

Padre's Ponderings

Dear Parishioners,

It is hard to believe that November will be upon us in just a few days. Please remember that Tuesday, November 1. is the Solemnity of All Saints and a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Bob at 12nn at Saint Alexander (Mass will be celebrated by Fr. Joe at 8am and 7pm at Saint Mary of the Bay). We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.

You're also welcome to join us on Wednesday evening, All Souls' Day, as we gather to remember our beloved dead at 7pm at Saint Mary of the Bay. Anyone grieving a loved one, or anyone willing to support those who are, is welcome to join us this Wednesday evening.

As we approach the month of November, I am reminded of the words of the great English convert and preacher, Fr. Ronald Knox. He wrote once that "November is a dying month." All around us, we see signs that nature itself is about to enter into a deathlike sleep. It is fitting, then, that we remember our beloved dead throughout the month of November, as well as our own frailty and mortality.

There had been a custom in religious houses many years ago that the singing of the antiphon, "Media Vita," would take place during Compline (Night Prayer). The biographers of one of my favorite saints, Saint Thomas Aquinas, noted that he would weep copiously whenever this antiphon was chanted in choir. "*Media vita in morte sumus quem quaerimus adiutorem nisi te, Domine.*" "*In the midst of life we are in death, to whom shall we look for comfort, but Thee, O Lord.*" It is a beautiful reminder of the fragility of our human condition and of our need to trust constantly in God's good mercy.

We all know people we loved who were taken from this life unexpectedly, perhaps even tragically. We never know when the goodbye we offer a loved one might be the last. During the month of November, we do well to recall how precious and fragile our earthly life is, and we recommit ourselves to living in such a way that we will always be prepared to enter eternal life.

Until next week,

Fr. Joe



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Rev. Joseph R. Upton, Ph.D.

Administrator, Saint Alexander

Pastor, Saint Mary of the Bay



MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday at 9am

Saint Alexander

Saturday Vigil at 4pm

(Preceded by Confessions at 3pm)

Saint Mary of the Bay

Sunday at 8am, 10:30am and 6pm

Saint Mary of the Bay

Monday-Friday 8am

Saint Mary of the Bay

Holy Days as Announced



TRUSTEES & AUDITORS

Nancy Urban, Trustee

John Saviano, Trustee

Patricia Dugan, Auditor

John Flynn, Auditor

∞ MASS INTENTIONS ∞

October 30, 2022

9am: Barbara Karcz,
7th Anniversary Remembrance

November 6, 2022

9am: Dawn M. Fraga
Requested by Auntie Nancy
Walter S. Felag Sr.
Requested by the family

∞ SAINT OF THE WEEK ∞



Saint Wolfgang of Ratisbon (now Regensburg) was born around 934 in Swabia, Germany. The son of a wealthy family, he was tutored in the home before he studied at the Monastery of Reichenau and Wurtzburg. In 956 he elected to go to Trier with his friend, Henry, who was appointed archbishop there. Wolfgang served as a teacher in the cathedral school at Trier.

After his friend's death, he became a Benedictine monk joining a monastery in Augsburg. There he led the school which flourished under his hand and was ordained in 968. In 972 he was sent to be a missionary to the pagan Magyar tribes (Hungarian clans). The Christmas of 972 he was appointed Bishop of Regensburg, near Munich, by Emperor Otto II, the post he would hold until his death.

The new Bishop continued to wear his Benedictine habit and held to the austerities of monastic life. He preached and worked at reform and took such care of the poor he was called "the Great Almoner." The saint also tutored the future Holy Roman Emperor, St. Henry II.

Saint Wolfgang died in 994 while traveling Austria, in the town of Puppington near Linz. He was canonized in 1052.

∞ LIVING THE SCRIPTURES ∞

Today's Readings:

Wis 11:22—12:2/Ps 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13, 14/
2 Thes 1:11—2:2/Lk 19:1-10

From today's First Reading:

But you have mercy on all, because you can do all things; and you overlook people's sins that they may repent. For you love all things that are and loathe nothing that you have made. (Wis 11:23-24)

Consider: **Wisdom teaches us that the Lord mercifully and lovingly awaits us to stop sinning and return to Him. What behaviors in your life are holding you back from a deeper relationship with Jesus?**

From today's Second Reading:

We always pray for you...that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, in accord with the grace of our God and Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thes 1:11-12)

Consider: **Paul is concerned that the believers in the city of Thessalonica are being misled by others about the second coming of Christ. What do you think is an effective way to address any messages that belittle or disregard our beliefs?**

From today's Gospel:

"Today salvation has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost." (Lk 19:9-10)

Consider: **Jesus sees in Zacchaeus, the chief tax collector, an opportunity to teach the crowds that as the Son of Man, he has "come to seek and to save what was lost." Are you included in that description? How does that make you feel?**

