



CATHEDRAL of the EPIPHANY

1000 Douglas St., Sioux City, IA 51105

November 2022

TODAY FOR ME, TOMORROW FOR YOU

Very Rev. J. David Esquiliano, JCL, JV

Hodie Mihi Cras Tibi. These are words that you may find outside of a small number of churches. One of them is the Church of the Purgatory in Terracina, just south of Rome, Italy. The decor in this church, mainly skulls, is a constant reminder that death is unavoidable, and we have to be prepared, not only for death itself, but for what comes afterwards. The words with which I started this paragraph mean, "Today for me, tomorrow for you." Imagine seeing those words next to skulls and bones!

We Catholics believe that death is not the end. As Saint Paul tells the Romans, not even death can separate us from the love of God (Rom. 8:38-39). We also believe that not everyone is ready to go straight to heaven when we die. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, "All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven." (CCC 1030) This teaching is often contested by Protestants, but we find it even in the Old Testament. In the 2nd Book of Maccabees, we are told about the need to offer expiatory sacrifices for the dead so that they can be absolved for their sins (2 Macc. 12:38-46).

Every year we receive a similar reminder of our mortality, as well as what comes afterwards. The first days of November are what has been called Hallowtide or Allhallowtide. You may have already seen the connection with the word Halloween, which is an abbreviation of the word All Hallow's Eve, or the Eve of All Saints. On November 1 we are asked to pray for the intercession of all the saints in heaven, rejoicing that they are all in God's presence. The following day,

November 2, we commemorate All Souls Day. On this day we are encouraged to pray for the faithful departed that are still going through the process of purification, or in other words, those who are in purgatory.

Last year I wrote about the sad phenomenon of people not celebrating funerals anymore, but celebrations of life. A natural

progression is that many people do not want to even do that. Think about it: if the purpose of getting together in a church after someone dies is just to celebrate them, couldn't we just do that at someone's home or at a bar? But again, the purpose of the funeral is to pray for the deceased, and what a better setting than the highest form of prayer, which is the Mass.

In the last few months, we have encountered more and more children of faithful Catholics, daily Mass goers, who refuse to have a funeral for their parents. Please, let your children know that you want a funeral Mass when you die, write it in your will; prearrange your funeral. Make sure people will pray for you after you die.

Something else we should be doing is praying for those in purgatory. Someday, when they are in God's presence in heaven, we will need their intercession. Remember their message: "Today for me, tomorrow for you."



*Help us decorate our churches
this Christmas season!*

Use the enclosed form, or go to
www.sccathedral.org/poinsettias

Prices range from \$20 to \$55

Deadline is December 6

WHY DO WE NEED TO PRAY FOR THE DEAD?

Very Rev. Andrew Galles, VF



It is quite interesting to observe the general trends in our culture regarding death, and I've often said that we live in a time that outright denies the effects of original sin and the reality of death. We obsess about looking and feeling youthful. Funerals are called "celebrations of life." Many presume that someone who has died is already in heaven. Although these ideas may make us feel better, they do nothing to serve those who are deceased.

Whether or not someone is in heaven is not our judgment to presume or make. We can always have well-founded hope about the final destination of someone's soul, but we do not canonize anyone on our own. We have one duty: to pray for the dead.

The catechism speaks of this plainly: "Because it is a holy and a wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins' she [the Church] offers her suffrages for them.' Our prayer for them is capable not only of helping them, but also of making their intercession for us effective" (CCC 958). When we presume that souls are in heaven, we no longer see the need to pray for them, and when we no longer pray for them, we forget those poor souls who rely upon our prayer and intercession to be purified and eventually be welcomed into heaven. We are all members of the Mystical Body of Christ, whether dead, alive, or glorified in sainthood. This is also traditionally called the Church Suffering (the dead in purgatory), the Church Militant (the living who carry their cross on this earth), and the Church Triumphant (the saints in heaven as defined by the Church). We all rely upon one another's prayers and sacrifices, the dead rely upon ours because they cannot

pray for themselves. If we fail to pray for the dead, we are ignoring a large portion of our Christian brothers and sisters. Just because a person has died does not mean that they are no longer part of the living Church.

