

GOOD NEWS



K-12 Faith Formation News — Our Lady Queen of Peace & St. Thomas More

Volume 7, Issue 9 November 2017

Recently, there was a segment on *The Today Show* about how to find happiness. The reporter outlined several ways to achieve “true” happiness, including activities like petting dogs, getting regular exercise, eating well, and helping others. I am sure that we would all agree that these are worthwhile behaviors likely to provide benefits to our overall satisfaction in life. But I couldn’t stop thinking that if petting dogs and working out were the route to true happiness, why are so many people still searching for it?

St. Augustine of Hippo tells us that we are restless, always longing for “perfect happiness,” despite the secular achievements that many of us enjoy. St. Thomas Aquinas concurred. He observed that people are always longing to be happy. More contemporarily and secularly, actor Jim Carrey once said that everyone should have a turn at being rich and famous so that they can see it’s not the answer they are looking for!

So what *is* the answer? Our Christian identity calls us to redefine what true happiness is. The “scripture of happiness” in both the Old and the New Testament provides a clear definition of what happiness truly is. In the Gospel of John, Jesus tells his disciples that he has come so “that they might have life, and have it abundantly.” *John 10:10* The Sermon on the Mount found in the Gospel of Matthew also provides a very clear vision of how one may achieve happiness. *“Blessed (happy) are those who...”*

As Christians, we are called to recognize that true happiness is found only when we become who God has created us to be.

We are not asked to journey towards this becoming on our own. Our loving God has given us the tools we need to work towards this end. A morality of happiness reminds us that it is through God-given guidelines like The 10 Commandments and The Beatitudes that we are able to find true happiness. By attempting to live a life filled with virtue, *or holy habits*, we realize that we are called not adhere to these directives and commandments out of mere obligation, but because of our desire to live more abundantly as disciples of Jesus Christ, thus becoming who we are truly intended to be.

The human inclination toward truth and goodness, and thus happiness, is the work of God. Servais-Théodore Pinckaers, a noted theologian and Catholic priest once said, *“Our bond with God touches the very essence of our personality in our longing for happiness and love, and the more open we are to the action of God leading us to our true calling as God’s beloved children, the happier we will be.”*

During the month of November when we are called to remember to live thankfully, I would also invite all of us to remember to live out our Christian identity as beloved children of God. It is through that identity and our relationship with God that all good things flow. The more time and attention we give to growing in love and faith of God, the more apt we are to live happy and fulfilling lives. We are then able to more effectively spread God’s light to each and every person and situation we come in contact with.

Peace and blessings,
Jodi Miller

Director of Faith Formation

What Is all Saints Day?



All Saints Day is celebrated each year on November 1, the day after we celebrate All Hallows

Eve (Halloween). On this feast day, we celebrate all the saints, known and unknown, who while on earth, lived holy, faith-filled lives as true disciples of Jesus Christ.

We are all saints in the making!

Our call as baptized Christians is to live our lives emulating Jesus Christ, serving God through prayer, action, and with love.

This year, All Saints Day is a Holy Day of Obligation because it does not fall on a Sunday or Monday. Masses will be held at OLQP at 7 am and 7 pm and 8 am and 12:15 pm at STM.

November 2017 Dates to Remember

- **Annual All Saints Day potluck dinner at OLQP on 11/1 at 5:30 pm. 7 pm Mass to follow.**
- **Thanksgiving Food Collection delivery will take place after Masses on 11/5.**
- **Sacrament of First Reconciliation at OLQP on 11/18 at 10 am.**
- **No K-5 FF class at STM on 11/7 or 11/21.**
- **JHFF will meet on 11/12 only. SHYG will meet on 11/5 only.**
- **Thanksgiving Day Mass at OLQP at 9:00 am on 11/23.**



You are invited...

ANNUAL ALL SAINTS DAY POTLUCK DINNER



**Wednesday, November 1st
5:30 pm - potluck dinner at OLQP
All Saints Day Mass to follow at 7 pm**

Bring a dish to pass and join us for food,
fellowship and worship!

RSVP to Jodi ASAP! jodi.miller@dor.org



**At the end of life, we will not be judged by how many diplomas
we have received, or how much money we have made,
or by how many great things we have done.**

**We will be judged by what we have done
for our brothers and sisters.**

"I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was naked and you clothed me.

I was homeless and you took me in."

Hungry not only for bread, but for love.

