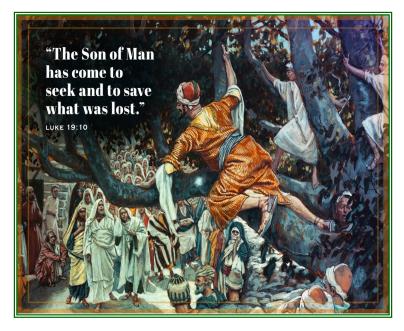
## Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul And the Shrine of Saint Katharine Drexel

18th Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Most Reverend Nelson J. Pérez, Archbishop of Philadelphia



#### October 30, 2022

#### **Parish Mission Statement**

With Jesus Christ as our Head and Foundation, the Cathedral Parish of Saints Peter and Paul forms a vibrant Roman Catholic community in Center City and serves all those who come to the Cathedral Basilica, the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Our parish community professes our Catholic Faith, ministers to others and welcomes all, as rooted in the Word of God and the celebration of the Sacraments of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

> Adopted by the Parish Council August 10, 2021

**Reverend Gerald Dennis Gill** Rector

**Reverend Monsignor Arthur E. Rodgers Rector Emeritus** 

Reverend Matthew K. Biedrzycki **Parochial Vicar** 

Reverend Monsignor John M. Savinski **Priest in Residence** 

> Deacon Jesús M. Burgos Permanent Deacon

Sister Eleanor McCann, R.S.M. **Pastoral Associate** 

Sister Mary Luchia, P.V.M.I. Parish Evangelization

Sister Mary Raphael Paradis, R.S.M. **Outreach Coordinator** 

Monica Clarke **Director of Religious Education** Charlene Angelini **Director of Cathedral Parish Music** 

> Mark Loria **Principal Organist**

The Cathedral Shop is open Wed. 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM / Sat. 11:00 AM - 5:15 PM Sun. 10:30 AM - 6:30 PM / 215-665-9032

#### MASS SCHEDULE

**Sunday:** 

5:15 PM Anticipated Mass on Saturday 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM in Basilica 12:30 PM Spanish in Cathedral Chapel Sta. Misa en español, en la Capilla

6:30 PM in Basilica

Weekdays: 7:15 AM, 12:05 PM in Cathedral Chapel

**Saturdays:** 12:05 PM in Cathedral Chapel

**Holy Days:** See website

#### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE SCHEDULE

9:00 AM and 5:30 PM in Basilica **Sunday:** 

12:00 PM (español) en la Capilla

Weekdays: 11:30 AM in Basilica Saturday: 4:15 PM in Basilica

Please contact the Parish Office to arrange for the: SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM AND MARRIAGE, SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK, AND HOLY COMMUNION OF THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND

Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter & Paul @CathedralPhila



### Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday, October 30 2022

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life." JN 3:16
R. Alleluia, alleluia.



# Meekly MASS

October 29	Saturday	Weekday
	Satul uav.	** ccnua *

12:05	Ed	ward	Ř.	Ross	& Jenga
	~				

Sechowicz

5:15 Ercolino Ranalli

## October 30 Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00	For the People of the Parish
9:30	Antonio DiCandilo
11 00	4 1 1 3 6

11:00 Adelmo Marrone 12:30 Familia Lara

6:30 Miriam Nagle

#### October 31 Monday, Weekday

7:15	Brian Emerick
12:05	Benedict Victor Arul
5:15	Intentions of the Priest
	Celebrant

#### November 1 Tuesday All Saints

7:15 Intentions of the Priest Celebrant 12:05 Intentions of the Priest Celebrant

5:15 Intentions of the Priest Celebrant

#### November 2 Wednesday All Souls' Day

7:15 Intentions of the Priest Celebrant 12:05 Intentions of the Priest Celebrant 7:00 Intentions of the Priest Celebrant

