

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Ponca City, Oklahoma

July 1, 2018

Dear parishioners,

With the passing of SQ 788, medical marijuana is going to be decriminalized and made available in our state. That is something I thought I would never write as a resident of conservative Oklahoma! As Catholics, we can ask the question, now that marijuana is legal, is it moral? I'm going to punt on this issue and use a newspaper article from the National Catholic Register which addresses this issue. Dr. Christian Brugger, who was one of my moral theology teachers, addresses some questions you might have about the morality of marijuana.

"The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "The use of drugs inflicts very grave damage on health and life. Their use, except on strictly therapeutic grounds, is a grave offense." After considering the effects of marijuana use, moral theologians said a user's intention is crucial to determining its morality. Cannabis is not intrinsically evil, so an analysis of the morality of smoking pot is found by determining the object of the act of smoking, said Christian Brugger, a moral theologian and seminary professor in Colorado. Recreational pot smokers use marijuana to induce themselves into a state of euphoria. So the object is to get "high" and to alter their consciousness. Yet consciousness is needed to make choices, and to impair the human mind is to impair the ability to make choices, he said. Therefore, if a person is high, it's more difficult for them to make good choices. Sacred Scripture doesn't address getting high, but it is filled with warnings about drunkenness. "Scriptures are pretty harsh about it," Brugger said. Ephesians 5:18 and Romans 13:13 advise against carousing and drunkenness because it is a behavior of those who walk in darkness, and it damages the ability to make wise choices. Luke 21 says to avoid indulgence and worldly cares to be ready for Christ's second coming. "In all of these cases, what's being gotten at is drunkenness puts you in a state of mind that diminishes your ability to act reasonably, or according to Christian reason," Brugger said. The same moral assessment on drunkenness can be applied to getting high. Temperance is key, de Solenni said. "Temperance is about how to be fully human. We use temperance to determine and to evaluate all our actions," she said.

Is Moderate Use Acceptable?

Pot advocates may argue their intention is to relax at home after work, not to get high. If pot is akin to alcohol and can be used temperately, is it morally acceptable? De Solenni said, no, it cannot be used moderately. "Once you've gone beyond the buzz, you actually lose control over your rational functions — it's wrong. It goes against our nature and who we're supposed to be." Brugger said it may be. "I think, ordinarily, if it's not a near occasion of sin for you, if you're not inclined to alcoholism, having a beer when you come home from work is not a bad thing. It can be a good thing," he said. "(Likewise), if one kept pot in strict moderation, it seems to me, it need not always be immoral. But there are other things bearing upon the question." Christian witness is also a crucial consideration. Because marijuana has been associated with a culture of lawlessness and rebellion, it could be a near

occasion of sin to those who witness others smoking it, Brugger said. And even if used in moderation, Catholics have good reason to avoid pot when alternatives like a glass of wine are available. "I think the cultural factor and witness factor is one in which I would argue that Catholics ought to avoid its use," he said.

The following link can be used to find the entire article, which I advise reading in its entirety. <http://www.ncregister.com/daily-news/to-puff-or-not-to-puff>

So, moral theologians are still debating the morality of marijuana use, and this article was used when Colorado and Washington made recreational marijuana legal. Bottom-line when it comes to discussing the morality of marijuana use, especially in a medical or therapeutic fashion, is...we don't know. What are you using it for, and how much are you using? Is it helping or harming you? Are you able to function as a regular human being or not? These are all questions that must be considered. Again, these are not my personal opinions, but the teachings of the moral arm of the Church. Free will is God's greatest gift to us, so when we abuse that gift we tell God that we don't care for his gift. So, when it comes to this question, intention is key, but the Church really doesn't have a solid opinion. So...there ya go. I hope you all have a blessed week, and know of my prayers.

In Christ,

Fr. Carson



Mass Schedule

MONDAY, JULY 2, 2018

12:10pm †Chris Pickrel/Jim & Suzy Paschal

TUESDAY, JULY 3, 2018

12:10pm †Theresa Sempner/Grace Nalepa

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4, 2018-INDEPENDENCE DAY

9:00am †Mass of Thanksgiving/Michel Gray

9:00am People of the Parish (*St. Francis of Assist, Newkirk*)

THURSDAY, JULY 5, 2018

9:30am †Mark Vap/His Family

(*St. Francis of Assisi, Newkirk, OK*)

4:00pm †Don Lawson/Sue Lawson

(*Via Christi Chapel*)

FRIDAY, JULY 6, 2018

7:00am Spec. Int. Tim Coffman/Trey & Deb Beard

12:10pm †Bill Hastings/Patsy Hastings

SATURDAY, JULY 7, 2018

9:00am †Diane Hermes/The Will

5:00pm †Joe Schieber/Mary Ramey

SUNDAY, JULY 8, 2018

8:00am †Elmo & Nora Stingley/Charlene Stingley

9:30am †MASS (*St. Francis Church, Newkirk*)