Naked not only for clothing, but naked of human dignity and respect.

Homeless not only for want of a roof and walls, but homeless because of rejection.

This is Christ in distressing disguise.

A reflection of St. Teresa of Calcutta



Congratulations!

The following students will be celebrating the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** for the first time on November 18th.

They have spent the past month and a half preparing for this very special day. Please pray for them and for their families, that they may experience the fullness of God's love and mercy now and always.

Zoe Allen
Caitlin Benacci
Noah Butenko
Kieran Condon
Rian DeLong
Eleanor Diefendorf
Maeve Diefendorf
Carter Dolan
Olivia Fanciullo
Sean Garrity
Aurora Gray
Annalise Haben-Ribiero
Ivy Lima
Owen Marcell
Isabella Mamo
Keegan McEnroe
Charlie Murphy
Tristan Nicholson
John Russotti
Sabrina Russotti
Emery Scialo
Luke Schiralli
Maeve Shanahan
Lucia Seitenberg
Dean Small
Mia Solomou
Luke Strassner
Mark Strassner
Nick Suppe
Jessica Vail
Alice Yawman
David Yawman

Altar Server Training To Begin in January 2018

Through acts of service within our homes and faith community, our children learn that we are called to give the first portion of our time, talent and treasure to God. ***They also learn that we are Christians not just by name, but through our actions.***

If you have a child who is in at least third grade and who has celebrated their First Holy Communion, please encourage them to consider becoming an altar server. ***What a great way to serve their faith community and learn more about our Sacred Liturgy!***

Training sessions will be held in January 2018 (dates/time TBA). Please contact Jodi Miller in order to add your child's name to the training roster. ***Thank you!***

Contact:
jodi.miller@dor.org
244-3010/381-4200



As parents and caregivers passing on the faith to our kids, we learn by experience that we have to both show and tell. If we slouch along with a "do as I say but not as I do" approach, kids see right through that.

("Dad, you tell me not to yell, but you yell!")

Just as we show them how to swing a bat and throw a ball, we have to show our kids what a Catholic grownup looks like in action!

Please join us for



**Countdown to Christmas
Hot Cocoa Hour for Kids**

**On Sunday, December 10th
immediately following 10:30 am Mass
at St. Thomas More.**

**A special story will be read,
delicious treats will be shared,
and a "surprise" guest will join us too!**

Bakers Needed!

**If you are willing to donate a baked
good, please contact Jodi Miller at
jmiller@dor.org.**

Thank you!



OLQP & STM CHRISTMAS PAGEANT NEWS

It's hard to believe, but it's that time of year again! Our annual Christmas Eve Pageants are right around the corner at Our Lady Queen of Peace and St. Thomas More.

Casting and the first rehearsal at OLQP will take place on December 3rd after the 9:30 am Mass. A sign up sheet will be

available in the Narthex and at Faith Formation classes for those children who are interested in participating. ***Please sign up by November 28th. Please note that additional rehearsals for the pageant will take place on 12/10, and 12/17 after the 9:30 am Mass. There will also be a final rehearsal, date and time TBA.***

Casting and the first rehearsal at STM will take place on December 3rd after the 10:30 am Mass. A sign up sheet will be available outside the parish office and at Faith Formation classes for those children interested in participating. ***Please sign up by November 28th. Please note that additional pageant rehearsals will take place on 12/10 at 9:15 am and December 17th after the 10:30 am Mass.***

HELPERS ARE NEEDED AT BOTH WORSHIP SITES!

Please contact jodi.miller@dor.org as soon as possible if you are interested in helping!



On Sunday, December 3rd, we begin the season of Advent. The First Sunday of Advent is not the beginning of the Christmas Season. Rather, it's the beginning of the time when we focus on faithful anticipation. We anticipate and long for the coming of Jesus as our loving Lord and Savior. We anticipate the celebration of Jesus' birth, when he came into the world to save us from sin. We anticipate the coming of Jesus in our walk of faith every day, especially in the celebration of the Eucharist and in our acts of love, charity, and justice towards others.

Celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation is a wonderful way to ensure that the season of Advent is filled with God's grace and love. We encourage you and your family to consider celebrating this sacrament during this season of joyful waiting. *Individual confessions are heard each Saturday at either worship site from 3:30 pm to 4:00 pm.* You may also call the parish office to make an appointment for an alternate time.

Waiting in Joyful Hope...Advent 2017