

# ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CHURCH



Father Mark Seiker  
3301 Echo Drive  
North Platte, Nebraska 69101

Rectory / Office [308-534-5461](tel:308-534-5461)  
Parish Hall: 534-0511

Parish email: [rectory-office@seas-np.org](mailto:rectory-office@seas-np.org)  
Webpage: <http://www.seas-np.org>

## ***24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time*** ***September 13, 2020***

***Welcome to St. Elizabeth's:*** It is our hope that you feel at home and among friends here at St. Elizabeth. If you are a visitor for a day, we pray God's speed on your journey. If you are looking for a parish community, we would be delighted to welcome you into our parish family. Please introduce yourselves. Registration forms are available in the entry racks or contact us anytime at 308-534-5461.

### **Religious Services**

#### **Mass Schedule** For Sunday Obligation:

Saturday 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday 10:00 a.m.

#### **Weekdays & Holy Days**

As published in the Bulletin.

#### **Rosary**

Prayed **8:30 a.m.** Monday mornings, and  
30 minutes before weekend Mass.

#### **Sacrament of Confession**

Offered 30 minutes before most all daily Masses  
Saturday 4:00 p.m. – 4:55 p.m.  
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. – 9:55 a.m., or by appointment.

#### **Sacrament of Baptism**

Parents are asked to attend a baptism preparation class. This is recommended, and easiest to do before the birth of the child, but must be done before the baptism.

#### **Sacrament of Matrimony**

To assist those who plan to marry, all couples will be required to fulfill the diocesan marriage preparation policy, which includes the FOCCUS & Engaged Encounter Programs. This requires a minimum of 4-6 months. The assessment process must be completed before a wedding date is set. Contact pastor early to begin the preparation.

### **Parish Information**

#### **Bulletin Deadline**

All material is to be submitted to the parish office before noon Wednesday prior to the Sunday it is to appear. Email to: [rectory-office@seas-np.org](mailto:rectory-office@seas-np.org)

#### **New or Moving Parishioners**

Please call the office to arrange an appointment with the Pastor to register in the Parish. Please call the office to notify us of any address change.

#### **Your Will**

Ask your attorney to include remembrance of your Church in your will.

#### **Religious Vocations**

Any young woman interested in religious life, or young man interested in a vocation to the priesthood should contact your pastor. Please pray for vocations!

### **Education**

#### **Family Formation Program**

Sunday mornings (Sept-May) 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

#### **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.)**

For those interested in possibly joining the Catholic Church. Usually on Wednesdays (Sept-May), 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in Parish Hall. Please contact the parish office for more information.

## SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Monday	Sept. 14	8:00 a.m.
Tuesday	Sept. 15	<b>7:00 a.m.</b>
Wednesday	Sept. 16	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>
<b>6:00pm–10:00pm Eucharistic Holy Hours =&gt; Spend time with Jesus</b>		
Thursday	Sept. 17	8:00 a.m.
Friday	Sept. 18	<b>12:10 p.m.</b>
		<b>5:30 p.m.</b>
Saturday	Sept. 19	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>
Sunday	Sept. 20	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>

## INTENTIONS

Anna Lee  
 Elizabeth (Liz) Haag  
 Margaret Baxa +  
 Special Intention (jls)  
 Martha Burbach +  
 For our Benefactors  
 Shirley Rieker  
 People of our Parish

*Forgive your  
 neighbor's injustice;  
 then when you pray,  
 your own sins  
 will be forgiven.*

—Sirach 28:2

## **Stewardship: September 6, 2020**

**Adult Envelopes:** .....\$2,810.00  
**Loose Plate:** .....\$111.50  
**Children:** .....\$0.00  
**Holy Day:** .....\$0.00  
**Total:** .....\$2,921.50

### Joy of the Gospel Campaign

Total Pledged: .....\$958,770.00  
 Gifts last week: .....\$300.00  
**Total Gifts Received: .....\$894,233.05**  
 Original DIAL Loan:.....1,485,000.00  
 Total Received (CTTF Camp): \$1,025,440.07  
 Misc Donations Received: .....\$739,940.31  
 Total Payments on Loan:.....\$1,712,678.04  
**Balance on DIAL LOAN:..... \$54,536.89**

Peter's Pence:.....\$0.00  
 Mission Coop:.....\$0.00  
 Southern NE Register: .....\$0.00

