

**November 1, 2009**

**Mass Intentions:**

First Friday, November 6-  
6:00 p.m.-Raymond Kelnar

Sunday, November 8-  
9:15 a.m.-Jero & Edith Svetlik

Sunday, November 15-  
9:15 a.m.-Eugene Kutach

Sunday, November 22-  
9:15 a.m.-John & Mathilda Matula

Thursday, November 29-  
Mass of Thanksgiving-  
9:15 a.m.-Alfonse & Agnes Svetlik's  
60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

First Friday, December 4-  
6:00 p.m.-S.J. & Annie Janak,  
John & Mary Klekar &  
Their Deceased Children

Sunday, December 6-  
9:15 a.m.-Living & Deceased Members of  
The Adolph & Justina Matusek  
Family

**Rosary Leaders:**

Nov. 6-Angela Hermes  
Nov. 8-Sandy Konvicka  
Nov. 15-Ruth Rouse  
Nov. 22-Dorothy Schneider  
Nov. 29-Lucille Klekar  
Dec. 4-Angela Hermes  
Dec. 6-Janie Fikac

**Cantors:**

Nov. 8-Richard Rouse  
Nov. 15-Emily Schimcek  
Nov. 22-Ruth Rouse  
Nov. 29-Richard Rouse  
Dec. 6-Lucille Klekar

**Lectors:**

Nov. 8-Erik Svetlik  
Nov. 15-Garrett Henke  
Nov. 22-Daniel J. Matula  
Nov. 29-Maria Hermes  
Dec. 6-Dorothy Schneider

**Altar Servers:**

Nov. 8-Erin Svetlik, Michael Perdziak,  
Luke Scherer & Kelton Koehne  
Nov. 15-Kasey Hairell, Kelly Janak, Joshua  
Bludau & Adam Hermes  
Nov. 22-Ross & Clay Rother, Hunter &  
Kolby Janak  
Nov. 29-Kyle & Kaitlyn Rother, Eric  
Klekar & Jacob Janak  
Dec. 6-Mikayla, John & Derek Konvicka  
& Alexius Mizera

**Ministers of Holy Communion:**

Nov. 8-Patrick Pesek, Tony &  
Joyce Bludau  
Nov. 15-Evelyn Konvicka, Bev &  
Billy Hrcir  
Nov. 22-Vivian Mozisek, Nancy &  
Leon Etzler  
Nov. 29-Janice Rother, Mary Urbish &  
Scott Sommerlatte  
Dec. 6-Angela Hermes, Richard &  
Trina Sommerlatte

**Offertory Gift Bearers:**

Nov. 8-M/M Shannon Hermes & Sons  
Nov. 15-M/M Billy Hrcir & Sons  
Nov. 22-The John L. Matula Family  
Nov. 29-M/M Timothy Janak & Family  
Dec. 6-M/M Casper Janak

**Ushers:**

Nov. 8-Roman Henke, Robert Pustka,  
Charles Grafe & Gilbert Urbish  
Nov. 15-Leon Matula, Al Svetlik, Francis  
Klekar & Sidney Jasek  
Nov. 22-The John L. Matula Family  
Nov. 29-Eugene Gillar, Robert Sciba,  
Alois Bujnoch & Richard  
Sommerlatte  
Dec. 6-Bubba Kocian, Scott Blaschke,  
Gilbert Mozisek & Marvin Bujnoch

### Church Cleaners:

- Nov. 7-Helen (Dornak) Janak, Gussie Kelnar & Helen Janak  
Nov. 14-Lucille Klekar, Janice Rother & Sue Cinadr  
Nov. 21-Joyce Janak, Anita Steffek, Helen Technik & Ruth Rouse  
Nov. 28-Margaret Smolik & Dorothy Schneider  
Dec. 5-Viola Konvicka, Vivian Mozisek, Rita Migl & Joyce Bludau

### Our Gift to God:

	<u>Loose</u>	<u>Envelope</u>
Oct. 4-	\$135.55	\$530.00
Oct. 11-	\$151.00	\$356.00
Oct. 18-	\$135.92	\$503.00
Oct. 25-	\$ 74.00	\$487.00

Children's Collection: \$43.56  
Building Repair Fund: \$431.00

### Mass Attendance:

Oct. 4—300    Oct. 11—305  
Oct. 18—310    Oct. 25—295

### Messages & Announcements:

Bulletin Sponsor: In Memory of John L. & Mathilda Matula by Daniel & Monica Matula

Promise of Marriage: Tiffany Marie Bludau & Robert Clifton Bennett on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2009.

