

From the Deacon's Desk

**Trunk or Treat:**

On Tuesday October 31<sup>st</sup>, members of the Youth Ministry Team (Kaylie, Geri, Bev, Mary, and Jerry) will be at the Shepherd Trunk or Treat gathering of cars with open trunks to pass out candy to everyone who is there. Look for us under the St. Vincent de Paul Parish sign.

**Living the Eucharist: October 9 through November 13**

Last Monday at our second of six sessions on understanding the Mass better, we looked at the first major part of the Mass after the Introductory Rites, the Liturgy of the Word. We talked about the TWO TABLES at Mass and why we cannot have the Liturgy of the Eucharist without first celebrating the Liturgy of the Word.

We discussed that the proclamation of the Word of God in the Liturgy does not mean the words of the bible are merely like our words. The Word of God in Sacred Scripture is considered to be alive and active, much like an event that is happening now, and it reminds us of what God is doing now, as well as in the past.

The Word of God carries the very events of which they speak: resurrection, healing, the journey from slavery to freedom... all those things are happening now, and we are always somewhere in the stories we hear proclaimed to us. The Catholic Church has always taught that there is the real presence of Christ when the Word is proclaimed, and we are hearing God speak to us directly every time the Liturgy of the Word happens.

Next week we will move to the second major event in the Mass, the Liturgy of the Eucharist. We will begin by a discussion on what the offertory is all about, and the reality that we are not just offering the bread and wine to the Lord on the altar, but all our lives as well.

Living the Eucharist will continue on the following Mondays: 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.

### **Praying with those who need prayers:**

As a way to follow-up on the Anointing of the Sick that was celebrated last weekend at all the Masses, if anyone is ever in need of someone to pray with you about something going on in your life or your needs, there are parishioners who are willing after Mass to pray with you.

Catholics are not always used to others praying with us, and yet, it has a long tradition in the church. We have always been encouraged to pray for one another, but sometimes people keep their need for someone to pray for them all to themselves. If you ever would like someone to pray for and with you after Mass, please let me know and I'll find you a prayer-partner who is available after each weekend Mass.

Recently it has occurred to me that often people ask me to pray for them or something going on in their life, and rather than try to remember that request later on, I'm going to start praying for people on the spot (with me) when they ask. Following this same practice, we will have others at Mass always willing to pray with us when we need prayers, so just ask.

### **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 Thursday November 2 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.**