11:00am †Mitch Berendzen/Paul & Nancy Whitney

1:00pm †Clifford Lantz/Ramona Lantz

(*Spanish Mass*)

7:00pm †Joe Schieber/Margaret Schieber

Weekly Income Report June 24, 2018

Weekly Collection

\$12,859.00

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Week Ahead July 2-8, 2018

Monday	7:00pm	KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, KofC Room
Tuesday	6:30pm	SUMMER BIBLE STUDY, Byrnes Room
Wednesday		OFFICES CLOSED
	7:00am	NO MEN'S BIBLE STUDY
	6:30pm	NO YOUTH GROUP
Thursday		
Friday	7:30am	ADORATION, Chapel
	10:30am	CONFESSION, Church
Saturday	3:30pm	CONFESSION, Church
	6:00pm	ICE CREAM SOCIAL - PARISH HALL
Sunday	6:00pm	CONFESSION, Church



Thank you for your generous support in last week's Peter's Pence Collection! Our contributions will be combined with those from our brothers and sisters around the world to help Pope Francis provide essential relief to people in need.

If you missed the collection, it is not too late to give, you may go online and visit www.usccb.org/peters-pence for more information.

St. Mary's School is accepting enrollment for Pre-K through 8th grades for the 2018-2019 school year. Please stop by the school office and speak with the school principal, Sara Hunsaker or the secretary, Leanna Rexford or you may call 765-4387 for more information. *Scholarships available.*



Go Make Disciples

ONE CHURCH, MANY DISCIPLES
ARCHDIOCESE OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Rest in Peace: Please pray for the soul of Belva Nichols, wife of Robert Nichols. May God grant her eternal peace.



There will be no youth group this Wednesday. Have a safe and fun July 4th!

Friendship feast is next Tuesday, July 10th. Please let Lisa know if you are available to help.



Come meet our summer seminarian, Will Banowsky at our Ice Cream Social Saturday, July 7th following the 5:00pm Mass. We will gather in the Parish Hall. Ice Cream will be provided...please bring your favorite topping, cake, cookies, or brownies to share and come get out of the heat!

St. Mary - Ponca City

As of Thursday, June 28, 2018

Raised:
\$1,626,580.00

138%

Goal:
\$1,170,000

Please Pray For those who need prayers:

Mary Brown, Jeanette Vassar, Charlotte Meyer, Charlene Vap, Dora Behar, Cindy Wardlow, Maggie Hahn, Dave & Fran Baur, Don Schiltz, Ester Scobee, Jeanne Glaser, John Coffman, Patsy Hastings, Brooks Ditmore, Mary McFarland, Vickie Johnston, Vince Mattione, Reed Alward, Bennie Westerman, Keith & Sue Behara, Shari Beck, Eileen Spellman, Candy Bowlin, Ginger Younger, Dawn Oscarson, Darrel Neely, Lisa Sloan, Mary Kassen, Keith Goss, Linda Courtney, Karla Rojas, Maribelle Rojas, Vincent Farruggia, Patricia Evans, Karen Larimer, George F. Brown, Eva Boberg, Chris Bulling, Sid Kothe, Martha Begwin, Lucille Fleming, Edmund Young, Carol Wilson, Travis Beekman, Holly Kerr, Rachel Stephenson-Spellman, Robert Brown, Geneva Kitchen, Andy Chaney, Palka Wladyslaw, Linda Gray, Connie Smith, Melissa Smith, Christy Vice, Melissa Swords, Pake Clinesmith, Teresa Epperson, Benita Vap, Tommy Gray, Sue Rozell, Ted Thomas, Elaine Gray Calahan, Todd Hatchett, Mike Majoros, Gae Meyers, Gary Kirchmeyer, Donna Schlitz, Jim Sheets, Mike Cofer, Dawsyn Kirkes, Ramona Coutre, Kathie Jo Johnson, Lois Frisch, Denver Gearhart, Terry Stewart, Judy Waters, Lynda Howard, Joel Rivera, Marian Jeter, Jaycee Colclasure, Shelly Behar, Gabriel Dietz, Jay Underwood, Jill Kestler, Carol Evans, Allen Arthurs, Mary Knori, Mary Austin, Hannah Boyer, Jesus Cvarrillo, Logan Blakey, Asher Dailey, Betty Dimond, Terri Bechtel, Ramona Lantz, Phil McCartney, Tyson Rutter, Martha Robinson, Diego Blanco, Mary Boor, Mark Ramsey, Nathan Bickle, Betty Pino

Celebrating 125 years of Catholic Faith in North Central Oklahoma

The first Catholic Church in Ponca City, OK was dedicated St. Felix in May 27, 1894. We would like to gather many stories in regards to our Catholic Faith in Ponca City that were told to you by your parents or that you yourself have experienced and compile these in a book for our celebration. Memories of the School or Church are welcomed and needed. Also, if you would like to join the committee that is being put together to organize this celebration please contact Maria in the Parish Office at (580) 765-7794. Watch the bulletin as more information will be shared.