

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,
The Fifth Commandment and the use of self defense at times is misunderstood.

The guiding principles laid out by the Church can be summarized as follows:

- We have a legitimate right to self defense based on rightly ordered self love
- We have a duty to protect those in our care, such as our families
- Force should be used in moderation. Force should be met with like force.
- The taking of a human life in self defense should be a last resort, when all other options have been exhausted

Self defense can be a tricky issue, especially when lethal force is involved. Life and death situations involve split second decisions that can leave someone dead and alter the course of your life. Never, ever, should a human life be taken in a careless fashion.

Saint John Paul II’s encyclical letter, *Evangelium Vitae*, on the tension between respect for human life, obedience to the fifth commandment, and self defense. It summarizes the issue perfectly.

There are in fact situations in which values proposed by God’s Law seem to involve a genuine paradox. This happens for example in the case of legitimate defense, in which the right to protect one’s own life and the duty not to harm someone else’s life are difficult to reconcile in practice. Certainly, the intrinsic value of life and the duty to love oneself no less than others are the basis of a true right to self-defense. The demanding commandment of love of neighbor, set forth in the Old Testament and confirmed by Jesus, itself presupposes love of oneself as the basis of comparison: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Mk 12:31). Consequently, no one can renounce the right to self-defense out of lack of love for life or for self. This can only be done in virtue of a heroic love which deepens and transfigures the love of self into a radical self-offering, according to the spirit of the Gospel Beatitudes (cf. Mt 5:38-40). The sublime example of this self-offering is the Lord Jesus himself. Moreover, “legitimate defense can be not only a right but a grave duty for someone responsible for another’s life, the common good of the family or of the State”. [The quotation is from # 2265 in the first edition of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.] Unfortunately it happens that the need to render the aggressor incapable of causing harm sometimes involves taking his life. In this case, the fatal outcome is attributable to the aggressor whose action brought it about, even though he may not be morally responsible because of a lack of the use of reason.

Life is the most precious gift we have, may Our Lady guide us in protecting it.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb

Sunday September 9th will be our annual Backpack Blessing at the 8:30 Mass. Have your child bring their backpack to Mass for a blessing.

Liturgical Ministers for September 1st/2nd, 2018

MASS	LECTOR	MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	ALTAR SERVERS
4:00PM	D. LEGATO	C. WITTINE, W. PONDS, D. LIVINGSTON	J. LEGATO, J. MARCONE
8:30AM	M. LATINI	D. MURO	T. LAMOREAUX
11:30AM	H. MARINARO	J. SNELLINGER, T. MARION, B. DENNINGTON	S. MASCI, A. ST. LOUIS, S. CUELLO

From Friday, August 3, to Friday, September 28, 2018, the weekly Call to Prayer will be adapted as a nine week Novena for the Legal Protection of Human Life. In addition to the current invitation to fast on Fridays, participants are encouraged to pray one Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be for the intention of the novena. To participate: go to www.usccb.org/pray

This year's Parish Picnic will be at the Sparrowbush Firehouse on Sunday, September 16th at 1pm.

**Last names: A-G Salad or Vegetable
H-P Appetizer
Q-Z Dessert
(Enough for 8 to 10 people)**

Family Name: _____
 Number of Adults: _____ Children: _____
 Bringing: _____
 (Please be specific)
 Telephone #: _____

Please return the reservation form to the parish office before Tuesday, September 4th

Saturday, September 22nd, is the annual St. Jude Walk in NYC. Our parish team is **Team St. Mary's Port Jervis**. Anyone can register to walk or raise money at: http://fundraising.stjude.org/site/TR/Walk/Walk?pg=team&fr_id=89628&team_id=224380
 Transportation details to be determined.

[Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level I Part 1 Formation Course](#)

Dates: September 8, October 13, November 3., December 1, 2018, March 2, April 6, May 4, June 1, 2019 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

[Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level I Part II Formation Course](#)

Dates: September 7, October 5, November 2., December 7, 2019; March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, 2020

9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Location: St. Teresa of Avila Parish, 130 Beekman Ave, Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591

For information contact Teresa Lothian 858-4208

If you or anyone you know is interested in completing their sacraments, or joining the Church through the RCIA process, please call the parish office and speak to Deacon Rich 856-8212 ext. 118

Children who will be receiving Confirmation in October 2019 **and their parents** have a mandatory meeting on Monday, September 10 at 7pm in the Most Sacred Heart Hall.

ANNOUNCED MASSES

- Monday, August 27 (Monica)**
9:00am Leticia Crucis, by Nenita Costescu Maria and Nicholas Iwanciw, by Olga Fedoruk
- Tuesday, August 28 (Augustine, bishop and doctor of the Church)**
9:00am
- Wednesday, August 29 (Passion of John the Baptist)**
9:00am Intentions of the Crucis family, by Nenita Costescu William Hubbard, by Bob and Nancy Dunn
- Thursday, August 30**
9:00am Ida Lissner, by Lucio Cordisco
- Saturday, September 1**
4:00pm The parishioners of St. Mary's
- Sunday, September 2**
8:30am Francis Hartmann, by the Hartmann family
11:30am Louise Kampka Nagy, by Rich and Diane and family

Please Pray For the Sick:

Joseph Portella, Angela Portella, Joann Wilcox, Walter Szpakowicz, Frances Brennan, Elizabeth Brennan, Michael Medaglia, Jackie Mundy, Barbara Straub, Tress Loughrey, Sal Careri, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Louis Harford, William Lincoln, Jeanine Lincoln, Michael Barnes, Donald Wolff, Ramonita Irizarry, Theresa Kavanagh, Debi Cotugno, Theresa Fuller, Maureen Hildebrandt, Charles Hildebrandt, Aedan Roach, James Roach, Robin Radzikowski, Helen Andreano, Tito Rivera, Neil Stasilli, Josefina Rodriguez, Joseph Hinkley, Toni Sorrentino, Frances Brennan, Andrea Fedoruk, Susan Upton, Chris Marion III, and Loretta Olenick.

The 2019 Mass Book will be opening on Tuesday, September 11th from 9:30am until 12pm and Wednesday, September 12th from 9:30am until 12pm and 5pm until 6:30pm.

As in previous years only 5 intentions will be taken the first week of the book opening,

Banns of Marriage

Christopher Riordan
 & Maria Anne Yarosz

The collection for was \$4,863.
 Thank you for your continued generosity.