

upcoming events

the bridge

news and views for the Our Lady of Charity community

volume 35, number 8

November 2017

November 5, 2017

St. Ambrose
Family Day 10:00 a.m
Grade 9 & Confirmation
Classes, 5:45 pm

November 6, 2017

St. Ambrose
Liturgy Com., 7:00 pm

November 8, 2017

St. Ambrose
Pre-Baptism, 6:00 pm
St. Vincent de Paul
Meeting, 6:30 pm

November 13, 2017

Disciples in Training,
Grades 1-8 & Adults

November 14, 2017

Holy Name Society,
7:00 pm, Maguire Hall
Parish Council, 7:00 pm,
Holy Family Mtg Rm 5

November 17, 2017

OLCP Seniors, 1:00 pm,
Maguire Hall

November 19, 2017

Holy Family
Spaghetti Dinner - noon

November 21, 2017

Rosary Altar Society
11:00 am, Holy Family
Liturgy Committee,
7:00 pm, Community Rm

November 23, 2016

Thanksgiving - 9:00 a.m.
Mass at St. Teresa

November 28, 2017

St. Ambrose
Buildings/Grounds 7:00

The View from a Pew

By Steve Banko

It's November already; another year almost gone. This is always a busy month, both spiritually and temporally. On the spiritual side, we will have already commemorated All Saints' and All Souls' Days. If I recall my Mercy nun teachings correctly, All Saints' Day recognizes the already recognized holy folks who have tread the earth while All Souls' Day is reserved for our loved ones, relatives and friends who have passed on. I am not alone when I note that we all have someone (and if we are very lucky, more than one) person who we know will escape formal recognition by our Church but will nonetheless be sainted when they reach their final reward. My wife has already been so recognized by the guys I went to St. Bonaventure with. They already deem her St. Shirley for having refused to give up on me for more almost half a century. She persisted even when I was ready to give up on myself and is so doing, made me think there was something worthy about me. Shirley was particularly saintly in those odd angry days when I first came home from Vietnam; when her proximity to my stewing anger and frustration made her a too frequent target of my confused emotions and my booze-filled outbursts. I am not sure I could have shown the patience and the love and the dedication that was her contribution to my post-war survival.

If God has smiled on us, we all have someone like Shirley who manned her post through all the turmoil and the chaos I brought to her life. If we smiled back at God, perhaps we've been a rock to someone else in need or crisis.

I mention her now and ask that we all take a minute to remember the saints in our lives as I prepare for another Veterans' Day, one of the temporal com-memorations of November. I am preparing for another speaking engagement this year in Florida, an event upon which I get to remember and recall and reflect out loud and in public. Such occasions are fitting places for me to remember Shirley and her constancy as an example of all the wives and husbands and fathers and mothers and lovers and friends who have suffered through the military service of a loved one.

One of the recent events in our community straddled the line between the temporal and the spiritual. I refer of course to the tragic death of Buffalo Police Officer Craig Lehner and an incredible outpouring of support that emanating in response to his passing. I did not know Officer Lehner in a personal sense but I knew him in the spirit of hundreds of young men with whom I served as a soldier. They were the guys who everyone counted on, who were never left off a mission, and who never complained of the extra duty. Too many have been taken from us in too many horrible ways. As I watched the services held for Officer Lehner, I saw the best of our community lining streets in the rain ... placing hands over hearts in solemn salute ... weeping tears of sorrow for man they only knew by reputation.

It was one of Buffalo's best days commemorating one of Buffalo's finest.

It also gave me a glimpse of what our city might be like if we showed that kind of unity, that measure of appreciation, that kind of resolve everyday. We've all seen too much division and derision and we all know what a detriment it can be to reaching the fullness of our potential as a city and as a people. I thought that such a continuation of that unity of purpose could be such a real resource for a city on the rebound and the most fitting testament to our appreciation of Craig Lehner's all too short life of service and sacrifice.

So as we go through this busy month, weaving through the spiritual and the temporal remembrances of November, let us all recall that in a lot of instances, the temporal and the spiritual paths often blend together. And as we end the month with our Thanksgiving, let's remember the people in our lives who have been so supportive in our lives and vow to offer the same support whenever and wherever we can.

Leaves and No Fruit

By Christian Hehr

You brood of vipers. This is what Jesus calls the Pharisees and high priests in the twelfth chapter of Matthew's Gospel. Jesus angrily admonishes these people for their fake and superficial attitude toward their faith, and Jesus may have been the first person to call them out on their phoniness. You see, The Pharisee's would constantly badger Jesus about how He was "breaking" the Law. Little did they know that

Jesus had the ultimate power over it.

