

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 4, 2012

Mass Intentions



for the Week

Monday—November 5

Weekday

7:30AM—Martha & Gottlob Loeffler—Memorial

Tuesday—November 6

Weekday

7:30AM—For All the Souls in Purgatory

Wednesday—November 7

Weekday

7:30AM—Special Intention

Thursday—November 8

Weekday

7:30AM—*Pro Populo*

Friday—November 9

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

7:30AM—Kristie Ann Hufnagel—Memorial

Saturday—November 10

St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

8:30AM—Theresa Kissane—Memorial

Vigil of the Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00PM—Ruth & Donald Guilfoyle—Memorial

Sunday—November 11

The Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30AM—Miriam Gossmann—2nd Anniversary

9:00AM—Robert S. Leyden—5th Anniversary

10:30AM—*Pro populo*

Mass intentions are published so the entire parish family can pray the Mass intention of the Priest, for the living or the dead. Even if you cannot attend the Mass this day, please join in our parish intention during your own personal prayer time. Please call the Parish Office if you wish to schedule an announced intention at Mass as listed here. At every Mass, we should bring at least one personal intention to offer in prayer.

November is All Souls Month, please pray for the dead.



ANNUS FIDEI 2012 2013

Dear Parishioners:

Our bulletin company asked that we get the weekly bulletin to them early this week due to Hurricane Sandy. So I write this column on Sunday night as our state and much of the East Coast prepare for Sandy's arrival. Due to the declared State of Emergency we had to cancel all our planned events and close the office on Monday. Rhode Island is preparing for the strong winds and heavy rainfall and I pray that no human life is lost and property damage is minimal. Fr. Shemek and I have battened down the hatches, stocked up on bottled water and non-perishables and like you, hope to sit out the hurricane safely!

This Tuesday is Election Day and we will elect leaders for our town, state and nation. Our Church teaches that "responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation." So in order to exercise this virtue we must vote and participate in the election. We are called not simply to vote for anyone but rather to carefully examine each candidate and learn about their positions on the important moral issues that face our own lives and the life of our state and nation. Where candidates stand on issues such as the sanctity of human life especially the unborn, the protection of marriage between one man and one woman, and the dignity of the human person especially the poor and vulnerable should help us determine who we vote for as Catholics.

As Catholics Tuesday's election offers us a valuable chance to consider how the messages of the Scriptures and the insights of Catholic teaching can be applied to the priority issues of our society. The U.S. Catholic bishops have urged us to recognize the moral and ethical dimensions of the issues and "to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self interest."

I have included a reflection by Archbishop Charles Chaput on Catholic Citizenship in this week's bulletin for your review before the election. The Archbishop recently encouraged Catholics "minimally to vote, maximally to run for political office, and make sure that they're Catholic prior to being Democrat or Republican and that they put that into practice politically. We do believe in the separation of church and state, but we don't believe in the separation of faith from our political life. It's very important for Catholics to make distinctions when voting that they never support intrinsic evils like abortion, which is evil in all circumstances." Sound advice for us as we prepare to vote on Tuesday.

So as we prepare to vote in the election, may we also pray for our town, state and nation and for all who hold or seek public office. God Bless. God Bless America!

Father Healey



Weekly Collection

Week of October 28, 2012

Weekly.....\$12,112.50
World Missions.....\$5,034.00

If you have been away on vacation or visiting another parish, we kindly ask you to please make up your missed budget envelopes. We depend solely upon your weekly support to meet our weekly parish expenses.

Thank you for your generosity!

Second Collections

This Week: Building & Grounds Collection

Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.

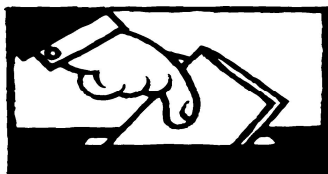


Monday – 7:00pm – Baptism Class
Tuesday – 7:00pm – Legion of Mary

Outreach Update

HOLIDAY FOOD COLLECTION

The OLM Food Pantry is gearing up for the upcoming holiday season. The traditional holiday favorites are needed. Boxed mashed potatoes, pasta, cranberry sauce, gravy, yams/sweet potatoes, stuffing, pickles, olives, canned meats, quick breads, fruit, hot chocolate, brownie mix. The regular standard items are needed as well. Juice, coffee, pancake mix, syrup, puddings/jello, baked beans, tuna, cereal.