## **Parish Calendar**

Sunday	Sept. 13	11:30am: Daughters of Charity Meeting, In person in Parish Hall ( <i>observing a social distance</i> ) <b>and</b> via Zoom
Monday	Sept. 14	7:00pm: Knights of Columbus Meeting, In person in Parish Hall ( <i>observing a social distance</i> ) <b>and</b> via Zoom
Wednesday	Sept. 16	6:00pm – 10:00pm: Eucharistic Adoration      7:00pm – 9:00pm: RCIA Classes in Person and via Zoom
Thursday	Sept. 17	1:00pm: Adult Bible Study via Zoom (contact Teri Volesky)

## **Catholic School News:**

**Upcoming Events:** Sept. 14: 5:00pm- JV VB @ McCook, 6:30pm- JV FB vs. Chase Co., Sept. 15: 5:00pm- VB vs. Gothenburg, Sept. 16: 8:15am- ASVAB, Sept. 17: 4:00pm- XC @ Ravenna, 4:00pm- JH FB @ NPMS, 4:00pm: JV VB @ Brady, 5:00pm: JH VB @ Perkins Co., Sept. 18: 7:00pm- FB vs. GICC, Sept. 19: ACT Test Date, 10:00am- VB @ NPCC.

**September Student of the Month:** Genna Blakely has been selected as the student for the month of September. Teachers and Student Council members vote on a student to receive this honor. Genna, a senior, is the daughter of Christopher and Ann Marie Blakely of North Platte. The Blakelys are members of Holy Spirit Catholic Church. Her school activities include cross country, track, Student Council, band, Quiz Bowl and is on the honor roll. Outside of school she finds time to volunteer at parish events and participates in the music ministry. She has helped prepare and serve meals at our local homeless shelter. She has two younger siblings, Ellie is a 9<sup>th</sup> grader at North Platte High School and Timothy is a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at McDaid Elementary.

**G.R.E.E.N. is Going Virtual:** Join us online for an exciting night of fundraising for NPCCS on October 17<sup>th</sup>. Even though we can't gather together, we can still join in spirit and online to support our schools and students! Bid on auction items, donate to our cause, and purchase Lucky Lotto and Spirit Wagon tickets, all from the comfort of your phone or computer! We hope that our entire Catholic community will come together to support this fun event. G.R.E.E.N. is the Endowment's largest and most important fundraiser of the year. Proceeds from the event support the general operations of NPCCS, which are our most basic and important needs! Your generosity at G.R.E.E.N. provides for teacher salaries, facility operations, tuition assistance, technology, and special projects at NPCCS. Please join us! Text "green20" to 243725 to register. Or, access the G.R.E.E.N. website at: [www.bidpal.net/green20](http://www.bidpal.net/green20).

**Shop with SCRIP!** SCRIP is fundraising while you shop, and anyone can use it! Purchase a variety of gift cards from local and national retailers through the Endowment, and the earnings support tuition assistance at the North Platte Catholic Schools. Plus, families enrolled at NPCCS earn 2% back toward their own tuition. It's a win-win.

**North Platte Catholic School: Faith & Knowledge for a Brighter Future**

## **Daughters of Charity (Altar Society) Meeting:**

will be **Sunday, September 13, at 11:30am** in person in the Parish Hall (*observing a Social Distance*) **and** via Zoom. All women are invited & encouraged to participate either in person or virtually through Zoom. All of the women (*for whom we have emails*) will receive an email invitation to join the Zoom meeting later this week. *If you have never used Zoom before or have questions, please contact Fr. Seiker BEFORE the meeting begins.*

## **Knights of Columbus Meeting ... Mon, Sept. 14,**

**7:00pm**, in person in the Parish Hall (*observing a Social Distance*) **and** via Zoom. All Knights are invited to participate. *If you have never used Zoom before or have questions, please contact Fr. Seiker BEFORE the meeting begins.*

## **50 Days of Prayer and Fasting ...**

Join us as we lift our nation in prayer for 50 days from September 14<sup>th</sup> until Election Day on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Pray for a different state each day. Participants are encouraged, but not required, to add sacrifices or some fasting to their prayers in a manner that is appropriate for their state in life. More details at "50 Days of Prayer and Fasting" on Facebook (search "50 Days of Prayers and Fasting") or on Twitter (@50daysUSA).