#### November 3 Thursday, Weekday St. Martin de Porres

7:15	Regina Rose Bradley
12.05	Essie Mae Rubin

#### November 4 Friday

St. Charles Borromeo

7:15 Intentions of Peter Jun

12:05 Lynn Teal

#### November 5 Saturday, Weekday

12:05 Leone - Cuccurullo - Kenny Family

5:15 Wajih M. Abed

### November 6 Thirty Second Sunday

	in Ordinary Time
8:00	For the People of the Parish
9:30	Deceased Members of the
	League of the Sacred Heart
11:00	Holy Souls
12.20	Donal Amirramannia da Dadaa

12:30 Por el Aniversario de Bodas de Francisca y Dionicio Jimenez

6:30

Marie Salloum & Family

Dear Parishioners,

This is the Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time. The story in the Gospel this Sunday about Zacchaeus is familiar to all of us. For many, the fact that stands out about this story is that Zacchaeus was short in stature and needed to climb a sycamore tree to see Jesus. While these are facts found in the story, there is so much more to the encounter between the chief tax collector and the Lord. Jesus only intended to pass through the town of Jericho but was distracted by Zacchaeus up in the tree. When Jesus spotted Zacchaeus, he ordered him to come down from the tree so that he might stay at his house. This encounter alone brought conversion to Zacchaeus. He immediately began to describe to Jesus how he was going to change his ways. This change of heart brought the salvation of the Lord to the chief tax collector. As the Gospel concludes, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost (Luke 19: 10)." My friends, much like Zacchaeus, with all our many limitations and weaknesses, we need to be constant in seeking to see the Lord. Our sycamore tree may be finding the quiet time in our day, arriving early to Sunday Mass, stopping into church at an off-hour, or any opportunity to be still and to focus on Jesus. When we meet him, encounter him, face him with ourselves, we see his love and mercy. He receives us with joy as he received Zacchaeus. And so, we too are ready to change, to turn away from sin and be faithful to his commands, to live as he gives us the grace to do so. As much as we want to see Jesus, he seeks us more so to save us now and for all eternity. I encourage you to allow the experience recorded in this Sunday's Gospel to be your experience not just for today but every day.

The month of November begins this week with two very important observances for all Catholics. Tuesday, November 1, 2022 is the Solemnity of All Saints, a Holy Day of Obligation. Wednesday, November 2, 2022 is the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day). Please see the schedule of Masses for the Holy Day and for All Souls Day elsewhere in this edition of the Parish Bulletin.

As a reminder, low-gluten hosts for Holy Communion and listening devices for the hearing impaired are always available for those coming to Mass at the Cathedral Basilica. Please see the sacristan in the sacristy before Mass begins.

Invite a family member, a neighbor, and/or a friend to join you for Holy Mass next Sunday at the Cathedral Basilica.

Please keep the intention for peace in our City and an end to gun violence in our neighborhoods in your prayers. Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us!

November is the Month of the Holy Souls. Let us remember especially during Mass and in our prayers at home all the Holy Souls in Purgatory. May they soon know the full glory of God in Heaven.

The second collection at Mass next Sunday will be directed to special maintenance projects of the Cathedral Parish. If possible, please make use of the on-line possibility of making your weekly offering. Thank you so very much for all of your goodness and generosity to the Cathedral Parish, especially with the annual Parish Fall Collection (Block Collection) taking place at this time.

God bless you! Father Dennis Gill



## PRAYER | PARTICIPATION | GENEROSITY

Gracious and loving Lord,

May cool mornings invigorate our souls, and the crunch of leaves and fall breezes remind us that change is a blessing. May

we imagine ourselves in your arms, close to your heart, surrounded by your light, and find comfort in your consistency as the world around us is constantly changing. You are with us in all circumstances and seasons. Guide us to live with a giving heart, a generous heart and a grateful heart.

Thank you for being a blessing to the Cathedral parish!

For more information, visit: <a href="www.cathedralphila.org">www.cathedralphila.org</a>.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Pray for us.

And let us remember to always pray for each other!

