

SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

1812 Lynn Avenue • Altoona, Wisconsin 54720 Vol. 44 • No. 43

FATHER SAKOWSKI

November Reflections

This Monday (Nov 2nd) we celebrate another All Souls' Day, on which we remember and pray for all the souls in purgatory. Customarily, the entire month of November is a time to redouble our practice of one of the greatest of the Spiritual Works of Mercy, namely, praying for the dead.

As so often happens with the Church's calendar, our liturgical and devotional observances operate in harmony with the cosmic rhythms around us. We observe all of nature going through its annual ritual of death and decay (but with the promise of a spring to come). It reminds us of our own mortality, and of the fleeting nature of the present creation. It bids us ponder eternal things, and the impending Day of Judgment. Meanwhile, in our ritual worship, we begin November with All Souls' Day, and proceed (at the end of the liturgical year) with Christ the King Sunday. The new liturgical year will begin with Advent, with a clear focus on the second coming of Christ.

Our American culture tends to have a phobia of death – and not a healthy one, in my opinion. Certainly, we need to be sensitive. I've suffered plenty of tragic losses myself, and know firsthand how hard it is to grieve. But we cannot be "sane" disciples of Christ if we live in perpetual denial of the certainty of death. It will come – for us all – and we need not fear it. Christ has bequeathed upon it an enormous meaning, because he has linked it to His Resurrection.

Therefore, during this month of November, I'd like to offer various reflections on topics related to what we are celebrating liturgically.

Gaining Indulgences for Souls in Purgatory: November 1st-8th

First off, every day this week each of us has a wonderful opportunity to perform a great Spiritual Work of Mercy. On November 1st-8th, every Catholic who devoutly visits a cemetery and prays for the dead can gain one plenary indulgence per day, on behalf of the souls in Purgatory (under the usual conditions):

- make a good Confession within a week before or after the day(s) on which you seek an indulgence
- be free from all attachment to sin
- visit a cemetery and pray for the dead
- say one Our Father and one Hail Mary on behalf of the intentions set by Pope Francis this month
- receive Holy Communion, ideally on the day each indulgence is gained.

In other words, if you want to gain eight plenary indulgences during Nov 1-8, you would need to make one good Confession, but visit a cemetery eight different times (once per day), pray for the dead each visit, pray for the pope's intentions eight times (normally during the cemetery visit), and receive Holy Communion eight times (normally one the same day as each visit).

It amazes me how many people react to indulgences by saying, "I thought the Church stopped doing those years ago." Nothing could be further from the truth! Indeed, Pope Francis will be granting us an abundance of opportunities to gain indulgences during the upcoming jubilee Year of Mercy.

Granted that the words "purgatory" and "indulgences" are not in the Bible, (Cont. on pg. 2)

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 Rectory 715-514-5113
 Prayer Chain ... generalbook@charter.net
 St Mary's School Office 715-830-2278
 Regis Catholic Schools 715-830-2273

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 Email frsakowski@gmail.com

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Fr. Alan Guanella 715-855-1294
 Email aguanella@crossae.org

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Sharon Stearns 715-855-1294

Director of Religious Education,

Mary Kneer 715-835-1692

Director of Sacred Music,

Josh Gallagher 262-203-3552

Maintenance, M Marcon ... 715-855-1294

Schedule of Masses

Weekend:

Saturday (vigil)	4:00 pm
Sunday	11:00 am
	1:00 pm (Spanish)
<i>Mass at St. Raymond's Sat. 6:00 pm</i>	
<i>Sun. 8:30 am</i>	

Sacramental Celebrations

Confession: St. Mary's: Saturday from 10:00 am –12:00 pm or by appointment.
 St. Raymond's: Thursday at 7:00-9:00 pm
Baptism: Call parish office for appointment.
Marriage: At least six months advance notice. Call parish office for appointment.

