CLOSING PRAYER:

~ A Prayer for Faithful Citizenship ~

Merciful Father, Thank you for inviting each of us to join in your work of building the kingdom of love, justice, and peace. Draw us close to you in prayer as we discern your call in our families and communities.

Send us forth to encounter all whom you love those not yet born, those in poverty, those in need of welcome. Inspire us to respond to the call to faithful citizenship.

Help us to imitate your charity and compassion and to serve as models of loving dialogue. Teach us to treat others with respect, even when we disagree, and seek to share your love and mercy. Amen

CAMPUS MINISTRY OFFICE: The Campus Ministry Office is located in Our Lady Chapel. phone: [440] 473-3560 [office] or 216-570-9276 [cell]. e-mail: blazekj@gilmour.org





Our Lady Chapel is a Roman Catholic community founded in the love of the Father, centered in Christ, and rooted in the Holy Cross tenets of building family and embracing diversity. We are united in our journey of faith through prayer and sacrament, and we seek growth through the wisdom of the Holy Spirit in liturgy and outreach, while responding to the needs of humanity.

ALUMNI & CHAPEL MEMORIAL MASS — NOVMEBER 13:

November is the month of Thanksgiving. It is also traditionally the month set aside to remember our deceased. What better way to offer thanks than to remember the special people in our lives who have gone before us to the Lord — our lives are built on the heritage they have left behind.

As the *Catholic Catechism* reminds us: "We who journey together on our earthly pilgrimages, must accompany each other at our journey's end and surrender each other into God's hands" [CC, #1683].



In order to properly celebrate for our November remembrance, we are going to

have a Memorial Mass at Our Lady Chapel on Sunday, November 13th at 10:00 AM. We are particularly remembering all of our alumni who have passed away within this past year. We are also remembering all members of our Chapel family who have gone to the Lord. Please place the names of your loved ones whom you would like to remember on our Memorial Wall located in the narthex of the chapel. After Mass, join us in the Commons for a Coffee & Donut reception.

MAKE YOUR FAMILY'S ADVENT WREATH:



We are going back to in-person making of our Advent Wreaths. We are going to be making family Advent Wreaths on Sunday, November 20th at 11:30 AM in the Commons. Cost of the Wreath is \$25 — this includes trimmings, candles, and everything else you will need. You can pay by cash or check at the event. Fr. John will bless our Advent Wreaths at the conclusion of the activity. Please sign up by Sunday, Nov. 13. If cost is an

issue, please contact Fr. John. Sign up sheet is located on the easel in the Narthex of the Chapel, or you can call the chapel office [440-473-3560]. Virtual Sign-up is also available on the Chapel Website. Please sign up early because we have to purchase the materials.

FAITH EDUCATION:



Faith Education meets this Sunday and next, November 13th and 20th at 8:45 AM. As has been our custom in the past, our Faith Education Classes are followed by our 10 AM Mass which is held in the chapel. If you have any questions, please contact Patty in the Chapel Office [440-473-

3560]. Thank you. There will be no class on Sunday, November 27th due to Thanksgiving Break.

OLC "ADOPT A FAMILY" PROGRAM:

For many years, Our Lady Chapel community has worked with St. Adalbert Parish in adopting families to help them celebrate the Christmas Season. In recent years, we have had many requests from our families to begin this project earlier in order to take advantage of pre-Christmas sales, etc. We are collecting the names of families from St. Adalbert at the present time. **The need is greater than ever.** St. Adalbert identifies families — most often single parent, below poverty level families; we are given the grade levels of the children & other family information, so that you can purchase gifts appropriate to each member.