## **3-Part Evangelization Series ...**

Matt Simmons, Director of Evangelization & Spiritual Formation, will present talks on **October 7:** Repentance & Faith; **October 28,** The Meaning and Value of the Cross; and **November 18,** Experiencing the Resurrection, from 7:00pm-8:30pm on Zoom. "In the midst of this cultural chaos the simplicity of the gospel is the answer. Jesus is calling us to a deeper repentance in order to experience his resurrection." The workshop is free. Registration is required if you wish to participate on Zoom. To register please visit: [lincolndiocese.org/evangelization](http://lincolndiocese.org/evangelization). Questions? Email [Annette-Wemhoff@cdolinc.net](mailto:Annette-Wemhoff@cdolinc.net).

## **Family Formation Parent's Meeting ... Sun., Sept. 27,**

**11:30am–12:30pm** in Parish Hall, for all parents of School age children, and in person classes for children Grades K-6.

## **Pumpkin Festival CANCELLED for 2020 ...**

the Pumpkin Festival Committee held two meetings via Zoom a few weeks ago. Shannon Vanderheiden from the West Central District Health Department suggested that we complete a "Plan" on their webpage indicating how we would host our Pumpkin Festival and take precautions to limit the spread of the coronavirus and keep workers and attendees safe at our Pumpkin Festival. **After reviewing the questions and suggestions on the WCDHD plan page, all of us realized that our small parish is not able to host our Pumpkin Festival and at the same time ensure the safety of our volunteer parishioners and those visitors who would attend our Pumpkin Festival.**

The Pumpkin Festival has been an important part of our Parish Life for 24 years. It has not just been about "making money", but rather about inviting people to visit our Parish, and for us to take the opportunity to talk with others about Jesus and our faith. However, because of the requirements of "social distancing" and the extra efforts needed to care for the safety of all present, our time to share our faith would be limited. **God willing, we are planning to host our next Pumpkin Festival on Oct. 10, 2021!**

**Good Counsel Retreat House Retreats** Register for Online & in person Retreats sponsored by Good Counsel Retreat House [www.goodcounselretreat.com](http://www.goodcounselretreat.com), 402-786-2705, or [goodcounsel@cdolinc.net](mailto:goodcounsel@cdolinc.net). **Upcoming in-person and online retreats including:**

- Sept. 26: M, St. Joseph and Saints for Men, Fr. Gary Coulter
- Oct. 2-4: M/W, The Eucharistic Lord and Our Lady: Answers for Our Times, Fr. Zachary, SOLT, Eucharistic Knights of the Holy Eucharist

**"Undone" Women's Retreat ...** In person or virtual via livestreaming. Ladies – Do you desire to live in greater freedom with your true feminine identity. St. Peter Catholic Parish in Lincoln, Sep. 24-26, 2020. Register online [www.jpilhealingcenter.org](http://www.jpilhealingcenter.org). Contact Annette Wemhoff at [JPilRetreatLincolnNE@gmail.com](mailto:JPilRetreatLincolnNE@gmail.com) for more information.

**"Men on Fire" Conference ...** St. Peter Catholic Parish in Lincoln, NE is hosting the Men on Fire Men's Conference on **Saturday, October 17, 2020 from 9:00am-3:00pm. In person or virtual via livestreaming.** A **Leaders Summit** will also be held on **Friday, October 16 from 7:00pm-9:00pm.** It's time to live the life that God intended for you! Become a man "on fire" for God. The Men on Fire Conference, led by Bart Schuchts of the John Paul II Healing Center, with worship led by Mark McKellar, will help you become who you are. At Pentecost, the power of the Holy Spirit propelled each of the apostles into the fullness of their destiny. St. Irenaeus once said, "the glory of God is man fully alive." Step into your own personal Pentecost, know who you are in Christ, live into God's purpose for your life, and take back what belongs to you and God. This event is sponsored by Spirit Catholic Radio 102.7 FM. Learn more and register online at [www.jpilhealingcenter.org](http://www.jpilhealingcenter.org). Invite your father. Invite your son. Attend together! Scholarships are available. Email Annette Wemhoff at [JPilRetreatLincolnNE@gmail.com](mailto:JPilRetreatLincolnNE@gmail.com) for more information.

## **Creighton Model FertilityCare System ...**

Creighton Model is a women's health science that allows users to learn more about their fertility and, in conjunction with NaProTECHNOLOGY, treat many reproductive disorders. The intro session for **September** is scheduled for 7:00pm on the **22<sup>nd</sup>** at John XXIII Diocesan Center. An online session is scheduled for **Sept. 19, 1:00pm.** For more info or to register, <https://lincolndiocese.regfox.com/creighton-introductory-session>. You may also contact a Certified Fertility Care Practitioner, Kathy Burr, to schedule a follow up or get signed up for the better understanding NFP. Email [ckburr240@gmail.com](mailto:ckburr240@gmail.com) or text 308-991-1880.

