



TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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A school for holiness in South Bend

Bishop dedicates Christ the King addition on All Saints' Day

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

"This is such an appropriate day for me to come here to Christ the King to bless the beautiful new addition to your school," said Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades in his homily at the 12:15 p.m. Mass for the feast of All Saints' Day. The Mass on Nov. 1 included a prayerful setting of the Gloria from Palestrina's "Missa Brevis"; three priests concelebrated the Mass, including former pastor Father Neil Wack, CSC, and two deacons. Bishop Rhoades joked that the occasion of the Mass also gave him a chance to check up on two men whom he recently ordained: one of the concelebrants, Father Gilbrian Stoy, CSC, and one of the assisting deacons, Deacon Geoffrey Mooney, CSC. He elaborated on how fitting the timing of the dedication was. "The main reason we have Catholic schools is to educate our children in the faith and to help them to become saints. With the blessing of the school addition today, we ask God not only to bless the physical structure, but to bless all who will occupy

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Jennifer Kedik

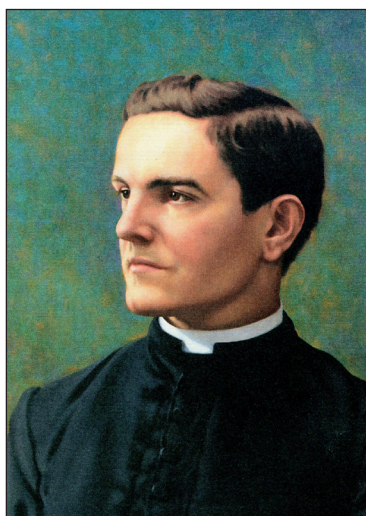
Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades blesses a new entrance to Christ the King School in South Bend Nov. 1. A new auditorium/gymnasium and several classrooms were constructed.

Blessed McGivney: Model parish priest with 'zeal' for Gospel, for serving faithful

BY JULIE ASHER

Blessed Michael J. McGivney was "an outstanding witness of Christian solidarity and fraternal assistance" because of his "zeal" for proclaiming the Gospel and his "generous concern for his brothers and sisters," Pope Francis said in his apostolic letter of beatification of the founder of the Knights of Columbus.

Representing the pope, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, read the letter in Latin during the Oct. 31 Mass of beatification for Father McGivney at the Cathedral of St.



CNS photo

Joseph in Hartford, Connecticut. Beatification is a step toward sainthood.

In his homily, Cardinal Tobin elaborated on Blessed McGivney's attributes as a parish priest.

"Father McGivney's life is an illustration of how a holy priest can provide that necessary and intimate connection so crucial in the life and mission of a parish," the cardinal said.

Blessed McGivney "knew the simple, indispensable requirement for a pastor: to love his people. He was with them in their sorrows, in times of death and bereavement. He was sanctified by doing what parish priests still

do, day in and day out."

His parish was not bound by names on his church's registration rolls, Cardinal Tobin said. "He was not a stranger to jails and hospitals. He fostered respectful relationships with other Christian churches and civil authorities. He was a bridge-builder who shunned walls."

In Blessed McGivney, "we see the face of a son of immigrants who gave his life in pastoral service of those most recently arrived in this country," he said. "We meet the eldest of 13 children, who worked to keep families united in

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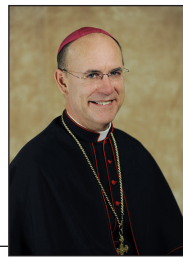
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Keeping Sunday holy during the pandemic



IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

Since apostolic times, Sunday has been considered "the Lord's Day." It is the day of Christ's resurrection, "a weekly Easter," in which we celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death. It is the fundamental feast day of the Church. We have the duty to keep Sunday holy in obedience to the third commandment of the Decalogue: "Remember the Sabbath day in order to keep it holy" (Exodus 20:8). The meaning of this precept was perfected when the Sabbath was moved to Sunday, the first day of the week, because of the Resurrection of our Lord.

The heart of our observance of the Lord's Day is the celebration of the Eucharist. The Catechism teaches that "the Sunday celebration of the Lord's Day and his Eucharist is at the heart of the Church's life" (#2177). It was difficult for Catholics throughout the world when public liturgies were suspended this past spring. It is still difficult for millions of Catholics in various areas throughout the world who do not have the possibility to attend Sunday Mass because of a shortage of priests. They often gather on Sundays for Liturgies of the Word and rejoice when a missionary priest visits and celebrates Holy Mass for them. In the meantime, they strive to keep Sunday holy through prayer, charity, Christian fraternity and rest from labor.

We are blessed in our diocese and in most of our country to have Sunday Mass available because of a sufficient number of priests. Too often, we can take this blessing for granted. During the two months without Sunday Masses, I think many learned to appreciate this blessing even more. Even though the faithful are still dispensed from the Sunday Mass obligation because of the pandemic, so many choose to attend Sunday Mass, to worship God and to encounter the Risen Lord in the Holy Eucharist. Many have expressed gratitude that they are able to do so because of the precautions in place to prevent the spread of the coronavirus at our Sunday assemblies.

We bishops of Indiana had intended to modify the dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation on November, but we felt it was necessary to continue the dispensation as-is because of the rise of Covid cases in our state. This dispensation is in effect particularly for the protection of those most vulnerable to serious, life-threatening risks if they were to be infected. It is also given particularly for those who care for, or live with, these vulnerable individuals. There is also the concern that some parishes would have difficulty accommodating larger numbers of people while maintaining the necessary physical distancing in our churches. Thanks to the precautions we are taking and the cooperation of those attending Mass, I do not know of any virus-spread in our Catholic churches. The spread at church services in our diocese have taken place at non-Catholic churches where the precautions of mask-wearing and physical-distancing have not been required.

Some of the faithful have decided to attend Mass on another day of the week,



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rather than Sunday, since there are fewer people in attendance and, therefore, less risk. Many others availing themselves of the dispensation watch Sunday Mass live-streamed or on television. I encourage all who are not attending Sunday Mass in person during this time to participate in livestreamed or televised Masses, if possible, and to make a "spiritual communion."

It is important that all Catholics keep holy the Lord's Day. Sunday should be a day primarily dedicated to God. Those availing themselves of the dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation are still obliged to keep Sunday holy by means of prayer. For example, besides watching the above-mentioned Masses, individuals and/or families can pray with the Sunday readings, recite the holy rosary, or pray Morning and Evening Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours.

We also keep Sunday holy by works of charity and abstention from work incompatible with the sanctification of the Lord's day. It is a day of rest. It is a good day to relax with family and friends. It is a good day to enjoy more the beauties and wonders of nature. Some enjoy going for a walk and appreciating more the gift of God's creation.

The observance of Sunday is not only an obligation, but it is also, as St. John Paul II taught, "a need arising from the depths of Christian life." He described Sunday as "an indispensable element of our Christian identity." We must all try to resist the temptation to treat Sunday like any other day of the week. We need to worship God, to rest and to celebrate joyfully our salvation in Christ. We need to be renewed by the weekly commemoration of Easter.



A member of the Knights of Columbus stands during a prayer vigil at St. Mary Church in New Haven, Conn., Oct. 30, the eve of the beatification Mass of Blessed Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights.

MCGIVNEY, from page 1

dignity and security; we are in the presence of an apostle who cared for victims of an epidemic before he himself died of the disease.

"We praise God for (the) timeliness of this celebration because 130 years after his death, the brief life of this holy man speaks eloquently to our own path to holiness."

Jesus asks "each one of us to become a saint," and "each one of us can certainly find encouragement in the life of Father McGivney, but none more than those of us who are called to become saints as parish priests," Cardinal Tobin said.

The founding of the Knights of Columbus "grew out of his ministry as a parish priest," he noted. And "long before his exhausted body surrendered to disease, he died daily to his own desires," the cardinal added, and "he laid down his life for his friends."

God is good for giving the Church Blessed McGivney "at this moment of our common pilgrimage," Cardinal Tobin said. "In a time of suffering and division, we glimpse his face among the 'cloud of witnesses' that urge us on. In Blessed Michael, we are reminded that life is not transactional, but a gift to be shared.

"We appreciate that true worship is centered on a right relationship with God and others, particularly those on the margin of society, and that Christian unity is more than simply adherence to a common belief," the cardinal said. "We accept that like him, God calls each of us — in our own day and our own way — to be vessels of mercy and so enter into our heavenly inheritance."

The beatification rite came shortly after the beginning of the Mass. After Cardinal Tobin read the rite in Latin, Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, the

Knights' supreme chaplain, read the English translation of the letter. A giant tapestry of Blessed McGivney's portrait was unveiled in the cathedral sanctuary.

Michael "Mikey" McGivney Schachle, together with his parents, Daniel and Michelle, and several of his 12 brothers and sisters, carried a relic of Blessed McGivney and presented it to Cardinal Tobin. The relic was placed in the sanctuary and censed.

Mikey, now 5, is the child whose in utero healing from a life-threatening condition that, under most circumstances, could have led to an abortion, was confirmed by Pope Francis; it was announced in May as a miracle that occurred through Father McGivney's intercession.

This miracle paved the way for the priest's beatification. In general, a second miracle is needed for canonization.

Before asking Cardinal Tobin that the beatification proceed, Hartford Archbishop Leonard P. Blair welcomed those in attendance — and all watching from afar -- to "the joyful celebration of the beatification."

The number inside was limited by COVID-19 restrictions, and those in the cathedral wore face masks and practiced social distancing.

Thousands more, in the U.S. and around the world, participated by watching the Eternal Word Television Network broadcast of the Mass or a livestream of it on www.kofc.org.

Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson read a brief biography of the Knights founder, saying that by establishing fraternal order he "presented to the Church a paradigm" for an active and engaged laity.

The priest embodied the order's core principles of charity, unity and fraternity, he said. His holiness directed him toward parish life, "not away

from it," and did not separate him from others but "drew him to their lives," because he knew his people's hardships firsthand, Anderson added.

