

## TIDINGS

OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS NATIONAL CATHOLIC PARISH

A Monthly Newsletter of Information and Events

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### A BRAND NEW SACRAMENT, BUT A VERY OLD DEBATE (Part I)

One of the foundational tenets of the Reformation in the 16<sup>th</sup> century was Luther's *Sola Scriptura*, "only the Scripture." Two hundred years later John Wesley, a reformer of the Reformation, would write on this topic: "In all cases, the Church is to be judged by the Scripture, not the Scripture by the Church." (*The Works of the Rev. John Wesley, Vol. XV, London, 1812, p. 180*) This orientation challenged what some call the Roman Catholic teaching of *Prima Scriptura*, "Scripture first." This latter definition allows for the primacy of Scripture, but that its reading is improved by reference to other works and Tradition.

This theological contest was and is intense, but at one time it was even dangerous. During the reign of King Henry VIII, the Reformation came to England with a vengeance. Thomas More, the Lord Chancellor, would not acquiesce to the nation's conversion from Catholic to Protestant. For this he was executed in the Tower of London on July 6, 1535. More was the principal religious antagonist of William Tyndale. This English theologian and biblical scholar was the first to translate the Bible into Early Modern English so that the masses could read it for themselves instead of only through the prism of the clergy at Mass. For this challenge to the clerical hierarchy he was executed for heresy on October 6, 1536. Two honourable men, of two opposing traditions, were executed 15 months apart because of the furor over the relationship between Church and Scripture. [If interested, read *In the Beginning: The Story of the King James Bible and How It Changed a Nation, a Language, and a Culture.*]

Our church entered into the fray over the Bible when at the Second Synod of 1909 we declared: "Hearing the Word of God preached according to the teachings of Christ the Lord and the Apostles, has sacramental force, that is, it causes in us the same effects as does the receiving of the other sacraments." Four years later, Bp. Hodur would clarify the church's position on our newly created and unique sacrament in the pamphlet *Our Way of Life*. After listing the traditional seven sacraments,

he concludes: "In addition, [our church] has added the notable sacrament of listening to the word of God ... listening to the word of God is a sacrament in every respect."

This theological invention of our Church Synod continued the tradition of dispute associated with the Church and her Scriptures. When we were in communion with the Old Catholic Churches, they questioned our sacramental innovation. When we entered into dialogue with the Roman Catholics, this unique sacrament again proved problematic. Evidence of this is found in the omission in the 1990 publication of *Journeying Together in Christ: The Report of the PNC-Roman Catholic Dialogue*. This report makes reference to Bp. Hodur's words in *Our Way of Life* in regards to the sacraments, but intentionally omits the words quoted above about our distinctive sacrament.

I am very proud to say that much has changed in our church's embrace of this sacramental creation. As a matter of fact, Bp. Anthony Mikovsky has this year authored a pamphlet entitled *The Sacrament of the Word of God*, which has been approved by the church's Doctrine Commission. It seems that the debate over the authenticity of our sacrament has turned 180° since 1990.

It may now be prudent to ask the question why this sacrament is worth all of the trouble, or more positively, why it was felt necessary to take the adventurous and historic step of creating a new sacrament. First of all, we need to realize that this is a creation of the church, not of Bp. Hodur, not of the clergy. In the report of the 1914 Synod, it is written that our synods are not limited to theological experts and dignitaries. Ours is "a gathering of clergy and lay delegates for the discussion and determination of important matters of the Church for the good of the people constituting [our church]. [*PNCC Minutes 1904-1963, p. 61-62*] Matters even of such weight as a new sacrament belonged to this body as a whole. Unparalleled responsibility in a Catholic setting was vested in the whole of the church. This required an informed body.

<To be continued ...>

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS  
MONTH OF NOVEMBER**

November 1, 2007 – **All Saints Day**. Mass of the day at 7:00pm.

November 2<sup>nd</sup> – Monthly visitations to the sick and the shut-in of the parish

**All Souls Day** Mass at 7:00pm, followed by the reading of the Memorial List.

November 3<sup>rd</sup> – Confession for the youth of the parish at 10:30am.

Remember to set your clocks **BACK** one hour before retiring for the night.

November 4<sup>th</sup> – Polish Mass will be recited at 7:45am.

Monthly meeting of the Parish United Youth Association at 10:00am.

All Souls Day Cemetery Service at 2:00pm.

November 7<sup>th</sup> – Fr. Calvo will participate in the diocesan Clergy Retreat at the Genesis Retreat Center in Westfield, MA until the 8<sup>th</sup>.

November 11<sup>th</sup> - Sunday Mass will be celebrated at the special hour of 11:00am, and special prayers will be offered in honour of Veteran's Day.

The annual **THANKSGIVING DINNER** will be served in the parish hall at noon.

November 13<sup>th</sup> – Monthly meeting of the Parish Committee at 7:00pm.

November 14<sup>th</sup> – Monthly Mass for Health at 6:30pm. (Please note special week this month).

November 18<sup>th</sup> – **WORD OF GOD SUNDAY**. Mass at the usual hour of 9:00am, including a Gospel procession.

The **Thanksgiving Ecumenical Prayer Service** will be hosted by the South Deerfield Congregational Church at 4:00pm.

November 21<sup>st</sup> – Thanksgiving Eve Mass at 6:00pm.

November 25<sup>th</sup> – Last Sunday after Pentecost. Monthly meeting of the Adoration Society at 10:00am.

