

SAINT COLUMBAN YOUTH MINISTRY

Thanksgiving

NOVEMBER 2020 ISSUE



“Rejoice always. Pray constantly. Give thanks in all circumstances.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

What are you grateful for? On Thanksgiving Day, millions of Americans will gather around the table to pray and give thanks to God for all the blessing He has given. This is also a very special occasion for families and friends, near and far, to gather together, to share not only a meal, but also love and appreciation. Unlike all the other years, this year, the Covid-19 pandemic has strongly impacted and disrupted our lives. It is a hard dose of a new reality, that what we usually look forward to, or take for granted during the Thanksgiving holiday, has changed drastically for many of us. Because of Covid-19, families and friends cannot gather as usual. In place of warm hugs and displays of affection, many people have to practice social distancing and for some, even be quarantined in their own room. In fact, many families this year will have to resort to celebrating Thanksgiving with their loved ones virtually online.

When we stop to reflect on all the chaos and confusions that are happening in our world, we might find it hard to nurture the spirit of gratitude. However, if we look in the letters of St. Paul to the Thessalonians, we see a certain clarity and wisdom from St. Paul when he said, “In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” St. Paul did not tell us to thank God FOR all circumstances, but rather, emphasize to give thanks to God IN all circumstances. In gratitude to God for all His graces, may you and your family be given the gift of faith. Happy Thanksgiving! Sr. Minh Hang Le

EVENTS & DATES

C1

November 29 - NO CLASS

C2

November 25 - Saint Reports DUE

November 29 - NO CLASS

December 27 - Sponsor Forms DUE

December 31 - Baptism & Holy Communion Certificate DUE
Bishop Letter Rough Draft DUE

all saints

Through God, anything is possible. St. Joan of Arc has always been a saint that I deeply admired. Her willingness to accept God's calling for her with complete faith has left me shocked. Personally, I know that if I were in her shoes, I wouldn't have had the amount of faith that she had. I would have probably hid away because I would have been scared of going against the norm of society. By looking at St. Joan of Arc though, she has taught me the importance of faith and courage. If I want to see change in my world, I personally have to stand up and fix it myself. In hopes of doing so, I would be able to leave a mark on this world. St. Joan has shown me that I should have faith that God has a plan for me no matter how big or how small. Nothing in life is unimportant. Everything that you do can have an affect on others.

Diane Doan | Confirmation 2 TA



Covid-19 has confined us to our homes for the past year, and for some, it may feel like we are confined in prison. Distance learning is overwhelming, but mostly not being able to exercise our freedom to socialize and be mobile is a novel type of suffering. Our condition makes me think of Saint Perpetua, one of the first recorded female martyrs in the early church. She was put to the sword in Carthage, Africa in the year 203 A.D. for saying "I am a Christian." Saint Perpetua was captured, convicted, and put to death because she was seeking God by receiving lessons as a catechumen. While in prison, she was gifted with the graces necessary to thrive and stay firm in her religious conviction. It is directly because she suffered that she was given graces - the greatest gift was a personal encounter with Jesus as a good shepherd. Her persecution is also her reward in the kingdom of God (Matthew 5:10). Saint Perpetua is inspirational in so many ways. She didn't falter when her dad begged, demanded, and later hysterically yelled at her to change her mind. She trusted God to take care of her baby son. She lived and died in grace as a model for those around her. She is the light of Jesus, encouraging and uplifting. She is inspirational.

Kathleen Dang | Confirmation 1 Catechist

what is a saint to you?

“a normal human being who led an exemplary life of almsgiving”

“someone who loves God with all their heart, mind, and soul”

“a saint is selfless and committed for the world. A saint is someone who lives God's will and is called by God”

“someone who lives God's will with full faith and commits to spreading that word.”

“someone who exemplifies leads them to even greater heights”

to serve the Lord and the name of the Lord.”

“a person who brings joy and good news to people and makes them happy”

striving for holiness”

“a person who lives God's will, gives up their own desires, accepts sufferings in their lives for their self purification and allows God to use them as instruments to bring others back to him.”

“A role model of whom Catholics look up to. They aren't perfect people, but they are who Catholics should aspire to be.”