Blessed McGivney (1852-90), the son of Irish immigrants, was born in Waterbury, Connecticut, and was ordained a priest in 1877 for what is now the Archdiocese of Hartford. As a parish priest, he worked to improve the condition of his 19th-century Irish immigrant community in Connecticut.

In 1882, while he was pastor at St. Mary's Parish in New Haven, Connecticut, he founded the Knights of Columbus to provide financial support for widows and orphans and to keep Catholic men and their families close to their faith at a time of widespread anti-Catholic bigotry.

He died of pneumonia complications at age 38 in 1890, during an outbreak of influenza known as the Russian flu in Thomaston, Connecticut. Some recent evidence, according to the Knights, indicates the outbreak may have been the result of a coronavirus.

The apostolic letter of beatification also announced Aug. 13 as the feast day for Blessed McGivney — the day between Aug. 12, the day he was born, and the date of his death, Aug. 14.

It will be observed annually in the Hartford Archdiocese. Votive Masses in honor of Blessed McGivney also can be celebrated by priests for Knights of Columbus gatherings "with the permission of the local bishop on any day when not superseded by another observance on the liturgical calendar," the letter said.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, November 8: 10:30 a.m. — Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Church, South Bend

Sunday, November 8: 4 p.m. — Mass with Sacrament of Confirmation and the Rite of Reception into Full Communion, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, University of Notre Dame

Monday, November 9: 11 a.m. — Virtual Meeting of United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Administrative Committee

Tuesday, November 10: 11 a.m. — Meeting of Catholic Charities Corporation Board, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne

Wednesday, November 11: 3 p.m. — Virtual Meeting of Our Sunday Visitor Institute Committee

Thursday, November 12: 8:30 a.m. — Virtual Meeting of Board of Directors of Our Sunday Visitor

Saturday, November 14: 4 p.m. — Virtual Meeting of Bishops' Advisory Board of Institute for Priestly Formation



A man wearing a protective mask attends a prayer vigil at St. Mary Church on the eve of the beatification of Blessed Michael McGivney.



A portrait of Blessed Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, is displayed during a prayer vigil at St. Mary's Church.

CNS photos/courtesy Knights of Columbus

White Mass for health care workers celebrated

BY JOSHUA SCHIPPER

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated the annual White Mass for health care workers at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, the evening of Oct. 27.

The Catholic Medical Guild of Northeast Indiana organized the Mass that several health care workers attended. COVID-19 was one focus of the liturgy, because everyone in the health and medical fields has been severely impacted by the pandemic.

"As members of the medical profession, you have confronted this health emergency with generosity and commitment," the bishop said in his homily. "I imagine you have had many exhausting days. Even at risk to your own health, you have served the sick and the dying. We pray for you during this White Mass, for your well-being, your stamina, your professional expertise and your compassionate and loving care of your patients."

He related the health care vocation to the Gospel reading for the day, the parable of the good Samaritan, saying those in the medical field "participate in the growth of the Kingdom by your service of the sick and the suffering and your witness of faith, hope and love in your profession. You are particularly called to holiness through your work, the holiness that builds up the Kingdom of God on earth."

The Church has "often pointed to the good Samaritan and his actions as a paradigm for health care professionals. Out of charity, you take time to stop and care for the wounded person left for dead on the side of the road. The Samaritan did this out of charity, out of love."

He continued, "In your work, you not only refrain from doing evil, from things like abortion, direct sterilization, assisted sui-



Photos by Joshua Schipper

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrates a White Mass for health care workers Tuesday, Oct. 27, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne.

cide and sex reassignment, you also discern what to do to serve the health and life of the patient before you, what is medically and morally sound. You discern how you can not only not harm your patient, but how you can promote and protect their well-being, alleviate their pain and assist them in their physical, emotional and spiritual needs."

Eustace Fernandes, a doctor in attendance at the White Mass, said that the Catholic faith has been his source of strength as a health care professional.

"Particularly during the pandemic, it has given me the strength through the sacraments and the prayers of others to take care of patients who are profoundly ill, to help their families who are really distraught over the separation they have from

their loved one and to continue to be able to see Christ in each of my patients, whether they have COVID or not."

"By your skillful, attentive, and loving care of your patients," Bishop Rhoades said, "you bear witness to the dignity of the human person created in God's image and likeness. Inspired by the Gospel and your Catholic faith, you recognize and promote their dignity through your devoted medical care. You do not see or treat your patients as objects, as physical machines, but as subjects, as persons of body, mind and spirit."

"You are proclaiming by your actions the demands of the Gospel of Jesus. You are proclaiming His Kingdom."



Dr. Eustace Fernandes said his Catholic faith gives him the strength "through the sacraments and the prayers of others, to take care of patients who are profoundly ill, to help their families who are really distraught over the separation they have from their loved one and to continue to be able to see Christ in each of my patients, whether they have COVID-19 or not."

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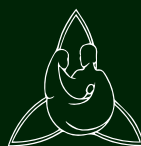


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Archbishop Etienne, religious groups urge unity, peace after election

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

CLEVELAND (CNS) — As election polls opened Nov. 3, Church leaders joined leading faith-based organizations in calling for unity and peace throughout Election Day and afterward as voting results became known.

The messages focused on the need to overcome rising discord and anger that has marked the current election cycle in favor of greater tolerance and respect across the political divide.

Archbishop Paul D. Etienne of Seattle said in an Election Day message that the country has an opportunity to ask “who we are and what future we want.”

“I invite each one of us to defeat divisiveness with understanding, rancor with amicability, hatred with compassion, mistrust with greater willingness to listen,” the statement said. “Let us counter the downward spiral with renewed efforts to respect the diversity and dignity of each of our neighbors.”

Citing Pope Francis’ recent encyclical, “Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship,” in which the world was called to acknowledge the dignity of each person, Archbishop Etienne said: “It is this universal call for unity that I hope we not only hear but act upon.”

The archbishop lamented the loss of relationships between neighbors on the same street, social isolation and the unwillingness to “have authentic encounters and dialogue with those who are different than us.”

“We must remember we are all brothers and sisters. Our diversity is what makes our community, our nation and our world beautiful,” he said.

“We need to break out of our silos and take the time to get to know one another. We must recognize the good in each other and see how we truly are interconnected. This is how we unite and begin to shape the future we want to see,” he continued.

Without specifically expressing which election race he was referring to, Archbishop Etienne expressed concern that the outcome of polls “will inevitably evoke bitterness, anger, hatred and unrest.”

He called for a new response, however, one focused on “compassion and love.”

“You can recognize that divisiveness is not the answer for our future. Love is the answer. Love for our neighbors — for each other — is the answer. How can you spread more love in the world? This is the only way we’ll rebuild our communities and our nation,” the archbishop said.

An election message from Johnny Zokovitch, executive director of Pax Christi USA, was simple and cited a passage from the Book of Micah: “You have been told, O mortal, what is



CNS photo/Paul Haring

Archbishop Paul D. Etienne of Seattle gives the homily as he concelebrates Mass at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome Feb. 7.

good, and what God requires of you: Only to do justice and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God.”

The message continued, “In every action, including the choices we make today, we can witness to the peace of Christ in the world. Peace be with you, sisters and brothers. Stand together. Be safe.”

In its “Statement for a Peaceful Election,” the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA called “all Americans to come together, uniting across differences, to trust our electoral system, ... and to ensure a peaceful democratic transfer of power after the election.”

The NCC acknowledged in a statement released Nov. 2 that Americans were anxious and concerned about Election Day violence and the peaceful transfer of power after voting results are certified.

“We lament that the United States has gravely splintered as we witness individuals demonizing their fellow Americans because of differing viewpoints and going to extremes to win at all costs, including undermining the dignity of those with whom they disagree,” the NCC said.

“We call for the love of God to be sown to each other and peace to be attained through the thoughtful acceptance of differing opinions,” the council added.

Saying the coronavirus pandemic and high voter turnout might delay ballot counting, the statement called for “unabridged patience” so tallies can be completed and certified.

“We pray that our nation will heal from the extreme polarization we have recently experienced and build a democracy that works for all Americans with a commitment to racial equity and justice, and fair and just access to health care for all,” the NCC concluded.

The executive director of the Kansas Catholic Conference urged voters to pray and then be sure to vote on Election Day in a

Nov. 1 statement.

Chuck Weber said attending Mass, praying before the Blessed Sacrament and reciting the rosary could have been helpful as people prepared to cast their ballots, because prayer can bring peace.

“It can be said that in many ways, our country is on fire with division. We pray for peace in our state and country and the upholding of the dignity of the human person in public policies enacted by our civil leaders,” Weber said.

“Please pray for all candidates and those who serve,” he added. “Please pray for our bishops and priests. We persevere!”



CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz

A voter fills out his ballot on Election Day, Nov. 3, at William S. Mount Elementary School in Stony Brook, N.Y.

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With euthanasia in New Zealand, 'we are about to cross a Rubicon'

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (CNS) — A prominent adviser to New Zealand's bishops expressed dismay that voters approved euthanasia for terminally ill patients. "Many people will no doubt see the option of an assisted death as akin to adding another food choice to an already existing cafe menu when, in fact, the change represents a shift in the whole dining experience that will affect everything on the menu, as well as the service you get," said John Kleinsman, director of the Nathaniel Centre for Bioethics, the New Zealand Catholic bioethics center. "Overseas research clearly shows that eligible people primarily choose euthanasia not because of intractable pain but for existential and social reasons," he said in a statement released Oct. 30 by the New Zealand bishops' conference. "That disturbs me and many others." More than 65% of New Zealanders approved the Life Choice Act, which will take effect in 12 months. For a person to receive assistance in dying, she or he must be a citizen or permanent resident, age 18 or older; have a terminal illness with a probability of dying within six months; be experiencing unbearable suffering; and be competent to make a decision. Doctors will perform the assessment.