As we did last year, we will be procuring gift cards from various places, and the families will be purchasing the gifts for their families. This worked very well for everyone. Those from our chapel family who participated in this project last year spoke very highly of the benefit of this project to their own families. Even our Life Teen and EDGE Groups have adopted families and gone shopping together on a Sunday afternoon. This is a project that the entire family can get involved in. Families can be matched according to family size, ages, etc. It was truly inspiring. Please call Patty at the Chapel Office [440-473-3560 or szaniszlop@gilmour.org] if you and your family would like to participate in this program, or if you have any questions. The lists are in the chapel office now.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Jesus calls us to pray for one another. Please keep all these people in your prayers.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

- For Mary Lou Beers who is undergoing treatment for Anemia
- For Lincoln Rhode, 6 year old son of Matthew Rhode ['96], grandson of Ray ['51] and Noreen Rhode, nephew of Patrick ['88] and Chris ['93] Rhode, who is undergoing continued treatment for a stroke
- For Walter Carey, who is undergoing treatment for leukemia.
- For Paula Smith, mother of Tyler ['10] and Alec ['13] Smith, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.

FOR THE DECEASED:

- For Vincent DeCrane, father of Peter ['03] and Michael ['76] DeCrane, father-in-law of Tim Panzica ['73], grandfather of Meredith Panzica Manning ['99], Tim ['01], Matthew ['02] and Craig ['04] Panzica ['04]
- For Thomas Chiudioni, grandfather of Alex Keene ['10]
- For Alex Kunevicius, grandfather of Jessica ['95 [deceased] and Olivia ['97].
- For Daniel Hammer, father of Daniel Hammer, Jr. ['79] and Andrew Hammer ['86]
- For Fred Friend

PRAYERS FOR OTHERS:

- For the Berkshire school community which has experienced multiple tragedy in the last several weeks.
- For a family going through a difficult time.
- For an end to violence and racial injustice in our society.
- For a growth in awareness of the blessing of family life.
- For all those struggling with various addictions.
- For an end to sexual abuse and lack of respect for human persons.
- For a greater respect for human life, from the moment of conception until natural death.
- For all caregivers.
- For all service men and women serving our country, and for their families.
- For a greater awareness of our call to create a more humane and just society.

LIFE TEEN and EDGE:



Our Life Teen and EDGE youth group is meeting in-person again. We will meet LIFE TEEN for an hour beginning at 11:30 AM following our 10 AM Sunday Mass in the

Lennon Board Room. If you are unable to join us, there are many resources available for you on the Life Teen website — **lifeteen.com.** There are numerous blogs and videos for you to connect with. The Life Teen national office continues to release many new programs. **Please contact**

Example 2 Father John for more information. And please join us each Sunday for our Mass at 10 AM in person or live-streamed, and then come to our Life Teen/EDGE gathering after Mass. And above all, let us continue to join each other in prayer. Father John is available for you. Please contact him [cell: 216-570 -9276].

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Jesus calls us to pray for one another. Please keep all these people in your prayers.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:

