



Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time—November 12, 2017
SAINT MARY’S & SAINT ELIZABETH’S CATHOLIC CHURCHES



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VICTOR DVORAK –DEACON



“Behold, the Bridegroom! Come out to meet him!”

Ancient weddings lasted for days. A highpoint was the arrival of the groom at the bride’s house, where bridesmaids met him joyfully. Ancient literature says that grooms sometimes delayed their arrival, waiting even until midnight, to catch the bridesmaids off guard. Jesus used this image to teach people about His final coming. It will catch many people off guard. As a result, they will not be prepared.

If the Second Coming of Jesus were to take place an hour from now, what is one way that I would be caught off guard and not prepared? If we want to spend eternity with God, use the moments of today in preparation. Ultimately, that is what time on earth is for.

It was a great success!

Thank you to everyone who had a role in our annual Saint Mary’s Fall Festival. In my own estimation, it was a smashing success, with great food, wonderful games, wonderful prizes, and lots of good wholesome fun. We should do it again next week!

Special thanks to Greg Fitterer, who spent much time and effort as chairman, making sure all was planned well and unfolded according to plan. He has had this important role now for fifteen years and we are grateful for the many sacrifices it entails. For love of our parish, he has been willing to make these great sacrifices and we are eternally grateful.

Special thanks to Mary Fitterer who organized all of the meals and was instrumental in preparing them as well. For all the people who went away from the meals with their taste buds singing for joy, thank you Mary and your kitchen helpers.

The booths, the BINGO, and the silent and live auctions were also a great success and our gratitude goes to those who planned and organized these efforts. People enjoyed themselves at the Fall Festival and were never bored because of what was available to pass the time in fun and fellowship. May God reward you for your efforts.

Special thanks to everyone who helped set up for the Fall Festival and those who helped with the takedown and cleanup. It was a lot of work and effort and for this we are most grateful.

As for the Fall Festival winners, they are as follows: 1) \$100 (Randy Fitterer) 2) \$100 (Renee Kilzer) 3) \$100 (Joe & Aggie Wandler) 4) \$200 (Wilma Fitterer) 5) \$200 (Kathleen Gartner) 6) \$300 (Fr. Gary Benz), I assure you, this was not rigged! 7) \$400 (Christine Brentrup) 8) \$500 (John Kathrein) 9) \$600 (Kevin & Marlene Schafer)

Again, thank you for a very successful 2017 Saint Mary’s Fall Festival. We will see you again next year, as we showcase the hard work ethic and spirit of hospitality of our parish.

SM Poinsettia Fund – Parishioners are invited to help decorate our sanctuary for the Christmas season by donating to the poinsettia fund. Envelopes are available at the entrance of church and may be placed in the collection basket or dropped off at the parish office. Funds need to be received by noon on November 19th to ensure deliver for Christmas. Checks are to be made payable to Saint Mary’s Church with a note in the memo box Poinsettia Fund.

A Point to Ponder *Joy increases as you try to give it away; it diminishes as you try to keep it for yourself.*

MASS & ADORATION SCHEDULE

Monday, November 13

7:30 AM SM—Communion Service

Tuesday, November 14

7:30 AM SM —Living & Deceased family members of the

Don Shannon Family by David & Vivian Hernandez

6:00 PM SE—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7:00 PM SE—+Vi Martin by Don Miller & Teresa Decker

Wednesday, November 15

2:00 PM SM—+Magdalena Schoch by Clarence Wandler

7:00 PM SM— Rosary & Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions

7:00 PM SM— +Paul Schiwal by LouAnn & Duane Dobitz

Thursday, November 16

7:30AM SM— +Nancy Gerou by Robert & Cely Stagl

Friday, November 17

7:30AM SM— +Adam Krebs & +Lyle Krebs by Gene & Judy Krebs

12PM-3PM SM— Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, November 18

8:30 AM SM—+John & +Antonia Brusich by Brusich Family

5:00 PM SM +Dorlyn Held by Rob & Amy Rayhorn

Sunday, November 19

8:30AM SE +John Herold by JP & +Laura Grundhauser

10:30AM SM—Pro Populo

Please Keep in Your Prayers:

