

Parish Religious Education Program (PREP) Newsletter

Issue: November 2020 St. Mary Magdalen Church

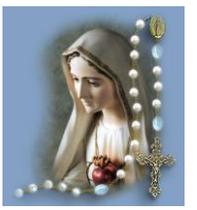


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Time to “fall back” and get an extra hour of sleep this weekend! Time changes November 1st!

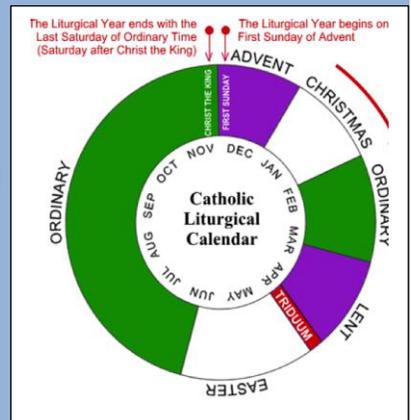


Hopefully you are asking yourself why I have a picture of Mary and the Rosary when LAST month (October) was all about the rosary! I have it here because besides Mary being celebrated in October, she is also celebrated this month as a saint! So it is good to always remember to go to our Blessed Mother, no matter what month it is!

Another thing we remember in November is the feast of Thanksgiving (even though that very first one with the Pilgrims and Indians actually happened in October too!) As our year is drawing to a close, we think about all of the things for which we are grateful. The church year actually ends with the week of November 22nd, the Feast of Christ the King, and our new year begins on November 29th with the first Sunday of Advent. So if you are really ready for 2020 to be over, the church is giving you a preview!

One of the lessons your children have had this year already is one on the liturgical year. We all have so many calendars, and the Church has yet another! Our year begins with Advent, a time of preparation, when the priest wears purple (notice how preparation and purple both start with a P?) When Christmas comes, the Church celebrates by wearing white. (You’ll see white during the year for funerals too, since they are a “celebration” of life.) We come back to those “preparation” colors and celebration colors for Lent and Easter, too! The green that indicates Ordinary Time is anything but ordinary: it just means the Sundays are numbered (the Latin word for order is ordo.) But we use green to indicate that during that time, our faith should be growing as we hear more of God’s Word. The only other color shown on the wheel is red, which is used during Holy Week and then during the year for feasts of saints who were martyrs. In both cases it’s meant to represent blood, either Jesus’ blood or the blood of the saint. It’s nice to reinforce your child’s understanding by pointing out what color the priest is wearing (even if it’s only online right now!)

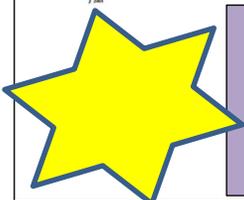
Karen Yasik



I Absolve You of Your Sins...



Bless me Father, for I have sinned...



This Sunday November 1st we will be sending home your child’s Reconciliation workbook with the retreat materials to follow at a later date! Be sure to watch for them – and if you are homeschooling be sure to come in to the parish office to pick them up. The workbooks are due back on December 7th!

THANKSGIVING FOOD BASKET DRIVE

St. Mary Magdalen Church & School will be helping St. Paul's Outreach Center again this year providing 25 Thanksgiving Food Baskets.



Sign up to donate a Thanksgiving basket for a family in need.

SMM School will be responsible for 11 baskets (each grade will put together a basket) & the parish 14 baskets. If anyone is interested in putting together 1 of the 14 parish baskets, you can either sign up online on our website or contact Stephanie Casey to be assigned a family & given a list of items to include & the date they are due back to the SMM Parish office. If not signing up online, please email Stephanie.casey@smmchurch.org or call 652-6800 ext. 145 to sign up for a basket today.



Turkey Voucher

HELP A FAMILY IN NEED HAVE THEIR THANKSGIVING DINNER!

Will you help us provide 1 of 50 turkeys?

If so, return voucher to the parish office (Attention: Steph Casey) along with a check for \$20.00 made out to SMM Parish to cover the cost of 1 turkey. The turkey vouchers go to those receiving baskets through St. Paul's Community Center and within our community.