- For Brother Thomas Moser, C.S.C., who is hospitalized with a serious infection.
- For Ursula Wyras, mother of Janet Heryak, and grandmother of Lillian ['09], Rosa ['12] and Edwin ['17] Heryak, who is experiencing complications following knee replacement surgery.
- For Pat Malak, who is seriously ill.
- For Carol Triplett, sister of Linda McGraw, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Judy Collins, aunt of Chief Academic Officer, Elizabeth Edmondson, great-aunt of Mollie ['21] and Abbie ['23] Edmondson, who is undergoing treatment for brain cancer.
- For Madeleine Popp, mother of Gilmour CFO, Kathy Popp, who is ill.
- For Sabrina Kumar, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Marina McCarter, grandmother of Aaron ['25] and Mason ['28] McCarter, who is ill
- For Michael Bares, brother of James ['80] Bares and Religion Instructor, Eileen Pryatel, uncle of Michael ['08, Meghan ['13], and Kevin ['15] Pryatel, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Susan Plavcan, sister-in-law of Linda McGraw, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Sharon Wilson, wife of Brother Ken's nephew, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For Tricia Ashkettle, who is undergoing treatment for brain cancer.
- For Matthew Gebhart, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For John Roddy, brother of Tim Roddy ['87], brother of Mary Roddy-Stretar, Marketing Associate at Gilmour, and cousin of Daniel ['83], Mike ['85], and Matt ['86] Roddy, who is undergoing treatment for cancer.
- For James Law, husband of LS resource associate, Elana Law, who is undergoing treatment for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
- For David Mattis, husband of former Middle School Director, Paula Mattis, father of Kim ['89] and Bill ['91 Mattis, who is under the care of hospice.
- For Fletcher Linsz, brother of Logan Linsz ['26], who is undergoing treatment for Hodgkin Lymphoma.
- For Michael Nestor ['98], who is undergoing treatment for a rare form of cancer.
- For Joseph Borkey [*82], brother of Jeff [*80] and Jerrod [*87] Borkey, father of Christian Borkey [*16], and uncle of Jerrod [*12] and former Gilmour student, Ian Borkey, who is undergoing treatment for cancer
- For Mary Goers who is undergoing treatment for pancreatic cancer.
- For Bernice Girgash, aunt of Basketball Coach and Counselor, Dan DeCrane, and great-aunt of Mackenzie DeCrane ['36], who is undergoing treatment for cancer..
- For Karuna Singla, Sister-in-law of Science teacher, Neena Goel, aunt of Nikhil ['13] and Nupur ['17] Goel, who is undergoing treatment for bone cancer.
- For Melita Chiacchiari, mother of Mark ['94], mother-in-law of Michelle DeBacco ['96], grandmother of Aurelia ['28], and Olivia ['30] Chiacchiari, who is undergoing further treatment for cancer.
- For Mike Heryak, husband of Janet, father of Lillian ['09], Rosa ['12] and Edwin ['17] Heryak, who is seriously ill.
- For Tom Podnar, father of Lower School art teacher, Eileen Sheehan, who is awaiting a heart transplant.

Our next Virtual Bible Study will be on Wednesday, November 16th at 6:30 PM. Bible Study continues to meet bi-weekly. The Bible Study is open to everyone — all middle and high school students, college students, young adults, and all adults. We will all come together to be enriched by God's word. It's a great time, and a good witness of our faith to others. If you can't come at 6:30, come



when you can. Gather your favorite snack and/or drink, but be prepared to be nourished on God's word. Our topic: The life of Faith as reflected in Vatican II [part 2].

We also need your help — we need future topics. So, if you have a topic that you would like us to discuss, please let Father John know. Mark your calendars and be part of this wonderful activity that will deepen your spiritual journey. We will meet every other week — topic to be decided at the end of the previous meeting. Join us. You'll have a blast, and celebrate your faith along the way..

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK:

Sunday, November 13: 33 rd Week in Ordinary Time	10:00 AM In Person & Live Stream	
Monday, November 14:	Check with Office for time	
Tuesday, November 15:	Check with Office for time	
Wednesday, November 16:	Check with Office for time	
Thursday, November 17: St. Elizabeth of Hungary	Check with Office for time	
Friday, November 18:	Check with Office for time	
Saturday, November 19: Christ the King	5:00 PM In Person	
Sunday, November 20: Christ the King	10:00 AM In Person & Live Stream	

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE:

Please remember that we are collecting food for our **Thanksgiving Food Drive.** Please leave your donation in the bins in the narthex of the Chapel. We are only collecting non-perishable items.

Please follow this list of items. We are trying to gather the following for each family we are helping: Canned vegetables, Canned fruit, Peanut butter, Jelly, Cranberry Sauce, Packaged Stuffing Mix, Boxes of Cereal, Gravy, Macaroni & Cheese, Soup, Tuna and Pudding. We are also accepting Hand Sanitizer & Cleaning Wipes. Thank you for your generosity!



BRIDGES:



MEMORIAL MASS FOR OUR BELOVED DECEASED

We would like to take this moment to remember all of our Gilmour Alumni & members of Our Lady Chapel family, who have gone home to the Lord in this past year. We are truly blessed in and through the lives of those we have loved:



Gilmour Academy Alumni:

Francis C. Foote ['52] Julius A. Muschaweck ['52] Gerald J. Talbot ['52] James H. Gorman ['53] Chuck Guthrie ['53] Richard O. Guardiola ['54] Thomas C. Gitzinger ['56] Thomas A. Hughes ['56] Thomas N. O'Brien ['59] Donald M. Sledz ['59] Michael B. Ferris ['62] Andrew P. Hellmuth ['64] John M. Krouse ['65]