Donation to St. Mary's Church-  
In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Herman Sciba's  
72<sup>nd</sup> Wedding Anniversary by:  
Viola Konvicka - \$50

### CCD News

- Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>-NET for High School CCD  
Students 6:30-9:00 p.m. @  
Shiner Catholic Church  
Meal will be provided.  
Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>-No CCD Veteran's Day  
Nov. 19-22 National Youth Conference  
Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>-No CCD Happy Thanksgiving!

### From the Desk of Father John

Today we celebrate the Feast of All Saints. We pray to all those who have died and have gone to heaven. We pray in thanksgiving for their lives and pray for their intercession in our lives today.

Tomorrow, November 2, we celebrate All Souls Day. We pray for all who have died, especially those most in need of prayer. We pray, we place flowers on the graves of our loved ones and we remember them.

This weekend, we remember those of our parish who have died this past year by lighting a candle for each one of them.

On Thursday, November 26 we celebrate Thanksgiving Day, which is a harvest festival. Traditionally, it is a time to give thanks for the harvest and express gratitude in general.

The first Thanksgiving Day was celebrated to give thanks to God and the Native Americans for helping the pilgrims survive the brutal winter. Although half of the pilgrims who arrived on the Mayflower died, many more would have had it not been for the Native Americans teaching the pilgrims to harvest foods.

On this Thanksgiving, let us all give thanks to God for the many blessings He has given us, for our food and shelter, and for the freedoms we enjoy.

**Thanksgiving Prayer:** *Father all-powerful, Your gifts of love are countless and Your goodness infinite. On Thanksgiving Day we come before You with gratitude for Your kindness: open our hearts to concern for our fellow men and women, so that we may share Your gifts in loving service. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*



# Happy Thanksgiving!!!

## Financial Report for September 2009

### Income

Sunday Collections	\$2,414.50
Children's Collections	51.19
Special Collection (Retired & Needy Priests)	140.00
Memorials	125.00
Other Church Donations	500.00
Hall Rental & Deposits	500.00
Total Income for September	<u>\$3,730.69</u>

### Expenses

Utilities	\$ 790.08
Health Insurance	705.85
Church Expenses	304.25
Hall Expenses	120.00
Priest Pension Plan	451.00
Salaries	675.00
Repair & Maintenance	808.07
Special Collection Retired & Needy Priests	<u>140.00</u>
Total Expenses for September	<u>\$3,994.25</u>
Balance from August	\$3,913.28
Income from September	<u>+3,730.69</u>
	\$7,643.97
Less September Expenses	<u>-3,994.25</u>
Operating Balance	<u>\$3,649.72</u>

## CATHOLIC FAMILY FRATERNAL OF TEXAS—K.J.Z.T. #3 ST. MARY'S

annual meeting, Sunday, Nov. 15, Jalisco's Café, Hallettsville at 1:00 pm. A short meeting & election of officers will follow the meal. You & your immediate family are invited. Please call Deberah Konvicka 798-5470 or Dorothy Schneider 798-5644 by Nov. 11 if you are planning to attend.

Annual Bake Sale By KJZT Society #53 of Wied (Benefiting the LAMB Organization) November 8, 2009 St. Mary's Catholic Church after 9:15 Mass
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**WHAT PRAYER IS.** Prayer is communicating with God.

*Communicating with God* is broader than *talking to*. Like any conversation, prayer involves talking & listening.

Any conversation you have with another person is going to be colored by two things: how

you see yourself & how you see the other person. Prayer is no different. If you see yourself as pretty much in control of everything, you may not feel the need for prayer as much as if you feel weak & helpless. If you feel that you're kind of dirty & unrepresentable due to things you've done wrong, you may feel that God is pretty ticked off & not exactly in a great mood to listen.

Take a little inventory of how you see yourself or, perhaps, how you're seeing yourself right now. Then take a look at how you're seeing or feeling about God right now.

Remind yourself of a couple things that never change. You're a child of God & He is in charge of the drama of your life, even if it seems like you're doing a great job of running that show by yourself at the moment. You're likewise a very *lovable* child of God, & you do not stop being lovable to Him no matter how many mistakes you make.

When you pray, talk honestly. Why hold anything back from someone who already knows the whole truth? Listen with an open mind & heart. Why close your mind & heart to the truth & the best advice you'll ever get?