“a true friend of Jesus...someone who knows the will of God and does it. I like to think we are all saints in the making. One day at a time and one choice at a time. God first, others next, and me last”

“someone who chooses to devote their lives to God and serves the Church”

“a holy disciple of God and strong believer in Christ”

“someone who does the will of God”



all souls

WRITTEN BY KATHLEEN DANG

Death isn't the end. Death is a new beginning when we die in Jesus Christ. Most literally, the physical body dies while the spirit is released to return to God. In our Catholic faith, we profess that we believe in life everlasting. In no other month is it more visual and tangible than in the month of November, the month dedicated for souls. My family drove to a local cemetery on All Souls' Day to pray for those who have passed away. You would think that a cemetery is a dead place but on this special day it is alive! Holy Sepulcher Cemetery in Santiago Canyon was bustling with activity and people. Whole families brought lawn chairs, picnics, food, music, and flowers. Everywhere, those who are alive come and visit with those who have died. It was something like a pre-Thanksgiving gathering with those who have fallen asleep in God's grace. It was beautiful. It is so good to know that by remembering loved ones, visiting a cemetery, and praying for those who hopefully are in purgatory, we are actually helping them - Love helps!



It was a few years back that I learned about the opportunity to gain a plenary indulgence specifically for Souls in Purgatory. Along with things the Church calls us to do like go to confession, participate in mass, and receive Holy Communion worthily; that is beneficial to our daily living. Additionally, by performing this “merciful work” of going to a cemetery and praying for the departed on All Souls' Day, we may do something incredibly generous - we could by God's grace and mercy help a soul home to heaven. How amazing is that? For the first eight days of the month of November, our faith together with our works saves souls in a very powerful way. I hope that every November there will be a greater and more glorious gathering at cemeteries. November will always be a powerful month. It's that final stretch in a long year. It's a sort of final sprint towards the finish line for the Church. As the liturgical year ends, it calls us to think of the end of our lives, the end for which we are all made for, and directly focuses our aim at our goal which is Heaven. It's so cool to know that you can help others into heaven right now. Let's help those who can't help themselves.

the season of thanksgiving

“LITTLE THINGS” WRITTEN BY DIANE DOAN

In life, there are times that we may forget the things that are most important to us. This is especially true during this pandemic. During this past year, I was able to witness the many blessings that God has granted me in my life. Some of these things are things that I took for granted before the pandemic hit. People today tend to breeze through life, and in the process, they miss the beauties of this world that God has granted us. It may seem silly, but by being aware of our surroundings, we are able to sense God’s presence in our daily lives. By acknowledging His presence, we are able to give thanks to our heavenly Father. Although life may seem difficult at times, we should always remember that we are never alone and that Christ surrounds us at all times if we take the time to notice Him.

There is beauty in every creature that you see, every song that you hear, and every person that you meet. Due to the current harsh conditions, it may be difficult to find hope, much less beauty. It is especially essential during the month of November to be thankful for the blessings that we have been given from God. This can be something as little as being thankful for the food before you, the roof over your head, friends, and family. These are things that we take for granted and somewhere in the world, there is a person who doesn’t have access to these essential everyday items. When we take the time to see how blessed we are, we are able to sense God’s presence in our lives and how His love for us shines through our loved ones. The center of our Christian faith is to love. The greatest commandment that Jesus gave to us was to “Love one another.” If the world was to shut down, we should always show our love for others through our actions. By showing our love through our actions, we are able to support one another and that in itself is beauty. Beauty comes in all shapes and sizes and by being aware of the little things, we are able to stay connected and give thanks for our many blessings.

Christ will always be beside us whether we acknowledge Him or not. He is the loving Father that is always reaching out to us and it is up to us if we accept his offer or not. By noticing the little moments of life, we are able to reach out and accept His hand. Once we accept and notice these little moments, life gets a little bit easier and it becomes filled with vibrant colors. A life filled with darkness isn’t a life at all. God created this world as our home and we need to be grateful for it. Creation is filled with so many colors and if we allow for these colors to consume us, we will be overfilled with happiness. No matter what happens from today onward, life has to continue and by being grateful for the little things in life, we are able to welcome God into our own spiritual journey.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THANKSGIVING MEMORY?