**Emmaus Institute Classes ...** There's still time to register for the following in-person or online fall classes with The Emmaus Institute for Biblical Studies, running **Sep 8 – Nov 16:** The Letter of James, Leviticus through Deuteronomy, Interpreting the Bible, Book of Job, Saints & Scriptures. Learn more & register at [www.emmausinstitute.net](http://www.emmausinstitute.net).

**From St. Teresa of Calcutta ...** "But I feel a great destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a direct war, a direct killing, direct murder by the mother herself. And we read in the scripture, for God says very clearly. "Even if a mother could forget her child, I will not forget you. I have carved you in the palm of My Hand." We are carved in the palm of His Hand; so close to Him, that unborn child has been carved in the Hand of God. And that is what strikes me most, the beginning of that sentence, that even a mother could forget something impossible – but even if she could forget – "I will not forget you." And today the greatest destroyer of peace is abortion. And we who are standing here – our parents wanted us. We would not be here if our parents would do that to us." – *Lecture upon receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, Oslo, Norway, Dec. 11, 1979.*

**Mother/Daughter Program ...** "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made" for girls age 9-13 and their mothers will be held **Saturday, October 3rd, 2020** from 9:00am to Noon at John XXIII Diocesan Center **and virtually.** This program is designed to educate girls on growing up and becoming a woman. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$25 per mother/daughter or \$35 per family in person & \$10 virtually. To register, <https://lincolndiocese.regfox.com/motherdaughter> Questions, please call Jen Davis (402-261-6375) or email [jmdavis17@gmail.com](mailto:jmdavis17@gmail.com).

**Father/Son Program ...** "In His Image" for boys age 10-14 & their fathers will be held **Sunday, October 4, 2020, 1:30pm-4:30pm** at Blessed John XXIII Diocesan Center **and virtually.** This program is designed to educate boys on growing up and becoming a man. Pre-registration is required. Cost is \$25 per father/son or \$35 per family in person; \$10 virtually. To register, <https://lincolndiocese.regfox.com/fatherson>. Questions, please call the NFP Offices 402-473-0630 or email [naturalfamilyplanning@cdolinc.net](mailto:naturalfamilyplanning@cdolinc.net).

**Menopause Info Session ...** Michele Chambers, CFCP, will be speaking about the health, hormonal, and charting implications of menopause on **October 26, at 7:00pm** at the John XXIII Diocesan Center. The event will also be held **virtually.** Event is free, pre-registration requested at <https://lincolndiocese.regfox.com/menopause> Questions, please call NFP Office (402-473-0630) or email [naturalfamilyplanning@cdolinc.net](mailto:naturalfamilyplanning@cdolinc.net)

**Christus Foundation Golf Tournament ...** Join us at the benefit for the Catholic apostolates of Regnum Christi, such as Mission Trips and Leadership Camp. The 4-person scramble is **Sept 17-18, 10:00am** at Crooked Creek, Lincoln: \$125/player includes lunch, prizes and more: visit [www.theChristusFoundation.org/events](http://www.theChristusFoundation.org/events) or call 402-430-3732. You may email [gwroberts88@gmail.com](mailto:gwroberts88@gmail.com), too.

## **Benedict XVI Diocesan School of Catechesis ...**

This class is now virtual and in-person! It is for Catholics wanting to strengthen their intellectual and spiritual formation to empower their evangelical mission in the world. It covers the Creed, the Sacraments, the Commandments, and Prayer (Year I) as well as Salvation History, Church History, Faith and Reason, and Spirituality (Year II). The time commitment is one Saturday a month from September to April for two years. The cost is \$100 per semester, however, those who teach CCD, God-teen/CYO, or in Catholic schools would receive a 25% discount. For more information ... [www.lincolndiocese.org/bxvi](http://www.lincolndiocese.org/bxvi) or call 402-473-0631.

