

NOVEMBER - MONTH OF PRAYING FOR THE DEAD

November will be here before you know it. Traditionally, the month is set aside for praying for our beloved dead. Monday, November 2 is **All Souls Day**. While not a Holy Day of Obligation, it begins the Novena of Masses for the dead. For nine days Mass will be offered for the souls enrolled in the Novena. You can easily do this by handing in our envelope with the names of those you want to include and your offering. The envelopes will remain on the altar for the month.



CONFIRMATIONS

As you may have noticed the church has been decorated in red for the past week. That is because we celebrated Confirmation on Tuesday, October 6 and Wednesday, October 14. We had four wonderful celebrations.

I want to thank our Director of Faith Formation, Sarah Goodman for all of her work to organize and prepare the children and their parents for the Sacrament. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes and because of COVID many decisions had to be made in advance with little knowledge of what we would be facing. Sarah has managed to transition our program to be able to provide a higher quality religious education experience while delivering it safely.

There are also others to thank: our catechists, not only for the Confirmation years but for all the years in-between. Their selfless gift of their time is much appreciated. Barbara Wells who is our religious education secretary. We pray for her speedy and complete recovery. Maria Dickes and Lori Marando who in Barbara's absence have helped immeasurably. Denver Mock who makes sure everything is cleaned, sanitized and safe for us. Mary and Stephen O'Reilly for taking care of the decorating. And finally our Knights of Columbus and ushers who assisted in making sure everything ran smoothly and safely. Thank you all.

FIRST COMMUNIONS

If you have been coming to Mass then you know that we have been celebrating First Holy Communion for the months of September and October at every weekend Mass. I was very moved by the reaction of some of you who remarked 'what a gift it was for the parishioners to be able to be a part of such a special moment in the lives of our children.' I thank you for your prayerful participation.

DEVOTION OF THE MONTH



OCTOBER Month of the Holy Rosary

The Catholic Church designates October as the Month of the Holy Rosary. During this month the faithful venerate the Blessed Virgin Mary especially under her title of Our Lady of the Rosary, and make special effort to honor the Holy Rosary with group recitations and rosary processions. St. Dominic de Guzman, the founder of the Order of Preachers, is the saint to whom Our Lady famously appeared and gave the prayers of the Holy Rosary to assist him as a spiritual weapon in combating heresy and leading souls back to the one, true Catholic faith.

This month traditionally calls for **daily recitation of the Most Holy Rosary**. Please consider, if you don't already, daily recitation of the Rosary during October. How wonderful it would be if you took this up in your family homes; your little domestic churches. The home, as a church, should be filled with prayer. Has there ever been a time when this mighty prayer of intercession and consolation was needed more?

In many places it is customary to recite the *Litany of Loreto* as a kind of conclusion to the Rosary.

V. Lord, have mercy.
R. Christ have mercy.
V. Lord have mercy. Christ hear us.
R. Christ graciously hear us.
God the Father of heaven, *have mercy on us.*
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *have mercy on us.*
God the Holy Spirit, *have mercy on us.*
Holy Trinity, one God, *have mercy on us.*
Holy Mary, *pray for us.*
Holy Mother of God, *pray for us.*
Holy Virgin of Virgins, [etc.]
Mother of Christ,
Mother of divine grace,
Mother most pure,
Mother most chaste,
Mother inviolate,
Mother undefiled,
Mother most amiable,
Mother most admirable,
Mother of good Counsel,
Mother of our Creator,
Mother of our Savior,
Virgin most prudent,
Virgin most venerable,
Virgin most renowned,
Virgin most powerful,
Virgin most merciful,
Virgin most faithful,
Mirror of justice,
Seat of wisdom,
Cause of our joy,
Spiritual vessel,
Vessel of honor,

Singular vessel of devotion,
Mystical rose,
Tower of David,
Tower of ivory,
House of gold,
Ark of the covenant,
Gate of heaven,
Morning star,
Health of the sick,
Refuge of sinners,
Comforter of the afflicted,
Help of Christians,
Queen of Angels,
Queen of Patriarchs,
Queen of Prophets,
Queen of Apostles,
Queen of Martyrs,
Queen of Confessors,
Queen of Virgins,
Queen of all Saints,
Queen conceived without original sin,
Queen assumed into heaven,
Queen of the most holy Rosary,
Queen of families,
Queen of peace,
V. Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
R. Spare us, O Lord.
V. Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
R. Graciously hear us, O Lord.
V. Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. Grant, we beseech Thee, O Lord God, that we thy servants may enjoy perpetual health of mind and body, and by the glorious intercession of blessed Mary, ever Virgin, may we be freed from present sorrow, and rejoice in eternal happiness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Back in 1889 Pope Leo XIII asked that **a prayer to St. Joseph be added after the Rosary during the month of October**. He did this in his encyclical *Quam pluries*. Recitation of the prayer *Ad te, beate Ioseph* can now obtain, under the usual conditions, a partial indulgence. I include it below for your convenience:

“To thee, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation, and having implored the help of thy most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke thy patronage also. Through that charity which bound thee to the immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which thou embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg thee to graciously regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with thy power and strength to aid us in our necessities.

