



SAINTS JAMES AND PATRICK PARISH

To remain in Christ and to reveal Christ to others

November 2018 Newsletter

Reasons for Hope

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

What is your reason for hope?

As we look at what is going on in the world around us we sometimes feel like the author of biblical Lamentations, “remembering it over and over leaves my soul downcast within me. But I will call this to mind, as my reason to have hope:

The favors of the Lord are not exhausted, his mercies are not spent; They are renewed each morning, so great is his faithfulness.”

There are many examples of the Lord’s faithfulness in our lives and reasons to hope. Several are shared in this newsletter:

- The Life Chain event where fellow Christians joined to pray for an hour on a Sunday afternoon that there would be greater respect for the gift of life;
- The new Saints, especially the young man, Nunzio Sulprizio who suffered so much, and Oscar Romero who laid down his life for his people;
- The successful Community Food Drive which brings out the best in our people;
- Couples Night Out, where couples share faith and fun;
- Remembering all the Saints, there are no “cookie



NET Ministries Team 4

A Letter from our Pastor

“cutter” Saints, rather Jesus calls us each to follow Him to become fully who God has made us to be;

- Remembering and giving thanks for deceased from our families and friendships;
- The NET Ministries Retreat for the Jr. High students at our parish school. Eleven college-age young people spent two days leading our young people closer to Jesus. How did our youth respond?

Read about it on page three or ask one of them at Mass.

This retreat is a great reason for me to hope for a better Church and world. The NET youth make many sacrifices to answer the call of Jesus to spread the Good News of God’s love. Every August, 175 young Catholics aged 18-28 leave behind their jobs, school, family, and friends to devote nine months to serving with the National Evangelization Teams (NET). Divided into 16 teams, they travel across the U.S. for nine months to share the Gospel with young people and their families. Please pray for them.

The Mass is my ultimate reason for hope.

In this month of Thanksgiving, I invite you to look around for reasons for hope and share those with family and friends that their lives may be hopeful too.

God bless you, Fr. John C. Burnette

In This Issue



New Saints Canonized

Learn about the seven saints canonized last month.

Page 2



NET Ministries Retreat

The junior high students enjoyed a ‘Fully Alive’ retreat in October.

Page 3



Give Thanks to God

The holiday season is a perfect time to thank God for His blessings and the sacrifice of His Son.

Page 4

Celebrate the Saints and Pray for Our Loved Ones

November is the month to focus on the intercession of the saints and to give thanks to God for our loved ones, especially those who have passed from this life. The Catholic Church's beautiful tradition of praying for the dead reminds us that we're connected to them through our faith in Jesus Christ and through His Church.



Our parish will embrace this tradition during Masses on November 3rd and 4th by praying for the loved ones who have died during the past year. This tradition is meant to ask God to be merciful to the dead and to purify their souls. The names of the loved ones will be read aloud during Mass, and you can contact the office to have the name of your loved one read.

Praying for the deceased who may be in purgatory has numerous roots in Scripture; it can be found in Zechariah, Sirach, 2 Maccabees, Corinthians, and in Jesus's words in the Gospel of Matthew, which states, "And whoever says a word against the Son of man will be forgiven; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in

this age or in the age to come (Matthew 12:32)." This declaration of our Lord implies there are at least some sins that can be forgiven in the next life to a people who already believed it. We must continue to pray that those who have died will enter into the fullness of God's love in Heaven.

This month begins with the Solemnity of All Saints on Nov. 1st and the Commemoration of All Souls on Nov. 2. The memorials of various saints are celebrated throughout the month, and then the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe – commonly referred to as Feast of Christ the King – is Nov. 26. This special feast is intended to proclaim Christ's relationship with His Church and humanity, as well as describe Christ's Kingdom.

Seven Saints Canonized on October 14

Pope Paul VI — Sept. 26 Feast Day

He continued the Second Vatican Council and implemented its numerous reforms. He also issued three Marian encyclicals and wrote the famous encyclical *Humanae vitae*.

Archbishop Oscar Romero — March 24 Feast Day

He was an outspoken opponent of the political strife and injustice in El Salvador. He was murdered on March 24, 1980 while celebrating Mass. Pope Francis declared him a martyr in 2015.

Sister Nazaria Ignacia — July 6 Feast Day

She joined the Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Abandoned Elderly at the age of 19. She spent 12 years caring for the elderly in Bolivia and later founded the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of the Pontifical Crusade to proclaim the Gospel and human dignity.

Father Vincenzo Romano — December 20 Feast Day

He was given the name "The Worker Priest" in his native

Italy because of his work for the poor. He famously helped rebuild Torre del Greco after an eruption of Mount Vesuvius destroyed most of the town.