If we look further into the Church's liturgical texts, whether in the *Roman Missal* or the Mass of Christian Burial itself, the theme of praying for the dead is central. None of the prayers ever presume that the deceased is already enjoying the beatific vision of God. Instead, the prayers do what only makes logical sense: praying that the dead may be cleansed and purified of their sins and attachments so that they are prepared to enter and receive the glories of heaven. The Prayer over the Offerings for one of the Masses of Christian Burial illustrates this: "*Be near, O Lord, we pray, to your servant N., on whose funeral day we offer you this sacrifice of conciliation, so that, should any stain of sin have clung to him (her) or any human fault have affected him (her), it may, by your loving gift, be forgiven and wiped away. Through Christ our Lord.*"

Aside from the Mass of Christian Burial, every single Mass prays for the dead in what is called the *Memento of the Dead* during the Eucharistic Prayer. In Eucharistic Prayer I, it reads: "*Remember also, Lord, your servants N. and N., who have gone before us with the sign of faith and rest in the sleep of peace.*" Eucharistic Prayer III reads: "*To our departed brothers and sisters and to all who were pleasing to you at their passing from this life, give kind admittance to your kingdom.*"

If we truly want to do a charitable work for our fellow Christians who have walked through that door of death, let us not forget them in prayer. Instead of consoling ourselves with the presumption that they are already in heaven, console the deceased with our fervent prayers for their purification and admittance into the heavenly kingdom. We will need the same kindness returned to us one day.

PRAYING FOR OTHERS: INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Mrs. Santa Fernandez

As Catholic families we must educate and inculcate our children to pray for everyone who is in any need so that they are freed from any danger and also for those who have already died so that they are rescued from purgatory and taken to heaven. Let us teach the children to believe that the church here on earth can ask the saints in heaven in prayer of intercession so that God, who is he, does the work through the saints through his mediation, so that we may be heard.

St. John Damascene said that "Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God." God calls each person to encounter him in prayer, and prayer is a response of faith and love toward God. The ability to pray is a gift from God, and we can only receive the grace to pray when we practice the **virtue of humility**. Through prayer, we speak to God from our innermost being, our heart, and enter communion with him.

Catholic prayer is different from the traditional prayers of other world religions. The reason for this is that Catholics believe in a God who is personal. As Catholics we form an authentic relationship

with the three persons in the Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Intercessory prayer is a prayer of petition on behalf of other people, who are in trouble, illness or even for those who have already departed from this world. Examples of intercessory prayers are found throughout the entire Bible, culminating in Jesus' interceding for all mankind. Intercessory prayer was an important aspect of the early Christian Church.

"I ask that supplications, prayers, petitions, and thanksgivings be offered for everyone...This is good and pleasing to God our savior" (1 Timothy 2:1, 3). "Being more closely united to Christ, those who dwell in heaven fix the whole Church more firmly in holiness.... They do not cease to intercede with the Father for us, as they proffer the merits which they acquired on earth through the one mediator between God and men, Christ Jesus.... So by their fraternal concern is our weakness greatly helped'" (CCC 956).



PARISH UPDATES

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

- St. Joseph's Education Fund, November 5-6.
- Building Maintenance Fund, November 12-13.
- Together As One [Spanish Only], November 19-20.

CHANGES TO THE SCHEDULE

- Tuesday, November 8. No confessions nor evening Mass in Spanish.
- Thursday, November 10. No Masses nor confessions.
- Friday, November 11. Only Mass at 9 am. No confessions. Office closed.
- Wednesday, November 23. Office closes at 1. Will remain closed for the rest of the week.
- Thursday, November 24. Only Mass at 9 am. No confessions. Office closed.
- Friday, November 25. Only Mass at 9 am. No confessions. Office closed.

FAMILY OF FAITH (RELIGIOUS EDUCATION)

- Wednesday, November 2. 6:15 pm at Cathedral - Family Night (parents and students).
- Wednesday, November 9. 6:15 pm - Sacramental Prep Night for 1st Communion and Confirmation students. (students only).

PARISH BREAKFAST

Our parish breakfast organized by the Knights of Columbus will take place on November 6, from 9 am to 12 pm at the Cathedral Hall.

BUSY PERSONS LUNCH

Join us for lunch on Wednesday, November 2, after the noon Mass. No cost, just a free-will offering.

LADIES LUNCH

Thursday, November 17, at 1pm at Mr. Stir Fry.

CATHEDRAL SACRED MUSIC SERIES

Join us for a woodwind ensemble recital on Sunday, November 13 at 3 pm at the Cathedral. Free admission and open to the public.

SAVE THE DATE! ADVENT PRAYER OPPORTUNITY

The Cathedral will be hosting an Advent Lessons and Carols Service on Sunday, December 4 at 3 pm. This is a service consisting of short scripture verses and corresponding hymns or carols that tell of the prophecy of Christ's birth. Please join us for this excellent opportunity to focus on Advent and prepare for Christmas.

