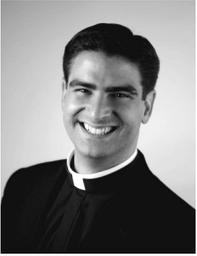

NOVEMBER 12 & 13, 2022



Dear Friends in Christ,

The visit this Saturday of our archbishop, Wilton Cardinal Gregory, to dedicate our remodeled church and new altar, is the culmination of our 75th anniversary and about eight years of planning and work on our church building, from the switch to natural gas for heating to the new sanctuary floor, to the new roof and new air conditioning, to all the work done since June this year. There are still some bits and pieces left to do, but our church has undergone a thorough renewal.

Now it is time for a spiritual renewal of our parish. This coincides with the end of the Covid pandemic (yes, the virus remains an issue, but for most of us, it is no longer a reason to avoid coming to church, living out our faith to the full and participating actively in the life of the parish). It also coincides with the three-year National Eucharistic Revival announced by the bishops of the United States (see <https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/>). It is obvious to anyone with eyesight that there are still significantly fewer people attending Mass and other parish events than before the pandemic. And even without the pandemic, numbers nationwide and for our parish have been dropping for years. This is true not only of Catholic Churches, but of religious organizations generally. It is time for revival.

I write this during a break while participating in our archdiocese's Convocation of Priests, a three-day meeting of the vast majority of the priests of the Archdiocese of Washington that usually happens every two years (because of the pandemic, it's been three years this time around). Much of the discussion has been around the direction of the Church, what to do about declining attendance, and how we might do things differently to move from mere maintenance to mission. Many of our parishes have been just trying to stay afloat, but this is not sustainable. It clearly is not working in the long run.

We must figure out how to help people truly encounter Jesus Christ and grow a relationship with Him. This is not a matter of the Church changing teaching to try to remain "relevant" or popular. Many Protestant groups have tried that and they are dying even quicker. It is not a matter of being very contemporary with our music in worship. What one age group considers contemporary another group sees as positively ancient. Truly good music is timeless. It is primarily about that encounter with the transcendent; it is about getting to know Jesus Christ and experiencing a relationship with Him in prayer, in the

sacraments, in the Scriptures and in our interactions with each other; it is about knowing that we each have a purpose, and living that purpose.

In speaking with my fellow priests, there seems to be a consensus emerging that while we have lost parishioners because of the pandemic, for the most part those who are attending Mass now are the ones committed to the Faith. There may be fewer bottoms sitting in the pews (or in their cars in the parking lot), but generally speaking, you who are attending are the ones whose hearts are in it. Our efforts now perhaps should not be directed at getting those people back, but on bringing Christ to those outside the walls of our church, whether or not they were ever here with us at one point. In this, we will resemble the Church of the first few centuries after Christ than the Church of the 1950s.

In 1969, then-Father Joseph Ratzinger (later Pope Benedict XVI), spoke prophetically on German radio: *"The future of the Church can and will issue from those whose roots are deep and who live from the pure fullness of their faith. It will not issue from those who accommodate themselves merely to the passing moment or from those who merely criticize others and assume that they themselves are infallible measuring rods; nor will it issue from those who take the easier road, who sidestep the passion of faith, declaring false and obsolete, tyrannous and legalistic, all that makes demands upon men, that hurts them and compels them to sacrifice themselves. To put this more positively: The future of the Church, once again as always, will be reshaped by saints, by men, that is, whose minds probe deeper than the slogans of the day, who see more than others see, because their lives embrace a wider reality... If today we are scarcely able any longer to become aware of God, that is because we find it so easy to evade ourselves, to flee from the depths of our being by means of the narcotic of some pleasure or other. Thus our own interior depths remain closed to us..."*

From the crisis of today the Church of tomorrow will emerge — a Church that has lost much. She will become small and will have to start afresh more or less from the beginning... In contrast to an earlier age, it will be seen much more as a voluntary society, entered only by free decision. As a small society, it will make much bigger demands on the initiative of her individual members... But in all of the changes at which one might guess, the Church will find her essence afresh and with full conviction in that which was always at her center: faith in the triune God, in Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man, in the presence of the Spirit until the end of the world.