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“We must teach our children to dream with their eyes open.” - Harry Edwards

**ALL SAINTS & ALL SOULS DAYS**

November begins with two consecutive holy days. On All Saints Day the church celebrates the promise of eternal life. As people of faith, as people who believe in the resurrection, we accept that physical death is not the end of a person's existence. We believe that life continues after

death. We accept that all the saints live with God in His heavenly kingdom. This promise of immortality leads us to celebrate the victory of those who have led this life in imitation of Jesus. The *saints* we speak of are not only the most famous ones who have “St.” in front of their names. The *saints* of All Saints Day are all of those good and virtuous people who have passed through heaven's gates. Death has been conquered by Christ. Therefore, All Saints Day is a celebration of all those who have followed Jesus faithfully and now live with Him forever.

All Souls Day is the opposite side of the coin. Even though we believe in the resurrection and life after death, the separation caused by physical death is real. This separation causes sorrow even in the most ardent believer. For this reason, on All Souls Day, the church offers a solemn Requiem Mass for all her departed souls.

At the conclusion of Mass the Memorial List is read. These are the submitted names of relatives and friends that our parishioners choose to pray for specifically on this day. If you would like to add names to this year's Memorial List, All Souls Day envelopes can be found in the church vestibule. These must be turned in to Fr. Calvo by October 30<sup>th</sup>.

And finally, our All Souls Day Cemetery Service will be conducted on Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm. Rain or shine we will gather on those consecrated grounds to pray for all who are there buried. These are your relatives, friends and fellow parishioners. I hope that you will choose to participate in these three liturgical gatherings when we let those who have passed on to life with Christ know that they have not been forgotten by those of us who remain behind.

**VETERAN'S DAY**

Veteran's Day falls on a Sunday this year. At the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, World War I ended. This occasion has since been recognized by our nation as Veteran's Day. On this day, we honour especially those of our veterans who are alive and with us. Memorial Day, on the other hand, concentrates on those who were killed in action and our deceased veterans. Special prayers will be offered at Mass on Veteran's Day to observe this occasion. We will acknowledge all of the veterans in attendance at Mass, as well. I hope you will be able to join us.

### **THANKSGIVING DINNER**

This year's Thanksgiving Dinner will be held at noon on November 11<sup>th</sup>, following the celebration of Mass at the special hour of 11:00am. Tickets have been mailed to our parishioners or have been picked-up after Mass. Additional tickets must be ordered by November 4th. We turn to our parishioners for monetary donations or donations in kind to help defray the cost to the parish. And we also turn to you to help us work the meal. We need volunteers to help with preparation, cooking, serving, and clean-up. If you can help in any of these ways, please speak with Fr. Calvo.

### **MONTHLY MASS FOR HEALTH**

Once a month we offer a special evening Mass for Health. Due to my attendance of the diocesan Clergy Retreat, this Mass will be offered on the second Wednesday of November rather than the usual first Wednesday. We pray for all of our parishioners who are hospitalized or in long-term care, and for any submitted intentions, as well. If you have a special intention for health that you would like our congregation to pray for, please come and join us on November 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

### **WORD OF GOD SUNDAY**

The unique sacramental creation of our church is the Word of God Heard and Preached. It was declared a sacrament in 1909 at our Second General Synod by the gathered lay and clergy delegates. The Eastern Diocese recognizes and honours the importance of this sacrament by naming the third Sunday of November Word of God Sunday. To emphasize the importance of the Bible and its exposition in the sermon, a Gospel procession carries the Word of God out into the midst of the congregation for its proclamation. More about this special sacrament of ours can be found in the newsletter article.

### **THANKSGIVING ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE**

This year's Thanksgiving Ecumenical Prayer Service will be hosted by the South Deerfield Congregational Church on Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm. The Rev. Candi Ashenden will be the homilist. A reception will follow in their church hall immediately following the Service. This is the only scheduled time all year when we gather together as Christians beyond our denominational walls. I hope you will choose to gather with your neighbours and fellow parishioners as we offer God our thanks for His many extraordinary and ordinary blessings upon us and our nation.

### **THANKSGIVING EVE MASS**

A Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated on Thanksgiving Eve at 6:00pm. I hope that by having the Mass at this hour that there will still be plenty of time for the next day's holiday preparations, but that there will also be a little time given to God so that we can offer our thanks for His continuous gifts. We have little difficulty turning to God in times of need and request, but how many of us will find the time to turn to Him to say nothing more than "Thank you"?

### **LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

November 25<sup>th</sup> is the last Sunday of the liturgical year. The following Sunday marks the beginning of Advent and a brand new liturgical cycle. This final Sunday is referred to as the *Last Sunday after Pentecost*. In other churches and even parishes within our denomination it is called *Christ the King Sunday*. However, this particular name comes only from 1925. It was instituted to reinforce the monarchical structure of church authority as opposed to secular and democratic alternatives. Since our form of church government incorporates one of those alternatives, it does not make sense to me to change the nomenclature from the more traditional *Last Sunday after Pentecost*.

### **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND**

Renovations and improvements are a constant responsibility. Your donations to the C.I.F. help us to keep-up with these responsibilities: Thank you. We also wish to acknowledge the following recent contributions: sisters of the Echo Choir, \$50, in memory of long-time member Nellie Hutkoski; James & Rosalind Sledge, \$200, in memory of Steve & Rose Boron; and Don & Ellen Skroski, \$25, in memory of John Mietlicki.

### **ST. JUDE'S HOSPITAL**

The parish is a *Partner in Hope* with St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. We are receiving monthly stories and photos of the children we are helping. These materials have been placed on a special bulletin board in the parish hall for everyone to read. If you would like to make a contribution to this campaign, a collection-jug is located in the church vestibule. Any donation is appreciated from change on up. If you would like to make your donation by check, please make it payable to the parish with a clear note indicating the St. Jude's collection. Thank you.

**If someone you know needs a hospital visit, please notify the rectory.**