MASS INTENTIONS

October 31/November 8

Sat. 4:00 pm † Jerry Zimmerman
Sun. 11:00 am † Dean Olson
 1:00 pm Spanish Mass: St Mary's & St Raymond's Parishioners
Mon. No Mass
Tue. 8:00 am Mass at St. Raymond's
Wed. 8:00 am † W.A. & Pearl Muenster
Thu. 8:00 am Mass at St. Raymond's
 11:00 am Mass at Oakwood Villa
 5:30 pm White Mass
Fri. 9:00 am † Luanne Wanke
Sat. 9:00 am First Saturday: Priest's Int.
 4:00 pm † Arlene BaDour
Sun. 11:00 am Dick & Betty Schafer
 1:00 pm Spanish Mass: St Mary's & St Raymond's Parishioners

(Cont. from pg. 1) nonetheless the concepts are there, even though they are not always explained in detail. Regarding purgatory, Paul speaks about the Day of Judgment, and describes how there are some of us who “will be saved, but only as through fire” (1 Corinthians 3:15). Yes, there are Saints who are so perfected in a Christ-like love that they are immediately ready to see God face to face, but so many of us die not yet fully purified, even though we believe and trust in Jesus. The Book of Revelation also suggests that one who is not yet purified cannot enter the heavenly City of Jerusalem (Revelation 21:27). Indulgences, meanwhile, are deeply rooted in the Old Testament practice of Jubilee Years and in the New Testament teaching of the Church as one Body, in which all members share spiritual goods together.

There is also a key distinction between forgiveness and reparation. Forgiveness removes our guilt, and takes but an instant. It is an undeserved gift, freely and readily given by our merciful God, so long as we are willing to repent of our sins. We do not in any way earn God’s forgiveness, and never can do so! So many of us make the mistake of trying to do so – that is the heresy of Pelagianism. However, once guilt is washed away there is still the task of fixing the damage caused by our sins. In His justice and Fatherly love, God invites us to heal the wrong we’ve done through acts of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Let’s consider an example. 15-year old Johnny has incredibly loving and just parents. When he crashes their car through the living room wall, they do not overreact, but show compassion and mercy. They forgive him. But they also expect him to work hard to pay for the damage he has caused, both out of a sense of justice and in order for their son to learn his lesson and grow in virtue. This example illustrates the difference between “forgiveness” and “reparation” (fixing the damage). Now suppose again that Johnny shows a very heartfelt effort, and his sister is moved to sacrifice and help him pay the damages. His parents allow her, and now all four of them have grown in a communion of love.

That is what the Church does in granting indulgences. Those gaining an indulgence for themselves are like Johnny – truly sorry for their sins and doing penance – in their case, in the form of prayer, fasting, or almsgiving. The good deeds of the rest of the Body of Christ (all of which are works of Christ Himself) are then added to their efforts, making them to become more than sufficient, and causing all concerned to grow in a communion of love. We should note that almsgiving is God-given means of atoning for sin (see Jesus’ words in Luke 11:41), but the Church no longer grants indulgences based on almsgiving – because it is too easily mistaken for “selling indulgences.” And I don’t assign almsgiving as a penance in the Confessional, even though I warmly encourage it.

The overall practice reflects the beauty of who we are as a communion of love in Christ. We on earth intercede for each, and we ask the Saints in heaven to intercede for us. We on earth pray for the dead, many of whom still have reparation to finish before Jesus can invite to receive their “reward” (and still be a just Judge).

Because the Church is a communion of love in Christ, God wills that their final purification happen through our intercession. Deprived of their bodies, they are no longer able to perform works of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving to make satisfaction for their (already forgiven) sins. If they did not complete that process before death, they now depend upon us to do so on their behalf. And God wills us to do so, because it helps Christ’s Body to grow together as a communion of love. We on earth build each other up in prayer. We pray for the deceased, that they be cleansed and strengthened for the Beatific Vision. And those grateful souls pray for us when they come to share in heavenly joys.

So, whether by offering Masses for the dead or by gaining an indulgence on their behalf, we are performing one of the greatest acts of mercy, as Christ draws us all closer together in love. He alone knows what is needed, but we all play our part.

