

From the Pastor—November 1, 2020

Parish Debt Paid Off With our Covid times, it is difficult to capture well the joy and the pride that St. Mary's ought to have in having this month paid off our entire debt to the Diocese. While we as a parish need to celebrate this remarkable accomplishment in a proper way, I at least want this bulletin note to suffice for getting the word out there. One detail I can share is that the loan for our 2014 remodel of the church and hall was scheduled to last for 10 years, until 2025. Paying it off a full five years early, amidst Covid, is truly a feat that we all ought to be most proud of. Call it a miracle of grace! A miracle at 9th and P Streets, Aurora! Please know of my thanksgiving and esteem. Congratulations!!!

Three Masses By a special indult from the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XV, which was established in 1915, a priest is allowed to offer three Masses on All Souls Day. I am providing an opportunity for people to attend Mass on this day, November 2, which I hope will be fruitful to your spiritual lives. The Vatican pronounced last week that priests are especially encouraged to offer the three Masses in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Two Plenary Indulgences

November offers plenary indulgences one can gain for a deceased family member or friend or the Poor Souls. A plenary indulgence, applicable only to the souls in purgatory, is granted each and every day of November to those who devoutly visit a cemetery and there pray, if only mentally, for the departed. A plenary indulgence is granted the faithful who, on All Souls' Day or any day of November, devoutly visits a church or an oratory and recites an Our Father and the Creed. Requirements for obtaining a plenary indulgence include doing the work while in a state of grace, receiving sacramental confession within 20 days of the work (several plenary indulgences may be earned per reception), receiving Eucharistic communion (one plenary indulgence may be earned per reception), praying for the pope's intentions (Our Father and Hail Mary, or other appropriate prayer, is sufficient), having no attachment to sin (even venial) – i.e., it is sufficient that the Christian makes an act of the will to love God and despise sin. If the requirements are not fully fulfilled, the work becomes a partial indulgence. **Modified for Covid** These indulgences have been modified during Covid-19 pandemic to be effective throughout the entire month of November, rather than only November 1-8 or November 2. Here is how the Vatican recently modified these indulgences: the Plenary Indulgence for those who visit a cemetery and pray for the deceased, even if only mentally, normally established only on the individual days from 1 to 8 November, may be transferred to other days of the same month, until its end. These days, freely chosen by the individual believers, may also be separate from each other; the Plenary Indulgence of 2 November, established on the occasion of the Commemoration of all the deceased faithful for those who piously visit a church or oratory and recite the "Our Father" and the "Creed" there, may be transferred not only to the Sunday before or after or on the day of the Solemnity of All Saints, but also to another day of the month of November, freely chosen by the individual faithful.

For those who are homebound or restricted The

elderly, the sick and all those who for serious reasons cannot leave their homes, for example because of restrictions imposed by the competent authority in this time of the pandemic, in order to prevent numerous faithful from crowding into the holy places, will be able to obtain the Plenary Indulgence as long as they join spiritually with all the other faithful, completely detached from sin and with the intention of complying as soon as possible with the three usual conditions (sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer according to the Holy Father's intentions), before an image of Jesus or the Blessed Virgin Mary, recite pious prayers for the deceased, for example, Lauds and Vespers of the Office of the Dead, the Marian Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, other prayers for the deceased dearest to the faithful, or occupy themselves in considered reading of one of the Gospel passages proposed by the liturgy of the deceased, or perform a work of mercy by offering to God the sorrows and hardships of their own lives.

Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. Stay well, stay strong, in Christ!

Election Election Day is upon us! Here is a sort of litany of my thoughts on voting:

By voting in a Catholic way, we show that we are faithful citizens of our great nation.

Voting in a Catholic way means to uphold the Declaration of Independence by standing up for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Voting in a Catholic way means that our consciences are formed in such a way that we ask, "What does God want me to think about this or that issue?"

Voting in a Catholic way means that we are "one nation, under God" as the Pledge of Allegiance says.

Voting in a Catholic way means that "in God we trust".

Voting in a Catholic way means that, no matter the outcomes of the election, our focus is upon Jesus living in our hearts, our homes, our families, and in all our actions.

If we take good care of our souls through prayer and the sacraments, our Catholic voting will allow us to be always upright, lifting our minds and hearts with the dignity of a child of God to live as an American with pride and joy.

Chorus of Rosaries! Our St. Mary's CCD students recited the Living Rosary in the church this week. It was beautiful to hear dozens of youthful voices and hearts lifting up Our Father's and Hail Mary's to heaven!

Video I produced a video for Godteens about Halloween, All Saints, and All Souls Day. It is about 9 minutes long and is posted on our Facebook page if you wish to view it.

Holy Hour for Election I will lead a holy hour for our country on Sunday, November 1st, at St. Mary's. We will pray for the elections and for our nation to keep its focus upon Jesus Christ and all things godly. We will seek Mother Mary's intercession through a recited Rosary. Please join us, St. Mary's and St. Joseph's families, from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

God Bless You!!!

Father Grell