Corruption in the Church must be stamped out continually, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Corruption is an "ancient evil" that continues to plague the Catholic Church in different ways, Pope Francis said. In an interview with the Italian news agency Adnkronos, published Oct. 30, the pope discussed his thoughts on several issues, including the nature of corruption given recent allegations of financial malfeasance involving the Vatican. Despite past and present efforts to root it out, the pope said, "unfortunately, corruption is a cyclical story that repeats itself" until "someone comes along to clean and tidy up. But then it starts again, waiting for someone else to come along to put an end to this degradation," he said. Money, as the early fathers of the Church and St. Francis called it, is "the devil's dung." In the interview, which was conducted Oct. 27, the pope said that while "the Church is and remains strong, the issue of corruption is a profound problem."

All Souls' Day 2020 is poignant reminder of COVID-19

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The feast of All Souls' Day, when Catholics

NEWS BRIEFS

Bishops react to Nice basilica murders



CNS photo/Eric Gaillard, Reuters

A man prays with a rosary outside Notre Dame Basilica in Nice, France, the day after three people were stabbed to death inside. Bishops in the United States and around the world expressed condolences after three people were murdered before Mass Oct. 29 in the basilica. French police have confirmed they are treating the killings as a terrorist incident. The attacks came less than two weeks after a Paris teacher was beheaded Oct. 16 by a Muslim migrant. Shortly after the attacks, Pope Francis sent a tweet expressing closeness to the people of Nice. "I pray for the victims, for their families and for the beloved French people, that they may respond to evil with good," it said.

remembered and prayed for the dead, had weighted significance this year when so many have died of COVID-19 and the pandemic's restrictions have prevented usual funeral services and final goodbyes in person. As of Oct. 29, about 228,000 people in the United States alone have died of COVID-19. As that number continues to rise, it is no surprise that on All Souls' Day, Nov. 2, many parishes and dioceses remembered these deaths with Masses, prayers or special altars. Conversely, because of pandemic restrictions, some dioceses also had to cancel, or at least modify or livestream, their usual All Souls' Day commemorations often held at Catholic cemeteries. In the Los Angeles archdiocese, scaled back All Souls' Day plans continued and included, as in previous years, aspects of the Mexican celebration Día de los Muertos,

or Day of the Dead, celebrated Nov. 1-2. A vigil prayer service was celebrated by Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez on the evening of Nov. 1 in the outdoor courtyard of the Mausoleum of Calvary Cemetery and Mortuary in Los Angeles.

Pro-life signs vandalized, stolen from parishes and schools in Charlotte diocese

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (CNS) — Police were investigating recent thefts of pro-life signs from four parish churches and two schools in the Diocese of Charlotte. St. Vincent de Paul and St. Ann churches in Charlotte, St. Mark Church in Huntersville and St. Paul the Apostle Church in Greensboro

reported that pro-life signs erected for Respect Life Month, observed every October, and the upcoming elections have been stolen or vandalized. Similar signs at Holy Trinity Middle School and Charlotte Catholic High School also were stolen. This type of vandalism has been reported elsewhere in the country. In Louisiana, yard signs and larger banners promoting a pro-life measure on the Nov. 3 ballot in that state were stolen in New Orleans and at least four other cities. In Texas in early October, a pro-life display at the University of North Texas was vandalized, according to Texas Right to Life. Pro-life students at the university had permission to place 1,000 flags on campus as a memorial to represent preborn babies killed by abortion, but dozens of the flags were ripped out of the ground or stolen.

Pope advances causes of four 20th-century martyrs

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis advanced the sainthood causes of five men and four women, including four 20th-century martyrs killed in Brazil, Turkey and Italy. The pope signed the decrees Oct. 27 during a meeting with Cardinal-designate Marcello Semeraro, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes. The Vatican published the decrees Oct. 28. The pope recognized the martyrdom of Capuchin Fathers Leonard Melki and Thomas Saleh, Lebanese friars who served as missionaries in Turkey, where they were arrested, tortured and murdered during the harsh repression by the Ottoman Turks. Father Melki was killed in 1915 together with Blessed Ignace Maloyan, an Armenian bishop, and hundreds of others. Father Saleh was condemned to death for offering hospitality to an Armenian priest during the genocide. He died in 1917 during a military escort as he was being deported in the middle of winter. The pope also recognized the martyrdom of Father Luigi Lenzini, who was killed in July 1945, just months after World War II ended, by four political extremists in central Italy. While the priest had helped the partisans during the war, he had received death threats for being outspoken against the communist movements gaining momentum in the region.

Pandemic will keep many pro-life groups from attending January's March for Life

WASHINGTON (CNS) — While the annual March for Life in Washington is still scheduled for Jan. 29, the cross-country bus pilgrimages that have been at the heart of the event for decades are being decimated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Local events are being announced in lieu of the pilgrimages. Among the cancellations announced so far are pilgrimages sponsored by the Diocese of Buffalo, New York, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Indiana, the Archdiocese of Omaha, Nebraska, and the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Each of them typically brings 200 or more marchers for visits of at least three days, reserving large blocks of hotel rooms. "We did not come by this decision lightly," the Buffalo diocese said in a statement. "With the uncertain and ever-changing regulations due to COVID-19, bus capacity restrictions and traveling through other states, all to converge with other states around the country, we have decided it is in the best interest of all involved to make their own personal decisions and arrangements."

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Knights support seminarians



Justin Purdy

St. Charles Council 451 Grand Knight Dr. Tom Ryan presents a \$500 donation to Father Thomas Zehr on behalf of Council 451 to kick off the annual seminarian bake sale at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in October. The bake sale provides spending money that the seminarians can use for things like toothpaste, books, car repairs and the other needs.

Diocesan plans to attend March for Life canceled

FORT WAYNE — The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, out of an abundance of caution for the safety of the participants, has canceled tentative plans to participate in the National March for Life in Washington, D.C., Jan. 29.

Instead, local involvement will be coordinated through the Office of Youth Ministry. Director John Pratt will work with the Catholic high schools and parishes of the diocese to encourage participation in local efforts to support the right to life, including the marches that traditionally have taken place in Fort Wayne, South Bend and Elkhart.

For updates, visit diocesefwsb.org/march-for-life/.

Sisters to host 'Daughters and Sons of Abraham' retreat

ST. MARY-OF-THE-WOODS, Ind. — People of the Jewish, Muslim and Christian faith traditions are invited to attend the "Unity Retreat Afternoon for Daughters and Sons of Abraham," hosted by the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, in collaboration with the Interfaith Council of the Wabash Valley.

The retreat will take place from 1:15-4:15 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 15, in the Foley Room at Providence Spirituality and Conference Center. Those wishing to attend

virtually will receive a Zoom link upon registering to attend the retreat.

Join Sister Paula Damiano and a team of presenters who are of the Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths as they unfold faith through prayer, song, presentations and conversations.

Indiana State University professor Dr. Arthur Feinsod, who is president of the Interfaith Council of the Wabash Valley, will help facilitate the event.

Feinsod said many religions trace back to Abraham, whom he called "the shared father of all three religions and the father of faith in general."

"This retreat will honor that bond, showing how all three monotheistic roads lead to the same God, regardless of the different ways God is named or revered," he continued. "Information about our shared Abrahamic legacy and a detailing of recent acts of respectful charity occurring among the religions can inspire us in how we can be toward one another in part through acknowledging and celebrating our common ancestry."

We believe this is important. At stake is world peace."

Sister Paula and Feinsod will be joined by Terry Gillies Fear and Dr. Riem Rostom as facilitators for the retreat.

Cost is \$15 per person or a freewill donation. Registration deadline is Nov. 9.

Register online at Events.SistersofProvidence.org or by calling 812-535-2952 or emailing provctr@spsmw.org.

Weekly Grotto walk offers chance for prayer, camaraderie



Provided by Lisa Kochanowski

NOTRE DAME — Between tests, papers, lectures and projects, little time is left to college students for prayer and quiet reflection. One opportunity for prayer at Holy Cross College is a new tradition of walking to the University of Notre Dame Grotto Tuesday nights at 9 p.m. after adoration in St. Joseph Chapel. The goal is to bring safety and a stronger community to Holy Cross College. All students are invited to participate by meeting the group in the circle next to St. Joseph Chapel.

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Sunday, Nov. 29 6:30 p.m.

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COVID-19 brings together priest, students — over theology

BY JENNIFER BARTON

When it comes to educating young people on the truths of the Catholic faith, who better to teach them than someone who has spent years steeped in the faith?

St. Joseph Parish in Bluffton is an old parish, dating back to the 1870s, but it has not had a school in decades. The parish does have a large amount of physical space, however.

Parishioner Lauren Andrews approached pastor Father David Violi early in the year about renting a little of that space during the week to a local home school co-op. Some families at St. Joseph already home schooled their children, but with the COVID-19 pandemic trudging toward another school year, more families were beginning to look to the option. So when Andrews and the priest spoke about it again a couple months ago, he did more than simply agree: As the new school year began, he took on role of teacher for a classroom of the home-school students.

"We're seeing with COVID ... more people might be choosing to home school. So if they're going to do that, let's offer more resources for them to do that," Father Violi felt.

With Life Adventures providing many of the traditional educational classes like math, English and science, he felt that the parish could help supplement the religion curriculum parents had chosen for their children.

"It was a nice thing we could offer, an overarching thing; an intro to theology. It was kind of a natural topic."

From that idea was born the Intro to Theology class for teens led by Father Violi. At the same time, their younger siblings can attend a "Saints, Seasons and Snacks" class lead by home-schooling moms in another part of the building. Morning Mass was moved from 8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. to accommodate home-school families who wish to attend prior to the new religion classes.

After the hourlong theology class, students can then attend their chosen Life Adventures classes.

"We've had so many families say we've needed this for so long," Andrews stated. She described the parish as "well set up for home-schooling classes," including both religion lessons and standard curriculum.

In addition to the indoor classroom space at St. Joseph, the parish also has a charming outdoor rosary path that the "Saints, Seasons and Snacks" class utilizes to combine faith and nature lessons.

