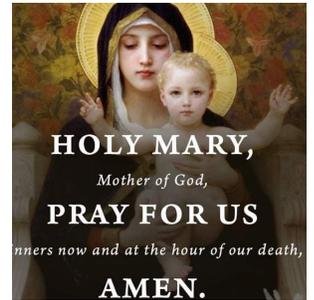


FROM FATHER DAVE, PASTOR

When I was in 5th grade I became an altar server. Before one of the Masses, I remember one of the priests asking me if I ever pray for a happy death. Needless to say, the word “death” was not in my vocabulary. As a young boy, it was something that I never even thought about. Interestingly enough, the priest asked me another question. He asked, “Do you pray the Hail Mary?” I nodded my head affirmatively. Then, the priest said, “Son, every time you pray the Hail Mary and say, ‘Pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen’ you pray for a happy death.” That was a lesson I never forgot.



During this month of November, the Church invites us not only to pray for the dead but also in these final weeks of the liturgical year to be mindful of our own death. The gospel parable of the foolish virgins teaches us the importance of being ready for the bridegroom. One of the best ways for us to prepare for this inevitability is to live prayerfully in a state of grace. One day we all will have to give a reckoning of our lives before the just judge. The sense of being ready is all the more important given that we do not know the day nor the hour.



There is a plaque that hangs in many sacristies that says, “Pray this Mass as if it were your first Mass, your last Mass, your only Mass.” Such a message underlines the value of living in the moment with the realization that we know not when that last moment will arrive. Will we be ready?

Another aspect of this preparedness that we are reminded of every year at this time is the need to have a living will with advanced medical directives as well as a Last Will and Testament. We can make life so much easier for those whom we leave behind if only we take the time to resolve these matters. It is not easy work. I must confess that it took me nearly a year to update my Will and Directives just a few months ago.

In addition to being prepared, this month of November is also about thanksgiving. The expression of this gratitude culminates on Thanksgiving Day. We will have one **Mass that day at 9:00 a.m. in the Saint Alexis parking lot.** All are welcome!



LESSONS AND CAROLS

Finally, we are planning a twilight Lessons in Carols in the Saint Alexis Parking Lot on **Sunday, December 13, at 4:30 p.m.** Come and get into the season. Stay in your car and listen to the melodious voices of our cantors singing solos.

Have a wonderful week!