Father Francesco Spinelli — February 6 Feast Day

He was ordained a priest in 1875 and was moved by his love of the Eucharist. He founded the Sisters Adorers of the Blessed Sacrament in Cremona, Italy.

Sister Maria Katharina Kasper — February 2 Feast Day

She established the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ in 1851 to care for the poor, sick, and children.

Nunzio Sulprizio — May 5 Feast Day

He died at the age of 19 and his life was filled with suffering. After family tragedies, he was raised by an abusive uncle whose beatings left him with a crippled left leg. His leg was amputated and he was stricken with bone cancer, but he was beloved in Naples for his joy and love for the poor and sick. He's a patron of the disabled.

Students Felt 'Fully Alive' at NET Retreat

The St. Patrick School junior high students attended an inspiring two-day NET Retreat at the St. James Parish House in October. The 'Fully Alive' retreat was led by a team of NET Catholic ministers who meet with young students throughout the country to encourage them to love Christ and embrace the life of the Church.

"The kids came back feeling it was worth their time," St. Patrick School principal Jan Sweet said. "They prayed, sang, shared stories, and listened to presentations. It was the first time our school has done a two-day retreat."

The goals of the retreat were to help the students understand and accept God's unconditional love for them, to encourage the students to grow in relationship with Christ, and to show the students that God can be an exciting part of their lives. The ministers leading the retreat were volunteers who recently finished college.

"I enjoyed the fellowship with the missionaries because their testimonies were good," Max Schilawski said. "I could relate to them because they were young, and they inspired me to be more like them. I felt like I could pray more freely and no one would judge me."

"The ministers were kind and understanding, so it was a lot of fun," Daniel Bean said.

The students played games, sang, discussed faith in



small groups, performed skits, and listened to personal testimonies from the ministers.

"I liked the testimonies because I saw things in a different perspective," Willow Di Mondri Mondo said. "They helped me bring myself closer to God and helped me see where God is in my life."

"My favorite part was the skits because they were relatable," Cadence Speagle said. "They took what they

were talking about and put it into real life situations. The NET ministers were fun to be around, and they were nice."

The students also attended adoration, received the Eucharist at Mass, and participated in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

"My favorite part was going to adoration because it brought me closer to God," Allie Nicholson said. "We learned a new prayer before lunch too."

"I learned that you can talk to God by yourself when you're silent," Julia Apuda said. "It was nice to have peace while praying. I also liked how the ministers balanced having fun and being serious."

Thank you to the parish families who hosted the NET Ministers at their homes while the team was in town. Showing hospitality to others is a great way to share God's love!



To remain in Christ and to reveal Christ to others

Give Thanks to God this Holiday Season

Americans typically look to 1621 as the first recorded Thanksgiving, where the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians gathered for a three-day feast of Thanksgiving to God for harvest. However, an earlier moment of Thanksgiving occurred in 1565, when the Spanish settlers celebrated a Mass

of Thanksgiving for their safe arrival to the New World. The Spanish then held a feast with the Timucua Indians after Mass. Therefore, our Catholic faith has a longstanding connection to Thanksgiving.

For Catholics, Thanksgiving is certainly a time to thank God for His many blessings, but we must remember that thanksgiving should be a daily and weekly occurrence in the Mass as we celebrate Christ's Eucharistic sacrifice.

We must remember that the word 'Eucharist' means thanksgiving. As a country, we look forward to one day to



celebrate our thankfulness, but we must recognize that we celebrate Thanksgiving every day as Catholics. Most of all, we should be thankful for the Lord Himself for saving us from sin.

According to St. Gianna Beretta Molla, "the secret to happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for what He is sending

us every day in His goodness."

Here is a prayer of thanksgiving published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

"Lord, we thank you for the goodness of our people and for the spirit of justice that fills this nation. We thank you for the beauty and fullness of the land and the challenge of the cities. We thank you for our work and our rest, for one another, and for our homes. We thank you, Lord: accept our thanksgiving on this day. We pray and give thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

St. Patrick School Feeds the Hungry

St. Patrick School performed a corporal work of mercy last month by collecting canned food to feed the hungry living in Macon County. The school's participation in the 17th annual WSOY Food Drive enabled the Food Drive to exceed its goal of 1.5 million pounds for the second consecutive year.

St. Patrick School placed first for the amount of food collection among area schools, and although the official poundage of food raised per school wasn't released, St. Patrick hoped to exceed last year's contribution of 210,780 pounds.