Christy Gunkel is a home-schooling mom from nearby St. Aloysius in Yoder. She brings her children to St. Joseph for both the new religion classes and the



Photos by Jennifer Barton

Age is no factor when it comes to learning, and here a young student hangs a pine cone birdfeeder on the rosary path located on the grounds of St. Joseph Parish in Bluffton. The indoor and outdoor space is being utilized this year for home-schooling children of all ages. Below, Father David Violi undertakes teaching an Introduction to Theology class to middle and high school students, engaging and challenging them in their knowledge of the faith.

Life Adventures programs.

She said the timing "was divine providence." She described Father Violi as "a vibrant young priest" who has supported the efforts of home-schooling parents in his parish and the surrounding Catholic community.

Gunkel believes that the parish has strong home school families that need the extra support.

"In many cases, I'm finding that this is an opportunity to have my high schoolers participate and have some talks about the faith," she stated.

While growing in faith is the purpose of the class, "the biggest goal is to spread the Gospel to the community," Andrews added. "It's a great outreach; an opportunity for them to see that we're partners in the community."

She believes that some families from the Bluffton area — "people who never step foot in a



Catholic Church" — might bring their children to Life Adventure classes. From there, those students and parents gain some exposure to Catholicism and witness the cooperation between the Church and the world.

Bluffton is a small town with a Catholic population of only 3%, according to Father Violi. That is why giving young people a solid foundation in the Catholic faith is so critical.

"It's that concept that our kids need to be prepared, they need to be educated. ... Here it's a very necessary aspect in our community. They'll get a lot of questions." He knows that his young students must be prepared to defend the faith when challenged.

Currently, the class consists of six students ranging from seventh grade to high school upperclassmen. All students

from around the area are always welcome to attend on any given Friday, though. It is a discussion-based model, with Father Violi promoting participation by asking and answering questions.

The small class size gives him the freedom to tailor each lesson toward the students' interests and prior knowledge of the faith. "Last week we got into a whole tangent on angels," he related. "I thought, Ok, there's an interest here: Let's capitalize on it."

For its inaugural year Father Violi is focusing the class on the concept of the three-legged stool that constitutes Catholic Church teaching: the Bible, Tradition and the Magisterium. Because Catholicism is not simply Bible- or Tradition-based, all three are necessary to build a solid foundation of faith. When one of these is removed, Catholic theology falls flat.

When asked if teaching the class has created extra work for him, Father Violi replied, "Sure it has. I love it, though; it's something I enjoy doing, so I don't see it as work." He views it as another facet of his priestly vocation.

Like the three-legged stool, pastoral ministry and sacramental life will fail without teaching. "Ultimately, what's the end goal? I'm helping to educate my parishioners."

At his previous parish of St. John the Baptist in South Bend, Father Violi had been tasked with researching the classical model of education because the parish school was considering adopting it at the time. Classical education focuses on teaching grammar, logic and rhetoric all at once, a concept that has him look at teaching methods that tie theology with things like poetry to better engage the students.

Similar to Catholic schools, he says of the classes for home-school students: "You can tie everything together. It's not just that we put religion in. It's not just 'school with Jesus;' it's Jesus immersing into every subject."

Father Violi remarked that "The body of Christ cannot be broken into pieces. Home schooling shouldn't be seen as a threat to Catholic education, but they should be able to work together. There's a unity there. Christ cannot be separated. If we are able to unite those, we're doing good things."

Though the class is small now, the community at St. Joseph hopes to see growth in the coming months and years. And Father Violi is more than willing to continue in his work as teacher.

"If there's enough interest, I'll do another version on Saturday. If you can get me 10-15 high schoolers who are interested in learning theology, I'll teach it."

Catholic Charities launches Share the Warmth of Christmas Appeal to aid those affected by COVID-19 and others in need

FORT WAYNE — Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne — South Bend announced Oct. 27 its Share the Warmth of Christmas Appeal to aid those affected by COVID-19 and others in need.

Given the persistence of the pandemic, Catholic Charities is issuing a special Christmastime appeal to solicit donations of gift cards, winter coats and financial contributions to assist the thousands of people in the area who are still out of work, homeless or low-income.

“As the state implements the governor’s Phase 5 of reopening, there will still be many out of work now through the Christmas season,” said Bobbie Golani, senior administrative officer at the agency. “As a result, we expect requests for material assistance to be even higher than usual as the cold weather sets in.”

For those people who want to donate to the Share the Warmth of Christmas Appeal, the agency encourages donations of gift cards that will be distributed to families who are having difficulty meeting basic needs such as food and warm clothing, particularly over the holidays. Cash donations are also being accepted to subsidize the Catholic Charities program dedicated to assisting households with rent and utilities so they can avoid eviction. Catholic Charities pays rent and utilities directly to landlords or utilities.



Most-needed items include:

- Grocery or multi-purpose stores gift cards (e.g., Kroger, Walmart, Meijer)
- Gasoline gift cards
- Citilink bus passes
- Diapers of all sizes, but especially sizes 2 to 5
- New toys, particularly those that support healthy development and learning

Unwrapped gift items may be dropped off through Dec. 11. To make financial contributions, call 260-422-5625 or visit www.ccfwsb.org.

“This way we can be assured that children and the vulnerable are housed and warm during the Christmas season,” said Golani.

Coats for children, preferably professionally cleaned ones, new gloves for adults and mittens for children are also being accepted, as are children’s snow pants and adult coats in sizes XL to 5X. The agency is not in need of hats or scarves at present. Starting Nov. 5, Catholic Charities will give away the coats by appointment only.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the organization is asking for coats to be professionally cleaned. Those who have coats to donate, but cannot afford to clean them, may take them to Peerless Cleaners in Auburn,

Angola or Fort Wayne Nov. 7-29. The Laundry Room laundromat in Auburn will also clean donated coats.

The agency asks donors to drop off items in the first-floor lobby of Catholic Charities, Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, 915 S. Clinton Street, Fort Wayne, during regular business hours: Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Friday, 8 a.m. to noon.

The office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holidays on Nov. 26 and 27. Drop-offs must be scheduled by contacting ccoffice@ccfwsb.org.

To contact Catholic Charities, visit www.ccfwsb.org or call the Fort Wayne office at 260-422-5625, email address ccoffice@ccfwsb.org. Contact the South Bend office at 574-234-3111 or ccoleman@ccfwsb.org. In the Auburn area, call 260-925-0917 or email bgolani@ccfwsb.org.



MASSES INTERPRETED FOR THE DEAF

South Bend | St. Matthew Cathedral
11:00 a.m. | 2nd & 4th Sundays of the Month

Fort Wayne | Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
11:30 a.m. | 2nd Sunday of the Month



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Memorial of St. Katharina Kasper added to diocesan calendar

BY JODI MARLIN

The canonization of Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ foundress Maria Katharina Kasper in 2018 was an occasion of great joy in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, especially at the congregation's motherhouse in Donaldson. There is rejoicing again this week, over permission that has been received from the Vatican for the official inscription of St. Katharina's Feb. 1 feast day into the Proper Calendar of the diocese as an optional memorial.

A saint's feast can only be inscribed in a local calendar if he or she had a significant role in the history and devotion of the faithful in that place. The Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments agreed that St. Katharina meets this criteria for Fort Wayne-South Bend, and

so now the diocese has special permission to use the specific — or 'proper' — prayers from her Mass during liturgical celebrations on her feast day.

With this permission, St. Katharina becomes just the third saint with a particular connection to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to be inscribed into the Proper Calendar. Previously, St. Mother Theodore Guerin, who founded the first Catholic schools in the diocese, and Blessed Solanus Casey, a priest of "holiness and many miracles of healing," as Bishop Rhoades once described him, were similarly inscribed.

Pope Paul VI, during her beatification ceremony of in 1978, extolled St. Katharina as a model of longing to fulfill God's will in the situations of life. Bishop Rhoades referred to that honor during her canonization celebration at Donaldson.

"As you well know, Mother Mary Catherine's life was

focused on being available to God, on doing God's will. In one of her letters, she prayed: 'Only You I want to serve and obey according to your liking. Only You I want to love according to Your most holy will, only You I want to honor and praise as You like it.'"

There is a deep connection between the diocese and the congregation founded by St. Katharina. In his request of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, Bishop Rhoades enumerated the many examples of that historic relationship, along with pastoral reasons for this request that her feast day be inscribed on the local calendar.

In response to a need expressed by Bishop John Henry Luers of the then-Diocese of Fort Wayne, Mother Maria Katharina sent the first eight Poor Handmaids from Germany (then Prussia) to America in 1868 to minister to the large German-speaking



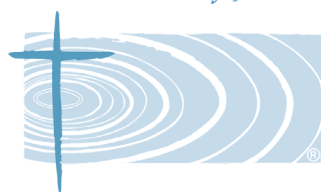
CNS photo/courtesy Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

Blessed Katharina Kasper is pictured in this undated photo provided by the congregation she founded, the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. Born in 1820 in Dernbach, Germany, she was canonized in 2018.

We are proud to be followers of Saint Katharina Kasper!



Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ



Partners in the work of the Spirit

population around Fort Wayne. The Poor Handmaids' American motherhouse was established in the city alongside Saint Joseph Hospital, which they operated until 1998.

Many more sisters were sent by Mother Maria Katharina in the following years. At the same time, vocations to the Poor Handmaids from this diocese were growing. In 1920, the motherhouse for the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ in the United States moved to Donaldson, near Plymouth, and remains there today.

The Poor Handmaids have a lengthy history of ministry to the Church throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, particularly in the areas of health care and education. The list of institutions within the diocese at which they have served is more than five dozen schools, hospitals, centers, parishes, nursing homes, orphanages and offices long. Among the institutions blessed with the sisters' current presence are: Ancilla Farms in Donaldson, Ancilla College in Donaldson, Catherine Kasper Home and Catherine Kasper Life Center in Donaldson, St. Michael Parish and School in Plymouth, Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center in Donaldson, Maria Center in Donaldson, St. Joseph Community Health Foundation in Fort Wayne, Catherine's Cottage Senior Care in Donaldson, St. Pius X School in Granger, and St. Joseph Regional Medical Center in Plymouth.