BINGO VOLUNTEERS

Thank you to our bingo workers for their dedication: Carol Mastej (supervisor); Carol Mastej (caller); Alice Bauer, Linda Mastej, Leah Motschenbacher, Jean Ryan, Laurel Robertson, Jim McMenomy, Ricky Merkel, Ted Marum (workers); Carol Mastej (pull tab); Janet Marcon, friends and family (concession). Thank you. **Bingo** is every Tuesday evening. Begin selling at 6:00 pm. Early bird bingo starts at 7:00 pm. Regular bingo starts at approximately 7:30 pm. Bring the family and enjoy a fun evening together.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Nov. 4, Religious Education Classes grades 1-8 meet 6-7 pm & gr. 9-10 meet 6-7:30 pm.
Sunday School – Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program has begun. Registration

forms are in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Becky at 715-832-9798 or thurner@charter.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS

- Nov. 3, The Bible Timeline Study**, 9 a.m.
All women are invited to participate.
- Nov. 3, Financial Peace University**, 6:30 p.m. For more info, call 715-379-6792.
- Nov. 3, Young Adult Meeting** 7:30-8:30 p.m.
- Nov. 5, Understanding the Scriptures Bible study**, 6:30-8p.m.
- Nov. 5, 33 Days to Morning Glory Retreat**, 7 p.m. at St. Raymond’s.
- Nov. 7, PCCW Social** after the First Saturday 9 a.m. Mass.
- Nov. 7, St. Mary’s Fall Clean-up Day**, 10-2 p.m. Bring your rakes, gloves, lots of energy and willingness to help with cleaning St. Mary’s property for winter. Plan to meet in front of the school. This is a great opportunity for students wanting to complete service hours and family bonding.
- Nov. 8, Social Sunday after 11 a.m.** Mass in the Community Center.
- Nov. 11, Adoration** 8:30 a.m.—8:30 p.m. Please sign-up for an hour with our Eucharistic Lord. The sign-up sheet is in the narthex. Adoration is on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.
- Nov. 12, Mission Ladies**, 10-2 p.m. Potluck luncheon at noon. All women invited. This event has been changed to the second Thursday of the month.
- Nov. 18, RCIA**, 6:30-8:30 p.m., every other Wednesday. For more info, email frsakowski@gmail.com or go to www.srsmRCIA.com
- Nov. 23, ABCD’s of Medicare** 1–3 p.m.
Please check out the bulletin board for detailed information.
Please submit information for the bulletin by Monday and inserts by Wednesday before that weekend.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Week of November 1, 2015

- Sun: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14/1 Jn 3:1-3/
Mt 5:1-12a
- Mon: Wis 3:1-9/Rom 5:5-11 or
6:3-9/Jn 6:37-40
- Tue: Rom 12:5-16b/Lk 14:15-24
- Wed: Rom 13:8-10/Lk 14:25-33
- Thu: Rom 14:7-12/Lk 15:1-10
- Fri: Rom 15:14-21/Lk 16:1-8
- Sat: Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27/Lk 16:9-15
- Sun: 1 Kgs 17:10-16/Heb 9:24-28/Mk
12:38-44 or 12:41-44



LITURGICAL MINISTERS

The Weekend of November 7/8

Lectors

4:00 pm M Doney

11:00 am A Koenig

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

4:00 pm S Stearns

11:00 am D Effertz

Servers

4:00 pm A & A Arnholt, T Doney

11:00 am I Petersilka, B Lecher, J Fox

Attendant Servers

4:00 pm D Wogernese

11:00 am G LeGore

Organists

4:00 pm J Gallagher

11:00 am S Alexander

Cantors

4:00 pm M Welle

11:00 am Children's Choir

Ushers

4:00 pm B Ciske, J Hayden, C Lynum,
M Rohn

11:00 am T Buck, F Chukwudelunzu, D
Hawker, D Kamrowski

Counters C Mastej, J Thom, I Lewis

BAPTISM PREPARATION

Expecting a child? Begin the baptismal preparation now. At St. Raymond's, the baptismal prep class is on **Thu., Dec. 10**, at 6-7 p.m. and the luncheon is on **Sat., Nov. 14** at 7:15-9 p.m. At St. Mary's, the next baptismal prep class is on **Mon., Jan. 11**, 6-7 p.m. and the luncheon is on **Sun., Feb. 12**, 9-10:45 a.m. Baptism information, forms, and documents are available online at www.stmarys-altoona.com. At least two (2) months advance notice needed. See website for details, or contact parish office now to start the process.

