

## Pastor's Corner

*November Prayers for the Dead; Anniversary Blessings Begin*



*November Prayers for the Dead:* The Church calendar year ends in November. The readings and prayers at masses in November focus on dying, death and final things. We begin November with the celebration of *All Saints Day* (November 1), a day to celebrate all canonized and unnamed saints who are in heaven adoring God and praying for us. It is a day when Catholics bring flowers to cemeteries in remembrance of their deceased loved ones. We will have an All Saints Vigil Mass at 4 pm on October 31 and Masses at 6:30 am, 8:00 am, 9:45 am and 6:00 pm on November 1. All are invited to the 9:45 am mass, the school mass, where the school children will attend dressed as saints.

November 2 is *All Souls Day*, a day to pray for all the departed who are in purgatory and not yet in heaven. Although their sins have been forgiven by God, they still need purification (from the damage caused by their sins) before they enter into the fullness of God's holy presence in heaven (Catechism Nos.1030-1032). The Church teaches that our prayers assist those in purgatory, whereas those already in heaven do not need our prayers – we need theirs. The Mass on All Souls Day, a Saturday, will be at 8:00 am. We will have a Parish "Book of Life" in Church near the baptismal font throughout November. Feel free to write in the names of your deceased loved ones. We will pray for them at all the Masses in November. May they rest in God's eternal peace.



*Anniversary Blessings Begin:* At the request of parishioners, we will begin recognizing wedding anniversaries, starting the weekend of November 16-17. At all masses that weekend, couples celebrating wedding anniversaries in November, December and January will be recognized and blessed. In February, we will bless couples celebrating wedding anniversaries in February, March and April. This process will continue every three months. This is a way to celebrate the commitment of marriage, to invite God's help for married couples, and to call forth witness to marital fidelity. We hope that these blessings will be a blessing for marriages in our community.

*God bless,  
Fr. Joe*