

# Some Church Teaching on Immigration

The conversation about immigration in our country has gotten very emotional and heated recently. Before accepting everything our preferred political party has to say on the issue, we need to inform ourselves about what our Church has to teach on the subject.

These teachings come from the Bible and the wisdom of countless saints and centuries of thought. The four bishops of Colorado, including our own Archbishop Samuel, issued a joint statement January 23 through the Colorado Catholic Conference in response to ongoing discussions about immigration as President Donald J. Trump takes office for his second term.

During his campaign and preparation for office, the president has spoken at length about plans for immigration enforcement, including alleged mass deportations.

## Individual Right to Migrate to Sustain Life

Amid great confusion and fear, the Colorado bishops see it as their responsibility “to ensure the safety and well-being of our communities, as well as passing on the teaching of the Church on immigration to those who govern.”

In so doing, they explained the Church’s teaching on immigration, dating back to *Rerum Novarum* (“On the Condition of Labor”), Pope Leo XIII’s watershed encyclical, identifying three main principles:

1. People have the right to migrate to sustain their lives and the lives of their families;
2. A country has the right to regulate its borders and to control immigration;
3. A country must regulate its borders with justice and mercy.

“When individuals are not in systems of government where their dignity is upheld, their rights are violated, and their lives and the lives of their families are at risk,” the bishops said in their statement, building on these principles and pointing to Pope St. John Paul II’s *Centesimus Annus*. “Those individuals have the right to migrate, and the country that accepts them has a moral obligation to provide them with basic human needs, including shelter, food, medicine, and the ability to work.”

*The Colorado Bishops’ Statement on Immigration: Welcoming the Stranger, Protecting the Common Good*

You can read the Bishops’ short, three-page letter yourself at [cocatholic.org/bishop-letters/](http://cocatholic.org/bishop-letters/)

## National Right to Regulate Borders and Control Immigration

At the same time, the bishops held up each sovereign nation’s right to regulate its borders. Though “the American immigration system is decidedly ‘broken,’” the bishops said, the United States maintains the right to preserve its social and economic life.

The bishops highlighted the tremendous number of migrants and immigration applications in the United States, the challenge of preserving national security by preventing and prosecuting crime, and the deeply concerning number of unaccompanied and oft-abused minors at the border.

Considering these data, the bishops rejected an “open border” policy, saying it “is not a just system and does great damage to the dignity of the human person, and most especially to the children and women who are trafficked.”

On the other hand, the bishops also rejected mass deportations, saying they are “not the solution to our present situation in the United States, especially when it may separate parents and children.”

## Call to Justice and Mercy

Recognizing both the right to migrate and the right to regulate migration, the bishops of Colorado called for a balance of justice and mercy.

“Our faith calls us to solidarity with the marginalized, hence we must acknowledge the importance of order and justice in society,” the bishops said, pointing to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*’s call for political leaders to serve the common good.

“Thus, immigration policies should balance mercy with justice, ensuring public safety while upholding the dignity of each human person. Those who exploit the vulnerable or engage in criminal activity must be held accountable, but we must never allow fear to overshadow our commitment to the Gospel. Enforcement of immigration laws must be humane, prioritizing family unity and avoiding unnecessary harm to those seeking a better life,” the bishops continued.

## What Can We Do?

While much remains outside the sphere of influence of the Colorado faithful, the bishops encouraged their flocks to consider three points of action very much within each’s ability:

1. Advocate for comprehensive immigration reform, in Colorado and nationally, that respects human dignity and ensures safety;
2. Support local initiatives that aid immigrants and refugees, especially the work being done at the three regional Catholic Charities;
3. And pray for those who are displaced, for their families, for wisdom and courage in our own hearts, and for local, state and national leaders.

“In this moment, we are called to be both bold and balanced — steadfast in our faith, compassionate in our actions and rooted in the virtue of charity,” the bishops concluded. “May we, as a community of faith, rise to this challenge with hope, courage and a commitment to build a society that reflects the love of Christ.”

Join us for a discussion about these principles and how we can put them into practice at the Pint with a Priest on March 19 in Grand Lake.

## Pregnancy Resource Connection

### 21st Annual Banquet

We at PRC are so excited to invite you to our yearly evening of good food, good folks, great music, and lots of laughter. A full 3-course meal will be served. Admission is FREE.

Our theme this year is A Light on a Hill taken from Mathew 5:14, “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.”

Our speaker this year is Dr. John Bruchalski OBGYN, whose powerful conversion story will make your heart soar! Dr. John was a former abortionist who, like Saint Paul, had a life changing conversion experience, first in Mexico City in front of the image of our Lady of Guadalupe and then another encounter in the small village of Medjugorje in Croatia. You must hear it to believe!

“I came to see that true healthcare for women is not about rights, but relationship. Not about limits, but about love and mercy.” –Dr. John

This year there will be two banquets.

## Banquet in Kremmling



Feb 15, 2025 12:30pm  
Shiloah Building  
116 North 3rd Street  
Kremmling

## Banquet in Fraser

Feb 16, 2025 4:30pm  
Crooked Creek Ranch  
3000 Co Hwy 517  
Fraser



Registration is separate for both banquets. Childcare is available at both venues, and you must register to participate.