Your generosity on 10/23 was:

Regular \$5,025

Special 1,859 (for the Missions and Catholic Missionaries

Electronic\* 2,740 around the world)

Total \$9,624

\*Electronic giving is your average weekly giving for September.

Thank you!

## We hope that your generosity will exceed \$13,000 this week.

Please consider a gift to support the good works of our Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul.

- You are invited to become a member of our parish family and take part in our ministries, programs, events, and worship. Please speak with Deacon Burgos or Sr. Eleanor McCann after any Sunday Mass or make an appointment with Father Gill or Father Biedrzycki, and one of them can help you register.
- Consider the Cathedral in your Financial Plan call Rose at the Cathedral office 215-561-1313. She can help with your Estate planning such as adding the Cathedral as a beneficiary of your life insurance, IRA, annuity or a memorial gift. She can also help you with Tax Planning such as a gift of appreciated stock or a distribution from your IRA.
- Text to Give anytime, especially for your Sunday Mass offering text "Cathedral" to 215-709-9955.
- Venmo us @cathedralbasilica
- **Donate on-line** at <a href="http://cathedralphila.org/donate">http://cathedralphila.org/donate</a>/ or scan this QR code:



#### SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2022

#### **Holy Mass & Confession Schedule:**

- ⇒ 5:15 PM Anticipated Mass, in the Cathedral Chapel (on Monday, October 31)
- ⇒ 7:15 AM Mass, in the Cathedral Chapel
- ⇒ 11:30 AM Sacrament of Penance, in the Cathedral Basilica
- ⇒ 12:05 PM Mass, in the Cathedral Basilica, with liturgical music
- ⇒ 5:15 PM Mass, in the Cathedral Basilica

The Parish Office will be closed.

More information can be found at <a href="https://cathedralphila.org/solemnity-of-all-saints-holy-day-of-obligation/">https://cathedralphila.org/solemnity-of-all-saints-holy-day-of-obligation/</a>

#### COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED – "ALL SOULS DAY" WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2022

#### **Holy Mass Schedule on this Feast:**

- ⇒ 7:15 AM Holy Mass in the Cathedral Chapel
- ⇒ 11:30 AM Sacrament of Penance, in the Cathedral Basilica
- ⇒ 12:05 PM Holy Mass in the Cathedral Basilica
- ⇒ 7:00 PM Holy Mass for All Souls in the Cathedral Basilica (Mass according to the Missal of 1962) View the Flyer

More information can be found at https://cathedralphila.org/allsouls/

#### CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT December 4, 2022 – 3pm

Join the Cathedral Choirs and instrumentalists as they perform the Seven "Great O Antiphons" culminating in a thrilling setting of the Magnificat by Leo Nestor. You will hear works by Melissa Dunphy, John Muehleisen, Frank La Rocca and Charpentier as well as beloved Christmas Carols for all to participate.

May we all experience the hope, joy and love of our Lord, Jesus Christ, throughout the Christmas season.

Tickets can be purchased: https://secure.acceptiva.com/?

## LIVE STREAMED SUNDAY MASS AT 11:00 AM

Click Here, or go to: https://vimeo.com/event/2470138
Worship Aid

#### Excellent faith formation at your fingertips!

Subscribe for free to this exciting online platform, www.FORMED.org. Parish code, 07854f.

Please remember these parishioners and friends of the Cathedral Parish in your prayers/ Oren por los enfermos: Alex and Paige Bednarsky, Lysiane, Liam Wajda, Lily Greenwood, James Marra, Cosimo and his family, Adelin, Dr. Furlong and his daughter Elana, Regina Long, Johnny Garcia, Susan Fuentes, Diana and Anuar Valencia Sr. Pauline Cope, May Muldoon, Annarella, Roberto Caiaro and his family, Giorgia, Trace and Silas, Brother Leo, Kay and Bill, Leal, Christine, Kelsey, Eugenia, Edzel Lorraine, Fr Charles Bonner, Eridania Guzmán, Allison Torres, and those in nursing homes or hospitals and all the sick. To add or remove parishioners, friends or family members to the prayer list, please send an email to:

<u>prayingforyou@cathedralphila.org.</u> Por favor envíe un email o llame a la oficina parroquial para añadir o remover los nombres de la lista de personas que estén enfermas.