The influence and memory of the Poor Handmaids is still visible at many of the schools and hospital facilities at which they served, the bishop said in his

letter, and devotion to St. Maria Katharina has been growing since her canonization. "Being able to liturgically celebrate the congregation's foundress would resonate with thousands of the faithful who have benefited from their ministry."

"St. Katharina was always so humble that she didn't want to be in the lime light," reflected Sister Joetta Huelsmann, PHJC provincial. "I think having her recognized officially will help continue her spirituality and the charisma of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ that she started so many years ago. Her life is for everyone to imitate, not just us."

It's a fitting honor for the woman who missioned the first eight Poor Handmaids to America by way of the Fort Wayne diocese, said Sister Linda Volk, PHJC.

"She took the risk of sending her sisters across the ocean to a foreign land at a time when there was still much need for these sisters in Germany. She crossed borders to serve the immigrants to America of her era, just as we are called to include and serve those of our time. Let her example and spirit continue to inspire and move us to act for justice with mercy and charity."

Libby Riggs, PHJC associate director, was also happy and excited to hear the news of the inscription.

"It brings to the forefront of our times, the important message of Katharina's life and ministry and how it is a lesson for all of us to be carried over in our time: simple, loving service to our neighbors in a divided nation and a world that calls for us to care for one another and recognizing each of us as neighbor."



CNS photo/Vatican stamp and coin office

Vatican Christmas stamps for 2020 show the baby Jesus and Pope Francis holding a lantern. The theme of this year's Christmas stamps is "the light of the peace of Bethlehem."

Vatican Christmas:

Details of stamps, Nativity scene, tree released

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Although the Vatican knows Christmas may be very different this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it already has chosen its stamps and the Nativity scene and tree that will stand in St. Peter's Square.

The larger-than-life-sized ceramic figures in the Nativity scene will come from a high school in Castelli, a town in the ceramic-producing region of Teramo, northeast of Rome, the Vatican announced Oct. 30.

The F.A. Grue Institute, a high school focused on art, will send only a handful of the 54 sculptures that students and teachers crafted for the scene between 1965 and 1975, the Vatican said. In addition to the Holy Family, an angel and the Three Kings, there will be a bagpipe player, a panpipe player, a shepherdess and a little girl carrying a doll.

The scene will be displayed next to a towering spruce tree from Slovenia.

The tree, which is almost 92 feet tall, will come from an area outside the town of Kocevje, the Vatican said.

"This year, more than ever, the staging of the traditional space dedicated to Christmas in St. Peter's Square is meant to be a sign of hope and trust for the whole world," the Vatican statement said. "It expresses the cer-

tainty that Jesus comes among His people to save and console them."

The Nativity scene will be unveiled, and the tree will be lighted Dec. 11, the Vatican said.

The Vatican also revealed the design for its 2020 Christmas stamps, which celebrate the birth of Jesus as a light of peace for the world.

The 1.15-euro stamp features the Baby Jesus with the Church of the Christ Child in Steyr, Austria, in the background and a 1.10-euro stamp shows Pope Francis holding a lantern with St. Peter's Basilica in the background.

As a joint issue with Austria, a single sheet with the two stamps pays tribute to an Austrian initiative called "Peace Light of Bethlehem."

In early December each year, an Austrian scout is chosen to go to Bethlehem and light a lantern from the oil lamp hanging over the 14-point star that marks the spot where Jesus is believed to have been born.

The lantern is brought back to Austria where the flame is used to light other lamps and candles that families and parishes place next to their Nativity scenes. It also is shared with officials at the European Union offices in Belgium and, from there, taken throughout Europe.



Is it me? —

Parishioners look into their racism 'blind spot'

BY BRIAN LEWIS

For three Thursdays in October, a group of parishioners at St. Pius X in Granger gathered to discuss racism. The conversation centered around questions that included, "What is it from a Catholic perspective?" "How important is it for Catholics?" and "What, if anything, should Catholics do in response to racism in society and in the Church?"

The series of discussions were organized by the Catholic Social Teaching Ministry at St. Pius and presented as an adult faith formation offering. The series was centered around the 2018 pastoral letter from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops called "Open Wide Our Hearts: The Enduring Call to Love."

"Open Wide Our Hearts' has something important to say to everyone, beyond partisan divides, about the scourge of racism and its lasting effects in America today, and we wanted to open the letter for people to read in a non-partisan way," said Michael Rubbelke, director of adult faith formation at St. Pius.

The programs started with Deacon Mel Tardy providing an overview of the bishops' letter and talking about his personal experiences with racism, as well as his views of what the Church could do. The next two weeks involved more small group discussion of the bishops' letter.

It might seem unusual to see such discussions happening at St. Pius, a parish located in an area where most people enjoy financial security. But the problem won't be solved unless such discussions happen with more frequency, participants said.

"Racism affects everybody," Tardy said. "Racism is evil."

For Tardy's presentation, 13 people attended in person and 18 via Zoom. The next week for the first presentation there were seven people in attendance and six people online. Rubbelke said he was happy with the turnout for the event; but he still wished it could have been better, because the parish has hundreds of families.

The second event happened on the same night as the second presidential debate. But what kept people home, organizers thought, was the idea that the issue is not that important.

For many people, racism is not viewed as a contemporary problem affecting the lives of people in 21st century America.

One attendee said he has heard many people state that they are not racist and they have never acted in a racist way towards anyone.

"It's very important for white people to do their work," said Phil Noonan, one of the parishioners who attended.

"It's very important for white people to do their work."

It's such a huge blind spot."

PHIL NOONAN

"It's such a huge blind spot." Reading the bishops' letter is a way people who attended the discussions were encouraged to see into that blind spot.

What is racism? It's not only deliberate sinful acts but also unconsciously accepted attitudes and beliefs. Deacon Tardy also referred to it

as the "original sin of American society."

When institutional racism is compared to original sin, it helps reframe the discussion. Not being racist is not a worthy goal, several attendees said. Being anti-racism means working to change and analyzing racist structures in society.

Consider the children's movie "Sing," said Cathy Noonan, one of the attendees on the second Thursday. One of the characters in that animated film came from

a family of bank robbers. And the bank robbers had voices that sounded African American.

That choice by the filmmakers could have been made differently. That choice by the filmmakers is an example of institutional racism, she said.

The language of sin also provides a framework for people to discuss racism.

When we talk about sin, we talk about both sins of omission and sins of commission: what we have done and what we have failed to do, said Peter Stone. But what constitutes a sin of omission when it comes to matters of race? he asked.

Perhaps the question is more important than the answer, another attendee said.

Asking such questions, focusing on the problem, helps society move towards solutions, it was said.

Noonan said that talking about white privilege has never been a pleasant experience. "It was hard for me to begin to look at it," she said. However, she realized the importance of it.

She also mentioned Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades' prayer service on Sept. 9, the feast day of Peter Claver, the patron saint of interracial justice. It was refreshing to see the bishop emphasize the importance of the issue, she said.

For Deacon Tardy, talking about racism is also something he would prefer not to do. Yet he's been doing it more and more frequently this year than in the past.

Deacon Tardy works with the University of Notre Dame as well as serving the Church. In one recent week he led more than a half-dozen discussions like the one at St. Pius.

After hearing about his schedule, his daughter said that talking about racism must be something that he really loved to do. But that's not the case. Not necessarily, he responded.

"But it's the season for it." If he didn't respond to the desire people have to address this issue, that would definitely be a sin of omission and a missed opportunity. "The season may pass, and what did you accomplish?" he asks.

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What now for the Supreme Court?

As I write this, it is unknown whether President Donald Trump will win or lose his bid for reelection. Either way, however, his most lasting legacy may be his naming three new justices to the U.S. Supreme Court — including, of course, Amy Coney Barrett.

The debate over Justice Barrett's confirmation, however, highlighted some disturbing aspects of our current political discourse.

Senators opposing her confirmation as a federal appellate judge in 2017 saw a public backlash when they openly probed her Catholic faith, despite the Constitution's ban on a religious test for public office. They did not repeat that mistake in 2020. But instead, opponents in the Senate and the media used her past comments and actions on various issues as a proxy for attacking that faith.

She had once signed a newspaper ad stating that a new human life begins at conception — a fact that the Catholic Church accepts, but that anyone can look up in an embryology textbook. And some news outlets expressed alarm that she had served on the board of a Christian school whose policies express "anti-LGBTQ rhetoric," for example that marriage is a union "between a man and a woman." That is simply Catholic teaching, and a tradition of other biblical faiths.

But it became clear during her confirmation hearings that Justice Barrett believes the task of a judge is not to impose one's personal views but to carefully apply the Constitution as written and

leave the making of new laws to lawmakers.

And like her predecessor Ruth Bader Ginsburg, she calmly refused to predict her decisions on future cases, because those must rely on the facts and arguments presented by both sides in those cases.

Justice Barrett's qualifications, demeanor and patience with strange questions — including one senator's question about whether she had sexually assaulted anyone — impressed many Americans, and surveys have showed majority support for confirming her.

That makes a speech by Senate minority leader Charles Schumer, the day before her confirmation, especially disturbing.

Sen. Schumer attacked Justice Barrett as a danger to "the lives and freedoms of the American people" and their "fundamental rights." He cited "the right to affordable health care, to make their own private medical decisions, to join a union, vote without impediments, marry whom they love." Confirming her, he said, would be "an inerasable stain on this Republican majority forevermore."

Justice Barrett has not said she would do any of these things, some of which are matters of legislative choice more than constitutional mandate. And Senator Schumer's reference to "private medical decisions" was code for abortion — although the Supreme Court's ever-shifting abortion jurisprudence has said since 1992 that the "right" to abortion arises from a sweeping



A MORE HUMAN SOCIETY

RICHARD DOERFLINGER

idea of personal "liberty" rather than medical privacy.

Oddly, Sen. Schumer told Americans that Republican Senators were "breaking faith with you" by doing "the exact opposite" of what they promised in 2016. But the party's 2016 platform promised to appoint "judges who respect traditional family values and the sanctity of innocent human life," and on same-sex marriage to appoint those who "respect the constitutional limits on their power and respect the authority of the states to decide such fundamental social questions." It seems that what he fears is the possible keeping of those promises.

