

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

October was quite a busy month for us in the parish with some amazing events taking place. Bishop Jeffery Haines was here to celebrate Confirmation, I witnessed three weddings, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee hosted an Encounter Night here, Fr. LoCoco gave a beautiful talk on Encountering Jesus in the Eucharist, and we capped it off with our praise and worship holy hour called Magnify. I just cannot help but imagine how much grace has been flowing through our parish. My prayer is that people's hearts were touched in a profound way.

Moving into the month of November our focus turns to the saints. My dad has a saying that used to irritate me as a child but now as an adult I appreciate it much more, "Find a reason to get it done, not a reason you can't". Sometimes I think we need to apply that motto to our spiritual life. Too often we think that it is impossible to be a saint. We then list off all the reasons why we can't. How about we list all the reasons we can be a saint? Such as, our baptism, people in our lives that help us, the grace of the sacraments and the Church. How about the very fact that God wants us to be a saint and helps us! Remember, with God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26). As we revere the saints this month we see imperfect human beings who in some cases lived very unholy lives. St. Augustine comes to mind as he wandered far away from the Church and his mom, St. Monica. She prayed daily for his conversion. Those prayers paid off and they are now two of our most beloved saints. What made them holy was not a super power rather it was simply faith in God. When we start thinking of all the reasons we can't be holy the focus is in ourselves and not God. It is true, by ourselves we cannot be holy but we can with God. The saints are a great example of what happens the more we surrender to God, His law, and His love.

The Church also invites us to remember those who have died. We celebrated our annual Mass of Remembrance on November 2<sup>nd</sup> which is All Souls Day. The Church is very intentional in connecting All Saints Day with All Souls Day because we do not live for this world but for the life to come. We strive for holiness here on earth to one day be admitted to the Communion of Saints, whether canonized by the Church or not. I am sure that as you remember your beloved departed there are saintly people that come to mind. We remember the people who were an example to us of what holiness on this side of heaven looked like. How grateful we are for their lives, their witness, and their faith.

All holy men and women, Saints of God...pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz  
Pastor