Given by: _____

Donations can also be made online with a credit card. Visit the sign up on our website at www.smmchurch.org



**HELP NEEDED
NOV. 28TH
FROM 11AM-
2PM**

It's that time of the year- decorating for the Advent season. We could really use your help!! On Saturday Nov. 28th at 11AM - 2PM we need help to install the Remembrance Tree, Giving Tree and the Advent wreath. We will also install the Three Wise Men on their journey & should be finished by 2PM. **Service hours given!** To sign up to help please call Richard Heiss (302) 428-0525.



Mass 10AM
Thanksgiving Morning
November 26th

Give Thanks!

**THANKSGIVING DAY MASS
10AM, NOVEMBER 26TH
SIGN UP REQUIRED THIS YEAR**

We will hold Mass on Thanksgiving morning at 10am and are asking you to sign up this year and let us know how many people are coming and if you would like a loaf of blessed bread for your Thanksgiving table. The link to sign up is on our website homepage. Let us start off Thanksgiving by giving thanks together!



**ADVENT WREATH
GRAB & GO**

REGISTER ONLINE BY NOV. 20

PICK UP WREATH SUPPLIES
NOVEMBER 29TH FROM 9-11AM

SMM's Annual Advent Wreath Making Kits will be grab & go this year. Due to COVID we are unable to do our traditional workshop but are able to offer this in its place. Link to sign up is on our website.

- **Online registration & payment by Nov. 20th**
- **Pick up Nov. 29th 9-11AM on Rectory Lawn**
- **Cost:**
 - **\$12 if you have a base from previous years.** (This package includes candles, ribbons, candle holders, pins, ties, & greens.)
 - **\$18 if a base is needed.** (This package includes base, candles, ribbons, candle holders, pins, ties, & greens.)
 - **New this year:** \$5 for candles only

In need of service hours? Contact Melissa Pollio at mcalvanicopollio@smmchurch.org to sign up to volunteer to prep materials in advance or day of.



On All Souls' Day Monday, November 2nd we will hold a special daily mass at 8:30am for all of the deceased members of the parish.

What's the takeaway from this pandemic?

I'm not talking about sanitizing, or anything related to what we have learned about passing on viruses. I'm talking about what we have learned about as a family. Maybe some of what we started during this time is worth keeping!

Do we value having family meals together?

Do we like having prayer time as a family?

Can we make worship a priority?

What extracurricular sports are really necessary?

What about family fun time and relaxation?

Should we limit screen time?

What about extended family?

What can we eliminate from our schedules so that we can maintain our family life?

My sisters and I always talk about the snow days of our youth, and say how much we wish we could have a day where it would snow so much we couldn't go to work, but not enough that we'd lose power and could all be together to watch something like the complete "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. The older we get, the more we understand the importance of family, and how hard it is as we all get older and busier. Seize the opportunity now!

November Calendar

DON'T FORGET YOUR TEXTBOOKS!

Nov. 1st – All Saints Day – class in building

Nov. 8th – no classes

Nov. 15th – virtual class – watch for more info!

Nov. 22nd – class in building

Nov. 29th – no classes – first Sunday of Advent

Nov. 30th – signup opens for Christmas masses

See blocks on page 2 for more info on these dates



RESERVATIONS WILL BE REQUIRED THIS YEAR

Christmas Eve Masses: 4 p.m., 6 p.m., & 8 p.m.

Christmas Day Mass: 10:30 a.m.

Reservations will be required to attend Christmas Eve & Day Masses. This is to ensure state guidelines for occupancy are followed. Our normal guidelines will also be in place for the safety of all attending. Ushers will check you off a list prior to entering & only those with a reservation can enter.

Online Reservations go live Monday, Nov. 30th

Link on our website www.smmchurch.org

If someone does not have access to a computer, no need to worry, the receptionist in the parish office will have the ability to take your reservation for you, starting Monday 11/30/20.

VIRTUAL CLASSES

This past Sunday was a learning experience for all of us! We are working with the parish tech person to ensure that next time is a lot better. For instance, I found out that the video I sent to parents about Reconciliation was restricted, so I learned how to open it up LOL! We've also got some decisions to make about the platform we are using. The parish has us in Google Meet, because going through them offers protections that aren't available through other platforms since it's essentially a school platform. Right after we started, however, Google came to an agreement with Zoom, and they now also have that as an option! I need to see if it offers the same protections, but I know that it is more familiar to most of us, so I will let you know as soon as we figure out what will be best for everyone!

Stay safe!