“Having a feast with my family where everyone was present. Unfortunately, as my family grew bigger, our differences grew and conflicts arose. Some of us choose to not gather. For most of us who choose to put our differences aside and gather as a family, we continue to pray for unity one day” -Uyen V.

“Spending time with family, taking a moment to be thankful for all of the things that I experienced throughout the year, good or bad, and thanking God for all of the love and blessings. Also the transition to cooler weather” -Hailey V.

“Eating KFC in the family room of CHOC Children’s Hospital. It doesn’t matter where we are, what we are eating, what else is happening around us; the only thing that matters is that I was with my family. Life is a gift and a blessing that I’m grateful for daily” -Kathleen D.

“Eating at my friend’s house and then going to the mall to do Early Black Friday shopping” -Tiffany L.

“Gathering with my extended family, having a multicultural assortment of food to share & playing board games together for hours” -Daniel T.

“My favorite Thanksgiving memory is dinner with my cousin, we always ate lobsters and drank apple cider” -Dawn T.

“Thanksgiving is usually a blur for me, but I would have to say being with my whole family is my favorite memory” -Taylor W.

“A few years ago, when my family gathered together at my cousin’s house to eat a huge feast of roast beef and mashed potatoes and gravy. My uncle is a priest, so he blessed the food and drink. After that, we ate until we could eat no more. I played games with my cousins until midnight, and all was good in the world” -Theresa T.



prayer intentions

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED OF LOVE,
HOPE, AND FAITH! WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER!

"I pray for all our Saint Columban Youth Ministry confirmation students. It's been a challenging year, there are lots of trials and stresses, we live in a new version of normal with face mask and social distancing. "Uncertain" doesn't even begin to cover the emotional toll that this year takes. Yet we ask our students to be heroes and rise to the great challenge. We ask our students to journey pass the hardships & distractions towards true encounters with Jesus. May our Confirmation students know God's call and love for them. May they be showered by the Holy Spirit with all the gifts they may need to be the salt and light for all those around them"

"Please pray for my family to be united again some day"

"I'd like to pray for all the businesses and unemployed people during this time, so that they can persevere and find light in the darkness"

"A prayer intention I have is for Joseph Tran Dang Khoa, my grandfather who passed away a few months ago in September"



"I pray that I will have a good future for me and my family"

"I would like to pray for those who have passed away because of COVID-19 especially since this is the month devoted to praying for the holy souls in purgatory. I would also like to pray for peace in our country and for our future president"

"I pray for all people, especially young people who cannot be home with their family during this Thanksgiving. I miss you mom and dad :)"

"I pray for this world and the health of everyone"

"Praying for the lost souls to come back to God, through Mary's intercession"

"My uncle, who I was close with, died several years ago"

"To pray for my well-being, the world's well-being, and others around me that are currently suffering from Covid-19, poverty, and grief"

"To allow me to be grateful for my blessings, and be reminded of those who are less fortunate around the world"

"I pray for those who don't have a family to go to for Thanksgiving, and that they find one this year"

need a prayer?

all prayer intentions will be made aware by the ministry and Confirmation program.
let us know if you'd like to feature your prayer intention in the next month's newsletter.
all prayer intentions will be shown here anonymously unless stated otherwise.
for more information, please visit: <https://saintcolumbanym.org/prayer/>

for parents

OCTOBER RECAP

Confirmation 1 Theme: The 7 Sacraments

Students will learn about themes of initiation, healing, and service.

Review the resources for more information on what's coming up!



Confirmation 2 Theme: 7 Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Students will learn about the blessings of the Holy Spirit before being able to get confirmed and become an official member of the Catholic Church.

Parent Meetings will now be held online via Google Meets.

Translations are included, visit the website to not miss meetings!
Review the resources for more information on what's coming up!



FATHER DAMIEN

For October, our guest speaker was Fr. Damien! He talked to Confirmation 2 students about the gifts of the Holy Spirit, making personal connections along the way on Google Meets. Students will be able to view these recorded videos again on our Youtube!

resources

C1 Calendar: <https://rb.gy/echbri>

C2 Calendar: <https://rb.gy/buusjb>

Father Damien's Video: <https://youtu.be/MHSTHl-rYq4>

Confirmation website: <https://saintcolumbanym.org/>