

ST. MAX NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2025



May the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

PASTOR'S PAGE

FR. KYLE KOWALCZYK

LIFE IS CHRIST, DEATH IS GAIN

"Let us then die with Christ, to live with Christ. We should have a daily familiarity with death, a daily desire for death. By this kind of detachment our soul must learn to free itself from the desires of the body. It must soar above earthly lusts to a place where they cannot come near, to hold it fast. It must take on the likeness of death, to avoid the punishment of death. The law of our fallen nature is at war with the law of our reason and subjects the law of reason to the law of error. What is the remedy? Who will set me free from this body of death? The grace of God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord."

-St. Ambrose

DO WE STILL BELIEVE IN PURGATORY?

I t is still one of my all-time favorite priest moments (and I wasn't even a priest yet). It was during seminary, I was in the bank, and I was wearing my clerics. As I was waiting for my banker, I overheard a lady behind me going on and on about how the Catholic Church doesn't even believe in Purgatory anymore and she had been hoping that she would at least make it there, and now she didn't know what to do. It went on long enough that I decided I had to act. I got up, turned around and walked into her open office door--her jaw dropped when she saw my collar as if a priest just appeared out of thin air--and I said to her, "We do still believe in Purgatory, and you can still go there, have a nice day," and went back to my place.



That isn't an isolated incident. In fact, I think a lot of fallen away Catholics, non-catholics, and even practicing Catholics think that we have "changed the teaching" on Purgatory. Of course, not only is that impossible (because the Church doesn't change her permanent teachings), but it is ridiculous, because every single mass we pray for the dead. What point would there be in praying for the dead if they weren't in purgatory? People who are in heaven don't need prayers, and people in hell can't use them. The only possibility is purgatory.



Emma loved colour and crazy hats



A celebration of life: What to wear

Funeral Directors
ASSOCIATION OF N.J.

unhelpful. Whereas I don't know the exact history of it, I suspect it is something that Catholics procured from our Protestant brethren. Of course, many Protestants believe in "once saved always saved", therefore there's no need to pray for anybody after they die, everybody goes to Heaven. I once attended a Protestant funeral of someone who had died in very un-Christian circumstances; and the Pastor proceeded to canonize him anyway.

Of course, that feels good. We all want to go to heaven. No one wants to think of a loved one being in hell. And so if we just celebrate their lives, and forget about anything else, we can avoid any uncomfortable situations. However, this is not the Catholic way. In every Mass we are brought face to face with Death and Hell, with the primary purpose of helping us to prepare for the former and avoid the latter. We are also given to consider Purgatory and Heaven, so we can mitigate the former and arrive in the latter.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

I think one of the fundamental culprits in our modern forgetfulness is the contemporary funeral service proudly proclaimed a "celebration of life". They tend to include happy songs, multiple eulogies, and a declaration of canonization of the deceased. This is actually a big problem. Not only is it theologically inaccurate, but it is sociologically





WHEN DO I CALL THE PRIEST?

Call a priest when there are any significant changes in health, e.g., a life threatening diagnosis, a major fall, a move to health care facility, etc. Ideally, call the office before it is an emergency (while the dying person is still conscious and is able to speak and eat) to set up a time for Father to come to the house for Confession, Anointing, and Holy Communion.

HOW MUCH MORPHINE CAN A DYING PERSON HAVE?

Whereas morphine and other drugs are acceptable so long as they are given for pain relief and not to expedite death, the ideal is to allow the dying person enough cognitive ability that they are able to pray and offer their suffering. Of course, this is dependent on the person's level of pain and their awareness of redemptive suffering

ALL SOULS DAY

All Souls Day is a particularly unique celebration, and perhaps the proof case, for the fact that the Catholic Church still does believe in purgatory, always has, and always will. It's one of those quintessential Catholic holidays, where we get dressed up in black, chant things in Latin, and visit graveyards. Weird to some, but normal to us.

The last time All Souls day fell on a Sunday was in 2014, and since it's not a holy day of obligation, people often avoid it. But it is quite spectacular, in a reverent, solemn, (and maybe) morose, sort of way. I'm glad it falls on a Sunday this year, because it gives us the opportunity to really experience it. It's sort of like a funeral mass for everybody who has died in the past year, and many of the elements of this Requiem Mass are found in our funeral masses.

CATHOLIC FUNERALS

We have very beautiful funeral Masses here at St. Max. It seems like after nearly every funeral someone thanks me for the beautiful service, or homily, or music, or church building. Often these are non-catholic guests and visitors.



Think of it from their perspective: they are used to a “celebration of life” which gives little opportunity to actually mourn the deceased and none to pray for them, it is often very free-flowing, with a lot of randomly placed and somewhat sentimental songs, and then they come into this beautiful building, with an eerily beautiful organ, and prescribed rituals and a liturgical sense of flow, with ample opportunities for prayer and reflection. It meets a human need that they didn’t even realize they had.

