

On behalf of Fr. Fisher and Fr. Andrew I would like to say a heartfelt "Thank you" to all of you who contributed to the spiritual bouquet for us priests on Priesthood Sunday. If you did not see the card, parishioners offered 581 Masses, 732 Rosaries and 162 Holy Hours for us priests; our school offered over 100 Masses as well as other prayers for us – of particular note are the 125 Our Fathers and Hail Marys from the Kindergartners; our CCD offered over 700 Rosaries as well as many Masses and other prayers for us; and the Poor Sisters of St. Joseph prayed 100 Masses, 180 Rosaries, 10,000 ejaculatory prayers and much more for us. As we priests looked through our cards we were truly humbled – I know I was – by the devotion and sacrifice of all of you. Be assured of our renewed efforts to be prayerful and sacrificial priests.

Have you ever heard someone remark, "I thought the Church did away with Purgatory?" Ah, but how can the Church do away with Purgatory? It is akin to saying the Church can do away with angels. Yet, there are plenty of people who do not believe Purgatory exists, though it is alluded to in the Scriptures. November is the month when, in a particular way, we remember and pray for the souls in Purgatory. November 1st was All Saints' Day wherein we honored those in heaven. November 2nd was All Souls' Day when we remember and pray for those in Purgatory. Nov. 2 begins a month-long prayer for the souls in Purgatory.

Purgatory is a place to which souls go after death to be purified of venial sins and atone for repented mortal/serious sins. (We should recall that those in hell are not sorry for mortal sins.) Those in Purgatory will go to heaven one day. Purgatory will cease to exist at the end of this world. A good priest I know of often says that he will turn out the lights in Purgatory!

2 Maccabees 12 recounts the story of Judas Maccabeus praying for his fallen comrades in arms. The book, which is the Word of God, goes on to say that it was a holy and pious thought to pray for the dead. Now, if there is only heaven and hell, how can it be a holy and pious thought to pray for the dead. If there is no purgatory, it is useless to pray for anyone after they die. It is not holy and pious, but foolish. Why? Those in heaven are already in heaven, no prayers add to their heavenly glory. Those in hell have chosen hell, no prayers can change their condemnation. Therefore, there must be a place where people can go wherein prayers can help them get to heaven. This place the Church has called Purgatory. It should not upset us that the word itself is not in the Scriptures; the teaching is clearly there. The understanding is similar to that of the Trinity which is clearly taught by Jesus without mentioning the word, 'Trinity'. The Church created the word, 'Trinity,' for the truth of the Triune God.

Our Lord Himself alludes to Purgatory in Matthew 12: 32 when He speaks of sins that can be forgiven in the next life, "And whoever says a word against the Son of man will be forgiven; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come." There is no sin in heaven and sins are not forgiven in hell. Therefore, there must be a place where sins can be forgiven.

Our prayers can help those in Purgatory to be purified so they can attain heaven sooner than if no prayers were offered. This is why we have Masses offered for the dead throughout the year. Perhaps, it is good to keep in mind the deepest soul in Purgatory and the one who has no one to pray for him.

God Bless!

Fr. Vander Woude

Masses This Week

Monday, Nov. 5: Weekday

6:30 a.m. † Edouard Diatta
9:00 a.m. † All Souls' Novena

Tuesday, Nov. 6: Weekday

6:30 a.m. † All Souls' Novena
9:00 a.m. † Alberta Tucker

Wednesday, Nov. 7: Weekday

6:30 a.m. All Souls' Novena
9:00 a.m. † Sharon Swartworth

Thursday, Nov. 8:

6:30 a.m. † All Souls' Novena
9:00 a.m. † Helen M. Zappacosta

Friday, Nov. 9: Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

6:30 a.m. † All Souls' Novena
9:00 a.m. † Edward a. Haralson
7:00 p.m. Mass in Latin

Saturday, Nov. 10: St. Leo the Great, pope, doctor

8:00 a.m. † All Souls Novena
5:00 p.m. † Helen Hundemer
7:00 p.m. Rev. Keith M. O'Hare

Sunday, Nov. 11: Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary

Time

7:30 a.m. † Mary O'Connor
9:00 a.m. Rev. James C. Hudgins
10:30 a.m. Living & deceased parishioners
12:00 noon † Todd Hartigan

Readings: Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time:
2 Mc. 7: 1-2, 9-14/2 Thes 2: 16– 3:5/Lk 20: 27-38 or
20: 27, 34-38 (156)

Confessions: Saturday 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., during
Holy Hour on Thursdays, on Fridays: 6:30-7:00 p.m.,
on Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m. until last penitent is heard

Holy Hour: On Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.

Latin Mass: Every Friday at 7:00 p.m.

Please pray for the members of our parish who are ill:

Maria C. Carcamo, Ursula Pearson, Helen Duffy, Agnes Lamar, Jack Jolie, Onorina DiBenigno, Constanza Gomez, John Manley, Theresa Subalusky, Gloria LaFaye, Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez, Cheryl McGlyn, Didi Hess, Claudia Baragano, Bill Bond, Lauren Richard, Christina Velasquez, Marilyn Menick, Marc Coderre, Jr., Connie Bourgeois, Alejandro Rosales, Francis McNicholas, Martha Luque, , Judy K. Misage, Jack S. Manley, Martha



The Poor Box content

this weekend is for ACCA. Next weekend Christ House will be the recipient. Thank you for your generosity.

