



Sunday Homily Suggestions Regarding Amendment 4

Sunday, September 8, 2024
23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
[Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary]

Readings:

Isaiah 35:4-7a	“Be strong, fear not! Here is your God.” Healing of disabilities, restoration of creation.
Psalms 146	“Praise the Lord, my soul!”
James 2:1-5	Show no partiality. God chose the poor to be rich in faith.
Mark 7:31-37	“Ephphatha!” Be opened! The healing of a deaf-mute.

Possible Homily Prompts:

- 1) How often is fear driving people who procure abortions? How can we find ways to help mothers (and fathers!) know that God is with them, and that *we* are with them?
- 2) Jesus opens our ears to hear the truth and our lips to proclaim it. How often are we deaf to the cry of those in need, including those in crisis pregnancies, and their unborn children? How often does fear impede our ability to speak the truth about abortion? How can we help others to hear in the midst of the pain, fear, and anger that surround this issue?
- 3) The birth of Mary to Anne and Joachim late in life points to how children are gifts from God, and that every child has a unique identity and mission in life.

Possible Prayers of the Faithful:

- For all expecting mothers and fathers facing the fear of an unplanned pregnancy, may they find comfort in knowing that Mary, the Mother of God and our Mother, is with them. Through her intercession, may they find the strength and courage to choose life for their unborn child. We pray to the Lord.
- As Jesus opens our ears, may we listen for the Lord’s voice, follow Him with trust, and help others to hear the truth about Amendment 4 amidst the pain, fear, and anger surrounding the issue of abortion. We pray to the Lord.
- As we recall the birth of Mary to Anne and Joachim, let us remember that each human life comes from God, belongs to God, and is meant to return to God. May we joyfully witness that every pre-born child is a masterpiece of God’s creation and is welcomed as a gift from God with a unique identity and mission in life. We pray to the Lord.



Sunday Homily Suggestions Regarding Amendment 4

Sunday, September 15, 2024
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time
[Our Lady of Sorrows]

Readings:

Isaiah 50:4c-9a	The suffering servant of the Lord.
Psalms 116	“I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.”
James 2:14-18	Faith without works is dead.
Mark 8:27-35	The confession of Peter. Taking up one’s cross.

Possible Homily Prompts:

- 1) Recognizing the suffering of those considering abortion, and those who regret having one. Uniting their sufferings to those of Christ, who died so that we could experience God’s mercy. Standing at the foot of the Cross with Our Lady of Sorrows, who understands the experiences of all those who have welcomed a child in difficult circumstances or who mourn the loss of a beloved son or daughter.
- 2) How can we allow our faith to work through charity to promote a culture of life, in which every child is welcomed in life and protected in law?
- 3) An unexpected or difficult pregnancy can be experienced as a cross, but the Cross of Christ brings new life and hope.

Possible Prayers of the Faithful:

- May mothers and fathers who regret and grieve the loss of a child through abortion find solace in uniting their sufferings with Christ and experience His mercy and healing. We pray to the Lord.
- May the Holy Spirit inspire Florida's elected officials to let their faith guide their work throughout their service to enact and uphold laws that respect, defend, and build a culture of life that welcomes every child. We pray to the Lord.
- May Our Lady of Sorrows, who understands the experience of having a child in difficult circumstances, reveal to mothers and fathers experiencing an unplanned or crisis pregnancy that the Cross of Christ brings new life and hope. We pray to the Lord.



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Sunday Homily Suggestions Regarding Amendment 4

Sunday, September 22, 2024
25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings:

- Wisdom 2:12.17-20 “Let us beset the just one.”
Psalm 54 “The Lord upholds my life.”
James 3:16-4:3 Conflict results from indulgence in our passions.
Mark 9:30-37 “Whoever receives a child such as this in my name, receives me.”

Possible Homily Prompts:

- 1) Standing up for the truth will bring opposition; remaining faithful in the face of criticism and anger – even from our own family and friends.
- 2) Our passions (emotions and desires) need to be regulated by reason. The truth about the status of the unborn child is drowned out by people’s fear and anger. Focusing on helping people to see the pro-life position as reasonable and supported by science.
- 3) Receiving a child as a gift from God, even in difficult circumstances. Are we willing to receive children through foster care, adoption, and the support of mothers in crisis?