David L. Hinckley ['71] Michael P. Kilroy ['71] Robert D. Dubbs ['74] Madeline Price ['77] Paul D. Dentscheff ['79] Patrick M. Augusta ['84] Mark D. Swencki ['88] Daniel J. Dodson ['95] Nicole M. Hazen ['95] Jessica M. Kunevicius ['95] Charles E. Miserendino ['96] Kellen D. Leach ['10] Cassandra V. Williams ['15]

William P. Zhun ['70]

Members of Our Lady Chapel Family:

Dorothy Dowling	Father Cappelletti	Brother Fontaine, C.S.C.	Marianne Dolinar
Melvin Jackson	Rosemary Hurt	Father Leonard	Peter Rebeiro
Danielle Chronister	Dave Howard	John Cortens	Robert Stork
Virtinia Fortuna	Joseph Feighan	Sister Slattery, C.S.C.	Christ Karas
Sister Klene, C.S.C.	Ellen Cohn	Ellen Smith	Brother Blaszak, C.S.C
Robert Figurella	Mildred Jasany	Jeanne Crow	Tony Waldron
Robert Grame, Sr.	Father Don Cozzens	Lou Cangelosi	Deacon Thomas Long

READINGS FOR THE WEEK:

We list the Scripture readings for the week, with the hope that you will take some time in your busy day to reflect on God's word in your homes. We hope you can make good use of it.

Monday:	Revelation 1:1-4; 2:1-5, Luke 18:35-43	
Tuesday:	Revelation 3:1-6, 14-22 Luke 19:1-10	
Wednesday:	Revelation 4:1-11 Luke 19:11-28	
Thursday:	1 John 3:14-18 Luke 6:27-38	
Friday:	Revelation 10:8-11 Luke 19:45-48	
Saturday:	Revelation 11:4-12 Luke 20:27-40	
Feast of Christ the King:	2 Samuel 5:1-3, Colossians 1:12-20, Luke 23:35-43	

NOVENA TO BLESSED BASILE MOREAU:

Blessed Basile Moreau was the founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, to which Fr. John and the Brothers at Gilmour belong. We have two booklets with Novenas to Blessed Basile Moreau. One is used for a personal intention or healing; the other is used when praying for the intention or healing of someone other than yourself. The Novenas were



composed by Father Thomas Looney, C.S.C. Many have received blessings and healings through the intercession of Blessed Basile Moreau, and now we want to extend this invitation to you and your family. Please see Father John and he will be glad to give you the booklets.

CHAPEL ENVELOPES:

There are many ways that you can support our Holy Cross Mission and support Our Lady Chapel. You can place your offering at the door of the chapel as you enter; you can use our on-line donation link; or you can mail in your offerings to the Chapel itself — whatever best serves your needs. If you need a supply of envelopes, please pick them up off the table in the Narthex of the Chapel when you come to Mass. Or you can call the office or stop in to request them. If you would like us to send you a supply of envelopes, please call Father John or Patty at [473-3560], and we will get them right out to you.

WEEKLY OFFERING:

Thank you to those who have begun to send in weekly offerings. We really appreciate it. Thanks for not forgetting about us.

Offerings------[Saturday, November 5]-----[Mass, Online, Mail-in]------ \$ 180.00 Offerings------[Sunday, November 6]------\$ 672.00

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Father John is available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with you.

Please call him [440-473-3560] to arrange for this experience. All social distancing will remain in place. Always remember the Lord's invitation: "I will give them a heart with which to understand that I am the Lord. They shall be my people and I will be their God, for they shall return to me with their whole heart" [Jeremiah 24:7].

33rd Week in Ordinary Time

Jesus said, there are many who claim to have the answer to society's ills. But there is only One who can cure what is really disordered in the human heart — that is God himself. He alone can burn away the sin that destroys our families and communities. No matter how well organized governments may be, or how sound the economy, if we continue hating one another, lying and cheating each other, our society cannot enjoy peace. Only by humbling turning to God and submitting to his will can we ever find any real solutions to the problems plaguing our world. There is no other way than The Way — Jesus Christ.

