

THE THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NOVEMBER 3, 2024

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS EVENTS— This weekend, the Knights will have a food drive for St. Vincent de Paul's Thanksgiving distribution. Please be as generous as possible with this collection. Thank you.

SNACKS FOR CCD AND PARISH— There is a sign up sheet in the back of church to bring snacks and 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.

VOTE 'YES' ON 2— Please take a 'Vote Yes on 2' sign for your yard, business, and family's yards. It is just a 'yes' on agreeing that the state constitution can be changed so our lawmakers can have the option of exploring ways to allow families to pick the school their children attend. 48 states have this and Kentucky needs it.

LECTOR— Nov. 3-Bernie Rawe, Nov. 10-Bill Funke

CLEANING – Nov.-Joann and Tim Schlachter

*PRAY FOR ALL THE SOULS
IN PURGATORY, AS WELL AS
ALL YOUR BELOVED DEAD
MAY THEY REST IN PEACE!*



FROM THE PASTOR—FUNERAL PLANNING

While it seems very obvious what should happen, the issue of preparing for one's funeral is of particular concern for those with children who are not practicing the Catholic faith. I have heard numerous stories from other priests of children who denied or nearly denied a proper Catholic funeral to their faithful parents. A downright unmerciful act from those claiming to love their parents! The fact that this would even occur let alone has occurred makes this article important for all no matter what age one may be.

We cannot deny the reality of death in our lives, but must face it confident in the power of Christ to overcome it. The Church in turn has her particular rituals to aid the recently deceased soul as well as assist the families and friends grieving the loss of their beloved one. The funeral is a necessary part of the life of the believer and the entire body of the faithful who hope in the Risen Lord. A funeral can even have a deep impact on those outside of practice or belief in showing them that there is hope for more than this world and its sorrow. I still remember the funeral of my great-grandmother when I was 14 as the first major occasion to attend Mass beyond holidays as well as the consolation it brought my family.

The denial of a funeral in whole or in part is an incredibly barbaric act that lacks love for the deceased and their desires. It is also a lack of mercy, as one of the corporal works of mercy is to bury the dead and one of the spiritual works of mercy is to pray for the dead. We are very rarely offered any glance into the judgment of particular souls after they have passed from this mortal coil: we do not know whether they have merited in Christ the reward of eternal life or rejected Him and lost all in eternal perdition. We must remember that all souls must be purified of all attachment to sin before entering into Heaven, thus having to endure the purifying fires of Purgatory. Our duty is to pray for them, as has been done for centuries (see 2 Maccabees 12:39-48 to see this being done even before Christ's coming). Perhaps by our intercession on behalf of these souls, their final purification may be relieved and they are able to enter more quickly into eternal life.

The first piece of advice I can offer if you wish to ensure that you receive all the proper rites and blessings offered by the Church for the deceased is to write your requests out in your will. I do not mean by this the entire plan for the funeral such as hymns or readings, but that you want a funeral Mass offered in a specific church as well as your burial plans. Beyond the few tales of ungrateful children, it helps the grieving family to know specifically what the deceased wanted when it comes time. If it's written in your will, then there is a legal obligation to ensure it is carried out. If nothing else, write your will out so that this information is concrete and prepared for when that fateful day will come. It can also be a good means of reflecting on the shortness of life and our duty to follow Christ even in death. Do not be surprised by your demise but prepared for your last day so that you may enter into eternal glory.

Fr. Jacob Straub