THE FINANCIAL CORNER

| INCOME | | September |
|----------------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Weekly Offerings | \$ | 50,778.08 |
| Loose Offerings | \$ | 17,225.97 |
| Prog. Support | \$ | 11,678.00 |
| Other income | \$ | 12,896.28 |
| Total Parish Income | \$ | 92,578.33 |
| EXPENSE | | |
| Salaries & Wages | \$ | 39,528.55 |
| Administrative Expenses | \$ | 13,489.91 |
| Ministry Expenses | \$ | 9,475.00 |
| Utility Bills & Repairs | \$ | 42,183.02 |
| Assessments | \$ | 7,832.00 |
| Other Expenses | \$ | 1,184.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$ | 113,692.48 |
| NET LOSS | \$ | -21,114.15 |

KNIGHTS CORNER



CAN DRIVE – Contact us for pick-up or drop off of used can/bottle donations during Nov, Dec, Jan. Redemption proceeds go to Camp High Hopes, Food Bank of Siouxland (Soup Kitchen and Mary's Choice).

40 DAYS FOR LIFE – The campaign end Nov. 6th. Please visit the website to select your prayer time

www.40daysforlife.com

REGIONAL KOFC MEETING – All Knights welcome to the meetings on Saturday Nov. 5th at 9:30 am in Ida Grove and at 2 pm in Sheldon, IA.

DOWNTOWN CHRISTMAS PARADE – Theme "Putting Christ into Christmas". Contact us if you want to participate or help as a Catholic.

PARISH BREAKFAST – Sunday November 6th at 9-12 noon in the Cathedral Hall.

MONTHLY MEETING – Next meeting is 2nd Thursday November 10th at 7 pm in the Cathedral Hall. We have a rosary at 6:15 pm followed by potluck dinner.

TOOTSIE ROLL DRIVES – Money raised this year will go to Mid-Step Services. <https://www.midstepservices.com/>

STATE KOFC OFFICERS WEEKLY OPEN DESK – All Knights are encouraged to interact with state officers at the weekly Open desk. Wednesdays at 8 PM in English; Thursdays at 6:57 pm in Spanish. Register for the meeting link <https://www.iowakofc.org/calendar>

CONTACT - Check out our Facebook page for activities and updates "Knights of Columbus Council 743 USA". Email: KofC743USA@gmail.com. Phone: English - Noel 806-316-7628/ Brent 712-490-0410, Spanish - Osbaldo 712-501-0835.



CATHEDRAL OF THE EPIPHANY

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Sioux City, Iowa 51105

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CATHEDRAL of the EPIPHANY

Very Rev. J. David Esquiliano, JCL, JV, Rector

Very Rev. Andrew Galles, VF, Parochial Vicar

Rev. Jeremy Wind, Parochial Vicar

Rev. Travis Crotty, In Residence

Website **www.sccathedral.org**

Email **info@sccathedral.org**

Telephone **712-255-1637**

MASS SCHEDULE

MON.-SAT.: 12 pm Cathedral *English*

MON.-FRI.: 5:30 pm Cathedral *Spanish*

SATURDAY: 4 pm St. Boniface *English*
6 pm Cathedral *Spanish*

SUNDAY: 8:30 am Cathedral *Spanish*
8:30 am St. Joseph *English*
10 am Cathedral *English*
10:30 am St. Boniface *Spanish*
12 pm Cathedral *Spanish*
12:30 pm St. Joseph *Vietnamese*

HOLIDAYS: 9 am Cathedral *Bilingual*

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

ANTICIPATED / VIGIL:

5:30 pm St. Boniface *English*

5:30 pm Cathedral *Spanish*

THE DAY OF THE SOLEMNITY:

7:30 am St. Joseph *English*

9 am Cathedral *Spanish (School)*

11 am St. Joseph *Vietnamese*

12 pm Cathedral *English*

5:30 pm Cathedral *Spanish*

7 pm Cathedral *Spanish*

SUNG VESPERS

SUNDAY: 4:00 pm Cathedral *English*

CONFESSIONS

SUNDAY: 8 - 8:20 am Cathedral
8 - 8:20 am St. Joseph
8 - 8:20 am St. Boniface

MON.-FRI.: 4:30 - 5:15 pm Cathedral

FRIDAY: 11:30 - 11:50 am Cathedral

SATURDAY: 3 - 3:45 pm St. Boniface
5 - 5:45 pm Cathedral

PERPETUAL ADORATION

Adoration Chapel - Epiphany Center

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY: 10 am - 1 pm

TUESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY: 10 am - 2 pm