And so, as we reflect on these sometimes disturbing realities, we need not be afraid. God will provide us with the strength we need to endure whatever trials may come. And he will provide us with the grace we need to live every day of our lives in accordance with his word so that, when he does come again we will be ready to embrace him and bend the knee before him in reverence and awe rather than in shame and fear. -Taken from the writings of Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS, which appear on the internet.

ST. ADALBERT SCHOOL SUPPORT CONTINUES:



Student enrollment at St. Adalbert School has doubled. The need for ongoing support is important — especially at this time. Therefore we have decided to continue to support for school supplies, responding to their monthly needs. Currently they have a great need for Backpacks, socks and underwear — grades K-8. They are also requesting 1-Subject Spiral Notebooks. Any and all quantities of these supplies are welcome!.

Here is how you can be a part of this outreach. Simply shop for items on the list. Kindly return the items whenever you come to Our Lady Chapel. If you do not have time to shop, simply place an envelope in the collection basket and mark it "St. Adalbert's" or drop it off in the chapel office. Together, we work and plant our seeds of hope and goodness to this community. Thank you in advance for your generosity and helping the children of St. Adalberts! Contact Patty in the Chapel Office [440-473-3560] if you have any questions.

SERVING THE LORD IN THE POOR – NOVEMBER 19th:

Our Savior Lutheran Church, across the street from Gilmour, has a Food Pantry which distributes food to the community on the third Saturday of each month. They welcome volunteers. If you want to volunteer, they have instituted some **new procedures** because of the Coronavirus. Thus they help pre-pack nonperishables in bags on Thursday evening beginning at 5 PM. They continue this prepacking on Friday if needed. Check with Elina Gurney on this. On Saturday morning at 9 AM, they need



help putting items from the foodbank into the prepacked bags. Only volunteers will be allowed in the Church building, so you will be protected against the virus. Clients will remain outside in their cars. The food pantry is then open from 9:30 AM—1:30 PM on Saturday.

Our Savior Lutheran's Food Pantry was formed to serve those in emergency situations and/or with on-going need in the cities of Mayfield Heights, Mayfield Village, Highland Heights and Gates Mills. The Food Pantry respects social and cultural diversity and upholds the worth and dignity of those it serves. The food pantry is a member of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank.

Please let Elina Gurney know if you would like to help. You an do this through the chapel office [440-473-3560] of by emailing Elina Gurney at gurney.oh@gmail.com. At the season of Thanksgiving, this is a wonderful way to serve others Please consider this opportunity.



Joanne DeMarco Dorothy Slaght Kenny Evans Ethna Haag Della Worobetz Sr. Mvra Skebe, OSU Br. Daniel Dardoe CSC Deacon Richard Woods Sr. Eileen Collins OSU Robert Kowalski Sr. Helen Brown CSJ Br. Joseph Annan CSC David Palcisko Br. Joseph Harris CSC Robin Hynes A Homeless person Sr. Loretta May OP Cathleen Fitzgerald Helen Sheridan Larry Lavelle Kevin Behm Helen Sestokas Joe Norton Matthew Contessa Darlen Ondi Sr. Mary Clennon CSC Rosemary Nagy Elizabeth Wiertel James Steward Jennifer Care Scout Scarivilli Lou Chorich Fr. John Gorski Helen Murawski Paulette Welch David Troyer Ray Gruss Curtis DeCrane Gil Plavcan John Ostrowski Jackie Puntel Paul Beno Clarence Dabney Sr. M Marie Griffin OSU Sr. Catherine Romancik **Dorothy Poland** John Climaco Stanley Gay Donna Alexander Daniel Saunders John Visconsi Daniel Cafarelli James Lvons Mariorie Gavin Barbara Durkin Mary Margaret Rhoa Margaret Williamson Dorothy Divis Frances Sichko Sr. Mary Jane Honan CSC Rev. Rob. Pittman SSS Sr. Laura Melancon MSC Fr. Harry Cronin CSC Joseph Piasecki Kathleen Carey Ernie Mansour James Costabile Maureen Ashdown David Pettine Sr. William Shaughnessy Shirley Cayton Sr. Julie Marie Gilmore Sr. Barbara Eppich OSU **Bill Denihan** Herb Pahoresky