Possible Prayers of the Faithful:

- For all Floridians throughout our state, may they listen to the Lord's voice and follow Him with trust—standing up with courage for the truth, even when facing opposition and admonishment. We pray to the Lord.
- For those working to build a culture of life, may they, through the grace of Christ, help others see every person as a welcomed gift from God. Strengthened by truth, may they act to protect the preborn, accompany pregnant women in need, and preserve parental rights. We pray to the Lord.
- For our parish community, as God's instruments, may we support mothers and fathers facing difficult pregnancies, and offer our hearts, minds, and hands to support parents in crisis and remain open to receive their children through foster care or adoption. We pray to the Lord.



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Sunday Homily Suggestions Regarding Amendment 4

Sunday, September 29, 2024
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
[The Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael]

Readings:

Numbers 11:25-29	The spirit of prophecy given to the 70 elders
Psalms 19	“The precepts of the Lord give joy to the heart.”
James 5:1-6	The fate of the unrepentant rich. The righteous one offers no resistance.
Mark 9:38-43, 45, 47-48	Whoever causes one of these little ones to sin...

Possible Homily Prompts:

- 1) By our baptism, we share in the prophetic office of Christ and are therefore called to speak the truth to others in love.
- 2) Being Catholic/pro-life means being on the side of the defenseless.
- 3) The responsibility of parents to protect their children from making harmful choices – and the desire of the supporters of abortion to remove parents from decision-making about this evil.
- 4) The archangels as models:
 - a. Gabriel and the joy of announcing the arrival of a child
 - b. Michael who defends us from evil
 - c. Raphael who brings healing

Possible Prayers of the Faithful:

- Through our baptism, all Catholics share in the prophetic office of Christ: may we draw continual strength from the Sacred Heart of Jesus to speak the truth to others in love. We pray to the Lord.
- For all citizens of Florida, may we have awe for the gift of life and courage to advocate for the protection of the preborn, support and accompany pregnant women, and preserve parental rights. We pray to the Lord.
- With the archangels as our models, may we bear joyful witness to the miracle of new life, defend the preborn, and offer compassionate support to parents who have experienced the loss of a child through miscarriage or abortion. We pray to the Lord.



Sunday Homily Suggestions Regarding Amendment 4

Sunday, October 6, 2024
27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings:

Genesis 2:18-24	“It is not good for the man to be alone.” The creation of Eve.
Psalm 128	“May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives.”
Hebrews 2:9-11	Christ was made “lower than the angels” so that he could call us “brothers”.
Mark 10:2-16	The two become one flesh. “Let the children come to me.”

Possible Homily Prompts:

- 1) It is not good to be alone: We need to support each other in times of crisis.
- 2) Every child is willed by God and should be welcomed.
- 3) The one-flesh union which images Christ’s union with the Church and brings about the family.

Possible Prayers of the Faithful:

- For the marginalized, the isolated, and all who are alone, may they receive love, respect, support, and material assistance, and find refuge within our parish community. We pray to the Lord.
- For citizens throughout our state, may they recognize that each child is willed by God and welcome each person as a masterpiece of God’s creation. We pray to the Lord.
- For all couples facing an unplanned pregnancy, that the Lord may grant them unwavering courage to bring new life into their union and the enduring peace to share His boundless love for their child. We pray to the Lord.



Sunday Homily Suggestions Regarding Amendment 4

Sunday, November 3, 2024

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

[St. Martin de Porres]

Readings:

Deuteronomy 6:2-6 The commandments bring life. Love God with all your heart, soul, and strength.

Psalms 18 “I love you Lord, my strength.”

Hebrews 7:23-28 Christ, our eternal high priest, “is always able to save those who approach God through him.”

Mark 12:28b-34 The great commandment of love of God and neighbor.

Possible Homily Prompts:

- 1) Every person, from the first moment of existence, is in the image and likeness of God and deserving of our love.
- 2) “Love them both”: Loving our neighbor means loving both unborn children and their mothers, giving them the support that they need to be able to welcome their children.
- 3) Turning to God for strength to accept the children we have conceived and to grow in the life of grace.
- 4) St. Martin de Porres, the patron of social justice, was born out of wedlock and grew up in poverty. Of mixed race, he experienced discrimination, but his love of God led him to serve all people without prejudice.

Possible Prayers of the Faithful:

- For all people of Florida, may we recognize that each person, made in the image and likeness of God, is deserving of our love and protection from the moment of conception. We pray to the Lord.
- For unborn children and their mothers, may we realize that loving our neighbor means loving them both, giving them the protection and support that they need. We pray to the Lord.
- May all elected officials, through the intercession of St. Martin de Porres, the patron of social justice, respect the dignity of each person and serve all people without prejudice or discrimination. We pray to the Lord.