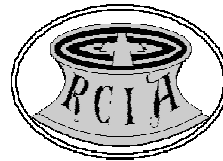


DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

Altar Servers Needed



Would you like to join the few, the proud, the Our Lady of Mercy Altar Servers? Are you a boy or girl in Grade 4 or above? New Altar Server training begins on November 13th. If you are interested please contact the Parish Office or ask your OLM Teacher or RE Teacher for an application and parent permission form today! ***Sign up for Altar Server Training !! Consider serving God and your parish at Holy Mass, Patriot Quarterback Tom Brady did and served as an altar server at St. Gregory's in San Mateo, CA! Why not you?!***



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Are you a Non-Catholic interested in becoming Catholic? Are a Catholic who hasn't received all your Sacraments? Why not explore becoming a Catholic or becoming a fully initiated Catholic? The Our Lady of Mercy Rite of Christian Initiation Program (RCIA) is looking for you. Contact Fr. Healey at 884-4968 for more information.



Daylight Saving Time Ends this weekend. Therefore, the Saturday Vigil Mass moves from 5:00PM to 4:00PM beginning next weekend, November 10th. Confessions will be heard beginning at 3:00PM. Please make note of this change in time. ***See you at the 4:00PM Mass next week!!***



Religious Education

NEWS

Grade 9 Class —Mondays at 7:00pm
Grades 7 & 8 Classes —Tuesdays at 7:00pm
Grades 1-6—Tuesdays & Wednesdays at 4:00pm

Confirmation for current 9th grade students, public, parochial and private is scheduled for **May 19, 2013 at 1:00pm with Bishop Thomas J. Tobin**. All 9th Graders who intend on being confirmed should now be registered. There is a **mandatory parent meeting for all grade 9 families on November 5th** at 7:00pm in the school cafeteria. Please call or e-mail Mrs. St. Jean for information at 884-1061 or olmreled@cox.net

A Prayer Before The Election

Lord God, as the election approaches, we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our town, state and country, and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community.

We ask for eyes that are free from blindness so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one and equal in dignity, especially those who are victims of abuse and violence, deceit and poverty.

We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children unborn and those abandoned, men and women oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender.

We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your Kingdom.

We pray for discernment so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word, live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his Apostles and guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace.

We ask this in the name of your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Public Witness & Catholic Citizenship

Archbishop Charles Chaput

Archbishop of Philadelphia



Public witness on issues of public concern is natural for Catholics because we have a commitment to the common good and to the dignity of each human person. Those two pillars — the common good and the dignity of every human person — come right out of Scripture. It's not the job of the Church to sponsor political candidates. But it's *very much* the job of the Church to guide Catholics to think and act in accord with their faith. So since this is an election year, here are a few simple points to remember as we move toward November.

1. "Catholic" is a word that has real meaning. We don't control or invent that meaning as individuals. We inherit it from the Gospel and the experience of the Church over the centuries. If we choose to call ourselves Catholic, then that word has consequences for what we believe and how we act. We can't truthfully call ourselves "Catholic" and then behave as if we're not.

2. Being a Catholic is a bit like being married. We have a relationship with the Church and with Jesus Christ that's similar to being a spouse. If a man says he loves his wife, his wife will want to see the evidence in his fidelity. The same applies to our relationship with God. If we say we're Catholic, we need to show that by our love for the Church and our fidelity to what she teaches and believes. Otherwise we're just fooling ourselves. God certainly *won't* be fooled.

3. The Church is not a political organism. She has no interest in partisanship because getting power or running governments is not what she's about, and the more closely she identifies herself with any single party, the fewer people she can effectively reach.

4. Scripture and Catholic teaching, however, *do* have public consequences because they guide us in how we should act in relation to one another. Again, Catholic social action, including political action, is a natural byproduct of the Church's moral message. We can't call ourselves Catholic, and then simply stand by while immigrants get mistreated, or the poor get robbed, or — even more fundamentally — unborn children get killed. If our faith is real, then it will bear fruit in our public decisions and behaviors, including our political choices.

5. Each of us needs to follow his or her own conscience. But conscience doesn't emerge miraculously from a vacuum. The way we get a healthy conscience is by submitting it to God's will; and the way we find God's will is by listening to the counsel of the Church and trying honestly to live in accord with her guidance. If we find ourselves frequently disagreeing, as Catholics, with the teaching of our own Church on serious matters, then it's probably not the Church that's wrong. The problem is much more likely with us.

In the end, the heart of truly faithful citizenship is this: We're better citizens when we're more faithful Catholics. The more authentically Catholic we are in our lives, choices, actions and convictions, the more truly we will contribute to the moral and political life of our nation.