3

#### Declaración de la Misión de la Parroquia Catedral de los Santos Pedro y Pablo

Con Jesucristo como nuestra Cabeza y Fundamento, la Parroquia Catedral de los Santos Pedro y Pablo forma una vibrante comunidad Católica Romana en el centro de la ciudad y sirve a todos aquellos que vienen a la Catedral Basílica, la Iglesia Madre de la Arquidiócesis de Filadelfia. Nuestra comunidad parroquial profesa nuestra fe católica, ministra a los demás y da la bienvenida a todos, enraizada en la Palabra de Dios y la celebración de los sacramentos de Jesucristo, nuestro Señor y Salvador.

Adoptado por el Consejo Pastoral Parroquial, agosto 10, 2021

# BOLETIN INFORMATIVO Oficina para Católicos Hispanos CLICK HERE

https://oficinahispanacatolica.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/ Octubre-October-2022.pdf

SACRAMENTO DE LA RECONCILACIÓN Los domingos a las 12:00 PM en la Capilla

Misa Televisada en Español En UNIVISIÓN 65 - Todos los domingos a las 6:30 AM

La Santa Misa Grabada en línea

TALLER BILINGUE
Inglés y Español
Ministros Extraordinarios de la
Sagrada Comunion y Lectores

**Sábado, Noviembre 19, 2022** Capilla de la Catedral, Philadelphia 10:00 AM hasta 12 PM

Para registrarse, envíe un correo electrónico a worship@archphila.org



DEVOCIÓN EUCARÍSTICA ANUAL Cuarenta Horas 2022

PARROQUIA CATEDRAL DE SAN PEDRO Y SAN PABLO Y SANTUARIO DE SANTA KATHARINE DREXEL

#### DOMINGO 27 DE NOVIEMBRE DEL 2022, PRIMER DOMINGO DE ADVIENTO

El clero, los religiosos y los fieles laicos de la Arquidiócesis están invitados a participar en la Devoción de 40 Horas de este año en la Catedral. Es parte de la iniciativa Nada Se Compara del Arzobispo Pérez, que invita a los fieles a un renovado amor por la celebración presencial de la Misa.

#### REFLEXIÓN DEL PÁRROCO

Estimados feligreses,

Este es el Trigésimo primer domingo del Tiempo Ordinario. La historia del evangelio de este domingo sobre Zaqueo es familiar para todos. Para muchos, el hecho que destaca de esta historia es que Zaqueo era baja de estatura y necesitaba subirse a un árbol sicómoro para ver a Jesús. Si bien estos son hechos que se encuentran en la historia, hay mucho más en el encuentro entre el jefe de los recaudadores de impuestos y el Señor. Jesús solo tenía la intención de pasar por la ciudad de Jericó, pero Zaqueo lo distrajo en el árbol. Cuando Jesús vio a Zaqueo, le ordenó que bajara del árbol para que pudiera quedarse en su casa. Este encuentro por sí solo trajo conversión a Zaqueo. Inmediatamente comenzó a describirle a Jesús cómo iba a cambiar sus caminos. Este cambio de corazón trajo la salvación del Señor al jefe de los recaudadores de impuestos. Como concluye el evangelio, "El Hijo del Hombre ha venido a buscar y a salvar lo que estaba perdido (Lc 19, 10)". Mis amigos, al igual que Zaqueo, con todas nuestras muchas limitaciones y debilidades, debemos ser constantes en la búsqueda de ver al Señor. Nuestro árbol sicómoro puede estar encontrando el momento de tranquilidad en nuestro día, llegando temprano a la misa dominical, deteniéndose en la iglesia fuera de horario o cualquier oportunidad para estar tranquilo y enfocarse en Jesús. Cuando lo conocemos, lo encontramos, lo enfrentamos con nosotros mismos, vemos su amor y su misericordia. Nos recibe con alegría como recibió a Zaqueo. Y así, nosotros también estamos dispuestos a cambiar, a apartarnos del pecado y ser fieles a sus mandamientos, a vivir como Él nos da la gracia de hacerlo. Por mucho que queramos ver a Jesús, más Él nos busca para salvarnos ahora y por toda la eternidad. Los animo a que permitan que la experiencia registrada en el evangelio de este domingo sea su experiencia no solo para hoy, sino para todos los días.