KNIGHTS NEWS

Regular Monthly Meeting, Mon., Nov. 9, 6:15 p.m. Officers meeting in the Knights room, followed by regular meeting at 7 p.m.



STEWARDSHIP

Last Week

Adults	\$3,451.00
Endowment Fund	\$0.00
Young People.....	\$0.00
Children	\$11.07
Offertory.....	\$605.66
Total	\$4,067.73
Capital Campaign (Rec'd to Date)	\$265,291.58

ELIZABETH MINISTRY



- To add a name, due date/birth date, request a meal, or to volunteer, please call Emily Thurner at 715-864-3048.
- Please pray for those who are expecting.

Thank you for giving of your time to this ministry.

It is appreciated by those who are blessed.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please Pray For...

Please keep Cliff Abrahamson, Pat Gersech, Richard Lasiuk, Betty Nelson, JoAnn Deters, Sr. Theodore Nelson, Karen Solberg, Shelly Allen, Sheila Lehnen, Foresten Family, Lucille Welter, Mary Beth Pierce, Pat & Don Kamrowski, Lee & Darlene Henrichs, Linda Gesche, Eileen Niehoff, Megan Olszewski, Roger Forcier, Jeanne Reali, Clarence Nowobielski, Julie Rohn, Arla McFadden, Duane Fanetti, Walt Nguyen, Linda Gabriel, Rose and Kevin Sigmund, Dick Sires, Sarah Marble, Bob & Betty Haas, Plets family, Erica Nerbonne, Judy Ciske, Kelly Hawker, Maureen Kollar, Ed Hofacker, Sam P, Eleanor Wildrick, Dave Rosener, Mike Moses, Carol Bridges Rothfus, Abby Williamson, infant Elizabeth and her parents, Laurie, Lucille Plautz, Kip Schultz, Doreen Bauer, Kristin Soley, Dylan Snyder, Sue Arrell, Pabich intention, Melgard intention, Sue Lippold, David Schwartz, Garret Soley, Jarett Londre, and their families in your prayers.



REMINDERS & TIDBITS

Did you attend St. Mary's Elementary School? We want to connect with you as we work to grow our St. Mary Parish Endowment Trust. Please check out the information sheet in the Narthex and connect with your classmates.

St. Mary's Youth Choir for students K-8 at 9:45-10:45 on the 1st and 2nd Sundays of the month. The choir will sing on the second Sunday of the month. For more info email alexansm@uwec.edu

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Holiday Bazaar, Sacred Heart Church, Eau Claire, on Sunday, Nov. 1, 8-6 p.m. with Mass celebrated at 10:30 a.m.

The Chippewa Valley Guild of the Catholic Medical Association will be sponsoring a White Mass, dinner and speaker on Thursday, Nov. 5 at St. Mary's. The White Mass is offered for healthcare workers and the public is welcome to all

events this evening. Deacon Gannon, ethicist for Bishop Callahan, will be speaking on practical guidance for Advance Directives (Healthcare Power of Attorney). Mass at 5:30 pm; Dinner at 6:30 pm; Speaker at 7 pm. RSVP Mary.Bliss@hshs.org or call 715-855-1294. A \$15 donation will be collected at the door (checks made out to the Chippewa Valley Catholic Medical Association)

Salvation Army 2015 Christmas Bell Ringers Needed Nov. 6 thru Dec. 24 in Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls. Register online: www.ringbells.org or call 715-834-1224.

Concluding Mass & Celebration at St. Patrick Church, with the Most Reverend William Callahan on Sunday, Nov. 22, begins with a Rosary Walk at 9 am; Mass at 10 am; Dinner at 11:30 am; Tour at 1 p.m. Reservations required for dinner. Call 715-832-0925 by Monday, November 16.

Community Christmas Fair, Sat., Dec. 5, 9-2 p.m. at Fall Creek Fire Hall.

\$CRIP NEWS

\$crip Volunteers for next weekend,

4:00 pm (Mary Kneer and volunteer),
11:00 am (Loann Sumner and volunteer)

Last Week

Number of Orders.....	12
Amount Sold	\$2,055.00
Profit (approximately).....	\$102.75
Monthly Profit	\$770.75

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