19, from 9:30AM to 11:30AM, the Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Blessed Virgin Mary Assembly 1839 will collect unserviceable U.S. Flags. Please enter the Activity Center parking lot from 18 Mile Road and drive to the back of the building and a member of the Knights of Columbus will respectfully collect your old, unserviceable U.S. flags.

These flags will be delivered to the proper location to be retired in a dignified and solemn ceremony.

## Mosaic Renderings on Display through September

Last October, Fr. Kamil Drab, CSSR, master mosaic artist known as the "Michelangelo of Slovakia", visited our church to share his deep knowledge of, and devotion to, the Mosaic artform and to determine how Mosaic artwork could enhance our worship space. Father Drab returned to Slovakia eager to create renderings for our consideration to include this form of sacred artwork in our church.

Recently, we received Fr. Drab's proposals and they will be on display in the Fr. Mikus (North) Hall through September. As Father Drab discussed when he visited us, there is much symbolism in the design of our church, as there is in all churches. He expressed that the original architect of Ss. Cyril & Methodius designed three hexagon-shaped skylights: one in the vestibule, one above the baptismal font and one above the altar. It was designed like this to represent the way of Christian initiation: one begins in the vestibule outside the sanctuary, then travels to the baptismal font where one becomes a member of the Catholic Church and then to the altar where one receives Christ in the Eucharist. There are ledges that form a line connecting the skylights. Father Drab is recommending that these "lines" be adorned by touches of gold artwork.

The Mosaic artwork would begin in the entryway of the church, above the baptismal font. Representations of the Old Testament would adorn the upper left walls that lead to the sanctuary, while the New Testament would adorn the upper right walls that lead to the sanctuary. The two triangular walls that are positioned on the outside of the crucifix would feature our patrons, Ss. Cyril & Methodius, as well as the two original Ss. Cyril & Methodius churches.

The Old Testament representations on the left-hand side of the church would begin with the Story of Creation, Adam & Eve, Noah, Abraham, Joseph (coat of many colors), Moses and the Red Sea/Ten Commandments). The New Testament representations on the right-hand side of the church would begin with the Annunciation, followed by the: Birth of Jesus, Baptism in the Jordan, Wedding Feast at Cana, Parable of the Sower, Prodigal Son, Healing the Blind Man, Our Lady of Sorrows, Last Supper, Resurrection and Pentecost.

Our beautiful Crucifix would remain as-is, with the back marble wall enhanced with gold-leaf detailing to tie all the beautiful Mosaic artwork together.

**See Father Drab's Mosaic sketches/renderings in the Father Mikus Hall through September:**

**Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday from 11:00AM - 2:00PM or Thursdays from 11:00AM - 7:00PM**

**Weekends: After All Holy Masses**

**\*PLEASE wear a face mask and keep 6' social distancing**

This project is on hold at this time. Before making any decisions, your input is encouraged. Email: [lmarek@saintcyriels.church](mailto:lmarek@saintcyriels.church). Fr. Libor will evaluate where we stand with finances in a few months in order to make the most prudent decision.



## CSA 2020 • Goal: \$156,616

Due to the pandemic, CSA 2020 was delayed until this Fall and some changes have been made to the CSA procedures. In order to improve timeliness of payment processing, the Archdiocese made the decision to handle the majority of the processing for the appeal this year.

You may have already received the CSA information from the Archdiocese in the mail or you should receive it shortly. If you've already received the information, please note that the phone number that was listed in the mailing was incorrect. The correct number is: (888) 331-8695 if you would like to set up payments over the phone.

The preferred method of donating to CSA this year is to call the number above or go to the website [www.givecsa.org](http://www.givecsa.org). This will ensure the fastest and most accurate posting of your donations. The green CSA envelopes were also provided in your latest envelope packets. You may still use these green envelopes if you are not comfortable with the other methods of contributing. All checks for the CSA collection should be made payable to "Archdiocese of Detroit – CSA".

The formal kick off of CSA is forthcoming at which time more information will be shared about this year's appeal.



### Daily Public Rosary for our Country Together We Pray, United We Stand

There are only 58 days until the Presidential Election. Our country needs prayers so please come as often as you can

to support each other in this peaceful prayer event for our country. The daily public Rosary for our Country is prayed daily, outdoors, and will continue until the Presidential Election on Tuesday, November 3.

Prayers take place on weekdays at 5:30PM & weekends at 8:30AM. Bring a chair and do not park in front of the Slovak Cross in order to keep the area around the cross open for those participating. Please practice social distancing.

*"I pray that they may be [one] in Us,  
that the world may believe that You sent Me."* –John 17:21

### Get Ready to VOTE! Registration Drive YOU can change our country's future!

*"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."*

These profound words were said by Edmund Burke, who also stated, *"Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do little."* It is our patriotic duty and privilege to vote. If you are 18 years or older, you must be registered in order to vote.

Registrations will be available after all Holy Masses the weekend of September 19 & 20.

