In the past, some good people in the Church have been critical of me for not bringing Pro-life issues often enough and forcefully enough into the pulpit.

I’ve been criticized in the past for sometimes not voting correctly as a Catholic; for supporting at the ballot box candidates and political parties who are sketchy, if not downright hostile, when it comes to Pro-life issues.

Well, today what you’ll hear from the pulpit is a homily that is blatantly and unabashedly Pro-choice!!

“If you choose you can keep the commandments, they will save you; if you trust in God, you too shall live.”

IF you choose, you CAN keep the commandments.

Thousands of years ago, in the desert around the holy mountain Sinai, God gave to Moses and God’s Chosen People the Ten Commandments to guide them from their idolatry and doubt, their selfishness and hardness of heart to become a people peculiarly His own … a chosen race, a royal people, a people set apart for God.

Two thousand years ago, the Son of God emerged from the desert where He contended with the power of evil, climbed to the mountaintop, and taught the people the two great Commandments that
would show them forevermore, for all the world to see, that they were His followers, His disciples, His friends, His Church.

What are these guideposts that God has gifted us with that we might live good lives, virtuous lives, a little bit of heaven-on-earth lives that bring us joy and fulfillment, that bring others to catch a glimpse of God when they feel our love, when they see our goodness, when they bask in the joy of a life lived in harmony with the Father’s providential will?

I am the Lord your God; you shall not have other gods before me.

IF YOU CHOOSE … love isn’t a feeling, it’s a choice, a choice to work at a relationship that puts the Beloved first, first before me, first before soccer games or football, first before work or shopping or gardening.

You shall not take the Name of the Lord your God in vain.

IF YOU CHOOSE … what we say, how we speak to one another, the words we use … these are all from our minds, formed by our lips, uttered from our mouths. Language is a gift from the God who spoke the world into being. Crass and crude words only throw the gift back in the face of God.

Remember to keep holy the Lord’s day.

IF YOU CHOOSE … Sunday, Resurrection Day, Easter every week, the day my Lord raised little ole me up that I might soar with the angels … this is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it … we need to celebrate that communion of life, that communion of forgiveness, with all the brothers and sisters who know that in Him we
live and move and have our being … every Sunday … not shopping day, not laundry day, not cut the grass day, not lounge on the couch day … no, not those … how much God loves me day … now, that’s somethin’ to celebrate at least every week, if not every minute of my life!

Love your neighbor as yourself.

IF YOU CHOOSE … if you want to, you can see that every single life is a gift from God, every single person has the spark of God’s Spirit in them, every single person made in the image and likeness of God has the dignity of a child of God. Along the way, these images of the Divine can become smeared, these earthen vessels can crack and break but if I work hard enough, I can find it in my heart to forgive the one who hurts me. If I look hard enough and long enough, I can see through the cracks to that bright shining gem of their immortal soul. If I love patiently enough, passionately enough as I have been loved by my Lord, maybe, just maybe, they’ll let me take their hand and walk with me home to the house of the Father.

You have been called to a dignity that is little less than the angels. You have been promised a cross if you follow Christ, walk with Christ. You have been promised a crown if you run the race, keep the faith. Sure, you can live a mediocre life full of excuses and compromises, but, you CAN keep God’s commandments, you can walk in holiness, you can live in justice, you can offer mercy, you can seek the Lord while He may be found. You can … IF YOU CHOOSE.

It’s your choice.