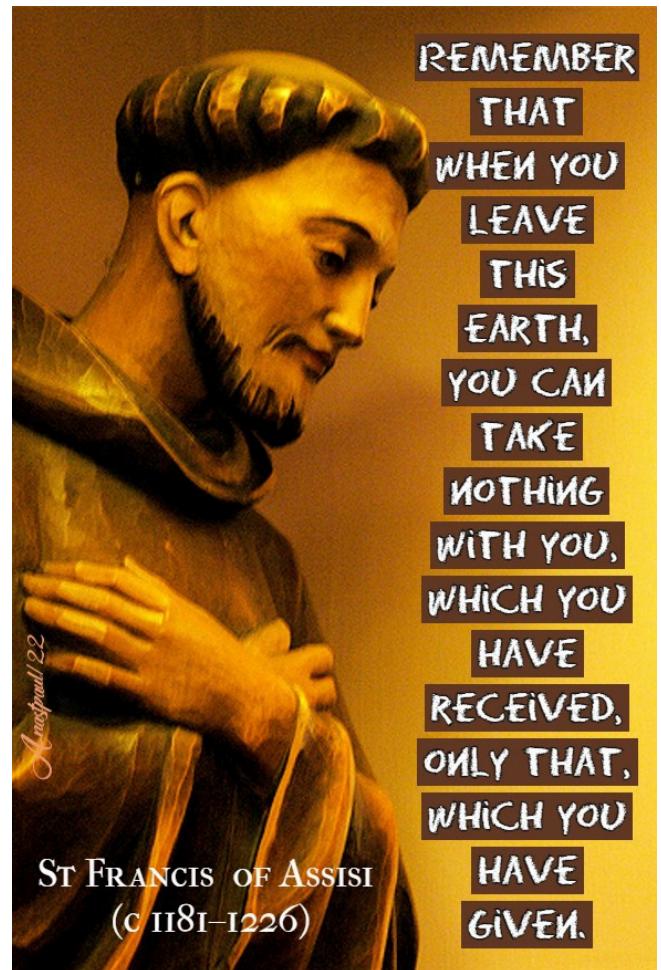
WHAT'S THE APOSTOLIC PARDON?

The Apostolic Pardon is a prayer priests can pray for someone who is close to death. A plenary indulgence is attached to it. Most priests will do this automatically, but you should always ask that it be administered along with the other last rites.



St. Ambrose says that the Christian should have a daily familiarity with death. If we overly sanitize it, and avoid thinking about the inevitability of it, we are playing with fire--literally. St. Teresa of Avila went so far as to say one should meditate on one's place in Hell! Why? So, we can avoid going there! The fear of Hell has kept many people from falling into it!

Actually, it's worth taking a moment to consider what a Catholic funeral is intended to be and to do, because a Catholic funeral is different from any other type of ceremony in or outside of the Church. Sometimes people approach the funeral Mass as if it is *their* liturgy and they can do whatever they want with it. I even heard of one story where the family wanted a bubble machine and *Take Me Out to the Ball Game*--no, I'm not making that up. There are plenty of opportunities for fond memories of the deceased, but the Mass is not one of them. The Mass is primarily a time to remember, to pray, and to reflect. Let me expound.



WHAT TO DO AT THE BEDSIDE OF SOMEONE WHO IS DYING?

After all the sacraments have been administered and goodbyes have been said, it is a good practice to pray the Rosary, or Divine Mercy Chaplet regularly, or to read the Psalms or the Gospel of John out loud at the bedside. Lighting a candle and having a Crucifix where the dying can see it is also a good practice.

The Catholic funeral is a time to remember what Christ has done in the life of your beloved deceased. During the funeral, you will hear prayers calling on the Lord to *remember* "not our merits but the faith of the Church", because the funeral is not a "remembrance of life"; rather, it is a remembrance of the victorious triumph of Christ! St. Therese of Lisieux said when she stands before the Lord, she will not tell him all the wonderful things that she has done, she will just ask for mercy. That's what we should all do. The funeral Mass is the same. It's not a time to talk about the one who died, but the One who rose from the dead! This is why the Church doesn't permit eulogies during the Mass, that would be like having a best man's speech during a wedding!

The next thing a funeral liturgy is intended to do is give you an opportunity to really pray for your loved one. Your prayers actually have the power to speed your loved one through Purgatory, where every attachment to sin is melted away, and help your loved one see God in heaven sooner. The prayer of the Mass is the best prayer there is, because it is the offering of Christ on the cross and contains infinite graces! One of my favorite prayers in the funeral Mass says the Lord "Command that this person's name be inscribed in the book of life!" What a consolation to your grieving heart to know that your prayers actually assist your loved one even after death.

