

OCTOBER

fast for holy families

We invite you to join in the diocesan-wide initiative to reconnect with our faith and one another during the months of September, October, and November. Each month will focus on a pillar of the Christian life with a specific intention from our diocesan prayer.

In October, we will fast for the intention of holy families. More information will be shared in the bulletin and social media. You can also visit ReconnectToledo.org/October.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Second Week of October



Fast

You might choose other works of charity or exercises of piety to take the place of fasting and abstinence. This week be extra cheerful during the day, and smile at everyone you meet.



Pray

Create a prayerful environment in your home. Does your home reflect your faith? Are prayer materials easily accessible in your home? If not, this fall could be a great opportunity to make the Faith more physically present in your home. We don't need anything elaborate, but even just placing simple pieces of sacred art around the home or in a "prayer corner" is a fantastic way to center your day and family life on God. We can also place Bibles and Rosaries in a convenient location, to help encourage prayer.

-from FamilyRosary.org



Reflect

The term "Domestic Church" refers to the family, the smallest body of gathered believers in Christ. John Paul the Great was proud to be a champion of the family and its crucial role in the life of all Christians. Along with the many letters and homilies directed to the family, he also wrote *Familiaris Consortio*, where he identifies four primary tasks that each family (Domestic Church) should strive to accomplish:

- Forming a community of persons
- Serving Life Participating in the development of society
- Sharing in the life and mission of the Church



Read

For Parents: *Discernment of Spirits in Marriage, Ignatian Wisdom for Husbands and Wives*, by Fr. Timothy Gallagher

For Kids: *The Princess & the Kiss* for girls, and *The Squire and the Scroll* for boys, by Jennie Bishop

Reconnect
navigating Catholic life through a pandemic

CONSCIENCE AND THE CATHOLIC VOTER – 4TH OF 8

“In the Catholic tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation.”

- *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, 13

Since participation in political life is a moral obligation, Catholics need to form their conscience with the mind and heart of the Church on issues of consequence. This outline is the fourth of eight, which will examine important moral and political issues. This fourth outline will provide an overview of the issue of religious freedom.

Religious Freedom

Catholics in America have long enjoyed the fact that in the Bill of Rights, religious liberty, with its rights of conscience, is the first freedom that is protected in our Constitution. Yet today, religious freedom, even in the United States, is consistently being challenged. As Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami, the acting chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee for Religious Liberty has pointed out:

Religious freedom is under stress throughout the world. Even in our Western liberal democracies, discrimination against religion in general and Catholic Christianity, in particular, is growing... “Yet, just as freedom of speech depends not only on one’s right to say what’s on one’s mind but also on the existence of institutions like newspapers, universities, libraries, political parties and other associations that make up what we call ‘civil society,’ so too freedom of religion ‘for the good of all’ must also encompass protecting those institutions that nourish the individual’s free exercise of religion. (Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami, <http://www.usccb.org/news/20-100.cfm>)

We can see this stress and hostility towards religion from cases against the Little Sisters of the Poor to faith-based adoption agencies, the accreditation of religious educational institutions, the grants and contracts of faith-based charities and small businesses, and the licensing of religious professions. Our cherished religious liberties are now at stake by our political choices. As the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has written:

In the United States, religious freedom generally enjoys strong protection in our law and culture, but those protections are now in doubt. For example, the longstanding tax exemption of the Church has been explicitly called into question at the highest levels of government, precisely because of her teachings on marriage. Catholics have a particular duty to make sure that protections like these do not weaken but instead grow in strength. This is not only to secure the just freedom of the Church and the faithful here but also to offer hope and an encouraging witness to those who suffer direct and even violent religious persecution in countries where the protection is far weaker. (The Challenge of Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, P. 30)

It is imperative then as Catholics that we defend religious liberty and the rights of conscience in our political choices. For religious liberty has its foundation in the dignity of the human person. As Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami points out:

The right to religious freedom has its foundation in the very dignity of the human person. Religious freedom is the human right that guarantees all other rights — peace and creative living together will only be possible if freedom of religion is fully respected. (<http://www.usccb.org/news/20-100.cfm>)

In summation, it is the duty of every Catholic to fight for religious liberty to ensure not only the right of conscience in the workplace, but so that families, Churches, and peoples of all faiths can work in accordance with their religious beliefs while they care for the common good, the poor and vulnerable, and God’s creation.

Peter Range, Director, Office for Life and Justice, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Toledo, prange@toledodiocese.org.

Learn more and watch videos at www.awakencatholic.org/election. Read the party platforms: Democratic Party, <https://bit.ly/3hrosqg>; Republican Party, <https://bit.ly/3hqWV8D> (Note: Rep. Party voted to continue their 2016 Platform)

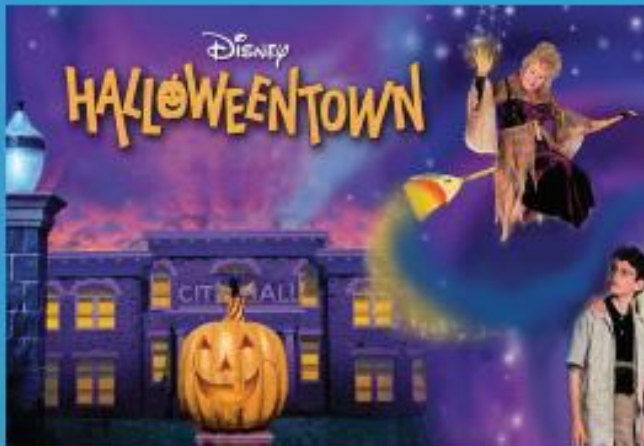
2020 Fall Festival Pumpkin Pickup & Drive-In Movie

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, masks must be worn whenever you're outside of your vehicle and within six feet of other people. (walking to the bathroom, approaching foodtrucks, talking to friends..etc.) Thank you.

The city of Toledo is proud to host a **FREE Fall Festival with pumpkin path pickup and drive-in movie.**



- 1** Kids will receive a free bag of candy and the first 150 kids will receive a pumpkin
- 2** There will be a marked path to drive through the park to pick up pumpkins being passed out by volunteers dressed in costumes. Families can watch the movie in their cars, chairs, or on blankets outside.
- 3** Families in cars not staying for the movie, can drive straight to exit and depart. Families staying will be directed to designated viewing area.

FEATURED MOVIE



Food trucks will be available and selling fresh coffee, funnel cakes and hot cocoa!

Ottawa Park

-  Ottawa Parkway
Toledo, OH 43606
-  Saturday, October 17
6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Open-Air Shelter