**WHY PRAY?** There are three main reasons: we *ought* to, we *need* to & we *want* to.

**Ought.** God gave us life, our very existence. He saved us from eternal death & doom. God continues to keep us in existence, is the source of every good thing we have, supplies the strength to get through hard times, forgives us when we sin & promises us eternal life & happiness. It just isn't right to accept all those things but not acknowledge them or the one who gives them to us. **Need.** Maintaining & deepening a relationship with anyone requires communication. We have to spend time on it, or it fades & eventually disappears. A relationship with God is no different. God never changes, never grows weak or indifferent in His love for us, never stops wanting to care for & help us. But on our end, without the communication of prayer, we can reach a point where God just isn't important anymore. We may *say* that God is important because it's the "right" answer; but, we spend time with people who are truly important to us.

**Want.** Prayer is not *always* rewarding & fulfilling, but it often is for people who work at it. "Work at it" may seem to be the wrong words to use about prayer, but they're not. Few things in life come easily or automatically, but we work at them anyway. Learning a sport or acquiring some other skill is not always thrilling until we gain some experience at it & learn how to do it, how to develop our particular, personal style at

it. Prayer is no different. (Excerpt from  
*Handbook for Today's Catholic Teen*).

# Growing in FAITH™

Discovering **hope and joy** in the Catholic faith.

November 2009

## One Minute Meditations

### All Saints Day

In the early Church, each saint and martyr had a feast day. Later persecution of Christians created so many martyrs that there weren't enough days on the calendar for individual commemorations. Eventually Pope Gregory IV designated Nov. 1 as All Saints Day.

### All Souls Day

Names of those who died were posted in the early days of the Church so that they could be remembered in prayer. In the 11th century, the Cluniac monasteries, the Benedictines and Carthusians all started commemorating the Feast of All Souls on Nov. 2, the day after All Saints Day. Now the entire Church remembers all the dead on this day, especially our loved ones and souls in Purgatory.

### Advent is coming

On November 29th, we start a new liturgical year and begin the season of Advent. We get ready by going to Confession, trying for greater holiness, and counting down the days until our Savior comes.



## Be not afraid

When someone we love is dying, our emotions collide. We want to help, but don't know what to do. We want to offer comfort, but can be overwhelmed with grief. Yet, helping others transition from this life to the next is so important, the Church made visiting the sick and burying the dead two Corporal Works of Mercy.

Here is what you can bring to a loved one who is dying:

**Bring love.** Jesus never turned away from the sick and dying. He always had a loving hand to comfort them and their families. Sometimes even just holding a hand or stroking a shoulder says more about love than words.

**Bring attention.** Ask him stories

about his life and listen carefully. Let him know how much he has inspired you. You'll treasure these moments after he is gone.

**Bring comfort.** Remind her how much God loves her and is waiting to

welcome her. He is kind, merciful, and forgiving.

Encourage her to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation or Anointing of the Sick.

**Bring peace.** Although someone may lose his ability to speak, he can still

hear. Pray out loud, read from scripture, or sing a favorite hymn.

**Bring strength.** When someone is leaving this world to enter the next, fear can be overwhelming. Remind her of Jesus' words, "Be not afraid."



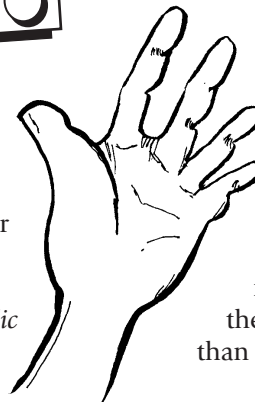
## Why Do Catholics Do That?

When we die in God's friendship we know that we'll eventually go to Heaven. However, if we haven't properly atoned for certain sins, we have to be purified in Purgatory first. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* calls it, "a final

## Why do we pray for souls in Purgatory?

cleansing of human imperfection before one is able to enter the joy of heaven."

We pray for the souls in Purgatory, especially during the month of November, to help them pass through to Heaven faster than they would on their own.



# What's so great about being Catholic?

**Our Mother.** Mary, the mother of God, is also our mother.  
**It's dependable.** Our religion hasn't changed since Jesus started it.

**You can sing badly and no one cares.** All voices are welcome in the Church.

**We have a shepherd.** Jesus knew we would need looking after. Pope Benedict XVI can trace his spiritual ancestry straight back to the first pope, St. Peter, who was appointed by Jesus.

