

Dear Family,

As you know, November 2 is All Souls Day. November is the month where we especially remember to pray for the dead. Please read the following to understand a few concepts about the dogma of Purgatory. You will be able to spread the truth which sets us free.

*Pax et bonum*, Fr. Michael

**Catholic Dogma Regarding Purgatory:** The souls of the just which, in the moment of death, are burdened with venial sins or temporal punishment due to sins, enter Purgatory.

### **Some Bible References that Support the Dogma of Purgatory**

+ **2 Maccabees 12:42-46:** Turning to supplication, they prayed that the sinful deed might be fully blotted out. The noble Judas warned the soldiers to keep themselves free from sin, for they had seen with their own eyes what had happened because of the sin of those who had fallen. He then took up a collection among all his soldiers, amounting to two thousand silver drachmas, which he sent to Jerusalem to provide for an expiatory sacrifice. In doing this he acted in a very excellent and noble way, inasmuch as he had the resurrection of the dead in view; for if he were not expecting the fallen to rise again, it would have been useless and foolish to pray for them in death. But if he did this with a view to the splendid reward that awaits those who had gone to rest in godliness, it was a holy and pious thought. Thus he made atonement for the dead that they might be freed from this sin.

+ **Matthew 12:32:** And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come. [Comment on this passage from St. Gregory the Great, Pope, Doctor of the Church (540-604 A.D.): “From this sentence we understand that certain offenses can be forgiven in this age, but certain others in the age to come.”]

+ **1 Corinthians 3:12-15:** If anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, the work of each will come to light, for the Day will disclose it. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire (itself) will test the quality of each one’s work. If the work stands that someone built upon the foundation, that person will receive a wage. But if someone’s work is burned up, that one will suffer loss; the person will be saved, but only as through fire.

+ **Revelation 21:27** (paraphrase): Nothing unclean will enter heaven.

### **Some Statements from Sacred Tradition and the Magisterium**

***Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), paragraph 1030.*** 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 1031.** The Church gives the name Purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned. The Church formulated her doctrine of faith on Purgatory especially at the Councils of Florence and Trent. The tradition of the Church, by reference to certain texts of Scripture, speaks of a cleansing fire.

**CCC 1032.** The Church also commends almsgiving, indulgences, and works of penance undertaken on behalf of the dead.

**St John Chrysostom**, Bishop, Doctor of the Church (347-407 A.D.): “Let us help and commemorate them. If Job’s sons were purified by their father’s sacrifice, why would we doubt that our offerings for the dead bring them some consolation? Let us not hesitate to help those who have died and to offer our prayers for them” (See Job 1:5).

**St. Augustine**, Bishop, Doctor of the Church (354-430 A.D.): “Some suffer temporal punishments only in this life, others only after death, still others both in life and after death, but always before this most strict and final court.”

### **Common Sense and Purgatory**

The first reason backing up the dogma of Purgatory and praying for the dead is simple common sense. We all know there is no selfishness in heaven. It simply can’t exist there, because God is pure love, pure unselfishness. But we also know that not all of us, not even all good Christians, die completely freed of selfishness and selfish tendencies. Therefore, those who die with some selfish habits and self-centered attitudes, still clinging to their Christian soul, need to be cleaned up a bit before they enter heaven. This cleaning up process is known as purgatory. The word actually comes from Latin root “purgatio” [puhr- GAHT-see-oh], which means cleansing or purifying.

This purification can also take place here on earth. One of the reasons God permits suffering is precisely to give us an opportunity to accept and endure it with love, as Christ did on the cross. When we do that, suffering becomes a medicine that lessens our selfishness and helps us grow in every Christ-like virtue: patience, humility, fortitude, and wisdom. But when we keep our friendship with Christ alive in this life without really giving it top priority, we allow sinful and selfish habits to grow in our souls like weeds in a garden. In that case, after we die, God has to pull out the weeds and clean out the garden before we can fully enjoy the divine presence in heaven—that’s the painful process of Purgatory.

In sum, common sense tells us that most of us will need some spiritual cleaning up after we die and before we enter heaven. Pray for the dead to get to heaven.

