

Insights
In Liturgy

By Reverend
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November Footnotes

November = final month of the Church calendar
= celebration of the consummation of the Kingdom

Kingdom celebrations:
All Saints = the kingdom in glory
All Souls = the kingdom in Purgatory

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, Nov. 9:
= the kingdom on earth

In the new Liturgy, there is no longer an Octave for the Feast of All Saints.
In the old Liturgy, the Octave was celebrated each day from Nov. 1 to 8.
At its close came the Feast of the Dedication.
But now, without the Octave, there is a discontinuity between All Saints-All Souls celebrations and the Dedication. But the continuity of meaning is still there.

The Dedication of a church is also called its "birthday." Each year, in the liturgy, there are three church "birthdays" to be celebrated:
the birthday of the diocesan cathedral: ours is Oct. 25.
the birthday of the parish church (whenever)
the birthday of the cathedral of Rome, which is the Lateran Basilica: November 9.

In the mind of Scripture and the Church, the "house of God" is more than a physical shelter. It is a parable, a symbol, a

kind of sacrament of that "living" church, which is the body of the faithful. Cf. the 2nd Reading: Ephesians 2:19-22. Also 1st Corinthians 3:9-13, 16-17.

- There is also the imagery of the Church as the New Jerusalem, as found in Revelation, especially ch. 21:1-5. This roots us in the Old Testament longing of the pilgrims for Jerusalem on their annual pilgrimage. Cf. the Psalms of Ascent, 14 of them, from Psalm 120 to Psalm 134, which were sung by the pilgrims as they journeyed. How thrilled they were when they mounted the last hilltop and could see the beautiful city and Temple gleaming in the distance! A picture of what should be our longing for the New Jerusalem as we move forward on our pilgrimage. Cf. also 1st Peter 2:4-9 and Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24.
- The Zaccheus meeting with Christ in Luke 19:1-10 furnishes a Gospel reading for the Mass of the Dedication of a church. It offers rich matter for the homily.
 - Zaccheus wanted to see Christ, but he was small of stature, so he climbed a tree. We are "small of stature," and wanting to "see Jesus" we "climb" out parish church, where we hope to get a better view of Him.
 - Zaccheus is delighted at Jesus' offer to come to his house, which becomes thereby a kind of "church" where Jesus banquets with publicans and sinners, who are like the *hoi polloi* of the parish church, saints and sinners, around the table with Jesus.
 - In this contact with Christ, Zaccheus turns a right-about face in his life. It seems a total conversion: "I give half my belongings to the poor. If I have defrauded anyone in the least, I pay him back fourfold."
 - Jesus announces: "Today salvation has come to this house." Not just in the past for Zaccheus, but today for us who are "eager to see Jesus" and welcome Him to our house.
- If you chose the short gospel in the Missalette from the Sermon on the Mount, there is heavy stress on the point that we must be Church before we come to church. What use is the beautiful structure if those in it are divided and unreconciled? The sign is splendid and adorned, but those it signifies are not, without reconciliation.
- Quote from a Sermon of St. Caesarius of Arles (470-542 A.D.):

"If, then, we want to celebrate the birthday of a church, with real joy, we must avoid destroying by sin the living temples of God which we ourselves are. To put it in simpler terms: Every time we come to church, we ought to make our souls be what we want the Church itself to be. Do you want a clean Church? Do not soil your soul with evil-doing. Do you want a light-filled Church? God grant your soul not to be a dark place but alight with good works. As you seek to enter a church building, so God seeks to enter your soul: 'I will dwell in them and walk about in them.'" (This is from the 2nd Lesson of the Office of this Feast.)

- Jesus called himself a temple. "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will rebuild it."
- Each of us is not only "a stone in the edifice of the Church," but also a "mini-church" in ourselves. As Jesus lives in the Church, so He lives in us. Our minds and hearts are the altar of sacrifice, and the instrument of prayer and praise.
- The Scripture Readings of the Church's Prayer during November are from the end-days of the Old Testament:
 - The two Books of the Machabees
 - The Prophet Daniel
 - The Prophet Joel
 - The Prophet Zechariah
 and then, during the last week of the Church Year, from the two latest books of the New Testament:
 - The Second Letter of Peter
 - The Letter of Jude
- The Great Apostasy and Persecution in Israel during the time of the Machabees, in the 2nd century B.C., are the pre-Christian paradigm of the afflictions of the Church in the end-time of the New Testament, as foretold by the Lord Jesus (Matt. 24, Mark 13, Luke 21).
- All these Scripture readings and reflections of the Church are mirrored in the season's decline toward winter:
 - the shortening of the daylight time
 - the graying of the skies
 - the ingathering of the harvest
 - the dying of the leaves and flowers

At Your Parish...

St. Margaret Mary

St. Margaret Mary Home School Association will sponsor "It's Almost Christmas" Boutique and Antique Show, Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Among the items offered will be ceramics, handcrafted jewelry, stitched and hand-made items including doll clothes, pillows, toys, woodcrafts, macrame, antiques and collectibles, and African violets. There will be a separate Children's Room where children may buy gifts at prices scaled to their budgets. The show will be held in the school auditorium and cafeteria at 401 Rogers Pkwy. Refreshments will be available.

Good Shepherd, Henrietta

The annual Family Fowl Festival is set for Friday, Nov. 21 at Good Shepherd parish, Henrietta. The festivities begin at 7 p.m. and a free turkey sandwich will be served to those who attend.

Blessed Sacrament

The lecture series at Blessed Sacrament continues with a presentation tonight by Father Sebastian Falcone on "Back to Basics in Scripture." The talk will begin at 7:30 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament, on the corner of Oxford Street and Monroe Avenue.

Corpus Christi

Corpus Christi parish will present its annual Holiday Bazaar this year on Saturday, Nov. 22 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Sunday, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Featured in the sale will be handicrafts, plants, Christmas decorations, and religious items. There are activities planned for the children. All proceeds will go to the Corpus Christi Center.

Holy Rosary

The annual "Santa Mouse" Bazaar will take place this year on Saturday, Nov. 29, and Sunday, Nov. 30 in the Holy Rosary School Hall. Ceramics, candles and Christmas decorations will be available. Refreshments will also be served.

St. Philip Neri

The next scheduled meeting of the St. Philip Neri Women's Club is set for Tuesday, Nov. 25 beginning with Benediction in church at 7:45 p.m. The topic for the evening will be nutrition.

St. George

The annual parish bazaar at St. George parish will take place on Sunday, Nov. 23 from 12 to 5 p.m. in the school hall, 545 Hudson Ave. A Lithuanian Dinner will be served this year.

St. Jude

St. Jude's, 41 Lyell Rd., in Gates, will hold its Turkey Festival on Sunday, Nov. 23, from 1 to 6 p.m. in the Church Hall. Food and beverages will be available.



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