Jesus explains to them that a tree is known by it's fruit; a good tree bears good fruit, and a rotten tree produces bad fruit. It is here where you must ask yourself: what kind of fruit am I bearing?

Let's look at a different Gospel, the Gospel of Mark, and the time Jesus cursed a fig tree.

The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it. (Mark 11: 12-14)

Why on earth would Jesus have done this? You must understand that figs actually appear on a fig tree before the leaves show up. So Jesus thought that in seeing the leaves, surely there must be fruit. But to His disappointment, the tree only flaunted leaves, no fruit to be seen. So, why did Jesus curse the fig tree? Because it was a phony. It appeared to be bearing good fruit, but instead only had the appearance of fruit. Are the leaves you show backed up by the good fruit you produce in your life?

Do you think that you can walk into Church once a week, get your check mark on your spiritual calendar, and go out and act like the rest of the world? Do you go to Church merely for the purpose to say that you went in order to impress others and to puff up your pride in thinking that it makes you holier than someone else? Do you wear your crucifix around your neck, but dare to go and sit with a group of people whose only goal is to gossip and badmouth others? How often do you fake a smile to someone then immediately talk about him/her behind his/her back? How often do you flaunt your leaves despite

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the fact that you have produced no fruit?

And if this applies to you, other people may never know. Others may see only your leaves and never bother to check for fruit.

But I assure you, God knows.

Proverbs 16:2 states, "All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, but the Lord weighs the motives." God says in the book of the prophet Jeremiah, "I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the results of his deeds."

God sees the condition of your heart. He sees the secret things you keep hidden from the world: secret attitudes, secret grudges, and secret prideful actions. He knows when you say one thing, but do something the complete opposite. God does NOT look at the outward appearances of men, but instead the inward man of the heart. He is not impressed that you walk around with your rosary hanging around your rearview mirror. He is not impressed that you go to Mass every day. He is not impressed whether or not you are on one or every single committee or club that is at this parish.

What He does care about is whether or not you love others. What He does care about is whether or not you are striving every single day to be recreated into Christ's image. And yes, we all will fall. We will all slip into sin; we are human and broken in some way. But by gosh, do not think that by going through the motions that you are a good Christian. You are to be transformed by the renewal of your mind, your spirit and your attitudes.

Allow me to offer you encouragement. Being a Christian is hard, especially now when it would appear we always have a target on our backs. You

will come up against hardships. You will come up against tribulations. But if you strive every day to respond to those situations as Christ would have, the peace and the anointing in your life will increase one hundred fold. It is here where God will see our leaves, but on closer inspection, will also see the best fruit growing from us.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)

Thank You Notes

Sister Peggy Wetzel, OSF sent her blessings for our donation that will help feed the children of Kenya.

The Midwest Jesuits thanked our parish for our continued commitment to the mission and ministries of Rev. Joseph Mulligan, SJ in Nicaragua.

The Family Promise of WNY was grateful for our generous donation that empowers them to fulfill their mission of helping families experiencing homelessness. They provide shelter, meals and case management services which guides families toward sustainable independence.

Happy
Thanksgiving
Day 

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Friendship Corner

by Audrey Kunz

“There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship.”

St. Thomas Aquinas

“Holiness consists simply in doing God’s will, and being just what God wants us to be.”

St. Therese of Lisieux (All Saints’ Day)

“Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal.”

From a headstone in Ireland (All Souls’ Day)

“Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bears his country’s cause. Honor, also to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field and serves, as he best can, the same cause.”

Abraham Lincoln (Veterans’ Day)

“Give thanks for unknown blessings already on their way.”

American Indian saying

“For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected when received with thanksgiving, for it is made holy by the invocation of God in prayer.”

1 Timothy 4: 4-5

We welcome into our parish family:

Baptisms

Eli Everett Conrad
Jack Colton Hulshoff
Gavin Edward Ruch
Tessa Eileen Greiner

New Parishioners

Nate & Jaye Hasan
and their daughter Brooklyn
John & Rebecca Garvin
Sean & Christina Myers

Monthly Money Minutes

By Amy Jo Lauber

Certified Financial Planner™ Professional and president of Lauber Financial Planning

“..but now I will heal and mend them. I will make them whole and bless them with an abundance of peace and security.” *Jeremiah 33:6*

There’s a little survey I do at business expos. I put out cups for people to vote – with pennies – which cup best represents what money “means” to them. The two cups that are typically full are “security” and “freedom.” I guess they’re two sides of the same coin; freedom comes after security is established.

Tending to your finances is a way of mending and healing them, so that you may experience peace and security. Spend time in prayer before paying your bills or shopping so you have solid ground to make sound decisions.

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Published by
Our Lady of Charity Parish Council
<http://ourladyofcharityparish.com>
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