

Fr. Simon Sez

Traditionally, in the month of November we focus on the end time of our lives as the liturgy focuses in on the End Times of salvation history we live in now. The Catholic Church has us celebrate All Saints Day November 1 as a Holy Day of Obligation to attend Mass on November 1 and then All Souls Day November 2 as a weekday Mass for us to pray for the faithful departed. This is a great example of how we practically live our belief in the Communion of the Saints. We pray to the Church Holy Saints triumphant in heaven to pray to intercede for us, and we pray for the Church suffering in purgatory to help them get to heaven.

What can we do now by the grace of God to help ourselves and others for when we are near death and at the time we or our loved ones are in imminent danger of death? Obviously, we need to live a daily life of Christian love, values, witness, the beatitudes, prayer, and loving God, our neighbor, and ourselves. We need to frequent the Sacrament of Penance (generally confession once per month) and attend Sunday and Holy Day Masses. I provided an insert with this bulletin that gives you many prayers and devotions to help you prepare for your death. These are rooted in Sacred Scripture, Church Tradition, the traditions of the faithful, approved private revelations, and other experiences in the spiritual lives of the contemporary witnesses and canonized saints.

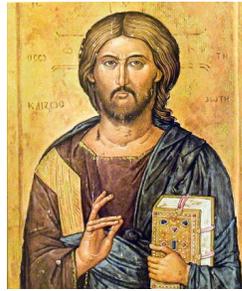
I first point out the extreme importance of Last Rites. When any Catholic is in danger of death, PLEASE call a priest immediately and teach your children and grandchildren to do the same! If the person dying has sorrow for their sins and receives the Apostolic Pardon, God releases them from all punishments due to sin in this life and in the life to come. That means not purgatory if that person does not sin after that! This is official Church teaching because it is an approved prayer of the Church in the Roman Ritual Pastoral Care of the Sick.

Other prayers that help us prepare for the time of death are the “Prayer to St. Joseph” that was found in 50 A.D. (other versions do not include the incredible promises of this one); being enrolled in the Brown Scapular, wearing it, and praying the daily prayer; taking advantages of the many indulgences including “At the Approach of Death”; having Gregorian Masses prayed for the deceased (thirty Masses consecutively in thirty days); The Nine First Friday Twelve Promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus; The Five First Saturday Promises of Our Lady of Fatima as the Immaculate Heart of Mary; and The Feast of Divine Mercy Sunday on the Sunday after Easter Sunday.

Fr. Simon Gone November 13 - 18: I am planning on being gone pheasant hunting during this week in NE SD.

Inner Healing Prayer this Past Weekend!: The Matthew Ministry gave an information presentation at St. Pius X Church Hall last Friday evening describing this simple prayer method. You can call Mike Snyder at (605) 469-6261 for prayer ministry over the phone or for info go to: www.themattthewministry.com. We plan on rescheduling them to come to our parishes February 2023.

To Rise Again: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time



2 Maccabees 7:1–2, 9–14
Psalm 17:1, 5–6, 8, 15
2 Thessalonians 2:16–3:5
Luke 20:27–38

With their riddle about seven brothers and a childless widow, the Sadducees in today’s Gospel mock the faith for which seven brothers and their mother die in the First Reading.

The Maccabean martyrs chose death—tortured limb by limb, burned alive—rather than betray God’s Law. Their story is given to us in these last weeks of the Church year to strengthen us for endurance—that our feet not falter but remain steadfast on His paths.

The Maccabeans died hoping that the “King of the World” would raise them to live again forever (see 2 Maccabees 14:46).

The Sadducees don’t believe in the Resurrection because they can’t find it literally taught in the Scriptures. To ridicule this belief, they fix on a law that requires a woman to marry her husband’s brother if he should die without leaving an heir (see Genesis 38:8; Deuteronomy 25:5).

But God’s Law wasn’t given to ensure the raising up of descendants to earthly fathers. The Law was given, as Jesus explains, to make us worthy to be “children of God”—sons and daughters born of His Resurrection.

“God our Father,” today’s Epistle tells us, has given us “everlasting encouragement” in the Resurrection of Christ. Through His grace, we can now direct our hearts to the love of God.

As the Maccabeans suffered for the Old Law, we will have to suffer for our faith in the New Covenant. Yet, He will guard us in the shadow of His wing, He will keep us as the apple of His eye, as we sing in today’s Psalm. The Maccabeans’ persecutors marveled at their courage. We too can glorify the Lord in our sufferings and in the daily sacrifices we make.

And we have even greater cause for hope than they did. One who has risen from the dead has given us His word—that He is the God of the living, that when we awake from the sleep of death we will behold His face and be content in His presence (see Psalm 76:6; Daniel 12:2).

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