

Dear Friends,

This is the end. This is the last Sunday of the liturgical year, and next Sunday begins Advent. We end the year with the Solemnity of Christ the King, because for us the end is not the coming of a disaster, but the coming of the true king of the world and the beginning of His rule. Predicting the end of the world has always been a big business, but Scripture focusses not on when the end is coming but on the judgment that follows. That is because the important thing for us to know is not when the end is coming, but that there will be a judgment that will follow the end.

Our focus should also be on being prepared for the judgment not for the end. Preparing for the judgment does not require that we know when that judgment will come. Today's gospel especially makes clear how we can do this. The things mentioned in today's gospel can be done at any time. If we are doing God's will we don't need to know when the end is coming. Then what we are doing the day before the end or a hundred years before the end will be the same.

We should be preparing for our encounter with God, not the end of the world. The end comes and is over. Our encounter with God is meant to last forever. The encounter with God reaches its fullness in heaven, but it is meant to begin even now. If we start seeking to be with God now, the end becomes the entrance into the fullness of what we have already started. The end is not something avoided or feared, but a transition to look forward to. Today is therefore not a horror story, but a celebration.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr. Peter Giovanoni

Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner--Thursday, December 7th at 5:30pm sponsored by the Ladies of Charity. Help is needed on Wednesday, Dec. 6nd at 10:00am and 5:30pm and on Thursday, Dec. 7rd at 9:00am.

St. Michael's Ladies of Charity invite you to join them at their annual Ladies' Day of Prayer on Monday, November 27th at Immaculate Heart of Mary. The day begins at 9:15am with coffee and donuts. Bring a brown bag lunch, drinks and desserts provided. Mass celebrated at noon, Rosary prayed and confessions available. Adjoin at 2:30pm.

--**Quilt Raffle** will benefit St. Michael's Ladies of Charity-Senior Christmas Party. Drawing will be on December 7th at the dinner. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5.00. Contact Caroline Wood 301-872-8482.



Weekend Ministries
December 2nd & 3rd

Saturday--5:00pm

Lector: L. Muir

EMs: L. Muir

Altar Servers: G. Muir, M. Muir, Z. Peterson

Sunday--8:15am

Lector: G. Prior

EMs: J. Dominic, J. Kayser, D. Kayser

Altar Servers: I. Prior, M. Wise, M. Wood

Sunday--10:30am

Lector: H. Miller

Reader: C. Miller

EMs: J. Smith, C. Smith, H. Miller

Altar Servers: C. Greenwell, J. Greenwell, A. Seskar

Sunday--6:00pm

Lector: A. Bishop

EMs: A. Bishop

Pray for the Sick



Ted Abell
Grace Angela
Vivian Barnes
Pam Bohmann
Karen Byrne
Jack Cullison
Erica Dingle
Fritz Feltman
Pam Hayden
Jason Hoyer
Jane Kenyon
Addie McBride
Diane Miller
Gerry Mueller
Kay Owens
Lin Perry
Peggy Raley
Janet Sanders
Nicole Shreve
Wise Tennyson
Susanna Wolf
Elizabeth Woodburn

Joyce Ack
Emma Aparicio
Timothy Binder
Robert Bradburn
Lisa Carpenter
Catherine Dean
Jane Dougherty
Jack Greenwell
Mary Agnes Hill
Cameron Kalen
Paul Mackie
Ann McDonough
William Morris
Fr. O'Connell
Robert Lee Owens
Lawrence Potter
Patty Raley
Gabriel Santos
Gertrude Sullivan
Hilda Trossbach
Janice Wood

Mass Intentions

November 27th- December 3rd

Monday	9:00am	All Souls in Purgatory
Tuesday	9:00am	Special Intentions
Wednesday	9:00am	Chuck Yanchulis
Thursday	9:00am	Harold Clark
Friday	9:00am	St. Michael's School
Saturday	5:00pm	Joe Taylor
Sunday	8:15am	Edna Long
Sunday	10:30am	St. Michael's Parishioners
Sunday	6:00pm	All Souls in Purgatory

Catechetical Corner

Prayers of thanksgiving are one of the many forms of prayer. (CCC 2637-2638) As we give thanks this weekend we should remember to thank God always. We are reminded this weekend to thank God for all the things of this world, all the people God puts in our lives, and also to thank God for the next life, eternal life.