## **FROM FR. MARK SEIKER:**

**RCIA Classes ...** Fr. Mark Seiker is leading an RCIA process (Inquiry class in the Faith) **which began Wed, Sept 9, 2020** until a few weeks after Easter (mid May 2021). Classes will usually be held on **Wednesdays in the Parish Hall from 7:00pm – 9:00pm.** These classes are open to Catholics & non-Catholics. **For Catholics, it is a good opportunity to learn more about your faith.** If you are interested, call the Rectory or see Fr. Seiker. Invite your friend to participate & come with your friend to study together. Our faith is to be treasured, preserved, & lived, but it is also to be shared. Share your faith with a friend at these RCIA classes. Class offered in **person (with social distance) & virtually.**

## Liturgical Ministers

<b>Lector</b>		
<b>Acolyte</b>		
<b>Server</b>		
<b>Music</b>		
<b>Gifts</b>		
<b>Ushers</b>		
<b>Rosary</b>		

## *Readings for the Week*

Monday:	Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1-2, 34-38; Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
Tuesday:	1 Cor 12:12-14,27-31a; Ps100:1b-5; Jn 19:25-27
Wednesday:	1 Cor 12:31—13:13; Ps33:2-5,12,22; Lk 7:31-35
Thursday:	1 Cor 15:1-11; Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17, 28; Lk 7:36-50
Friday:	1 Cor 15:12-20; Ps 17:1bcd, 6-8b, 15; Lk 8:1-3
Saturday:	1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Ps 56:10c-14; Lk 8:4-15
Sunday:	Is 55:6-9; Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a

**Prayers for the sick:** J.D. Troyer, Dean & Janice Large, Jennifer Schmid, Steve Haman, Sharon Beckius, Those affected with/by COVID-19, Theresa McCarthy-Garth, Young woman (with many difficult situations), Troy Tickle, Iris Wyman Lloyd, Peggy Lawler, Matt Reisen (Matt & Ashley Perlinger's friend), Special Intention, Carolyn Cohen, Tim Garth (Theresa McCarthy-Garth's son), Those struggling with Alcoholism, Mary Lou Robles (Toni Barron's sister), Renate Nordquist, Mike & Kim Paul, Jim Beckius.

**Prayers for the deceased:** **Eloise Kramer** (Monica Kramer's mother), **Nellie Rodriguez** (Toni Barron's sister), **Reyes Robles** (Toni Barron's brother-in-law), **Margaret Ruskamp** (Donna Bode's mother), **Dolores Kosmicki**, **Patricia Zamora** (Toni Barron's sister), **Teresa Clouatre**, **Gordon Swanson** (Cindy Swanson's father), **Florena Schneweis** (Emily Krondak's mother), **Carlos Fleury** (Steve/Janet Fear's son-in-law), **Ruby Ramirez** (Toni Barron's sister), **JoAnn Bode Waters** (John Bode's sister), **Eileen Boltz**, **Leona Clouatre**, **Bernadine Torres**, **Martha Burbach**, **Luke Ranck**.

**Birthdays/Anniversaries:** 9/12 - Jane Schmid, Randy Nordquist, Lyuba Hendricks, 9/19 - Andy Butler, 9/20 - Jim Beckius.

**TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION ...** Our national memory will keep September 11 holy for generations to come, as we remember the innocent dead. Our memories of the attack on our nation are intertwined with memories of how we human beings are natural symbol makers. In one parish, as a candlelight vigil ended, the assembly, without being instructed, took their candles and stood shoulder to shoulder, down the steps and along the city streets for a quarter mile. Slowly, people came out of their houses bearing tapers and candles. In the first hours of crisis, we stood vigil, we prayed from the heart, and we celebrated the human ability to draw light out of terrible darkness. Stories of that terrible day necessarily drift to tales of heroism, courage, dignity, faith, solidarity, hope, community. The church learned long ago through hard experience that "the blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." Perhaps the victims of 9/11 have gifts to bring that we are only just discovering as believers in a just and loving God. They are teaching us still, and today is a day for lighting candles at the table and being silent for a moment before the abundance of God's gifts. Today reminds us that we are capable of acts of indescribable beauty even in the face of great evil. — Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**FORGIVENESS ...** Nearly ten years before, a son and father had parted ways when the business they shared went bankrupt. The son blamed the father. They did not speak to each other again. Then the father became seriously ill. The mother called the son and told him he had better come soon. The son walked sheepishly into the hospital room. The father motioned his son to him and whispered: "Did you ever think you could do anything that would keep me from loving you?" Resentment and anger are foul things, the first reading from Sirach tells us. Remember the last things. Stop hating. Live by the commandments. As St. Paul writes to the Romans, we are to live for the Lord and die for the Lord. Jesus' parable in today's Gospel reminds us of God's compassion. The immense sin of humanity has been forgiven and stricken from the record. We are to forgive others in the same way. —Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**MERCY ...** Dost thou wish to receive mercy? Show mercy to thy neighbor. —St. John Chrysostom

**FAITH ...** Faith is the union of God with the soul. —St. John of the Cross

**Pray for our Seminarians:** at St. Gregory the Great Seminary, at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, at Mount St. Mary Seminary. Pray for the Priests teaching in the Seminary and the Formation faculty and the staff.