Justices like Amy Coney Barrett may lead the court to a more modest role, leaving issues to the people and their elected representatives when the Constitution says little or nothing about them. But it seems that leaders in the party known as Democratic, which I've belonged to all my adult life, may be afraid of ... more democracy.

Richard Doerflinger worked for 36 years in the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Hospitality at 6 feet: keeping our distance while letting others in

"Can you come in?"

My grandma's favorite question is one we now discourage her from uttering.

The impulse to swing open her door and her arms, honed over nine decades and stitched into her Irish-Catholic DNA, is not easily thwarted. Yet we have attempted to do so this year.

She's doing her best, but she doesn't like it one bit. Social distancing goes against every fiber of her being.

At 90, Grandma still lives in the two-story brick home where she raised her six kids. It is the hub for our sprawling extended family. We all gather there on Christmas Eve, when she's perched at the piano, plucking out carols we sing along to across the living room.

Individually, we flee there on bad days, when we need a sympathetic ear and a soft place to land. She sits by the fireplace, a candy dish at one elbow and a basket of newspapers and magazines at the other. She listens so wholeheartedly, with appreciative sounds and interjections, and instantly everything seems better.

That is hospitality in its truest sense. The word originates from the Latin word for hospital. Grandma's expression of hospitality does indeed turn her home into a hospital: a refuge for the sad and lonely, a place for heal-



TWENTY SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

ing.

I've been reflecting on the virtue of hospitality, which feels more needed than ever and also harder than ever to exercise amid a pandemic. How are we to practice hospitality now, when our faces are covered and our reserves are depleted? How are we to embrace the stranger while keeping 6-foot distance?

If hospitality is defined as kindness toward strangers, the friendly reception of guests, then the opposite is judgment. It's forming unfair and unfavorable ideas about others based on our own insecurities and ignorance. This means hospitality is not so much an act as a disposition. It is recognizing the opportunity to be Christ to others and to receive Christ from others.

It does not require uncluttered counters. It does require an uncluttered heart.

Emily Stimpson Chapman, author of "The Catholic Table,"

CAPECCHI, page 13

Live each day as a disciple



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Matthew 25:1-13

The Book of Wisdom supplies the first reading for this weekend. The book's title itself teaches a lesson.

As centuries passed, foreign influences virtually overwhelmed the Holy Land. Times perennially were hard. Understandably, many Jews left their ancestral homeland in search of better lives. They emigrated but went to places where paganism prevailed.

In these new places, devoted Jews found themselves required to explain and defend their ancient belief in the one God of Israel, possibly to their own

children.

This book, among others, arose from this process. The title makes the point that accepting the God of Israel is the wise choice, totally logical, and not a leap into fantasy.

An interesting literary technique in this book is that wisdom is personified. Wisdom is described as if this human attribute were a person, moving through the world, being available to humans.

The First Letter to the Thessalonians provides the second reading. This letter was sent long ago to the Christian community in Thessalonica, now the city of Saloniki in modern Greece. The presence of Christians in Thessalonica at that time shows that already the Church had moved beyond its geographic origins and was becoming a factor in Europe, not only in Asia.

Paul makes several important theological points in this reading. First, he expressed the Christian thought that life endures after earthly death. St. Paul refined this idea by insisting that eternal life was intimately connected

with the reality of an individual person's acceptance of, or rejection of, God in a person's earthly existence.

Second, Paul drew the link between Christ and each Christian. He favored no theme more. It was fundamental. Christ lives forever. He overcame death. He rose. So, Christians who earnestly accept the Lord must die to share in this victory over death. In this bond, they are destined to live forever.

St. Matthew's Gospel is the source of the third reading. It is the familiar parable of the bridegroom and the foolish and wise virgins. Some commentators raise an interesting suggestion: that, maybe, the virgins, wise or otherwise, were symbols of disciples. While no woman was an Apostle, according to any learned reading of the Gospels or tradition, women nonetheless were among the Lord's disciples.

Living lives of obedience to, and in the model of Jesus, required more than good intentions. Also, Jesus extolled virginity among followers. It is why the Church respects celibacy.

Early Christians impatiently

awaited the coming of Jesus, believing that when Jesus came in glory, all wrongs would be righted. Threatened in so many ways, they obviously yearned for the second coming.

The parable teaches that indeed Christ will come again, eventually, hopefully soon. He will return in triumph, majesty and justice. Jesus will reign over all.

Reflection

It is as true today as it was in the first years of Christianity. The Christian's bond with Jesus is profound, but it constantly must be renewed and strengthened. Disciples must be as determined and aware as were the wise virgins.

As for the foolish and sluggish, it is never too late for any sinner to repent. Millions of persons have turned from sin to virtue in the last moments of earthly life. The Church always is prepared to aid in such conversions. It is the purpose of the sacrament of reconciliation. All is forgiven. Start anew.

The Church, through

Matthew, tells us this weekend to be prepared for whatever awaits us. We cannot predict the future, so live each day as a disciple. Be with Christ now, not just at the last minute.

Being with God alone is worthwhile. It makes life worth living. It alone brings true security. Death may be inevitable for every person, but eternal life awaits the just. Jesus awaits the just.

READINGS

Sunday: Wis 6:12-16 Ps 63:2-8

1 Thes 4:13-18 Mt 25:1-13

Monday: Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12 Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17 Jn 2:13-22

Tuesday: Ti 2:1-8, 11-14 Ps 37:3-4, 18, 23, 27, 29 Lk 17:7-10

Wednesday: Ti 3:1-7 Ps 23:1b-6 Lk 17:11-19

Thursday: Phlm 7-20 Ps 146:7-10 Lk 17:20-25

Friday: 2 Jn 4-9 Ps 119:1-2, 10-11, 17-18 Lk 17:26-37

Saturday: 3 Jn 5-8 Ps 112:1-6 Lk 18:1-8

Prepare for end-of-life decision-making

We all want to live life to the fullest and use it for the glory of God, but we also should take the time to plan for our death. We need to decide what our wishes would be and express them in a health care directive. As Catholics, we need to make decisions that align ourselves with the teachings of the Catholic Church. You cannot be confident that your hospital or physician will treat you in a way consistent with a Catholic view of human dignity.

A health care directive usually starts out with a statement that if I am incapacitated and can no longer actively guide my medical care, these are my wishes. Then, there is usually a statement indicating that if you have a terminal illness or have significant brain damage that you request not to be kept alive by life support systems such as a ventilator. This directive will also typically allow you to indicate whether or not to provide nutrition and hydration. It is not acceptable to bring death on by starvation or dehydration. The Catholic Church teaches that adequate calories and fluids need to be given, even by artificial means, if they are able to be assimilated by the patient and if their provision is not unduly burdensome to him or her. For example, if eating causes nausea, pain or discomfort when death is imminent, then deciding not to eat for a period of days is reasonable and declining artificial nutrition in this scenario would be acceptable as well.

In my practice, as I take care of end-stage heart failure patients, I ask the patient and family about their advance directives. A common response is

Catholics are not required to use all available means to prolong their life.

"I already have a living will." Unfortunately, a major drawback of a living will is that it usually does not give adequate guidance for the majority of real-life situations. What if you are elderly and on your fourth hospitalization for congestive heart failure in three months? Would you want to be put on a ventilator if there is little chance for recovery?

Living wills usually do not clarify these serious questions. That is why each time you are admitted to a hospital or an extended care facility, you should make sure your wishes are specified. You need to tell your doctor whether or not you would want to be resuscitated with CPR, cardioverted (shocked), or be placed on a ventilator. Unfortunately, some physicians are just as uncomfortable as their patients with this conversation and avoid the discussion. That is why patients need to advocate for themselves and take control of their last days as they get closer to death.

In your health care directive, you should appoint a health care representative. This person would make decisions for you if you were no longer able to speak for yourself. Most people who are married will have their spouse take this responsibility, but sometimes another close family member is chosen who might be better qualified to make end-of-life decisions for you.

Catholics are not required to use all available means to prolong their life. Sometimes the options available could be considered extraordinary and too burdensome, such as when someone's cancer continues to advance despite treatment. At



DR. DAVID KAMINSKAS

THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN

that point, you can say enough is enough and stop treatment that has become ineffective.

You should also make provisions for the most important medicine — the sacraments. Through reception of confession, anointing or the sick and the holy Eucharist, we become prepared to enter our Father's house. We should all pray that we will have the wisdom to know and the courage to accept when to embrace the ultimate gift from God, eternal life after death. For as Romans 14:8 says, "Whether we live or die it must be for the Lord. Alive or dead, we still belong to the Lord."

For more information log on to <https://www.archindy.org/plannedgiving/documents/Health%20Care%20Directives.pdf>, which was created by the Indiana Catholic Conference to help guide Catholics with their health care directives.

Lisa Everett, the director of Marriage and Family Ministry for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has been an invaluable resource for me over the years as I have written this column. I would like to thank her for all of her assistance.

Dr. David Kaminskis is a board-certified cardiologist and member of the Dr. Jerome Lejeune Catholic Medical Guild of Northeast Indiana, www.fortwaynecma.com.

CAPECCHI, from page 12

taught me this back when visions of immaculate Pinterest boards held me back. "When we think of hospitality not as impressing people but as loving people, it's easier to let go of all the extras that make welcoming people into our home stressful or expensive," the Pittsburgh mom told me.

The Biblical command to care for those in need does not exclude times of pandemic, Emily pointed out. It does require greater creativity and greater courage. "What God calls us to, he always gives us the grace to do," she said.

The Benedictines consider

hospitality a charism, a special spiritual gift. St. Benedict explored the topic in a chapter of his book "Rule of Benedict," written in the year 516. He believed guests should be warmly received upon arrival and departure. Doesn't it feel good when a host grabs your bag as you enter or walks you out as you leave?

St. Benedict emphasized the "humility" at the core of hospitality, and he described it in action: a host should bow to their guests to adore the Christ within, pray with them, sit with them and wash their hands.