El mes de noviembre comienza esta semana con dos celebraciones muy importantes para todos los católicos. El martes 1 de noviembre del 2022 es la Solemnidad de Todos los Santos, un Día de Precepto. El miércoles 2 de noviembre del 2022 es la Conmemoración de Todos los Fieles Difuntos (Día de todas las Almas del Purgatorio). Consulte el horario de Misas para el día de precepto y para el Día de todas las Almas del Purgatorio en otra parte de esta edición del boletín parroquial.

Como recordatorio, las hostias bajas en gluten para la Sagrada Comunión y los dispositivos de escucha para personas con discapacidad auditiva siempre están disponibles para quienes asisten a Misa en la Catedral Basílica. Por favor vea al sacristán en la sacristía antes de que comience la Misa.

Invita a un familiar, vecino y/o amigo a acompañarte a la Santa Misa del próximo domingo en la Catedral Basílica.

Mantenga en sus oraciones la intención de paz en nuestra ciudad y el fin de la violencia armada en nuestros vecindarios. ¡Nuestra Señora, Reina de la Paz, ruega por nosotros!

Noviembre es el Mes de las Almas del Purgatorio. Recordemos especialmente durante la Misa y en nuestras oraciones en casa a todas las Almas del Purgatorio. Que pronto conozcan la gloria plena de Dios en el Cielo.

La segunda colecta en la Misa del próximo domingo estará dirigida a proyectos especiales de mantenimiento de la Parroquia Catedral. Si es posible, aproveche la posibilidad en línea de hacer su oferta semanal. Muchas gracias por toda su bondad y generosidad con la Parroquia de la Catedral, especialmente con la Colecta Parroquial Anual de Otoño (Colecta de Bloques) que se lleva a cabo en este momento.

¡Dios te bendiga! Padre Dennis Gill



#### ALL SOULS MEMORIAL CANDLE

Six day candles are available now and all throughout the month of November as we join with the Church and pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. You are invited to remember especially your beloved deceased with an All Memorial Candle.

These candles burn at the All Souls Altar on the Race Street side of the Basilica, starting Nov. 2, and remind us of our prayers for those who have died.

A fifteen dollar donation is requested for each candle. Your request for prayers for your loved one will be placed on the candle. You can complete the information below and place it with your donation in the collection basket, or drop it off at the office. You may also email the information and mail in a

Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul Attn: Memorial for All Souls 1723 Race Street Philadelphia, PA 19103-1204

Name	of	the	deceased:	

(Please Print) This	name will be placed on the candle
At the request of:	•
Amount enclosed:	
Tal #.	

#### ANNUAL EUCHARISTIC DEVOTION

## Forty Hours 2022

CATHEDRAL PARISH OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL AND SHRINE OF SAINT KATHARINE DREXEL PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

#### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2022, FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SOLEMN MASS in the Cathedral Basilica FOLLOWED BY EXPOSITION OF THE 11:00 AM MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

MASS in the Cathedral Basilica FOLLOWED BY EXPOSITION OF THE MOST 6:30 PM BLESSED SACRAMENT THROUGH THE NIGHT IN THE CATHEDRAL