Deacon Grasson Margaret Grgic Anthony Constantino Sr. Helen Brown CSJ Fr. John Ford CSC Lois Collins Vidmant Joseph Prikockis Charles Graham Mildred Dennis Mary Clavin Mary Grycan Debbie Gulstrom Rita Rybalt Bandith Suttiratana Peggy Colgan Merrill Pack William Dollard Ralph Pizhmot Mercedes Carey Gena Miller Thomas Victory Sr. Elena Malits CSC Irene Cunningham Cassandra Williams Reno Cappelli Sr., Sr. Eileen Collins OSU Eileen Corrigan Christine Treu Valentin Kavcic Barbara Pritts Sam Nigro Donna McTaggart Beatrice Stiver Michael Sexten Sr. Delphine Kennedy Donald O'Toole Wayne Nielson

Willard Schade Joe Rinicella Sr. Dolores Stanko SND Sr. Maureen O'Keefe CSC Quinn Clarke Sr. Ruth Pearl SND Matt Ruppe Phyllis Donato Br. Richard Eckhardt CSC Vincent Matteucci Daniel Perez Fr. José Prado CSC Jim Fase Margaret Diemer Br. Paul Kelly CSC Dorothy Hoelker Trent Walker Octavian Iamandi Lucy Hoban John Oberle Marko Saric Fr. Rob Chabot SSS Sr. Lorraine Black CSC Theresa Bontempo CSC Richard Schuerger Daniel Weist **Richard Finotti** Teresa Trzaska Judith Colasante Benjamen Long Thomas Kilbane Patrick Langdon Bill Bray Jossie Amato John Nemunaitis Dorothy Bryan Barbara Bak Patrick O'Bryan Soomevah Hilal Joseph Portale



Tom Armagno

Joanne Steele

Carol Girolamo

Rita Prebul

Nancy Jicha

Robert Fay

Gene Delauder

John Ambrose

James Sberna

Maury Petrak

Elizabeth Kryszan

Jeanne Wagner Krupp

Robert McOuistin

Mary Ann Nathal

Mary Conway

John Raab

Sadie Tackla

Michael Cirino

Carol White

James Toomev

Terrence Cook

Amalia Grassi

Daniel Hammer

Sr. Madonna Dickus

Sr. Joan Mader CSC

Donald Wallace

Timothy Mc Glvnn

Br. Donald Allen CSC

Sr. John Anthony Linton

Jessica Kunevicius

Mary Kay McGorray

Sr. Joanne Bonczek SND

Matthew Noeth Frank Calo Br. Larry Stewart CSC Bill Leamon Christina Carnevale Rosetta Catanese Michael Harris Danielle Krovontko Mariorie Ritchie Rosetta Graham Sr. Ruth Ev.Mauch CSC Nick DeLorme Sr. Margaret Friel SND Raymond Buganski Rudolph Kastelic William Teknipp Sandi Alexander Sarkis Semariian Fr. Joseph Tate CSC Bob Hovel Sr. Ellen Ann Mach SND Sr. Mary Brooks CSC Jack Rath Jack Borkey JoAnn Santoiemmo Fr. Edward Kordas Edmond Turk Dorothy McGuire James Russo Sr. Sharon Anne Yanak Fr. Thomas Schubeck SJ Roger Mallik Robert Brock Alex Kunevicius