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



November 14 — November 20

Monday	Rv 1:1-4; 2:1-5/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/ Lk 18:35-43
9:00 am	All Departed Souls
Tuesday	Rv 3:1-6, 14-22/Ps 15:2-3A, 3BC-4AB, 5/ Lk 19:1-10
5:30 pm	All Departed Souls
Wednesday	Rv 4:1-11/Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/ Lk 19:11-28
9:00 am	All Departed Souls
Thursday	Rv 5:1-10/Ps 149:1B-2, 3-4, 5-6A and 9B/ Lk 19:41-44
5:30 pm	All Departed Souls
Friday	Rv 10:8-11/Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131/ Lk 19:45-48
9:00 am	All Departed Souls
Saturday	Rv 11:4-12/Ps 144:1, 2, 9-10/ Lk 20:27-40
9:00 am	All Departed Souls
4:00 pm	All Departed Souls
Sunday	2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5/Col 1:12-20/ Lk 23:35-43
8:30 am	All Departed Souls
11:15 am	All IHM Parishioners
1:00 pm	All Departed Souls

CHRISTMAS CHILDREN'S PLAY Volunteers are needed to assist in the acting and production of the Christmas Nativity Play on Saturday, December 24th at 3:30 pm. To make the play happen we will need child volunteers to be actors and adult volunteers (preferably parents of the children) to assist with costumes, organization, and other such responsibilities. Here are some important dates for the play:

Sunday, December 11 at 2:30 pm – roles assigned

Sunday, December 18 at 2:30 pm – costumes given

Thursday, December 22 at 10 am- 12:00am - dress rehearsal

Saturday, December 24 at 3:30 pm —Christmas play

If you or your child(ren) are interested in participating, please call the CFF office at 301-863-8793.

BULLETIN DEADLINE Please email your submission to bulletin@ihmrcc.org by Wednesday at 10 am prior to the Sunday of publication. All entries are subject to editing.

Events Calendar

November 14 — November 20

Sun:	9 am-12 pm 4-6 pm	KoC Pancake Breakfast Youth Group at St. Mary's Ryken
------	----------------------	--

SECOND COLLECTION next weekend is for the Retired Priests Fund. Please be generous in support for this collection!

ALTAR FLOWERS/SANCUARY CANDLES If you would like to donate the Altar Flowers or Sanctuary Candles in memory or for special intentions of a loved one, please call the Parish Office or email at cindy@ihmrcc.org.

MASS IN THE PARKING LOT As a reminder, during IHM's weekend Masses we have in-parking lot options available. While parked at IHM, if you tune to 99.7 FM you can hear the Mass broadcast live. If you park in the second, smaller parking lot, we will bring out Communion at the appropriate time if you have your hazard lights on.

MASS WITH HEALING PRAYERS This month's Mass with Healing Prayers is at 7 pm on Monday, November 28. After Mass, we will have Eucharistic Adoration and prayers for healing with laying on of hands. Confessions begin at 6:30 pm and continue as long as there are penitents.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

THE SICK

THAT THEY MAY BE RESTORED TO FULL HEALTH

Audrey Somers, Helen Daye, Kathleen Floyd, Mary Oliver, Judith Ann Allgood, Vince Guerin, Jane Keyon, Linda F. Gieser, Ralph Gough Sr., Betty LePore, Bill Wagoner, Joseph Hugh Weiland, Rylee Corliss, Rose Marie Weiland, Alan Stapanon, Ruby Garcia, Mia Garcia, Matthew Riddell, Marie C. Williams, Kaylee Klier, David Kalil, Wanda Slate, Enedina Melendez, Hector Perez, Josephine, Glenn Thompson III, John Worrell, Tim Brosnihan, Jim Makin, Carmen Colby, Tracey Herrera, Gary Green, Grace Miedzinski, Bruce Riddell, Katelyn Corliss, Robert Weaver

Please note: names will remain on this list for two months, unless otherwise notified. To keep a name on the list, please resubmit by contacting bulletin@ihmrcc.org, or call the Parish Office.

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER

We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

Follow us on





November 13, 2022

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mal 3:19-20a | 2 Thes 3:7-12 | Lk 21:5-19

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

In today's Gospel, Jesus describes events leading up to the end times: wars, earthquakes, famines, plagues, persecution, and even death. It's no wonder some Christians believe the Second Coming could be any day now. After all, our world has seen more than its share of these signs. However, as Jesus tells the disciples, we don't know when the end times will come. We do know, however, that Jesus remains at our side through the thick and thin of these "in between times." Just as Jesus tells the disciples he will give them "wisdom in speaking" to refute their enemies, he will give us the strength we need to persevere in faith. As St. Paul reminds us, we can do that by imitating the early Christians, working quietly to build up the kingdom of God each day.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

When facing a difficult decision or situation, it can be easy to fall into the trap of "catastrophizing" - that is, thinking of our biggest fear coming true, or of the worst that can happen. Today's readings include a laundry list: a blazing fire, toil and drudgery, wars and insurrections, earthquakes, famines, persecution, and death. Yet Jesus tells the disciples, "not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives." Rather than focus on our fears - not only about the end times but in our day-to-day lives - Jesus challenges us to trust in God's love for us. It doesn't mean we should resign ourselves to the difficulties we or others face. However, by placing faith over fear we can seek to help others here on earth, confident that Jesus will lead us home when our time comes.