CHAPEI

#### MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2022, ADVENT WEEKDAY

MASS in the Cathedral Chapel FOLLOWED BY EXPOSITION OF THE MOST 7:15 AM

BLESSED SACRAMENT

12:05 PM MASS in the Cathedral Basilica FOLLOWED BY EXPOSITION OF THE MOST

BLESSED SACRAMENT

EVENING PRAYER in the Cathedral Basilica WITH BENEDICTION OF THE MOST 5:15 PM BLESSED SACRAMENT FOLLOWED BY EXPOSITION THROUGH THE NIGHT IN

THE CATHEDRAL CHAPEL

#### TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2022, ADVENT WEEKDAY

7:15 AM MASS in the Cathedral Chapel FOLLOWED BY EXPOSITION OF THE MOST

BLESSED SACRAMENT

MASS in the Cathedral Basilica FOLLOWED BY EXPOSITION OF THE MOST 12:05 PM

BLESSED SACRAMENT

EVENING PRAYER in the Cathedral Basilica WITH PROCESSION AND 5:15 PM BENEDICTION OF THE MOST BLESSED SACRAMENT

Clergy, religious, and lay faithful of the Archdiocese are invited to participate in this year's

Forty Hours Devotion at the Cathedral Basilica. This Annual Eucharistic Devotion is an occasion for us deepen our love for the Real Presence of Christ in His Holy Body and Blood.



#### Vela Conmemorativa para los fieles difuntos

Las velas de seis días están disponibles ahora y durante todo el mes de noviembre mientras nos unimos a la Iglesia y oramos por las Santas Almas del Purgatorio. Se le invita a recordar especialmente a su amado (a) difunto (a) con una vela conmemorativa para los fieles difuntos.

Estas velas arden en el Altar de los fieles difuntos en el lado de Race Street de la Basílica, a partir del 2 de noviembre, y nos recuerdan nuestras oraciones por aquellos que han muerto.

Se solicita una donación de quince dólares por cada vela. Su solicitud de oraciones para su ser querido se colocará en la vela. Puede completar la información a continuación v colocarla junto con su donación en la canasta de colecta o dejarla en la oficina. También puede enviar la información por correo electrónico y enviar un cheque a:

Catedral Basílica de los Santos Pedro y Pablo

A la atención de: Memorial for All Souls

1723 Race Street

Philadelphia, PA 19103-1204

Nombre del fallecido (a):

(Escriba co	n letra d	le imprenta)	Este	nombre se	colocará
en la vela.					

A petición de:	
Cantidad adjunta:	
 Геl.#:	

## #iGIVECA HOLIC

#### Tuesday, November 29th

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia's participation in #iGiveCatholic presents an opportunity for Catholics to affirm their faith as disciples of Jesus Christ by sharing their gifts out of love for God and one another. It also gives parishes, schools, and nonprofit ministries the chance to rally support for their individual organizations and make a difference in their community, with the goal of raising as many funds as possible.

Last year, 124 Catholic organizations across the Archdiocese of Philadelphia participated in #iGiveCatholic and raised more than \$1.7 million.

Please visit **philadelphia.igivecatholic.org** to register. If your ministry is a returning participant, simply search for your organization's name, and click on it.

#### DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT YOUR MINISTRY

#### **HOSPICE SUNDAY - NEXT SUNDAY**

Please remember to bring your food donations for St. John's Hospice. Please bring all items to Mass and leave them in the Sacristy. Your recent donations were very much appreciated.

Thank you for your continued generosity, God bless you.

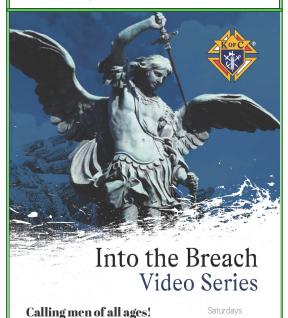
**GIVE TO GROW** 

## CATECHETICAL SESSION FOR ADULTS

#### -Adult faith formation-The Sacrament of the Eucharist

Thursday, November 3, 2022, 7:00 PM

Meeting in the Neumann Room
The weekly catechetical session is primarily
for the adults among us who are preparing to
receive the Easter Sacraments. However,
anyone interested in the topic for better
understanding and faith formation is most
welcome to attend. Anyone, especially our
parishioners, seeking more information on the
reception of the Sacraments or assisting as a
sponsor, please call the Parish Office at 215561-1313 or email Father Dennis Gill at
fr.dgill@archphila.org



#### THE SAINT CHALLENGE

Join the Knights of Columbus for this powerful

multi-part presentation presentation Into the Breach

Saturday mornings at 10:30 AM in the Neumann room at the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter & Paul.