Patty Frank, Andy Prokop, Mason Urlacher, Henley Johnson, Duane Grundhauser, Pete Schaefer, Alice Candrian, Jeff Hewson, Marilyn Jacobs, Leo Heck, Ross Thomas, Keith Herold, Arlene Rohr, Brenda Barton, Elven Kaufman, Suzette Printz, Jackie Deplanche, Cely Stagl, Linda Reisenauer, Rose Krebs (SE), Russ Lefor, Lori Lefor, Herbert Emmil, Reggie Gentz, Cindy Martin, Tim Theil, Howard Schiwal, Theresa Decker, Alyssa Binstock, Yvonne Fettig, Dale Reindel, Kim Kuhn, Don Miller, Carla Rohan, Shari Obritsch, Charlotte Krebs, Eugenia Stagl, Bart Rohan, Katherine Splichal, Bonnie (Krebs) Dick, Dorothy Kohl, Colleen Churchill, Thresiamma (Fr. Biju's mom)

Assisted Living and Nursing Home Residents: Archie Jalbert, Benny Benz, Joan Binstock, Joe Wandler, Sylvia Koppinger, Mike Urlacher, Leona Gordon, Ardelle Kovar, Joan Madler, Cecelia Jung, Donnella Koppinger, Marilyn Jeske, Willie Emmil, Frances Heick, Dale Schroeder

Our Deceased Loved Ones +Alvin Rotering +Jeanne Kovar +Bridget Urlacher, +Laura Grundhauser, +Florian Urlacher +Paul Schiwal, + LeRoy Jacobs +Victor Roller +John Herold, + Viola Martin + Viola Neprash +Maggie Schoch, +Rose Lefor, + Mary Ficek + June Stockert +Adeline Bogner +Vern Honeymann, +Kasper Heidt, +Caroline Pechtl, +Jacob Frank,

On the Lighter Side How many Amish does it take to change a lightbulb? What's a lightbulb?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **SE is in need of auction items** for the church fundraiser. For raffle tickets contact parish council members.
- ◆ Donated pies for Thanksgiving day dinner are to delivered to Norby' & Arlene Rohr's the day before Thanksgiving.

Counseling is available If you are in need of a counselor for any trials or struggles you are facing, know that a trained counselor is available right here in New England and she meets individuals, couples, and families at Saint Mary's Parish. Her name is Tami Christianson and she is part of Catholic Charities. For more information or to set up an appointment, please call Catholic Charities at 701-255-1793.

St. Mary's Liturgical Assignments November 18 & 19

| MINISTRY | Saturday 5 PM | Sunday 10:30AM |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Lector | Lori Fitterer | John Ehlis |
| Mass Servers | Maddie R./Molly R. | Kayla E./Addison F. |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Jim K./Martina S. | David H./Vivian H. |
| Gifts | Richard Wandler | Philip & Clem Urlacher |
| Rosary Leader | Richard Wandler | Ann Wandler |
| Greeters | Nicholas D./Eileen L. | Victor & Lynn Dvorak |
| Homebound Minister | David & Vivian H. | David & Vivian H. |

Collection Report St. Mary's November 4 & 5

| Adult | Youth | |
|------------------|----------------------|----------|
| \$ 1561.00 | Envelopes | \$ 45.07 |
| \$ 191.00 | Loose Plate | \$ |
| \$ 1797.07 | Total | \$ |
| \$ 1797.07 | Month | \$ 45.07 |
| \$ 30.00/\$50.00 | All Saints/All Souls | \$ |

St. Elizabeth's Liturgical Assignments November 19

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Lector | Arlene |
| Mass Servers | Nathan |
| Eucharistic Ministers | Darrell & Dorita |
| Gifts | Lenny & Delinda |
| Greeters | Darrell & Dorita |
| Ushers | Greg K. & Deran |

Collection Report St. Elizabeth's November 5

| Adult | Youth | |
|------------|-------------|----------|
| \$ 1150.80 | Envelopes | \$ 17.00 |
| \$ 12.00 | Loose Plate | \$ |
| \$ 1179.80 | Total | \$ |
| \$ 1179.80 | Month | \$ 17.00 |

Death and Dying, a Christian Perspective

“What should be considered when planning the liturgical celebrations of a Catholic funeral?”

In the midst of the sorrow and grief of death, what a comfort Catholics possess in the rituals and prayers of the liturgical celebrations for the dead. Symbols such as the white funeral pall, the Paschal (Easter) candle, and the priest's or deacon's vestments (white or gold) remind the bereaved that their loved one, who died with Christ in Baptism, is also called to share in His Resurrection. The incensation of the casket reminds us that the body is sacred and destined for the joys of heaven. The incense serves to remind us as well that our prayers, on behalf of the deceased, rise to God's throne, as we plead for mercy on their behalf. The symbols and prayers of the liturgy indeed bring great comfort and consolation to the family and friends who mourn the death of loved ones. To preserve the beauty and spiritual gifts of the funeral liturgies, some principles should be kept in mind when planning these liturgies.

