



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS
Office of Communications and Planning

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2, 2021

Media Contact:

Peter Frangie

314.258.6444

peterfrangie@archstl.org

Archdiocese of St. Louis Statement on the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 Vaccine

ST. LOUIS – Following the U.S. FDA’s authorization of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, as with all vaccines, Archbishop Rozanski and the Archdiocese of St. Louis encourage Catholics to examine the moral and ethical concerns surrounding the decision to receive this vaccination. Catholics who appropriately question the morality of accepting the Johnson & Johnson vaccine may receive the inoculation in good conscience if no other alternative is available.

Much like the AstraZeneca vaccine, a cell line derived from an aborted child seems to have been used in the development and production of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, making it morally compromised. In regards to the AstraZeneca vaccine, Archbishop Joseph Naumann, Chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities says the “vaccine should be avoided if there are alternatives (like Pfizer or Moderna) available.” This applies to the Johnson & Johnson vaccine as well.

As some Catholics may face a situation in which they are only offered the choice of the Johnson & Johnson inoculation, this should not prevent Catholics from getting vaccinated. [As the bishops of Missouri have previously stated](#), Catholics may in good conscience utilize vaccines, even those derived in an unethical manner, in order to protect themselves, as well as to avoid the serious risk to vulnerable persons and to society as a whole resulting from remaining unvaccinated.

Vaccines for COVID-19 should be safe, effective, and developed, produced, and distributed in an ethically acceptable manner.

More information is available in the latest quarterly [Messenger publication of the Missouri Catholic Conference](#) and in [Archbishop Naumann’s USCCB statement found here](#).

“Being vaccinated safely against COVID-19 should be considered an act of love of our neighbor and part of our moral responsibility for the common good.”

- **Archbishop Joseph Naumann**
USCCB Pro-Life Activities Committee Chairman

Please direct questions to communications@archstl.org.