



Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time—November 5, 2017  
 SAINT MARY'S & SAINT ELIZABETH'S CATHOLIC CHURCHES



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VICTOR DVORAK –DEACON

***“Whoever humbles himself will be exalted.”***

There was once a monk who was sent to another monastery to serve as the new abbot. When he arrived, before he could introduce himself, the monks looked at his humble personage and unimpressive demeanor and assumed he was just a simple monk wanting to join their monastery. So, they sent him to work in the kitchen, assigning him the most menial of tasks. He never complained, and spent long hours scouring pots, washing floors, and shelling beans.

Finally, the bishop of the diocese arrived at the monastery. When he could not find the overdue abbot, he went on a search. Of course, he found him in the kitchen, preparing that night's supper. When he officially presented him to the monks in their chapel, they received a lesson in humility which would last them a lifetime. Maybe it's a lesson we all could take to heart: our faith is to be expressed in active love, not empty words. How humble is our love?



Heavenly Father, on this day, help us remember those who gave of themselves to keep us safe and secure.  
 Enkindle in our consciences a desire to serve those who served their country selflessly.  
 Give us the grace to aid those who have given aid and protection to us and others both here and overseas.  
 Let us never forget the causes for which they fought or the bravery they showed on the battlefield.  
 May we always be mindful of those who paid the price for our freedom,  
 just as your Son gave his life to free us from the bondage of sin.  
 Amen.



**It's here!** After months of preparation, our Saint Mary's Fall Festival has arrived; it's show time! I know that this is a huge undertaking and be assured that I am very grateful to everyone who gave so generously of their time and efforts in making our Fall Festival a great success. May God reward you! I myself look forward to the great meals, the hope of making Christmas shopping easy through the silent and live auctions, and of course my victory dance after every one of my BINGOS. I wonder where I put my dancing shoes?

## MASS & ADORATION SCHEDULE

**Monday, November 6**

**7:30 AM SM—Communion Service**

**Tuesday, November 7**

**7:30 AM SM -+Magdalen Schoch by Clarence Wandler**

**6:00 PM SE—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

**7:00 PM SE—+Chelsa Miller by Loretta Miller**

**Wednesday, November 8**

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

**7:00 PM SM— Special Intention of Ken & Martina Stagl**

**Thursday, November 9**

**7:30AM SM— +Mary Ficek by Family**

**Friday, November 10**

**7:30AM SM— +Rose Frank by Cely & Robert Stagl**

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

**Saturday, November 11**

**8:30 AM SM—+Adam Krebs & +Lyle Krebs by Gene & Judy Krebs**

**5:00 PM SM +Father Thomas Dignan by Father Gary Benz**

**Sunday, November 12**

**8:30AM SE +Steve & +Bertha Anton by Duane & Kathy Schawb**

*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** Did you hear about the man from the IRS who phoned the Irish monsignor of Saint Columba Parish? The IRS agent stated, "We're checking the tax return of a member of your church. Mr. Patrick Murphy lists a donation to your building fund of \$10,000. Is that correct?" The monsignor answered without hesitation, "I haven't got my records available, but I'll promise you one thing: If he hasn't, he will."

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ◆ **SE KC Meeting** Tues. Nov. 7 after the 7PM Mass
- ◆ **SE Steak and Shrimp supper Sat. Nov. 11 from 5:30-8PM**
- ◆ **SE is in need of auction items** for the church fundraiser. If you are in need of raffle tickets, for the fund raiser, please contact your church board members.
- ◆ Anyone interested in donating pies for the Thanksgiving day dinner are asked to deliver them to Norby' & Arlene Rohr's the day before Thanksgiving.
- ◆ **SM Parish Council** Wed. Nov. 8 following the 7PM Mass

**A point to ponder** *The seven last words of a parish:  
We never did it that way before.*

### St. Mary's Liturgical Assignments November 11 & 12

MINISTRY	Saturday 5 PM	Sunday 10:30AM
Lector	Diane Binstock	Dan Gardner
Mass Servers	Zack J. & Zach M.	Matthew B & Will S.
Eucharistic Ministers	Leonard G./Richard W	Mary F./Kent M.
Gifts	Philip & Clem Urlacher	Larry & Betty Heick
Rosary Leader	Kathy Gartner	Mary Fitterer
Greeters	Vicki Herberholz	Helen Koppinger
Homebound Minister	Martina Stagl	Martina Stagl

