

From the Deacon's Desk

Eucharistic Minister & Lector Workshop:

I have scheduled meetings for all Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors the last week of November. Eucharistic ministers will meet with me on Monday November 27 at 7 pm in the church, and Lectors will meet with me on Thursday November 30 at 7 pm in the church. If for various reasons those days are bad for you, I'll schedule make up sessions for those who need them.

Overall we do liturgical ministry fairly well, but there is always need for polishing and improving our ministerial presence. This will be an informal meeting where everyone will be encouraged to participate.

Living the Eucharist: October 9 through November 13

After last year's Alpha Program, parishioners were asking what was next. As a way to pick up where Alpha left off, every year we will try to promote an Alpha 201 type of program and focus on something specifically Catholic for Catholics.

We will also do Alpha again beginning in Lent 2018 for those who did not participate in Alpha last year, and the Whole Community Catechesis program once a month is also a great way to continue on in your spiritual journey into adult Catholicism.

Living the Eucharist will occur on the following Mondays: October 9, October 16, October 23, October 30, November 6, and November 13. All sessions will begin with a pot luck at 6 pm (bring a dish to pass) and the presentation and group discussions will be from 6:30 until approximately 7:30/8:00 pm. The three primary presenters will be Fr. Fred, Joe Frankenfield, and Jerry Green.

Living the Eucharist is a dynamic, parish-based program designed to help revitalize parish life and mission through a more profound experience of Sunday Mass. It helps the entire parish—adults, teens, and families—grow in their Catholic faith and live more fully as missionary disciples of Jesus.

We Catholics always need to renew our experience of the Sacrament of the Eucharist as a mystery to be **believed**, a mystery to be **celebrated**, and a mystery to be **lived**.

Living the Eucharist renews and heightens parishioner involvement in the Sunday Eucharist, helps parishioners connect the celebration of the Eucharist more closely with the mission of Jesus Christ and the Church, and inspires them to live more intentionally as missionary disciples of Jesus during the week.

Living the Eucharist will have a format similar to the Alpha program and have a meal, followed by a presentation and group discussion. **There are many goals in Living the Eucharist program:**

- Learn about the true meaning of the Mass.
- Better understand the rituals and symbols of the Eucharist.
- Discover new ways to make the Sunday Mass come alive during the week.
- Grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ together with your fellow parishioners.

Since we will once again provide free meals for both Alpha 2018 and Whole Community Catechesis, we are asking that those who want to participate in Living the Eucharist bring a dish to pass.

Anointing of the Sick Mass:

We will have Anointing Masses Saturday and Sunday, October 14th and 15th at our regular weekend Mass times. Those being Anointed can either sit up in the front (if unable to move well), or anywhere in the church by an aisle seat. At the proper time after the homily, Fr. Fred and Deacon Jerry will come around to lay hands on you and anoint you.

When people are sick or suffering – especially for a long time or with a terminal disease – they become discouraged, depressed, angry and afraid. Anointing of the Sick can give people the grace, strength and encouragement to bear their illnesses with hope and abandonment to God. The sacrament also assures people that they are not alone in their suffering, that God is with them and the Christian community is praying for those individuals.

Anyone who is suffering from chronic illness, disease, or prolonged pain is encouraged to be anointed, and it may also be appropriate for people suffering emotional and psychological pain. Even if people are not in need of Anointing, it is a good practice for a faith community (especially younger members of the church) to see and witness what the Anointing of the Sick looks like.

The actual anointing of the sick person is done on the forehead, with the prayer "Through this holy anointing may the Lord in his love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit", and on the hands, with the prayer "May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up". To each prayer the sick person, if able, responds: "Amen."

Although some of our sacraments can be celebrated privately when absolutely necessary, the best way to celebrate a sacrament is publically, when the whole community is present in prayer. **The Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated on Saturday and Sunday, October 14th and 15th at our regular weekend Mass times.**

All Saints and Souls Day Celebration & Pictures of Departed Loved Ones:

As we move into the beginning of the end of the liturgical year, we celebrate All Saints and All Souls Day.

All Saints Day is a solemn celebration in the Roman Catholic Church and is a Holy Day of Obligation. This year all Saints Day is Wednesday November 1 (a Holy Day of Obligation and Mass will be celebrated at 7 pm) and the very next day on Wednesday November 3 is All Souls Day.

The beautiful reality about Catholicism is that we believe that death does not divide the one family under God. Some of God's people are still alive on this earth (you and me), and some of God's people are alive in the next world with the Lord. All Saints and All Souls Day celebrate the reality that we still are all God's one family.

As a way to remember and celebrate All Saints and All Souls Day, I'd like to invite you to bring pictures of your departed loved ones to display in church throughout the month of November. The pictures and photos will remind us of those members of our family who have gone before us in faith to live with the Lord. Similar to last year we will put the display up on tables near the white northwest wall of the church. Please remember to put your name on the back of the photos so we can return them to you at the end of November. **Please bring in your pictures to me sometime before the weekend of October 28 and 29.**