I also want to thank all of you for what you do for me, the parish, and the school. It is the people that keep a parish alive, especially when we are filled with the Holy Spirit and live that out in how we help one another.

Southern Maryland Mass and Penance

Service will be on Monday, December 18th at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church. Confessions will be offered beginning at 6:00pm and the Mass will begin at 7:00pm, followed by adoration and healing prayers. All are welcome!

Vivian Mestey Healing Ministry--December 8th from 4:00pm-6:30pm, Image Veneration, Prayers and Testimony; 7:00pm Mass of the Immaculate Conception; 8:00pm-9:00pm Testimony and Veneration at St. John Francis Regis Catholic Church in Hollywood. For more information please call 301-373-2281.

BEAR HUGS FOR HEALING is a program that delivers stuffed bears to hospitalized children during the holidays. To give a sick child a bear hug this Christmas, please drop off your donated bears by **December 12th** at Heavenly Presents, Leonardtown. Store hours are Tuesday through Saturday, or use the after hours drop box outside the store front door. Your tax-deductible monetary donations will be used to purchase bears at a discounted price! Please make checks payable to the Bread of Life Center for Peace and mail them to: PO Box 338, Leonardtown, MD 20650. You may also purchase a bear or make donations through our website at www.breadoflifecenterforpeace.org — click on Bear Hugs Project. Due to health and safety concerns, donated bears must be newly purchased and delivered in their original packing with store tags attached. Bear Hugs was an inspiration received in thanksgiving for favors granted through the intercession of Our Lady of Fatima and St. Jude. Please contact Patricia Disandro at 240-681-3606 for more details about how you can participate in this special outreach. Thank you for your continued generous support of Bear Hugs!

Benefit Dance for Karen Dean Byrne--Friday, December 8th from 6:30pm-Midnight at the Ridge Volunteer Fire Department. This benefit dance is to support Karen and her family with all that they are experiencing. The goal is to alleviate their financial burden so that they can focus on her quality of life and their time together. The cost is \$20 per person, \$40 a family, BYOB (setups available). Silent auction, 50/50 raffle and door prizes. GoFundMe.com for Karen Dean Byrne Medical Fund. Thank you for your support!



St. Michael's School News



School Confessions heard on Thursday, Dec. 14th beginning at 10:00am. Anyone wishing to have their confession heard are welcome after the school has finished.

Angel Tree – There are families in our community who need assistance in providing a Merry Christmas for their children. This year, we will have an angel tree with gift tags available at all masses from now through Sunday, December 17th. Each tag lists the child's gender, age and sizes along with one or two items they have asked for Christmas. Please return the angel tag you have chosen attached to your wrapped gift so it makes it to the correct child. Please do not send cash, or gift cards. All gifts can be returned to church and placed under the tree, or they can be dropped during school hours at school.

Cash Calendars are available in the back of the Church. Each \$10 entry into the raffle gets 31 chances to win. Please fill out the top of the calendar and return it to the school or drop in collection basket with payment. The bottom portion may be sent as a Christmas gift/greeting or kept as you wish.

January						
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Angel Wings and Things Thrift Store-

The store is open from 9:00am-4:00pm on Saturdays and from 10:00am to 1:00pm on Sundays. Items can be dropped off on Saturdays between 10:00am-2:00pm.



Queen of Hearts--Every Friday night at the American Legion in Ridge. Tickets will be on sale from 4:00pm-7:00pm and food will be available starting at 5:00pm. Drawing at 7:00pm. Come out and support St. Michael's School for a fun night of chance!

Mark Your Calendars:

Nov. 27--Classes Resume