## A Quick Summary of Purgatory from the *Diary of St. Faustina, Paragraph 20*

I saw my Guardian Angel, who ordered me to follow him. In a moment I was in a misty place full of fire in which there was a great crowd of suffering souls. They were praying fervently, but to no avail, for themselves. Only we can come to their aid. The flames which were burning them did not touch me at all. My Guardian Angel did not leave me for an instant. I asked these souls what their greatest suffering was. They answered me in one voice that their greatest torment was longing for God. I saw Our Lady visiting souls in Purgatory. The souls call her “The Star of the Sea” [*Stella Maris*]. She brings them refreshment. I wanted to talk with them some more, but my Guardian Angel beckoned me to leave. We went out of that prison of suffering. [I heard an interior voice] which said, **My mercy does not want this, but justice demands it.** Since that time, I am in closer communion with suffering souls.

## Comments about Gospel Vigilance

We are now standing in the face of the greatest historical confrontation humanity has ever experienced. I do not think the wide circle of the American Society, or the wide circle of the Christian Community, realize this fully. We are now facing the final confrontation between the Church and the anti-church, between the Gospel and the anti-gospel, between Christ and the antichrist. This confrontation lies within the plans of Divine Providence. It is, therefore, in God’s Plan, and it must be a trial which the Church must take up, and face courageously....

We must prepare ourselves to suffer great trials before long, such as will demand of us a disposition to give up even life, and a total dedication to Christ and for Christ. With your and my prayers, it is possible to mitigate the coming tribulation, but it is no longer possible to avert it, because only thus can the Church be effectually renewed. How many times has the renewal of the Church sprung from the shedding of blood? This time, too, it will not be otherwise. We must be strong and prepared and trust in Christ and in his Holy Mother and be very, very assiduous in praying the holy Rosary.

-Saint John Paul II

## A Writing from St. Anthony Mary Claret

Quick Biography: He was born at Sallent in Catalonia in 1807. After becoming a priest, he spent several years preaching to the people throughout Catalonia and also in the Canary Islands. Returning to Spain, he established a missionary order, and founded a great religious library and publishing house in Barcelona which published millions of cheap copies of ancient and modern Catholic works. In 1851 the Pope appointed

him Bishop of Santiago de Cuba. The diocese was in a terrible state and everything needed reform and renewal. He reorganized the seminary, enforced clerical discipline, and regularized thousands of marriages. He built a hospital and many schools. This was not done without opposition and he was the subject of fifteen assassination attempts.

Queen Isabella II called him to Spain in 1857 to be her personal confessor. He died in 1870.

## *The Love of Christ Drives Us On*

Driven by the fire of the Holy Spirit, the holy apostles travelled throughout the earth. Inflamed with the same fire, apostolic missionaries have reached, are now reaching and will continue to reach the ends of the earth, from one pole to the other, in order to proclaim the word of God. They are deservedly able to apply to themselves those words of the apostle Paul: *The love of Christ drives us on.*

The love of Christ arouses us, urges us to run, and to fly, lifted on the wings of holy zeal. The man who truly loves God also loves his neighbor. The truly zealous man is also one who loves, but he stands on a higher plane of love so that the more he is inflamed by love, the more urgently zeal drives him on. But if anyone lacks this zeal, then it is evident that love and charity have been extinguished in his heart. The zealous man desires and achieves all great things and he labors strenuously so that God may always be better known, loved and served in this world and in the life to come, for this holy love is without end.

Because he is concerned also for his neighbor, the man of zeal works to fulfill his desire that all men be content on this earth and happy and blessed in their heavenly homeland, that all may be saved, and that no one may perish forever, or offend God, or remain even for a moment in sin. Such are the concerns we observe in the holy apostles and in all who are driven by the apostolic spirit.

For myself, I say this to you: The man who burns with the fire of divine love is a son of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and wherever he goes, he enkindles that flame; he desires and works with all his strength to inflame all men with the fire of God’s love. Nothing deters him: he rejoices in poverty; he labors strenuously; he welcomes hardships; he laughs off false accusations; he rejoices in anguish. He thinks only of how he might follow Jesus Christ and imitate him by his prayers, his labors, his sufferings, and by caring always and only for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

## Novena for the Holy Souls in Purgatory

Available at the exits. Begins November 2. “A praying Church is a healthy Church.”

## Mass Schedule for All Saints: Holy Day of Obligation

-Wednesday, October 31

**St. Ignatius, 5:30 p.m.** [Mark/Debbie Goulette]

-Thursday, November 1

**St. Bernard, 8:30 a.m.** [James/Linda Mahon]

**St. Anne, 5 p.m.** [+Sue Jeffery]

**Our Lady, 6:45 p.m.** [Fr. Michael Barry]

**St. Peter, 6:30 p.m.** [John/Julie Kleinhenz]

## Prayer in the Square, Saturday, November 3

Meet at St. Anne in Grand Lake at 10 a.m. Let us join together and pray for our community and our nation for an hour.