Anna Cottrell Walter Lazuka Joseph Malesic Br. Don Morgan CSC Sr. Rita McQueeney CSC Fr. John Vrana Brian Fitzgerald Louis Lamosek Silvana Colantuono Jeanne McCloskey Debra Hurley Fr. Steve Sedlock CSC Barbara Wetherbee Stephen Qua 'Cookie' Coughlin Deacon George Khoury Fr. William O'Neill Richard Felber Sr. Jeanne Nieminen SND Tom Rakovec Elvera Gruttadauria Fr. Robert Glepko Sr. Miriam Pinchot OSU Thomas Sponseller Sr. Roberta Goebel OSU Fr. Bob Begin F. James Vesely **Richard Geier** Therese Hummer Nicole Ferrara Hazen Br. James Bagans CSC Br. Thomas Frey CSC Maryon Gordon Liz Rvbka James Piggford Mary Vasko Sr. J Margaret Dietzen Barbara Tarajcak Jerome Chandler Sherry Smith Roy Luther Queen Elizabeth II William Stepanek Thomas Stockard Jack Sheehan Mary Eliz Nook Huettner Richard Clark Sr. Donna Galetovich SN Edward Battaglia William Coleman Laurie Strouse Carol White Michael Kellner Rosanne Rossi Linda Felder Larry Vasel Jennifer Decker Owen Grubb Owen Tomsic Fr. Thomas Hosinski CSC Keith Jackson Robert Day Thomas Chiudioni **Baby Matty**



CHOOSING HOPE OVER FEAR:

There are many unpleasant facts of life that we try to avoid thinking or talking about. First among these is our own death. Our life is precious, and we cannot bear the thought of losing it. Nonetheless it is a reality that we need to be aware of and come to terms with. As unpleasant as it may be to think about, it is unavoidable. Every year in November with the days growing darker and winter fast approaching, we as a church reflect upon some disturbing and sometimes terrifying realities — our death and the end of the world.

It is one of the articles of faith which we profess boldly in the creed — Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead. All of human history is building up to the moment when Jesus will be revealed as the Son of God. At that point, everyone will have to acknowledge him as Lord and Savior. We will all bend the knee before the One who comes to bring justice to the earth. For those of us who have already welcomed his grace into our hearts and proclaimed him as Lord of our lives, it will be a joyful day. But for those who have denied him and lived only for this world and its pleasures, the revelation of God's justice will be painful and humiliating.



The prophet Malachi [3:19-20] uses the image of fire to describe the coming day of the Lord, saying that it will come "blazing like an oven."

Fire can be a very useful thing for us — we can use it for light, for warmth, or to cook our food. However, if we fail to respect its power, that same fire can also burn us and destroy our property. In the same way, if we love God and live according to his word, his coming will be a fire that brings us light and warmth. However, if we have not respected him and have not loved our neighbor, his coming will burn us and destroy all that we thought was important.

And so, every day of our lives we have a decision to make — will we live according to God's word or will we live only for our own desires? Will we form our minds according to the Bible, or according to the values of the society around us? Will we respect the life and dignity of every human being, or will we remain silent while millions of babies are aborted and many millions more live in poverty? We have the power to shape our future by the choices we make today. The day will come, however, when it will be too late to choose — when our destiny will already be set. How it turns out depends on God's mercy and on our willingness to show his mercy to others today.

It is important for us to keep in mind that, when we talk with others about the realities of our own death and the end of the world, it is not meant to fill our hearts with fear — it is not God's desire for us to live in trepidation for the future. Rather we discuss these uncomfortable topics so that we may be converted and change the way we live while there is still time. We also reflect on these realities so that we can learn to trust God more. He has our life and destiny in his hands. If we love him and listen to his word, we can be sure that he will guide us on the path to life.

Jesus speaks about this in Luke's Gospel [21:5-19]. He tells his disciples who are marveling at the beauty of the Temple in Jerusalem that a day will come when it will all be destroyed. This is a shock to them. The Temple was a massive structure constructed of large stone blocks which took over forty years to build. It was a marvel of engineering and architecture. Moreover, it was the dwelling place of God on earth. It was unimaginable to the people of Jesus' day that it could ever be destroyed. Though the disciples are alarmed, Jesus does not tell them this to frighten them. Even when he tells them that they will be hauled off and put to death, he wants them to know that they need not fear — he will always be with them. He wants them not to be afraid but to be aware. No matter what will happen, they can trust that he will provide for them. Nothing can happen to separate them from their heavenly Father.