To register scan the appropriate QR code or call 970-887-3617 or go to [supportprcgrand.org](http://supportprcgrand.org)

### **A Note from the Pastor**

This weekend and next weekend Fr. Al is filling in. He is a priest from the Diocese of Pittsburgh and is vacationing here for part of the winter. We thank him for his flexibility and help!

### **Friday Night Feed at Cranmer Chapel, Winter Park**

Each year members of our community help provide meals for hundreds of people in cooperation with the Cranmer Chapel in Winter Park. This year we have been asked to provide sides and volunteers for Friday, February 21. If you are interested, please sign up at [grandcatholic.com/signup/](http://grandcatholic.com/signup/)

### **Second Try for English Classes**

This may be the time to try again to start up some English classes. There are many people in our community that desire to learn English. Are you interested in helping to teach English?

If you are interested, please don't be afraid to give it a go. Many people have remarked on the division between the English- and Spanish-speaking communities in our parish. This would be a great way of bridging that divide. Also, this would be a great way to help our neighbors feel a little more welcome in our parish and the wider community. Please contact the office if you are interested.

### **Pint with a Priest**

Join Fr. Peter for a drink and a good discussion about the faith, with time for Q & A. Catholics and non-Catholics are welcome. Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m.

Next month we will talk about the Biblical Jubilee. What would it have looked like? Was it ever practiced? What does it tell us about the mission of Jesus? How do we celebrate the Jubilee Year of 2025?

#### **North, Grand Lake, The Sagebrush BBQ**

Feb 26 – The Biblical Jubilee

March 19 – Immigration Matters

April 30 – Marriage

#### **South, Winter Park, The Ditch on 40**

Feb 19 – The Biblical Jubilee

April 23 – Marriage

### **Girls' Bible Study Starting**

All middle-school and high-school girls are invited to Java Lava Cafe in Granby Friday mornings at 11:00 am. Bring a Bible and journal. Enjoy a casual study of Scripture with breakfast or coffee. We will cover the cost of food and drink.

### **Dying Well Conference – Save the Date**

It seems that most people take the “ignore it and maybe it will take care of itself” approach to death. Many people are not prepared for death, either spiritually, financially, or legally. All are invited to a parish event on Sunday, March 16, that will help in these areas. Join us from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, with a good lunch provided.

Prepare for our parish conference by watching the short series *Eternal Rest: The Art of Dying Well* on Formed.org. Explore the mystery of death, dying, and everlasting life through *Eternal Rest*, an offering of the Augustine Institute. *Eternal Rest* examines the origin of death, the afterlife, and the powerful reality around the sacrament that ushers us into eternal life.

Small groups to watch this series are being formed at our churches or start your own group!

#### **Mass Collections, January 25 & 26**

St. Anne	\$809
St. Bernard	1432
Our Lady of the Snow	1161
St. Peter	922
St. Ignatius	<u>1266</u>
Total	\$5590

#### **Vocations Prayer Calendar**

*Please pray for our seminarians every day.*

Sun – David Napierkowski & Cody Bliss

Mon – Marcus Chua & Matheo Cuartas

Tue – Juan Luis Gordillo & Gabriel Pineda

Wed – Daniele Arienzo & Carl Berner

Thu – Daniel Calix Figueroa & Daniel Correia

Fri – Br. Peter Xavier & Br. Thomas Gonzaga

Sat – Adrian Ibarra Quiroz & Manuel Alarcon Salinas

#### **Mass Intentions and Schedule for StA, StB, and OLS**

KEY: StA = St. Anne; StB = St. Bernard;

OLS = Our Lady of the Snow

-Mon, Feb 3, StA, 8:30 a.m., +Linda Evans

-Tue, Feb 4, OLS, 7:30 a.m., Fr. Peter's Intention

-Tue, Feb 4, OLS, 7:00 p.m., Special Intention

-Wed, Feb 5, StB, 8:30 a.m., Christ Derks & David Derks

**-Thu, Feb 6, OLS, 8:30 a.m., Mary Wells**

**-Fri, Feb 7, OLS, 8:30 a.m., + Thomas Larva**

-Sat, Feb 8, StB, 4:00 p.m., Parishioners and Visitors

-Sat, Feb 8, StB, 5:30 p.m., Fr. Albin's Intention

-Sat, Feb 8, StA, 5:00 p.m., Steve McGinn

-Sun, Feb 9, StB, 7 a.m., Fr. Albin's Intention

-Sun, Feb 9, OLS, 9:30 a.m., +Molly Corlett

-Sun, Feb 9, OLS, 6:00 p.m., Special Intention

#### **Mass Intentions and Schedule for StP and StI**

KEY: StP = St. Peter; StI = St. Ignatius (Walden)

-Fri, Feb 7, StP, 7:00 p.m., Fr. Peter's Intention

-Sun, Feb 9, StP, 10:00 a.m., Fr. Peter's Intention

-Sun, Feb 9, StI, 1 p.m., Parishioners and Visitors