ACT Many people today suffer due to natural disasters, authoritarian leadership, and human violence. Pray for these victims, of course, but also - in your creativity - seek out ways to use your time, talent, and/or treasure to alleviate their situation if possible.

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

After Christmas (I need a little time to recover from this remodeling project), I'd like to have a parish town hall about the spiritual renewal of our parish and how we can both strengthen the faith of those already participating and reach out to souls who have little to no relationship with God and His Church. Certainly, if you have ideas you'd like to put forth before then, I'd be happy to hear them, especially if it's something we can do during Advent or Christmas. But we need unrushed time to work out a medium and long-term strategic plan for our parish and I don't see that happening before Christmas. In the meantime, please be thinking about how we can better address the reality of our society and our community today to share the Gospel. We are already doing much that is good: several small group studies, healing services, opportunities for Eucharistic adoration including as part of the Children's Faith Formation program, offering spiritual direction (one-on-one meetings with a priest, deacon or trained layperson to help discern how God is active in someone's life), requiring spiritual direction for our young confirmation candidates, among other events and opportunities.

Despite all these good things, it is important for a parish community to have a clear vision and sense of purpose, and a strong notion of how to accomplish that purpose in our age. A pastor alone, or even with the consultation of the other clergy, cannot do this. It must arise from and be accepted by the different elements of the parish family if it is going to succeed and remain past the term of the pastor (no, that is not a hint about anything). Our IHM family, and the Church in the Western world, needs renewal. We must be open to wherever the Holy Spirit is leading us. Just as our forebears in the early Church learned to communicate the truth of Jesus Christ effectively, and the faith exploded throughout the Roman Empire and beyond, we now must learn to do the same in our age, in our culture, in our own reality. Let's do that together as one Body of Christ to prepare for our parish's next 75 years and beyond.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Fr. Marco

FORMED To sign up for Formed, the premier site to access Catholic Media online, go to www.formed.org and press "sign up" and then "sign up as a parishioner". Type in the ZIP code of the parish "20653", follow the directions to create an account, and then enjoy!

TURKEYS NEEDED For the Thanksgiving Dinner, we are in need of 10 frozen turkey breasts and 22 frozen whole turkeys 10-12 lb. size, Due to Safe Food handling regulations, we can only accept frozen turkeys. If you are interested in donating, please call the parish office at 301-863-8144.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THANKSGIVING! The parish needs volunteers for the Thanksgiving dinner, Thursday November 24th! There are options to prepare food the week leading up to the dinner, and also serving food the day of. To volunteer, sign up on the board in the main foyer.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR St. Francis Xavier Parish in Compton, Maryland will hold its annual Old Fashion Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 19, from 10 am until 3 pm at the parish hall. Step into the hall and take a cup of our Spiced Tea. A café style lunch includes Stuffed Ham and Chicken Salad sandwiches, Beef Vegetable Soup, hotdogs for the children, chips and our bake sale table. The bazaar features homemade arts and crafts, and raffles for (1) a cooler of cheer, (2) a basket of wine, (3) a hand stitched quilt and (4) a 50/50 raffle. Take Route 243 (Newtowne Neck Road) for six (6) miles to the parish grounds. Our Knights of Columbus have designated parking for the handicapped and are outside to assist with parking. All are welcome!

MUSIC MINISTRY Interested in Music Ministry but don't have a lot of time to commit? We have groups that serve at Mass only once or twice a month. You are needed! Also looking for accomplished pianists willing to play for Masses. Let me know if you are interested. mary@ihmrcc.org

MUSICIANS AND SINGERS FOR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS Any Youth Instrumentalists who are interested in playing for the 4 pm Christmas Eve Mass should contact Mary Stevens at 240-434-8876 or mary@ihmrcc.org. We will be planning rehearsal soon! We are also looking for any young singers who would like to participate with the Youth Choir at that Mass.

KoC PANCAKE BREAKFAST The next Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast Is Sunday, November 20th from 9 am until 12 pm. \$10 suggested donation.