The Lord Hears the Cry of the Poor

Queen of Apostles Catholic School

All Veterans are cordially invited to come to a presentation in celebration of Veterans' Day on **Friday, Nov. 9th, at 1:30 p.m.** in St. Joseph's Hall (Gym).

Religious Education News

CCD classes have begun. They are held on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. in the School. CCD Office Tel.: (703)-354-4360
RCIA classes have begun and are held in Hannan Hall every Monday, from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m.
 Please contact the Religious Ed. Office for more details.

Respect Life Reflection

"Women who experience an unplanned pregnancy also deserve unplanned joy."
 (Patricia Heaton, actress and spokeswoman for *Feminists for Life*)

THANKS TO YOUR GENEROSITY the Poor Box contents this past weekend amounted to \$822.- and was given to the Poor Sisters of Saint Joseph.

SECOND COLLECTION this weekend is for Retired Religious. Please be generous!

PARISH WOMEN'S GROUP plans to hold a **bake and jewelry sale** at the Dec. 2 Sunday Social instead of the Christmas Bazaar. Please support this endeavor by your generous donations of jewelry and accessories. You can leave them in the Christmas box in the back of the Church. Through these sales, the Parish Women's Group plans to continue to support Church activities and charitable causes.

REV. THOMAS EUTENEUER, President of Human Life International, will present a lecture today, Sunday, Nov. 4th, at 6:00 p.m. at the Notre Dame Graduate School on the topic: "Exorcism and the Church Militant". A reception precedes the talk at 5:00 p.m. All are invited!

DRIVE FOR ACCA: It is our turn to drive for ACCA medical appointments Nov. 12—16. If you could give an hour or two of your time, call Terry at (703)-256-3915.

BAPTISM CLASS for Parents will be held this Monday, Nov. 5th, at 7:30 p.m. in the Rectory Meeting Room. Please call the Office at (703)-354-0742 if you plan to attend.

TUESDAY, NO. 27, 2007, at 6:45 p.m., a mandatory meeting for parents of Confirmandi will be held in the Multi-Purpose Room. Sr. Timothy Prokes will speak on the "Effects of the Internet and Virtual Reality on the Person and their Faith." Because of the number of requests by others to hear Sr. Prokes, this program is open to anyone in the parish who would like to attend.

This Week In Our Parish

Sunday, Nov. 4

Gift Shop	9:30 am-1:30 pm	Gift Shop hours
Rectory Mtg. Rm.	7:00 p.m.	Prayer Group

Monday, Nov. 5:

Hannan Hall	7:30 –8:45 p.m.	RCIA class
-------------	-----------------	------------

Tuesday, Nov. 6:

Rectory Mtg. Rm.	7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	Spanish Prayer Gr.
Hannan Hall/Choir Rm.	7:30 p.m.	Choir practice

Wednesday, Nov. 7:

Rectory Mtg. Rm.	7:30 p.m.	Legion of Mary
------------------	-----------	----------------

Thursday, Nov. 8-

All Saints Solemnity Masses at 6:30, 9:00 a.m., 12:00 and 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 9:

Church	7:00 p.m.	Holy Mass (Latin)
St. Jos. Cupertino Rm.	7:00-8:45 p.m.	Youth Group

Saturday, Nov. 10:

Rectory Mtg. Rm.	9:30 to 10:30 a.m.	Jr. Legion of Mary
Gift Shop	4:30 to 7:00 p.m.	Gift Shop hours
Youth Rm.	8:00 to 11:00 p.m.	Teen Night

Sunday, Nov. 11:

Gift Shop	9:30 am -1:30	Gift Shop hours
Rectory Mtg. Rm.	7 :00 p.m.	Prayer Group

PARISH WOMEN'S Group Meeting is planned for Wed., November 14th, following the 9:00 a.m. holy Mass and Rosary in Hannan Hall. This meeting will be strictly social: to wish Cornie McGrath a happy 100th birthday! **Guests are more than welcome**, but if you do not regularly attend, please leave a message at (703)-354-6212 or (703)-256-3418, so that there are enough tables available. Please bring your best entrée, salad, fruit or relish tray to serve 6-8 for a potluck luncheon.

ST. GABRIEL'S DAY CARE CENTER invites applications for a full-time pre-school teacher position. Requirements: at least one of the following is necessary:

- Bachelor's degree in Early Education
- A minimum of 12 semesters or 180 hours in Early Education
- Child Development Association Credential (CDA)
- 30 hours of class experience in early education, plus at least three months experience in programming children's activities.

The applicant must speak and write English and Spanish well.

Please send the resume to: St. Gabriel's Day Care Ctr. 4319 Sano Street, Alexandria, VA 22312.

SUPPORT THE CHURCH in Africa— Next week, our parish will take up a collection for the Church in Africa, the fastest growing and poorest part of our family of faith. The Church in Africa needs our support to strengthen pastoral outreach, catechetical programs, Catholic schools, education of seminarians and clergy. See the insert in the bulletin.

MOVING? Please call the Parish Office: (703)354-0742.