You may also register on-line at [SOSMichiganVote](http://SOSMichiganVote)

### Knights of Columbus • Empty Baby Bottles

Please return any empty baby bottles that were passed out by the Knights of Columbus earlier this year. You may return your empty bottles to the box located in the vestibule on weekdays and on weekends when the church is open. Thank you!

### September Bilingual Rosary • Friday, September 11

During the pandemic, the Monthly Bilingual Rosary has still taken place. The September Bilingual Rosary will be recorded this Friday, September 11, and should soon be available on our website: [www.saintcyriils.church](http://www.saintcyriils.church), go to the "Resources" tab and then "Media".

If you have prayer intentions that you would like to be included in our next Bilingual Rosary, (which will also be included in a private rosary for the month of September), please submit them by Wednesday, September 9.

Organized by: *Maria Lamerova* and *Cindy & Dennis Zitny*

### Red Cross Blood Drive • September 22 • 1:00 - 6:45PM

As you know, donating blood products is essential to community health and the need for blood products is constant. If you donated whole blood at our Blood Drive in July, you are eligible to donate at our upcoming Blood Drive on Tuesday, September 22. All blood, platelet and plasma donations will be tested for COVID-19 antibodies. Questions: 1-800-RED-CROSS

To donate:

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>

For more information, visit: <http://www.redcross.org> or

### Missalettes Available

When the pandemic began in March, the Breaking Bread Missalettes were removed from the pews in order to minimize the potential of spreading germs. The missalettes have been in storage since that time.

If you would like a missalette, you are welcome to take one for your private use. Feel free to bring the missalette to Mass each week, but please remember to take it home with you. The missalettes include the Sunday and Holy Day readings through Thanksgiving Day, November 26.

Missalettes are available after all weekend Holy Masses while they last.

## New Weekday Mass & Office Schedule Beginning Monday, September 14:

### NEW WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 14:

**MONDAYS: 9AM (Indoor) & 12PM (Indoor)**

**TUESDAYS: 6AM (Outdoor) & 12PM (Indoor)**

**WEDNESDAYS: 9AM (Indoor) & 12PM (Indoor)**

**THURSDAYS: 6AM (Outdoor), 12PM (Indoor) & 7PM (Indoor)**

**FRIDAYS: 6AM (Outdoor) & 12PM (Indoor)**

### NEW WEEKDAY OFFICE SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 14:

**MONDAYS: 10AM - 2PM**

**TUESDAYS: 11AM - 2PM**

**WEDNESDAYS: 10AM - 2PM**

**THURSDAYS: 11:AM - 5PM**

**FRIDAYS: 11AM - 2PM**

# CIVILIZE IT



## DIGNITY BEYOND THE DEBATE

2020

### What does it mean to form my conscience?

Catholics have a long tradition of engagement in the public square. Sometimes that engagement requires making difficult moral decisions that impact our own lives and those of others. Our conscience can help guide the decisions we make. The Second Vatican Council guides us: “Always summoning [one] to love good and avoid evil, the voice of conscience can when necessary speak to [one’s] heart more specifically: do this, shun that” (*Gaudium et Spes* 16). However, our conscience doesn’t just come to us when we are born. We must work throughout our lives to form it through prayer, learning, and conversation.

#### How do I form my conscience?

It takes time to form our consciences so that we can make well-reasoned judgments about particular, real-life situations. The Church teaches that it is important to work continually on conscience formation so we can be prepared to make decisions whenever the opportunity arises. Some specific ideas to form your conscience are:

- 1) Begin by **being open to the truth** and what is right.
- 2) **Study Sacred Scripture** and the **teaching** of the Church.
- 3) **Examine the facts** and **background information** about various choices and be discerning in where we gather information.
- 4) **Prayerfully reflect** to discern the will of God (*Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, no. 18).

Additionally, it is important to consider how

our community of faith can help us form good consciences through some of these steps:

- 1) Seek the **prudent advice** and **good example** of trusted leaders and others to support and enlighten our conscience.
- 2) Learn about the **authoritative teaching** of the Church.
- 3) Pray for the **gifts of the Holy Spirit** to help us develop our conscience.
- 4) Regularly partake in an **examination of conscience** to hear God’s voice in your life.<sup>1</sup>

Doing the work of forming our consciences can seem daunting. Fortunately, we have many church teachings that can help us in this important task. *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship* is an important resource for U.S. Catholics and helps us prayerfully reflect on how we can apply Church teaching in our civic life. “Conscience is not something that allows us to justify doing whatever we want, nor is it a mere “feeling” about what we should or should not do. Rather, **conscience is the voice of God resounding in the human heart**, revealing the truth to us and calling us to do what is good while shunning what is evil.”<sup>2</sup>

Here are some questions for further reflection:

1. When has my conscience guided me to “do good and avoid evil”?
2. What are some key resources I can use to form my conscience?
3. Forming conscience is a “lifelong task.” What do I do to *regularly* form my conscience? What more should I do?

<sup>1</sup> Catechism of the Catholic Church (2nd ed.). Washington, DC: Libreria Editrice Vaticana–United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), 2000, no 1777

<sup>2</sup> USCCB. *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. Washington, DC: 2015, no. 17