O most watchful Guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be propitious to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness; and, as once thou rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God’s Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by thy constant protection, so that, supported by thy example and thy aid, we may be able to live piously, to die holy, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.”



CHURCH REOPENING

As of now there is nothing new to report. Weekend Masses have been going smoothly. Our ushers have been essential to this working so well.

For safety's sake, as well as fitting the maximum number of people in the church possible under current restrictions, all must be seated by the ushers. The ushers are present at least 30 minutes prior to the start of Mass to assist you. Please note that once we have reached capacity we cannot let you in the building. As more and more people begin to return to Mass, you may find that arriving 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start of Mass is not early enough. First come, first served.

Just as a reminder:

Those who are sick or vulnerable due to age or health conditions are strongly encouraged to remain at home and view the Mass on television or online.

The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in effect indefinitely.

Please continue to consult the parish website (www.steas.org) for updates and changes.

I appreciate your kindness and patience as we try to implement the laws and directives that we must follow from both State government and Diocesan regulation.

“Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself. Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections, but instantly set about remedying them, every day begin the task anew.”

— St. Francis de Sales

OFFICE REOPENING

As of July 1, 2020, the office is open to get Mass cards and drop off paperwork and other things during new summer business hours.

Monday - Thursday from 9:30AM to 12:30PM and 1:30PM to 4:00PM.

Outreach will continue to operate on an appointment only basis.

Remember, if you are not yet comfortable being out in public, we have also been handling parish business via phone and email and we can accommodate you that way if you wish.

ON RECEIVING COMMUNION

We have just celebrated the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, where by the power of the Holy Spirit and through the hands of the priest, God changes the bread and wine into the Real Presence of Christ. In light of returning to the reception of Holy Communion at public Masses, I present these points about the proper way to receive Holy Communion.

- We are supposed to observe a one-hour Eucharistic fast. This means that we do not eat or drink anything except water or medicine for one hour before receiving Holy Communion. There should be no gum chewing; we should get rid of gum before we enter church. Also, coffee cups and the like, other drinking containers, and other items of the sort are not appropriate to bring into church.
- If you are receiving the Body of Christ in the hand, one hand is to be underneath the other, with both hands flat (not curled up) and hands up held up high. There is to be no grabbing of the Host. Hands must be washed, clean, and sanitized. Gloves are not to be worn.
- If you have received the Body of Christ in the hand, with your right hand **immediately** place the Host in your mouth; do not begin to walk away with it. Proper reverence for the Sacred Species demands that it be consumed **immediately** and not carried around. We do not bless ourselves with the Host or any other act of personal devotion. While I am sure well intentioned, this is a sacrilege. It goes **immediately** into your mouth. In addition, if you see someone walking around with a Host, say something.
- Holy Communion is not a “take-home” and it is not to be kept on your person or brought back to the pew or worse brought outside and left on the windshield of a car (yes, this has happened). If you see this, say something.
- If you are receiving the Body of Christ on the tongue, you must tilt your head back slightly, open your mouth and stick out your tongue, and close your eyes. Do not expect the minister to have to maneuver to place the Host in your mouth - please stick out your tongue. Also, let the minister place the Host on your tongue; do not bite it or grab it with your lips. Do not move your head - you should not be a moving target.

I write these as a reminder and in some cases an instruction on the proper and reverent way to receive Holy Communion.

"Let every knee bend before Thee, O greatness of my God, so supremely humbled in the Sacred Host. May every heart love Thee, every spirit adore Thee and every will be subject to Thee!"

— St. Margaret Mary

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

Taken from *Visits to the Blessed Sacrament and the Blessed Virgin Mary* by Saint Alphonsus Liguori. Published by Tan Books.

PRAYER TO END THE PANDEMIC

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe, Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas, we fly to you today as your beloved children. We ask you to intercede for us with your Son, as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother, and gain for our nation and world, and for all our families and loved ones, the protection of your holy angels, that we may be spared the worst of this illness. For those already afflicted, we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance. Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful, wipe away their tears and help them to trust. In this time of trial and testing, teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind. Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence, knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother, health of the sick and cause of our joy. Shelter us under the mantle of your protection, keep us in the embrace of your arms, help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

ANOTHER PRAYER FOR DURING THE PANDEMIC

O clement, O loving, O sweet Mother Mary, we, your children of every nation, turn to you in this pandemic. Our troubles are numerous; our fears are great. Grant that we might deposit them at your feet, take refuge in your Immaculate Heart, and obtain peace, healing, rescue, and timely help in all our needs. You are our Mother. Pray for us to your Son. Amen.

