

dear Padre

July 4, 2010

Is it a sin to break the law?

If you break a government law, is it automatically a sin? It's illegal to use fireworks in my city, but every year I do it anyway. Should I mention this at reconciliation?

Joe

Dear Joe,

Strictly speaking, to break a government law does not automatically constitute the definition of sin, so it needn't be mentioned in the sacrament of reconciliation. By definition, sin damages (or, with grave sin, destroys) communion with God and the Church (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1472).

Some actions may not be objectively destructive to our relationship with God and the Church—and therefore are not sinful—but they may affect others. Church members are part of society, which depends on its citizens to abide by the laws. Saint Paul encouraged everyone to obey the authorities, for all authority that exists is established by God (see Romans 13:1-7)

Not all sins are equally offensive to God; similarly, not all civil laws are equal in their gravity. To knowingly travel a few miles over the posted speed limit isn't the same as intentionally setting a forest fire in a posted area. The danger is in thinking one's actions are without consequence. Sensible civil laws are designed to ensure the safety and well-being of citizens, and many municipalities outlaw fireworks because of the hazards they pose.

When any civil law is broken for mere self-indulgence or when breaking the law places others at risk, the act has the potential of constituting the definition of sin. In that case, it would rightfully warrant reconciliation.

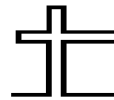
Byron Miller, C.Ss.R.

**BULLETIN INFORMATION MUST BE
PRINTED OR TYPED AND RECEIVED BY
NOON ON MONDAY**

CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES to ~ Dale & Martha Hoffman on the occasion of their 62nd Wedding Anniversary. May God bless them with peace, joy and happiness.

*This Week at
Saint Gertrude Parish ~
July 4 ~ No Bingo*

*No Mass on Thursday, July 8 and Friday,
July 9, Fr. James will be at St. Vincent for
a meeting*



Sacrificial Giving

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June 26 & 27

Offertory Envelope\$4,604.00

Loose Collection.....364.00

Utilities.....89.00

Peter's Pence.....837.00

**THANK YOU & GOD BLESS all of you for
your support to Saint Gertrude Parish.**

The ST. GERTRUDE CONFERENCE of ST. VINCENT de PAUL ~ will meet on Wednesday, July 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the church hall. All members are urged to attend.

OBLATES of SAINT BENEDICT ~ a series of monthly classes on Benedictine spirituality will continue on Sunday, July 18, 3 p.m. to 4:25 p.m. in Brownfield Room 202 of Saint Vincent Seminary. The topic will be "Obedience in Benedictine Spirituality," and Andrew Campbell, OSB, coordinator of the Archabbey's website, will be the presenter. The same day, the same place at 6:45 p.m., the topic of discussion will be Chapters 8 to 11 of the book *Life and Miracles of St. Benedict*, with focus on St. Benedict's early days at Montecassino. Those wishing to pray Vespers with the monks at 5 p.m. and then stay for supper should contact Fr. Donald at 724-805-2291 in advance..... **ALSO**, Oblates and their guests are welcome to join the monks of the Archabbey for the celebration of the Feast of Saint Benedict on Saturday, July 10, beginning with a festive Mass at 10 a.m. For information and registration, contact Chris Karem 724-875-0285 or Fr. Donald.

PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION ~ thank you for your generous support of the essential work of the Holy Father and his charitable acts through the Peter's Pence Collection. You have helped to cast Christ's love upon the world. To read more about the good done through the Peter's Pence Collection, please visit www.uscch.org/nationalcollections.

SAVE THESE DATES

Saturday, August 28 thru Wednesday, September 1 ~ Mission ~ St. Gertrude Parish ~ with Fr. James Sichko



Sunday, September 12 ~ St. Gertrude Parish
1st Annual Picnic ~ Mass at 12 Noon ~
Northmoreland Park Pavilion #8

Scripture Verse

“Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them. The kingdom of God is at hand for you.” Lk 10:8-9



Readings for the Week of July 4, 2010

Sunday: Is 66:10-14c/Gal 6:14-18/Lk 10:1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9
Monday: Hos 2:16, 17c-18, 21-22/Mt 9:18-26
Tuesday: Hos 8:4-7, 11-13/Mt 9:32-38
Wednesday: Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12/Mt 10:1-7
Thursday: Hos 11:1-4, 8e-9/Mt 10:7-15
Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Mt 10:16-23
Saturday: Is 6:1-8/Mt 10:24-33
Next Sunday: Dt 30:10-14/Col 1:15-20/Lk 10:25-37

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SANCTUARY LAMP

*In memory of Aunt Mary & Uncle Bob Brasiola,
with Love and Miss you, by Gabi*

MEMORIAL CANDLES

*In memory of Nunzio & Maria Dettore by the family
In memory of Frances Petrarca by Edie & Andy*

PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS and FRIENDS who are ill: Please notify the Parish Office (724-568-2331), if a family member or parishioner is in the hospital, confined to home or in a rest home.



FREEDOM

July 4: Independence Day

“Hooray, I’m free!” is a cry that could be heard at the school doors before summer vacation, at the courthouse after a verdict of innocence, or as a plaster cast is taken off a broken bone.

But “Hooray, we’re free!” resonates with a deeper meaning. The communal nature of “We’re free!” reflects bonding in a society, an understanding that promotion of the common good is important.

Freedom is not license to do whatever I please. Rather, freedom is liberty to come together to further the good of all. We are free to care for our neighbor with the expectation that we do so because we are all bound together in one society, one human family.

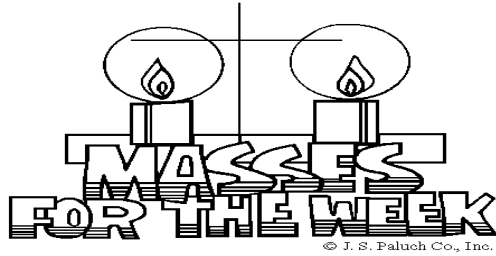
THE RECTORY OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, JULY 5, TO OBSERVE INDEPENDENCE DAY.

NO Bingo—Due to 4th of July



The Rosary Society ~ thanks to all who contributed to and participated in the success of the Trash and Treasure sale.

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Saturday, July 3, Saint Thomas, apostle

4:00 p.m. †Rennie & Felicia Trozzi

Sunday, July 4, 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. For the Parish

10:30 a.m. †Zigmund & Rose Majeran (An.)

Monday, July 5, Weekday

8:30 a.m. †Mary Scalzott

Tuesday, July 6, Weekday

8:30 a.m. †Mary Golembiewski (An.)

Wednesday, July 7, Weekday

8:30 a.m. Mr. & Mrs. Dale Hoffman (62nd
Wedding An.)

Thursday, July 8, Weekday

8:30 a.m. NO MASS

Friday, July 9, Weekday

8:30 a.m. NO MASS

Saturday, July 10, Weekday

8:30 a.m. †Joanne Adams

4:00 p.m. †Mary Arnone, Tony & Philamena
Palatella

Sunday, July 11, 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. For the Parish

10:30 a.m. †James Centorcelli



July 10 & 11

4:00 p.m. ~ (Cross) Aaron Waner
(Servers) Mike DePanics, Deana Callipare

8:00 a.m. ~ (Cross) Lacey Emmerson
(Servers) Nicole Shannon, Julie Shannon

10:30 a.m. ~ (Cross) Eric Bennardo
(Servers) Kaitlyn Sciullo, Colton Robb