

## *A Note from Fr. Keith, Our Pastor*

Greetings, once again, from Expeditionary Combat Readiness Command at Fort Bliss, TX! As a reminder, I will be flown to Naval Support Activity Bahrain before arriving in the Middle East around Thanksgiving. Beginning on December 1st, I will have days available for Mass intentions. Please contact the Ministry Center if you would like me to offer a private Mass for your intentions. The normal policies of the Diocese of Joliet regulating Mass offerings will still apply even though I will be in Qatar at that time. This will be another opportunity for us to remain in spiritual communion during my deployment.

This weekend, we welcome Jack Meinhart. He is a seminarian for the Diocese of Joliet, preparing to be a priest, currently in the propaedeutic year of spiritual formation in Chicago. Jack is from Glen Ellyn, where both of his parents still live. By the invitation of Bishop Hicks, Jack will be sharing his experience as a seminarian with us at all the Masses this weekend. Please extend to him a warm welcome.



Election Day is on Tuesday. Voting is an important part of our civic responsibility as citizens. Sadly, our politics are divisive and partisan. As Catholics, we vote according to a properly formed conscience aligned to the perennial and immutable Truth. Ideology is repugnant to faith because it ignores the eschatological reality obviated in Sacred Scripture, “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away” (Rev 21:1). Eschatology is the perspective of faith that believes what we profess every Sunday in the Creed, namely, “I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.” Does this eternal perspective diminish the importance of earthly concerns?

Civic engagement is not opposed to eternity. Indeed, we vote as a participation in democracy to work together for the common good, especially for the respect, dignity, and protection of human life. In particular, we must defend the rights of the unborn, humanitarian refugees, and the poor while respecting the sovereignty of nations and property rights of individuals. At the same time, as people of faith, we need to be examples of unity above a society so divided that it categorizes and separates people on the basis of political affiliation. Jesus is not a Democrat, Republican, or Independent. No partisan movement can rightfully or honestly claim ownership of His teachings. We stray from unity as soon as Christianity is co-opted for political purposes and persuasion.

Please prayerfully discern your vote as you step into the ballot box this Tuesday. You may find these three questions helpful in your discernment process:

1. Am I seeking to divide or unite?
2. Have I properly formed my conscience to the Truth?
3. Do my preferences align with the inherent dignity of all human life?