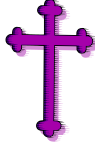




The Messenger

November, 2019

Morsels of Faith from Mr. Kuhar



We just celebrated All Saints Day. The saints have lived out our call to holiness and are now enjoying the peace of heaven. All who are in heaven are saints. We have been created to be saints enjoying the peace of heaven ourselves one day. God has opened up the gates of heaven and longs for each of us to be with Him at the end of our lives here on earth.

We share in God's wonderful plan for us and our salvation when we live holy lives. Holiness is a word that can seem overwhelming, scary, and impossible all rolled into one. One might think, "I do not know how to be holy or I do not have time to pray for hours each day so I cannot be holy." To be holy is not something that requires much time, but rather a desire and will to know, love, and serve God. God simply asks for our faithfulness in following Him and fulfilling our daily duties well. For each of us these daily duties might look a little different but in essence the call is the same. Do I love God and neighbor to the best of my ability each day?

The saints have set for us an example of following God and loving Him and neighbor. They were not perfect and would be the first to say they were sinful and fell short often in their desire to love God and one another. We can look to their lives as an encouragement to keep striving to be holy and follow God faithfully. We cannot do it alone and this is the first thing the saints realized. We are nothing without the help of God. It is only through His grace and strength that we are able to truly love Him and others.

We must ask for this grace in our prayer. The saints spent time each day asking God to help them in their daily walk. God wants us to be holy. He provides all that we need to grow in holiness but we have to ask. The saints have shown us how to be faithful in our daily duties and perform our tasks well out of love of God. Let us look to them for inspiration and ask for their prayers as we strive to follow God faithfully.



Each year as part of the Faith Formation, we use a program called Circle of Grace. This year our Circle of Grace Program will be presented as part of class on November 11th. It is designed to help protect our young people and safeguard their well-being. The program aims to help our young people understand their own and other's dignity as sons and daughters of God.

We know that God has created each one of us in His image and that we are good! The Circle of Grace is grade specific and intends to help our students to recognize and understand their own goodness and the importance of respecting one's self and each other. If you have any questions or would like more information about the Circle of Grace Program, please let me know.

If you would prefer your child not participate in the Circle of Grace Program, please let me know via a written note or email prior to class on November 11th.

Cindy's Corner



While at Mass with the Faith Formation students Monday evening, I was thinking about our first and second graders as they were about to approach Father Tony in the Communion procession when suddenly this memory came to mind. Several years ago a mother and her two sons were at Sunday Mass sitting in one of the front center pews. The brothers were aggravating each other with a poke and a prod and annoying facial expressions. Their mother gave them that look, you know the one, you might even be practicing it now. The boys, noticing the look, would behave for a moment but then were soon back at it again. Several more looks came from mom; it must have felt like one of her longest hours.

One of her boys was a novice communicant. As he received the chalice he brought it to his mouth and took a few big gulps. Yikes, there wasn't much of the Blood of Christ left to share with our community that was seated in the center aisle that morning. His mom was humiliated and hurried out of church at the end of Mass. She followed up with me the next time I saw her. She mentioned that she had asked her son, "Why did you do that, what were you thinking!?" He looked up at her and explained, "I could tell you were mad at me mom, and so I figured I needed all the Jesus I could get."

It's not hard to recognize the truth in this story. Yes, we need all the Jesus we can get. The awesome reality is that we can have that in abundance and that Jesus will see us through. I have a new quote taped up among many others on my cubicle wall this year. It is from St. Philip Neri, the patron saint of JOY. *"The name of Jesus, pronounced with reverence and affection, has a kind of power to soften the heart."* *I resort to His name when I feel overwhelmed. A simple prayer, the name of Jesus, my mind for a moment focused solely on Him, fills me with hopeful certainty and calms my racing mind. It allows the gifts of my faith to come to the foreground through all the doubting background noise."*

You might have some prayers you resort to also. Opening our hearts and minds to Jesus allows Him to work through us in abundance; certainly a gift we want for our children. You will find in this envelope a resource titled, "50 Ways to Pray With Your Kids in 5 Minutes or Less." It offers terrific, simple suggestions. I like numbers 12, 15, 28 & 50 among others. See if any suggestions stand out for you to share with your children. Maybe they can pick out a few numbers themselves. Sometimes all we have is but a moment, but that is all we need to call on Jesus. It can be just as simple as saying His name. For as we know, when we are faced with the daily challenges of life, we need all the Jesus we can get.

REMEMBER

THOSE WHO HAVE GONE BEFORE US.

During the month of November we remember in a special way all those who have died. We pray they may rest in the peace and joy of heaven.

Prayer for the Souls in Purgatory

"Eternal rest grant unto them,
O Lord, and let perpetual light shine
upon them. May the souls of the
faithful departed, through the mercy
of God, rest in peace.
Amen."

Prayer of St. Gertrude For the Souls in Purgatory

Eternal Father, I offer Thee the
Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine
Son, Jesus, in union with the Mass-
es said throughout the world today,
for all the holy souls in purgatory,
for sinners everywhere, for sinners
in the universal church, those in my
own home and within my family.
Amen