### Collection Report St. Mary's October 28 & 29

Adult			Youth
\$ 1106.00	Envelopes		\$ 14.33
\$ 70.00	Loose Plate		\$
\$ 1190.33	Total		\$
\$ 12541.98	Month		\$ 87.19

### St. Elizabeth's Liturgical Assignments November 12

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

### Collection Report St. Elizabeth's October 29

Adult			Youth
\$ 690.00	Envelopes		\$ 9.00
\$ 57.00	Loose Plate		\$
\$ 756.00	Total		\$
\$ 3188.00	Month		\$ 37.00

## **Death and Dying, a Christian Perspective**

Perhaps the most difficult conversation is to speak to someone who has lost a loved one in death. In our desire to comfort others upon the death of a family member or a dear friend, we repeat sentiments or expressions often stated in such circumstances, such as, “God wanted him/her in heaven”; “She/he is in a much happier place”; or “God does not give us more than we can handle”. While we believe we are offering comfort and consolation to the bereaved, such expressions can actually be hurtful and may cause further distress, as is demonstrated by a closer look at these expressions.

**God wanted him/her in heaven:** To the bereaved, this statement suggests that God is kind of cruel, tearing my loved one from my life for His selfish concerns. With all the glories of heaven, why does He need my loved one? Don’t my needs for his/her presence in my life count for anything? At another level, this expression suggests that God deliberately ended their life on earth, which would suggest that all deaths (victims of war, victims of terrorist attacks, victims of abuse, etc.) are attributed to God. Some God of love He is! The reality is that God does not cause death; the tragic reality of death is a consequence of original sin. God *permits* death to happen, but He does not *cause* it. The above statement does not account for this in the Christian understanding of death.

**She/he is in a much happier place:** This expression may come across as a judgement on the home or family life of the deceased. Their family assumed that they had a happy home on earth, filled with love and joy. Was it really that bad that somehow death is a “release” from an unhappy state? In addition, death is such a mystery that talk of a “happy place” is difficult to grasp. What is it really like on the other side? Is my loved one being cared for? Do they miss me or call out my name? Vague notions of a “happy place” do not bring peace to the bereaved, who want concrete answers.

**God does not give us more than we can handle:** In the midst of the darkness of grief, when the bereaved feel as if they were free-falling, strength and fortitude are often wanting. They feel crushed under the burden of grief. If we suggest that they can handle it, that God gives them the strength to do so, then what are they to believe if it seems that they *cannot* carry this cross? Do they lack faith? Has God abandoned them? Will they ever see the light, amidst the encircling gloom? Furthermore, this expression once again suggests that God is cruel, seeing how far He can go in testing the strength of a person; what is their “breaking point”? God is love? Hmm?

If the above expressions are not helpful in comforting the bereaved, then what should we do? Well, sometimes the best response is to say nothing. Embrace the bereaved; let them talk about their loved one and their sorrow; visit them often; offer to do some of their household tasks; and let them know that they can call or stop by any time to talk. The greatest comfort to someone in grief is to listen and to be present; walk with them as they journey through the dark valley of death. In speech, try to avoid the above pat answers and instead share your memories of the deceased; offer your heartfelt prayers and pray with the bereaved; and talk about the ways you coped with the pain of death in your own family. At the time, these may seem to be insignificant ways to offer comfort, but they will bring healing and light, for God uses us as His instruments in offering peace and consolation to those in need.

**Take them . . . you earned them** As you know, we are planning a family room, a small reception room, and one memorabilia room in our parish life center (aka, the high school). Part of going forward is letting some of the past go; we just don’t have the room to hold onto everything. For example, we are letting go of some of our Saint Mary’s trophies. We kept the most important ones: state trophies; regional and district championships and runner ups; and other significant honors and awards. But, we have in the hallway of the parish life center other trophies that we want you to take into your home. Maybe you or your children earned them and rather than be out of sight and out of mind, tucked away in closets or high on some shelf, you can treasure them and recall your glory days at Saint Mary’s. In the hallway of the parish life center, these trophies are organized by sports or other extra-curricular activities. Noticeably missing is the trophy for the Saint Mary’s pastor who received the most homemade apple pies from the parishioners.

**Thank you**– Keith and I would like to extend a heartfelt thankyou to everyone who was involved in the medical benefit for Keith. Thank you to all those who donated items for the silent and live auctions and money donations. And can’t forget the awesome kitchen crew for the delicious breakfast. We realize that it was a lot of extra work for everyone but it was very much appreciated. We are proud to say we are from the Lefor community. Thankyou for all your prayers and God bless you. ....Keith and Debbie Herold