A) **A Funeral Vigil:** If possible, the funeral vigil should be celebrated at the parish church of the deceased. This church has many family memories attached to it, such as gathering for great feasts (like Christmas), weddings, etc. More importantly, the church is where the deceased became a Christian, through the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Holy Eucharist, and Confirmation. These sacraments were a source of countless spiritual graces and blessings, preparing the deceased for eternal life . . . their spiritual goal.

An honored Catholic tradition is to pray the Holy Rosary at the beginning of the funeral vigil, meditating upon the Glorious Mysteries, which center upon the triumph of Jesus Christ over sin and death. . . a message of hope in the midst of the darkness of grief. The Holy Rosary is then followed by a Scriptural service, with sacred readings from the Bible, a short meditation/reflection, and some prayers of intercession. Within this Scriptural service, time should be allowed for open sharing from the assembly, which brings much comfort and healing to the bereaved as they hear how their deceased loved one touched so many lives. This time of sharing also assists the priest or deacon in preparing for the funeral Mass homily, which is more personal if some of these stories can be incorporated into it. One note of concern, please be judicious when sharing stories of the deceased. All too often in our day, the stories have become rather crude and a bit too earthy. Such stories have no place in a church and they are rather insulting to the memory of the deceased; they deserve better.

B) **Funeral Mass:** Shortly before the funeral Mass, ask the priest to lead your family in prayer as the casket is being closed for the last time. This is a difficult moment, for it is the last time the family will look upon the body of their loved one; a prayer for strength and consolation is imperative. The funeral Mass begins with the placing of the funeral pall upon the casket, along with a Christian symbol. This ritual should be done by the family, for it involves them in this powerful gesture of pleading for God's mercy upon the deceased . . . a mercy that we pray will totally encompass them.

At the funeral Mass, the Scripture readings, the symbols, and the prayers speak volumes of God's love and mercy, calling all of His children to share in the joys of eternal life prepared for them from the foundation of the world. Unfortunately, this noble beauty and consolation can be deemphasized or lost if we add too many of our own innovations to the funeral Mass (flower presentations, a favorite poem, a current billboard song, etc.). This holds true for eulogies as well, which the current diocesan *Synod Statutes* don't allow for at a funeral Mass. Allow the Holy Mass and its beauty to console and incorporate these other elements into the funeral vigil the night before.

C) **Rite of Committal:** The final and most difficult part of the liturgical celebrations is the burial at the cemetery, when we bid our final farewell to the deceased. It is helpful in the healing process to engage in some type of final leave-taking: bless the casket with holy water, place a flower on the casket, or sing a song in memory of the departed loved one. Most beneficial (though seldom done) is to be present as the casket is placed in the ground. Some believe that this is too disconcerting to the grieving family and friends, but it does so much to bring closure when one sees the body placed within the earth. It also reminds us that we are mortal; we are dust and unto dust we shall return. We must prepare for our own death, so that we may join our loved one in the Kingdom to come.

Though the grief and sorrow of death is a lifetime process, much healing can be gained by entering into the fullness of the Catholic funeral liturgies. Human comfort and words of support bring some degree of consolation, but there is no way to surpass the comfort of God as He speaks to the bereaved in the funeral liturgies of the Church. These liturgies are ancient and yet always new, for they point to the day when we will gather around God's throne, where there will be no more tears or sadness, but the eternal joy and peace which only God can give.

Our prayers rise like incense—I love to use incense within the Holy Mass, but I am also aware that some people can't tolerate it, due to allergies or bronchial problems. To meet them half-ways, I will offer the dates when we will use incense in the upcoming months: 1) The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (December 7th & 8th); 2) Christmas (December 24th & 25th); 3) The Feast of the Holy Family (December 30th & 31st); 4) The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God (December 31st and January 1st); 5) The Baptism of the Lord (January 6th & 7th)

On these days, we will try to send the thurible to the sacristy right away, after the various incensations, and I encourage parishioners at Saint Mary's to utilize the smaller church pew we set in the vestibule; it is situated before the glass windows. I hope this can bring some assistance at this time of year, when incense is used in many liturgical celebrations.