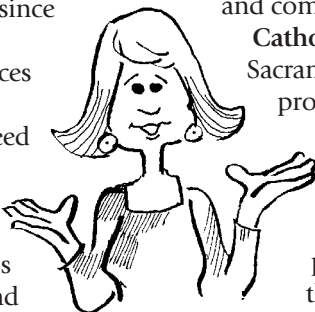
**The ceremonies can't be beat.** Through rituals we express devotion, hope, love, and respect. And

because we repeat them often, they bring a sense of stability and comfort.

**Catholics know when our sins are forgiven.** In the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we get to hear the priest pronounce Jesus' words of absolution and forgiveness.

**We have friends in high places.** The saints intercede for us and help us to get to Heaven.

**Where else can you meet Jesus in the flesh?**  
 In the Eucharist Jesus is literally and wholly present—body and blood, soul and divinity—under the appearances of bread and wine.

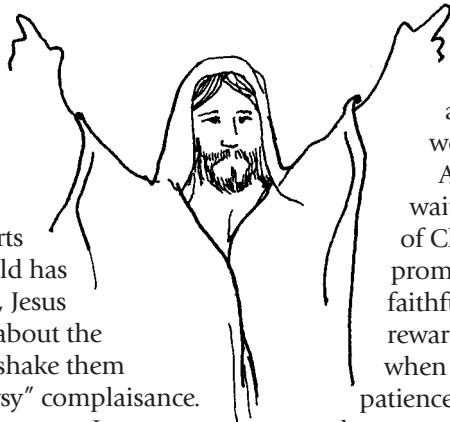


## from Scripture

### Luke 21:25-28, 34-36, the Advent of hope

The virtues of patience and perseverance aren't strengths for most of us. Often the concerns of daily life overshadow our pursuit of holiness. We can even get lured into sin by the comforts and pleasures the world has to offer. Knowing this, Jesus warned his followers about the end times, hoping to shake them (and us) out of "drowsy" complaisance.

Imagine the terrifying scene Jesus described – the shaking of the earth, sea, and sky and people dying of fright. In the midst of that terror, though,

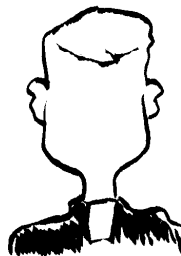


people in God's friendship will have no reason to fear. The key is, he said, to stay on guard against sin and worldly pleasure.

Advent is a time of waiting for the coming of Christ. God has promised us that if we are faithful to him, we will be rewarded. This is a time when we must pray for patience and perseverance to keep us ready for the arrival of our Savior. Then we can hold our heads high and stand confident expecting our promised reward.

## Q & A What can I do about the shortage of priests?

In the Catholic Church, the number of priests increases every year. However, in the United States, Canada, and parts of Europe, fewer men are entering discernment and formation for the priesthood.



It's not that God is calling fewer men here than elsewhere. It may be that fewer act on their call due to lack of information or encouragement. Start by praying for more men to recognize their call to the priesthood.

Then, look for a Catholic who has integrity and a strong relationship with God, has an ability to work with a variety of people, and has good friends and healthy relationships. Perhaps you know someone like this who already serves the Church as an altar server, a lector, Eucharistic minister, or a teacher.

Then, tell him why you think he will make a good priest and suggest he contact the vocation director in your diocese. Studies show that nine out of ten priests in the U.S. are happy in their ministry and would choose it again given the chance.

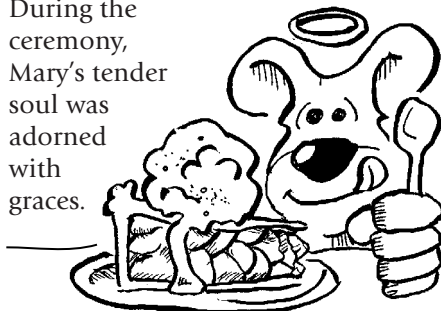
## Feasts & Celebrations

**November 11 – St. Martin of Tours (397).** At 15, Martin became a Roman soldier, but he knew killing was wrong and he wanted to become a Christian. A beggar in France made it so. Martin saw the man cold and hungry and decided to rip in half his cloak to warm him. That night he dreamed the beggar was Jesus, wearing his cloak and surrounded by angels. Martin left the army and became a priest.

**November 12 – St. Josaphat (1623).** Josaphat, the first Saint of the Eastern Church, is known for his generosity toward the needy and his

instruction and teaching of the faith. He died trying to bring the Orthodox and Catholic churches back together.

**November 21 – The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.** As an infant, Mary was offered to God in the temple. It was Jewish custom to either consecrate a child to divine service or have them offered up by a priest. During the ceremony, Mary's tender soul was adorned with graces.



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