"We're the smallest school in the city and county but we encourage participation through past graduates and current students," principal Jan Sweet said. "It's a full-fledge effort from parishioners, parents, and community members. We've placed first in 12 of the 17 years."

The students boxed the canned food at the school and loaded it into the truck, which was provided by Pete



Vercellino. The food was collected at the Airport Plaza Kroger in Decatur on October 5, and the food was delivered to local food pantries and other organizations, such as Catholic Charities and Salvation Army.

Students in Grades 3-8 attended the Food Drive collection and sang at the

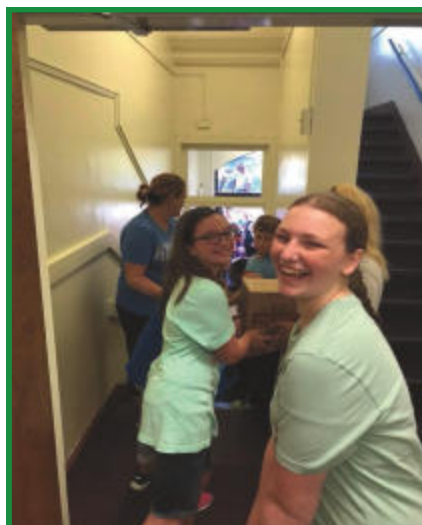
event.

"Their singing was a good closing for our participation in the Food Drive," Jan said. "It's all about feeding the hungry and giving back to the community."

It's no surprise that St. Patrick School donates so much food every year; service work is a vital part of the school's mission. And we have great support from our parishioners and friends.

"We teach the young kids that if you have something, share it," Jan said. "Community service is part of their grade, and we teach them service when they're young because it becomes part of their Catholic experience. We must give what we can and help those who need it."

Photo Collage



Upcoming Events

Nov. 3/4 @ All Masses
Remembering those who have died in past year

Nov. 5 @ 6:30pm
Couples' Night Out
Beach House Restaurant

Nov. 7 @ 6pm
Families of Faith
St. James Parish House

Nov. 10 @ 9am
Home & School Craft Show
St. Patrick Basement

Nov. 11 @ 11:15am
Families of Faith
St. James Parish House

Nov. 12
Veterans Day Observed

Nov. 14 @ 6pm
Families of Faith - Children
St. James Parish House

Nov. 22-23
Thanksgiving Holiday
Parish Office Closed

Visit:
www.ssjpparish.com

Like our Facebook page:
Saints James and Patrick Parish (the one with the parish logo)

Thanksgiving Gift Baskets

We'll continue giving baskets to any parishioner who received one in the past or is in need this year. Please call the parish office at 428-7733 by November 12 to be included on the list. Donation of canned goods are needed.

Attention All Parish Schools Alumni

We're gathering information on the graduating classes for St. James and St. Patrick Schools to keep you informed of the great things happening in Catholic education. We need a contact person for each class. Call the School (423-4351) or Parish (429-5363 or 428-7733).

March for life

January 16-20, 2019

Details for this pilgrimage are now available. Call our parish office for more information.

To remain in Christ and to reveal Christ to others



Saints James and Patrick Parish

To remain in Christ and to reveal Christ to others

407 E. Eldorado Street
Decatur, IL 62523
217.429.5363
www.ssjpgparish.com

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DECATUR, IL
PERMIT NO. 368

Change Service Requested

Passing the Faith to Our Youth

The upcoming Couples' Night Out event will feature a panel to discuss passing our Catholic faith to our kids and grandkids. All participants are encouraged to add their input. What has worked? What hasn't? What influenced you most as a child/young adult?

Couples of all ages from all area parishes are invited to this fun evening at the Beach House on Monday, November 5 at 6:30pm. A light dinner will be provided, and you'll create friendships with married Catholic couples in the Decatur area. The event costs \$30 per couple, and a cash bar is available. To make a reservation, please leave a message at (217) 422-4534 or register online at decaturcouplesnight.out.rsvpify.com



Couples' Night Out - Monday, Nov. 5
Beach House Restaurant
2301 S Lake Shore Dr in Decatur

Mass Times

Saturday
4:00pm: St. James
5:30pm: St. Patrick

Sunday
8:30am: St. James
10:00am: St. Patrick

Contact Us

Saints James and Patrick Parish
724 E. Clay St. (St. James Church)
407 E. Eldorado St. (St. Patrick Church)
Decatur, IL 62521 (St. James)
62523 (St. Patrick)

St. James Church: (217) 428-7733
St. Patrick Church: (217) 429-5363

E-mail: office@ssjpgparish.com

Website: www.ssjpgparish.com

Facebook: Saints James and Patrick Parish (the one with the parish logo)