**Pray for our Religious Sisters:** School Sisters of Christ the King, Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln, Sisters at the Carmel of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, Pink Sisters, Sisters of Mary, Queen of Mercy.

**HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS ... (September)**

**Universal Prayer Intention – Respect for the Planet's Resources:** We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.

# 50 Days of Prayer and Fasting

50 Days 50 States

September 14 – November 3

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER		14 Alabama	15 Alaska	16 Arizona	17 Arkansas	18 California	19 Colorado
	20 Connecticut	21 Delaware	22 Florida	23 Georgia	24 Hawaii	25 Idaho	26 Illinois
	27 Indiana	28 Iowa	29 Kansas	30 Kentucky	1 Louisiana	2 Maine	3 Maryland
OCTOBER	4 Mass.	5 Michigan	6 Minnesota	7 Mississippi	8 Missouri	9 Montana	10 Nebraska
	11 Nevada	12 New Hampshire	13 New Jersey	14 New Mexico	15 New York	16 North Carolina	17 North Dakota
	18 Ohio	19 Oklahoma	20 Oregon	21 Pennsylvania	22 Rhode Island	23 South Carolina	24 South Dakota
NOVEMBER	25 Tennessee	26 Texas	27 Utah	28 Vermont	29 Virginia	30 Washington	31 West Virginia
	1 Wisconsin	2 Wyoming	3 ELECTION DAY All USA, including DC & US territories				



Facebook:  
50 Days of Prayer  
and Fasting



Twitter:  
@50daysUSA

## PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY AND EACH STATE FOR:

- Praise and thanksgiving for the blessings and freedom of America
- A Spirit of humility and repentance in our land
- The President and all leaders to be protected and led by Truth and compassion
- The justice system to uphold righteousness and enact justice
- Voters to discern good and evil and vote for pro-life and pro-family leaders
- An end to all violence and that elections will be fair and peaceful
- Unity among Christians and the spread of the Gospel in the USA

## Praying and Fasting

There are many resources available online for ways to pray and fast and to pray as groups, families, churches and individuals. Historically many Christians have practiced the three-fold discipline of praying, fasting and almsgiving as a powerful means to detach ourselves from the world and its cares, draw closer to God, hear His voice more clearly, and do spiritual battle in prayer. Following are some suggested Bible Verses related to praying and fasting for our country (RSV translation):

2 Chronicles 7:14

If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Psalms 122:6-7

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! May they prosper who love you!  
Peace be within your walls, and security within your towers!

Matthew 6:1-18, Sermon on the Mount concerning almsgiving, prayer and fasting

Matthew 18:19-20

Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Mark 9:29

And [Jesus] said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting."

Luke 5:35

The days will come, when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast in those days.

Luke 12:33-34

Sell your possessions, and give alms; provide yourselves with purses that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

John 17:21-23

... [I pray] that they may all be one; even as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory which you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Ephesians 6:11-12

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

1 Timothy 2:1-2

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all men, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way.

Excerpt from Pope John Paul II's Encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (The Gospel of Life)

... we know that we can rely on the help of God, for whom nothing is impossible (cf. Mt 19:26). Filled with this certainty, and moved by profound concern for the destiny of every man and woman, I repeat what I said to those families who carry out their challenging mission amid so many difficulties: a great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. Through special initiatives and in daily prayer, may an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and lover of life, from every Christian community, from every group and association, from every family and from the heart of every believer. **Jesus himself has shown us by his own example that prayer and fasting are the first and most effective weapons against the forces of evil (cf. Mt 4:1-11). As he taught his disciples, some demons cannot be driven out except in this way (cf. Mk 9:29).** Let us therefore discover anew the humility and the courage to pray and fast so that power from on high will break down the walls of lies and deceit: the walls which conceal from the sight of so many of our brothers and sisters the evil of practices and laws which are hostile to life. May this same power turn their hearts to resolutions and goals inspired by the civilization of life and love. (100, bold emphasis added)