The spirit of those gestures can be done from a distance, even remotely: listening well, affirming others, praying for

them, checking in, mailing cards, leaving banana bread at the front door.

We can smile with our eyes even when our mouths are masked. Perhaps that's a metaphor for hospitality in 2020: We have less to work with, but we're doing what we can. We're trusting that, once again, God will give us the grace.

Christina Capecci is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for November 8, 2020

Matthew 25:1-13

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: about being prepared and ready. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

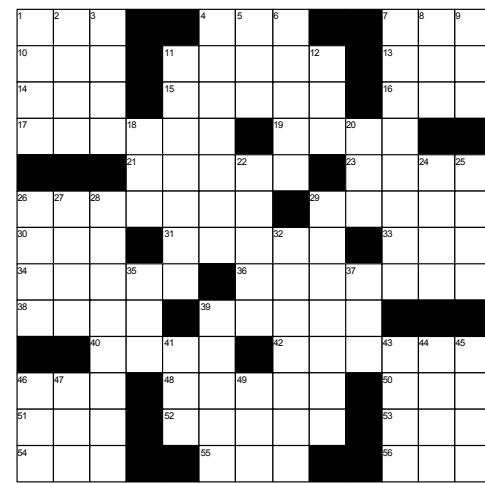
HEAVEN	TEN VIRGINS	THEIR LAMPS
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NO OIL	WISE	FLASKS
OF OIL	DROWSY	MIDNIGHT
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(buy) SOME	READY	LORD
NOT KNOW YOU	AWAKE	THE HOUR

GET UP

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 E H N A N D R O L M M N
 T H G I N D I M U E T K

The Cross Word

November 1 and 8, 2020



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Readings: Rev 7:2-4, 9-14; 1Jn 3:1-3; Mt 5:1-12a and Thess 4:13-18; Mt 25:1-13

ACROSS

- 1 Make food laws
- 4 Adam lost one to Eve
- 7 Disallow
- 10 Virgins had flask of
- 11 Cut with ax
- 13 Pride
- 14 Ship initials
- 15 Dark wood
- 16 Pole
- 17 Parallelograms
- 19 Office furniture
- 21 Tapestry
- 23 "The ___ of the Living God"

- 26 Heavenly bodies
- 29 Southern girl
- 30 2,000 pounds
- 31 "Wearing ___ robes"
- 33 Billion years
- 34 Mountain range
- 36 Bridegroom was
- 38 Dry plants
- 39 Opera singer
- 40 False butter
- 42 Thin
- 46 Friday (abbr.)
- 48 Kind of knife
- 50 Night bird
- 51 Moses did for the Israelites

- 52 "The ___ of the Lamb"
- 53 Bro.'s sibling
- 54 Not downs
- 55 Jesus is God's
- 56 Compass point

DOWN

- 1 "___ living creatures"
- 2 Satellite receiver
- 3 Too
- 4 Baptism brings
- 5 The other half of Jima
- 6 Lean over
- 7 San Francisco neighbor
- 8 Past
- 9 Land "east of Eden"
- 11 Israelites
- 12 Henna
- 18 "Son of ___"
- 20 South southeast
- 22 Out of the way
- 24 Healing plant
- 25 Allow to borrow
- 26 Parent teacher groups
- 27 "The ___ Ranger"
- 28 Robots
- 29 Paul's greeting
- 32 Stress
- 35 Snake like fish
- 37 "Blessed ___ you"
- 39 Work needs
- 41 Recede
- 43 Not win
- 44 St. Thomas was one
- 45 Otherwise
- 46 Winter malady
- 47 Representative
- 49 Date

Answer key can be found on page 15

Parishes commemorate All Souls' Day

BY JENNIFER BARTON

All Souls' Day on Nov. 2 — often overshadowed by the holy day of obligation that immediately precedes it, All Saints' Day — has a rich and important history of its own. The two feasts are intrinsically linked: All Saints' Day memorializes the holy men and women who have already entered into the presence of God; All Souls' Day remembers those whose fate is unknown, but who may still be in purgatory awaiting their final reward.

The entire month of November is dedicated to praying for the deceased. These faithful men and women have long been remembered in the Catholic Church at different times throughout the year. But in the 11th century, St. Odilo of Cluny chose the day following All Saints' Day as an official day of prayer for all the Clunaic monasteries, and the date quickly became a fixture of the liturgical calendar.

Many parishes within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend have long-established traditions to honor the faithfully departed and to pray for their entrance into heaven.

Mass of remembrance

The first and greatest way to remember the faithfully departed is through a Mass of remembrance said for their souls. Numerous parishes within the diocese have a Mass said for this particular intention on the feast of All Souls.

One of these parishes is St. Robert Bellarmine in North Manchester. The pastor, Father Dennis Di Benedetto, spoke with Today's Catholic about the importance of such Masses.

"Indeed, the entire month of



Provided by Patti Webster

Parishioners at St. Anthony of Padua in Angola are usually invited to write the names of deceased family members and friends in the Book of the Dead. This year, they were provided with cards that parish staff arranged onto a poster.

November is dedicated to praying for those who are being purified in the fires of God's love in purgatory. Jesus tells us that nothing unclean shall enter heaven, so those of us who are not perfect when we die can expect at least a short stay in purgatory. Those who are there can pray for us but cannot pray for themselves. That is why we have a sacred duty to fast, pray, and make other sacrifices on behalf

of the holy souls.

"The most powerful prayer we can offer for the holy souls in purgatory is to have the holy Mass said on their behalf."

Corpus Christi Parish in South Bend holds an annual prayer service for their beloved dead.

"We remember all the parish-

ioners who have passed away, particularly in the last year," said Father Daryl Rybicki. All their names are read during the prayer service and candles marked with each person's name are lit at the front of the church. "The Church calls us at all times to pray for the dead, so this is something we opted to do."

Memorial candles

Candles have great significance in remembering the dead. Father Francis Chukwuma, pastor of St. John Bosco Parish in Churubusco and Immaculate Conception Parish in Ege, began a ministry of using memorial candles during the month of November as a prayer for departed loved ones. He explained that the lights themselves symbolize prayers rising to God, similar to how incense rises to heaven.

The candles also serve as a reminder for family members and others who attend Mass or adoration to continue to pray for faithful Catholics who still might be undergoing purification in purgatory. The traditional Prayer for the Faithful Departed is printed on the front of the candles so that anyone who comes in to pray can say a short prayer for the person's soul.

Father Chukwuma said, "Sometimes people are forgotten ... I thought it would be nice to have a general prayer for the community."

Both parishes even recognize with candles parishioners who may have passed on without any family members to pray for them. Prayers don't have to come from family members to help ease the suffering of souls

in purgatory, Father Chukwuma reminded.

"All people need our prayers. It is part of the mission of the Church to pray for the Church's suffering."

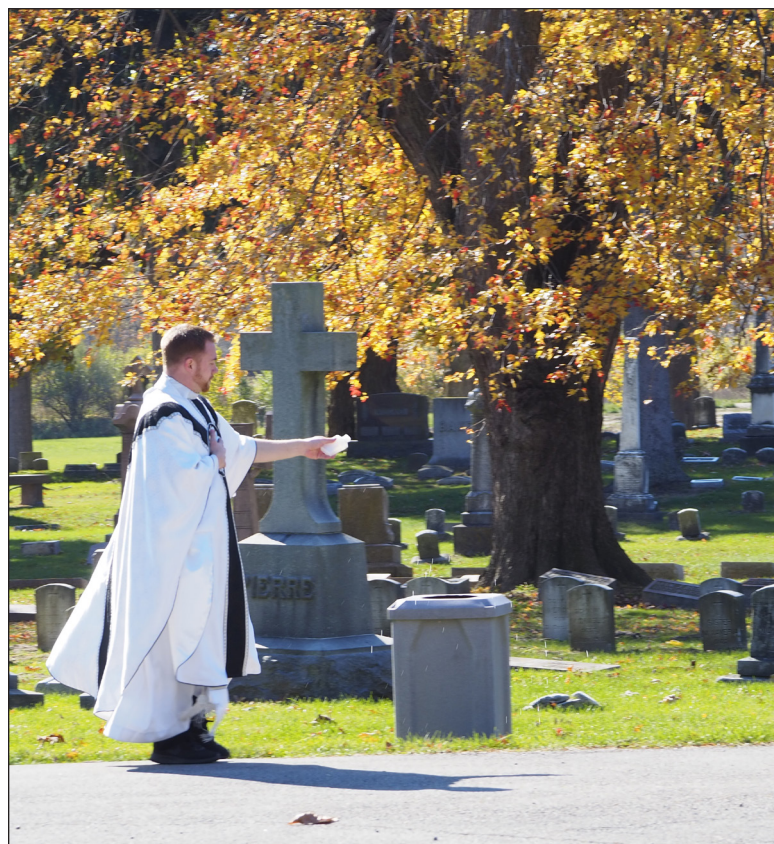
St. Joseph Parish in Bluffton has a similar tradition going back 10 years. Parish administrative assistant and director for religious education Michelle Paxton related that "the memorial candles are lit Nov. 1, All Saints' Day, and remain lit throughout the month of November." During a weekday Mass, the parish Knights of Columbus council specifically honors their members who have passed from this life.

Cemetery ceremonies

Several parishes in the diocese, such as St. Vincent de Paul in Fort Wayne, St. Rose of Lima in Monroeville and Immaculate Conception in Ege were originally founded outside the Fort Wayne city limits and therefore permitted to establish cemeteries to inter their deceased members. Today, most of parishes that have parish cemeteries honor former parishioners by blessing the cemetery or holding special Masses for the dead within the cemetery grounds.

In Ege, Father Chukwuma holds a yearly cemetery blessing, a tradition that was already in place when he became pastor. It takes place on the Sunday closest to Nov. 2 and many parishioners and family members attend. He stated that he gives a communal blessing, then families

ALL SOULS, page 15



Photos by Jennifer Barton

Memorial candles labeled with names of deceased family members, such as the ones pictured here at St. Joseph Church in Bluffton, are one method of reminding Catholics to pray for those who have passed on.