## Pint with a Priest; Tuesday, November 6 at 6 p.m.

Join Fr. Peter for a drink and a good discussion about the faith (topic TBD) at The Peak Brewery and Restaurant in Winter Park. This is for Catholics and non-Catholics alike.

## Have You Made Your Call Yet? Be an Active Catholic

President Trump has asked to trim 5% of budgets across all agencies. Here is your chance to call and ask that funding for Planned Parenthood be cut completely (or at least 5%). We will take any gain we can get.

-Michael Bennet (D), United States Senate,  
(202) 224-5852

-Cory Gardner (R), United States Senate,  
(202) 224-5941

-Jared Polis (D), United States House of  
Representatives CO-02, (202) 225-2161

**MTYR...**Sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. Sounds scary to most of us. But, did you know God sends out the Holy Spirit to go ahead of us? Yes!! This is an amazing work of the Trinity. God promises to prepare the way for each and every one of His children in every way, in every day, and in every thing we do. This is **MTYR**.

Discipleship happens through real life interaction: talking to one another, listening to another, helping another. Pray for God to lead you to discipleship and have confidence God will send you in the direction He intends for you. Jesus was led by the Spirit. Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit onto the apostles and then they departed to all ends of the earth to begin the great work for the Church's evangelization. The Holy Spirit is the Soul of the Church. It is the Holy Spirit who acts in every evangelizer who allows himself to be possessed and led by the Holy Spirit. God has sent out the Holy Spirit to prepare your way. You are **MTYR**.

## Annual Seminary Appeal; November 3 and 4

There will be a second collection on November 3-4. The annual appeal is directed toward day-to-day costs. Make your checks payable to: St. Anne, St. Bernard, Our Lady of the Snow. We forward one combined check to the seminaries. [Remember: time change next weekend.]

## October is Pro-life Month: End of Life Resources

### **Catholic End of Life Care**

The medical facilities and services listed below are provided in accordance with Catholic teaching.

- [Porter Hospice & St. Anthony Hospice](#) serve the Denver Metro area.
- [Collier Hospice Center, Good Samaritan Medical Center and St. Joseph's Hospital](#) all provide hospice and palliative care.
- [Dominican Home Health Agency](#) provides medical equipment and in-home nursing visits to the poor, sick elderly.

### **Calendar of Events**

**-Nov 1 (Thu).** All Saints Day—Holy Day of Obligation

**-Nov 2 (Fri).** All Souls Day. Begin Novena.

**-Nov 3-4 (Weekend).** Annual Seminary Appeal

**-Nov 24-25 (Weekend).** Christmas Families Collection

**-Dec 8.** Immaculate Conception: Holy Day

### **Mass Collections, October 20 – 21**

St. Anne	\$ 2191
St. Bernard	715
Our Lady of the Snow	2477
St. Peter	630
St. Ignatius	<u>775</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6788</b>

### **Vocations Prayer Calendar**

*Please pray for our seminarians every day.*

**Sat**—Juan Rojas & Daniel Wolbach

**Sun**—Julio Amezcua & Adam Bradshaw

**Mon**—Christopher Considine & Witold Kaczmarzky

**Tue**—Josh Meier & Branimir Pavelin

**Wed**—Holy vocations to marriage

**Thu**—Men in our family lines called to the priesthood

**Fri**—Increase in vocations to priesthood/religious life

### **Mass Intentions and Schedule for StA, StB, and OLS**

**KEY:** StA = St. Anne; StB = St. Bernard;

OLS = Our Lady of the Snow

-Sat, Oct 27, StA, 5 p.m., People in our region/visitors

-Sun, Oct 28, StB, 7 a.m., Larry and Janice Gross

-Sun, Oct 28, OLS, 9:30 a.m., +Marguerite Mostofi

#### Weekday Masses

-Mon, Oct 29, StA, 8:30 a.m., John/Christine Beauchamp

-Tue, Oct 30, OLS, 7:30 a.m., Michelle Kullman

-Wed, Oct 31, StB, 8:30 a.m., Robert Sitko

**-Wed/Thu:** Holy Day-All Saints. See schedule-upper left

-Fri, Nov 2, OLS, 8:30 a.m., Repose of Holy Souls

### **Mass Intentions and Schedule for StP and StI**

**KEY:** StP = St. Peter; StI = St. Ignatius (Walden)

-Sun, Oct 28, StP, 10 a.m., Maurice and Joanne Noll

-Sun, Oct 28, StI, 1 p.m., People in our region/visitors