NOV 5 -

**DEC 17** 

10:30 AM

The Saint Challenge is launching on All Saint's Day, November 1st. It is a year-long series of challenges based on the saint of the day. In 90 seconds you'll learn a little fact about the saint of the day, and be given a challenge inspired by that saint. It could be a corporal or spiritual work of mercy, or something to improve your interior life and your relationship with God and neighbor. The Saint Challenge is free, and you can find more information and find ways to sign up at <a href="https://www.thesaintchallenge.com">www.thesaintchallenge.com</a>. Let's be saints!

#### EVANGELIZATION

## Prayer in the New Testament - Pt. 1 Growing in Prayer (Part V)

Friends, last week we continued our study of prayer in the Old Testament and saw how God continues to form his people in the art of prayer. We noticed that god does not teach them everything all at once. He takes time with them, patiently teaching them how to be in relationship with him. He chooses to teach them through men and women like themselves in ways that they will comprehend using words and examples with which they were familiar. He would even provide concrete formulas they might use to pray as seen in the Psalms.

All this was to prepare them for the ultimate revelation of God's love – Jesus Christ. Jesus is the fullness of God's self-revelation. (cf. Dei Verbum 7) The catechism summarizes four reasons why the Son of God becomes the Son of Man; why God who is pure spirit chooses to take on flesh (become incarnate). So, why did the word become flesh?

- 1) The Word became flesh in order to save us by reconciling us to God. (CCC 457)
- The Word became flesh so that we might know God's love (CCC 458)
- 3) The Word became flesh to be our model of holiness (CCC 459)
- 4) The Word became flesh to make us partakers of the divine nature (CCC 460)

This last point brings us back to where we began our study a few weeks ago: our goal is holiness. St. Thomas puts it this way: "The only-begotten Son of God, wanting to makes us sharers in his divinity, assumed our nature, so that he, made man, might make man gods." (cf. CCC 460). Jesus shows us by way of word and example how we are to live in relationship to God our Father. Not only that, but he makes it possible for us, by way of repentance for the forgiveness of sins which is sealed in Holy Baptism to call God our Father.

As we watch Jesus in the scriptures, we notice him learning to pray in a similar way to us. We know that he worships with Mary and Joseph (cf. Lk 2:41) and he was in the habit of going to the synagogue on the Sabbath (cf. Lk 4:16). It is likely that he learned his prayers from his mother and father by imitating them at prayer, mouthing the prayer of their forefathers and through time growing in his humanity to know and love God as a Jewish man.

As Jesus begins his public ministry, we notice Jesus stopping at intervals, rising early and spending time in prayer to his Father who is heaven. In the Gospel of Luke, we see this regularly happening before significant moments. One such moment inspires the disciples who are with him to implore him: "...teach us to pray...". (Lk 11:1) Next week, we will consider Jesus response to this request of his disciples by word and example as he share with them the "prefect prayer" by which they may call on God, "Our Father..."

Fr. Matthew Biedrzycki



Calling all Cahillites! Roman Catholic HS will hold its annual Alumni Memorial Mass and Homecoming at the school on **Sunday, November 6**. Doors open at 9, Mass at 10 followed by Alumni address and elections and a full buffet and open bar. Visit <a href="www.romancatholichs.com">www.romancatholichs.com</a> to register or make a donation. Contact Frank Auddino '08 at 215-280-2220 or Mike Pelone '77 at 215-651-2209 with any questions.