At left, Father Jay Horning blessed graves after the All Souls' Day Mass at Catholic Cemetery.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WHAT'S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. View more Catholic events and submit new ones at www.todayscatholic.org/event. For additional listings of that event, please call the advertising sales staff at 260-399-1449 to purchase space.

Mass for the Dead

FORT WAYNE — Celebrate a memorial Mass in the “old” cemetery (at the northwest corner of Auburn and Wallen Roads near the Oratory of St. Mary Magdalene) on Saturday, Nov. 7, at 8:15 a.m. Bring a lawn chair if you need seating and make sure to dress warmly. Coffee and donuts will be served afterward in the parish hall by the Knights of Columbus. Confessions will take place in the church as usual, immediately following the conclusion of the outdoor Mass. If there is rain, Mass will be celebrated in the church. Contact Marie Andorfer at 260-489-3537 or church@saintv.org for information.

Holiday open house at Good Shepherd
FORT WAYNE — A holiday open house will be Wednesday,

Nov. 25 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Good Shepherd Books and Gifts, 915 S. Clinton St. Enjoy free refreshments and browse the selection of Advent and Christmas items. Receive a 20% discount off of your entire purchase. The store will be closed Thanksgiving Day and Friday, Nov. 27. Saturday hours: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free parking in the attached garage. Call 260-399-1442 for more information or visit www.goodshepherdbookstore.org.

St. Mary Rosary Sodality Snowflake Bazaar

HUNTINGTON — St. Mary Parish in Huntington, 903 N. Jefferson St., will have a “Snowflake Bazaar” in the gymnasium on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Sunday, Nov. 8, after Masses. For further information email Mary Till at [\[dmtill81@gmail.com\]\(mailto:dmtill81@gmail.com\) or call 260-385-4571.](mailto:man-</p>
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Saint Joseph High School Open House

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph High School will host an open house on Sunday, Nov. 8, from 1-4 p.m. at the school, 453 N. Notre Dame Ave. Registrants should visit www.saintjoehigh.com to RSVP.

Armor of God

NEW HAVEN — Calling all men for a spiritual briefing concerning a newly formed ministry for men titled “Armor of God.” The purpose is to arm men as spiritual leaders. The next gathering will be Wednesday, Nov. 18, from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Orchid, 11508 Lincoln Hwy. E. in New Haven. For more information contact Rob Gregory at 317-502-6201 or rob@fwjls.com.

REST IN PEACE

Decatur

Violet M. Buchan, 1 month, St. Mary of the Assumption

Jose B. Berlanga, 68, St. Mary of the Assumption

Fort Wayne

Phyllis J. Grady, 90, St. Vincent de Paul

Granger

Eugene Bianco, 82, St. Pius X

Huntington

Jane R. Stoffel, 97, SS. Peter and Paul

Mishawaka

Betty Bobson, 94, St. Bavo

New Haven

William J. Farina, 78, St. John the Baptist

Jerome Nichter, 93, St. John the Baptist

Roanoke

Cletus Fritz, 86, St. Joseph

South Bend

Lois M. Widmar, 81, Christ the King

Barbara A. Zakrzewski, 81, Holy Family

Waterloo

Michael K. McDowell, 68, St. Michael the Archangel

Masses interpreted for the deaf continue

SOUTH BEND — Masses Interpreted for the deaf are on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 11 a.m. at St. Matthew Cathedral, 1701 Miami St. An interpreter from Community Services All Deaf provides American Sign Language. A Mass interpreted for the deaf will also be on the second Sunday of each month at the 11:30 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne. An interpreter from DeafLink, will provide ASL. Contact Allison Sturm at asturm@diocesefwsb.org or at 260-399-1452 for information.

The CrossWord

November 1 and 8, 2020

F	D	A		R	I	B		B	A	N
O	I	L		H	E	W	E	D	E	G
U	S		E	B	O	N	Y		R	O
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ALL SOULS, from page 14

will stand by the graves of their loved ones so that he can walk by, bless the grave with holy water and pray individually for each person by name.

Come, pray and leave rejoicing

St. Vincent de Paul actually has two cemeteries, one dating back to the 1840s and a more modern one. For the past seven years, it has celebrated an All Souls' Day Mass in one of them. “It is very beautiful, it allows us to pray in the bodily presence of our ancestors in the faith,” said Father Daniel Scheidt, pastor. In opportune timing, the parish's new Oratory of St. Mary Magdalene will open its doors for perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament beginning on All Saints' Day. The oratory itself has outside apse walls with niches that allow for members of the parish to have their ashes interred into the church building itself — to “literally surround the altar,” as Father Scheidt stated. He referred to 1 Peter 2, in which the book's writer calls the faithful “living stones that Jesus uses to build the Church.” The oratory was named for St. Mary Magdalene because she “was the first to go to Jesus' tomb in tears and the first to leave rejoicing,” which is appropriate to remember on All Souls' Day. Father Scheidt explained that her example is an invitation for all the faithful to do the same:

Come, pray and leave rejoicing. A group devoted to remembering those from generations past gathers each year in St. Joseph Cemetery in Mishawaka. There, they pray a rosary for the souls of all laid to rest there and in the neighboring cemeteries. Joe De Kever has been in charge of leading the annual Rosary for Poor Souls for roughly 30 years. He wants to ensure that the dearly departed are not forgotten. “There's something about reciting the rosary on a cool autumn afternoon with all those deceased persons surrounding us, the leaves falling all around ... it reminds us that we're all going to be down there someday,” De Kever said. “If we pray for the people who passed, maybe someday people will pray for us.” De Kever commented that the crowd of attendees ranges from older people to young families, priests and laity, but there is a core of participants that returns each year to pray, “rain or shine.”

Remembering the departed by name

Praying for someone by name honors and remembers departed loved ones. St. Pius X remembers them by name in a litany during their Mass of remembrance and places the names in a corresponding worship booklet. Every year at St. Anthony of Padua in Angola, parishioners are encouraged to write the names of their departed family



Jennifer Barton

At the annual All Souls' Day Mass at Catholic Cemetery in Fort Wayne, Father Jay Horning challenges those present to locate the oldest graves and pray for those souls, who may not have anyone to intercede for them. After Mass, he blessed graves near the crucifixion statue.

members in a beautiful, cloth-bound book called the “Book of the Dead.” This year, the parish staff asked participants to write the names of loved ones on cards set out for this purpose and arranged these into a poster in honor of the deceased. Bringing the month of

November to a close will be the Evening of Heavenly Lights with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne. During this ceremony, luminaries purchased in memory of deceased loved ones will be blessed and lit. All Souls' Day is not simply

a day of sadness and sorrow, or simply fulfilling the duty of praying for the dead. As St. Joseph in South Bend told parishioners regarding their upcoming Mass of remembrance: “This liturgy provides an opportunity for us to renew our hope in Christ's promise of eternal life.”

ADDITION, from page 1

that structure, the community of Christ the King School, so that it will truly live its identity as a school of holiness, a school that forms faithful disciples of Jesus, active Catholics, a school — in a word — that forms saints.”

Despite setbacks due to the pandemic, most of the addition was completed by the time school opened for the 2020-21 year. Nine additional classrooms have enabled Christ the King to expand its early childhood offerings by adding another pre-kindergarten class, a program for 3-year-olds and day care for employees. There is also more room for Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and an after-school program. The large after-school program room can also host parish meetings.

Pastor Stephen Lacroix, CSC, said, “The enthusiastic support of our parishioners was overwhelming” in the fall of 2018 when the parish launched a capital campaign to finance the addition.

“You’ve made these sacrifices because you believe in the school’s mission to form the next generation of disciples, to educate the children in the Gospel, to educate them in holiness,” the bishop acknowledged.

Ground was broken in summer 2019, and, in Father Lacroix’s words, “Our construction partners have done an amazing job of continuing this project in some really challenging circumstances” like shortages of building supplies. We were blessed with an intrepid crew who made countless adjustments in order to keep the project on track.” He expressed gratitude to the capital campaign committee, the building committee, the architect and all the contractors, who included many parishioners. Throughout the summer, a task force comprised of administrators, teachers and parents put together “a plan that would keep our community as safe as possible while allowing the kids to come back to school.” Of course, some families have opted to continue with e-learning, but most students have returned in person and “seem excited to be back. So far, the new school year has gone really well,” according to Father Lacroix. Students have adapted to changes including

masking, hand-sanitizing, plexi-glass dividers and having teachers, rather than students, change rooms. Current school enrollment is 478.

Students wound up moving into the new addition in stages. Ground floor classrooms were ready for the beginning of the school year. Early in October, fourth and fifth graders moved into their new second floor classrooms. By the time Bishop Rhoades was able to bless their new space, they had decorated the walls with learning aids, greetings of welcome and vocation posters, including both diocesan and Congregation of Holy Cross seminarians.

Last but not least, a full-size gym has been almost completed. It will enable Christ the King to host athletic tournaments, conduct multiple practices simultaneously and accommodate indoor recesses in inclement weather.

Bishop Rhoades said he enjoyed interacting with the students and teachers he met. At the end of the blessing of the addition, a kindergartner gave him a drawing of her favorite saint with the words “Mary, I love you.” Bishop Rhoades promised to hang it on his refrigerator.

Family groups of parishioners took guided tours on Sunday afternoon following the blessing, and virtual tours of the new spaces should soon be available on the parish website.

The bishop sprinkles holy water on the seal of the school, prominently painted on the wall of the gymnasium.



Photos by Jennifer Kedik

Christ the King pastor Father Stephen Lacroix leads Bishop Rhoades into the newly built gymnasium, which will also function as an auditorium.



The blessed cornerstone of the new building lies ready to be installed.

“God desires to bestow His gifts upon us; to give us more than we dare to ask for.” Bl. Maria Theresia Bonzel

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Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration

Discernment Retreats
February 26-28 2021
May 14-16 2021
November 12-14 2021



Members of the Christ the King School building committee and parishioners explore the foyer of the new addition.