The theme of the essay contest is **“The Importance of Religious Freedom.”**

**As Catholics we are called to participate in the political life of our country. This can be difficult at times because our beliefs are often misunderstood and unpopular. Also, laws and regulations from our governments can be contrary to our beliefs and threaten to force us to violate our conscience. Discuss the challenges we face in this area, the importance of religious freedom, and the idea of the Catholic in the public square.**

**Write an essay in your own words using you best writing, grammar, spelling, and effort. Bring a completed first draft to class on Wednesday, January 21.**

**Your final draft is due Friday, January 23.**

**Essays must be…**

**Typed**

**Double spaced**

**Your own original work**

**3-5 paragraphs**

**Carefully proof read**