

From the Deacon's Desk

Whole Community Catechesis:

Next Sunday after the 9:30 am Mass we will begin our once a month Whole Community Catechesis sessions. After Mass we will have a sit-down breakfast together from 10:45 until 11:15, followed by adult and children's catechesis from 11:15 to 12:15 pm. Adults will stay with Deacon Jerry in the hall while children will go off with their catechists to their classrooms.

All adults and children will be discussing the same faith topic at their age-appropriate levels. The topic of discussion will be the Church's celebration of the Communion of Saints and All Souls Day.

The saints, both living and deceased, are God's holy people sharing God's holy gifts. In God's wisdom God has spread out the gifts of the Spirit over the whole community. No one member of any Catholic community has all the gifts needed to effectively be the body of Christ here on earth. In any Catholic community, we need to find and name the individual gifts and talents of those within the community, and effectively call those forth in order to be the body of Christ that God intends us to be. While we usually think of saints as being deceased and canonized, it was common in the early centuries of Christianity to refer to living Church members as the saints of God. All of the baptized faithful are among God's holy people, and are all part of the communion of saints. Catholicism has a beautiful understanding that we are all connected as a community of believers, and we are all interconnected. To get to heaven someday, I need you and you need me. We get to heaven together. In biblical theology, God calls individuals to be part of a community, and God saves the community, not individuals. This belief is so strong in the Catholic tradition that there is no such thing as a solitary (non-community connected) Catholic.

We have a powerful sense of the family of God, and that family is made up of those still alive here on this earth, and those alive with God in the next world. There is no separation between us and them. We still are all one family in faith. That is why Catholics often have pictures and statues of important members from our family tradition. Just as one sees various pictures of loved ones in one's home, so too Catholics hold up images of important faith members from our Catholic tradition. My mother and father were great people of faith, and because we are still connected and alive in God's family (me on this earth and them in heaven), I still talk to them and ask for their help and assistance. Human death does not terminate the reality that we still are God's holy family.

Come join us for a wonderful breakfast and the faith discussion session from 10:45 to 12:15 pm. All in the community are welcome to attend.

Anointing of the Sick Mass:

Last year we as a parish did an Anointing of the Sick Mass for anyone in our parish in need of God's healing presence and the prayers of this community of faith.

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.

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.

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."

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.