



## THE THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NOVEMBER 17, 2024

**SNACKS FOR CCD AND PARISH**—There is a sign up sheet in the back of church to bring snacks & drinks to be shared after the Sunday Mass before and during the CCD classes. If you would like to bring snacks for a week, please sign up. If you have questions, please see Lindsay Rawe.

**LECTORS WANTED**—We are looking to add some more Sunday Mass lectors to our roster. The more we have, the less often you'll have to read! If you are interested, please speak with Fr. Straub.

**HOLIDAY CARDS TO SHUTINS**—The CCD kids will be making holiday cards (Thanksgiving and Christmas) for our shut ins. We already have Imogene Fisk and Bill Schneider on our list. If you know of someone else, please tell Lindsey Rawe.

**MEN'S PRAYER MEETINGS**—There are a group of men who meet every other Monday evening in LaRosa's back meeting room and they welcome men from all parishes and non Catholics to attend. They study the Gospel readings, engage in prayers, and discussions. Talk to Chris Fryman if interested or just show up at 7 PM this coming Monday (18th) evening at La Rosa's.

**ST. NICHOLAS BREAKFAST AND ADVENT CONCERT**—Please join us after the 9 AM Mass on Sunday, **December 8th**, for the St. Nicholas Pancake Breakfast. Our Sunday School students will also be performing an Advent Concert this year to help prepare our hearts for our Savior's birth. Hope to see you there.

**HOSEA HOUSE CHRISTMAS FAMILY**—We will have a family for which to purchase Christmas presents again this year. The names will appear on our 'giving tree' at the beginning of Advent. Please take as many tags that you wish. Please return the gifts with their tags by Sunday, December 15, so we can get the gifts to the family in time.

**CCD COLLECTION**—The CCD classes would like to establish a collection of personal hygiene products that will be delivered to the Parish Kitchen before Christmas. The following list contains a few suggestions, but is not limited to them: soap, disposable razors, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrush, toothpaste, disposable cleansing wipes, feminine hygiene products, assorted bandages, hair ties, combs. A box will be placed in the back of church for drop offs. Any and all donations will be appreciated.

**LECTOR**— Nov. 17-Lisa Cooper, Nov. 24-Linda Fryman.

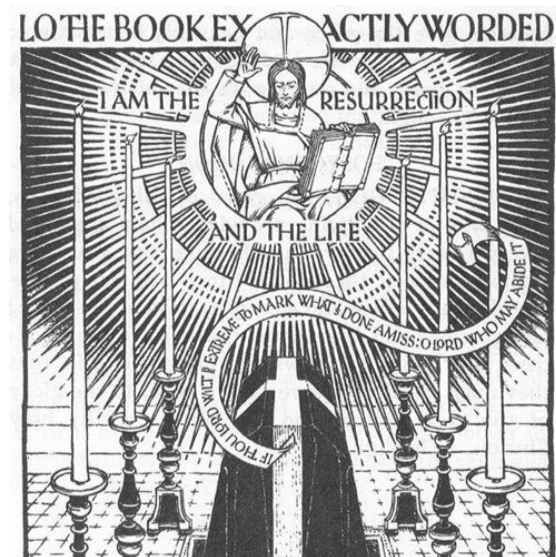
**CLEANING** – Nov.-Joann and Tim Schlachter

## FROM THE PASTOR—FUNERALS: MASS VS. SERVICE

A recent trend I have seen occur with funerals is the lack of Mass and the use of the funeral service in the funeral home. The frequency with which this has occurred with some recent deaths was in fact the inspiration for this series of articles concerning funerals. There seems to be an idea among some Catholics that either is fine and to just do the easier one which is the service. Perhaps there are more costs associated with having a funeral Mass. Perhaps also too many children have fallen away from the faith and want to do the minimum necessary for their parents. No matter what, you should be sure that a funeral Mass is a part of your funeral.

There is a world of difference between the funeral Mass and the funeral service, just as there is a world of difference between a Mass and any other prayer service we do. The Mass is the re-offering of the sacrifice of Calvary through Christ the High Priest. The Mass is of infinite value, therefore, since it is not the work of men but the work of the God-man, whose every action is a divine action. Nothing we plan out and do ourselves can ever equal the Mass. To deny a funeral Mass for the deceased is thus to deny the offering of the supreme sacrifice of Christ for the benefit of the deceased.

The only reason I might see why someone would legitimately request a funeral service instead of a Mass would be if they were a convert out of a non-Catholic family and there is a desire to have something for the entire family. This is an understandable position and I do not envy those in such a position. But for a Catholic family to not hold a funeral Mass for their dearly departed shows a lack of appreciation for the Mass as well as an ultimate lack of charity. I have heard terrible stories from other priests about children denying a funeral Mass or even a service to their parents because they have left the Church and want nothing to do with Christ. Lord, have mercy on them!



If you are concerned about this happening, be sure you write out your requests in your will. You could even make any inheritance contingent upon the offering of the funeral Mass or any subsequent Mass requests. No Catholic should be denied a funeral Mass or even a Mass offered for their intentions after their death. When we list a special intention for a Mass, we are offering the infinite merits of the Cross for that specific person that they may be with God. The deceased need those merits even more since they cannot pray for themselves after death. We have a duty to bury as well as pray for the dead. May we all be strengthened by Christ to gain eternal life. *Fr. Jacob Straub*