Finally, a Catholic funeral Mass gives you the opportunity to really reflect on what is most important. With the business of planning the funeral and the luncheon and hosting guests and planning travel, one can find it hard to find time to just sit and think, to grieve, and to mourn. The funeral ritual with its chants and readings, prayers and silence gives you that time. It is necessarily reflective, so you don't need to do anything; you can simply be still and let the God of the universe do his work of love.

When done well, a funeral Mass can be a profound experience for the whole family and everyone in attendance; one that will help them to pray, grieve, and connect with God. Our funerals are meant to do more than foster warm fuzzies; we want them to facilitate a transcendent encounter with God for everyone who steps foot in our church.

IS LAST RITES THE SAME AS ANOINTING OF THE SICK?

Anointing of the Sick is the sacrament that often accompanies the Last Rites, unless it has been done recently. It is not for any sickness, but a sickness that carries with it a real danger of death. For older people, smaller illnesses are more serious. The coming death need not be imminent. Last Rites includes other prayers (e.g., Apostolic Pardon), and if possible is administered when death is drawing near.

FUNERAL HOMILY

Every priest chooses a brother priest to preach his funeral Mass. I have chosen my priest-cousin. My priest-cousin has chosen me. I think it is safe to say, one of us will not get our first choice. My cousin reminds me regularly, "When you preach my funeral, just talk about Jesus. If you have to mention me at all, tell people to pray for that wretched sinner!"



I recently preached a funeral for a lady who had grown up here but had moved away and married a non-Catholic man. I had never met her and knew nothing about her. At the luncheon the son called me over and said, "Thank you for not talking about my mom during your homily. You didn't know my mom. But you know Jesus. And you preached well about him." He got it. In 10 years of priesthood, I've probably done well over 200 funerals. Probably 25 of those were for people that I actually knew well.

Now that I've been at St. Max for seven years, I know many more of the people who have died. Someone recently asked me, "How do I get a homily like that?" If the person died a holy death, I might weave something about their faith into the homily. I have walked with some people who have died very holy deaths, and if so, I want to share that so other people can be inspired to do the same. So if you want a good funeral homily, live a good life and prepare well for death.

DYING WELL

The sad reality is not everyone takes the proper measures when death draws nigh. Often they (or more often their family) are so intent about this or that treatment and this or that facility that they fail to call the priest until it's too late. Don't wait! Our first and primary obligation is saving souls, not prolonging life. If we are the caretaker for someone, and things take a turn, the first call should be to the priest. Recently I had a woman call me before she even called the ambulance for her husband. She had her priorities right. Her job was to get her husband to heaven not to the hospital (I'm fairly confident that she accomplished both).

One could actually look at the whole of the Christian life as a preparation for heaven. That's the only thing that matters. St. Teresa of Avila said that all the sufferings of this life are like one lousy night in a

cheap motel as compared to eternal life in heaven. That puts things in perspective. This month of November is an annual reminder for us that death will come for all of us, but if we are ready for it, we have nothing to fear. If we aren't ready for it, well, Jesus said he would come like a thief in the night.

I'll end with this. I read it recently in a book about how monks approach death. The Father Abbot said he remembers one time taking a young man to the bus stop. The man had discerned with them, and decided it was not for him. He waited with the young man for a while. The bus came. The young man got on the bus and the bus drove away. Then the Abbot walked back to the monastery. He said for the one who is prepared, that's what death is like. It's as normal as getting on a bus.



THE IMPORTANCE OF MASS INTENTIONS



"One thing only I ask you, that you remember me at the altar of the Lord."
St. Augustine's Confessions (c. 397)

Have you ever taken a moment to consider what the "best" prayer is? The Our Father? The Rosary? The Glory Be? The Church actually gives us an answer to this question: it's the Holy Mass! Mass is not just something to be attended on Sunday, but truly the most efficacious prayer there is. When you are at Mass, you are participating in the sacrifice of Our Lord at Calvary. The Mass intention, or what we are collectively praying for during the Mass, is being offered during this sacrifice.

Think about it this way – if you were beside Mary and John at the foot of the cross, what would you say to the Lord? Keeping with the precedent of the penitent thief, you might ask the Lord to "remember" a loved one, even one who has passed away. With a Mass intention, you can do just that. If you have never done so, I highly recommend contacting the parish office and requesting an intention, particularly for the repose of the soul of someone who may be in Purgatory.

-Dylan Mika, Parishioner

PRAYING FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY

The souls in purgatory are called "poor souls" because they are helpless in their current state and depend on the living to assist them. The souls in purgatory are destined for heaven, but must first be purified of the effects of their sins, because "nothing unclean will ever enter" God's presence (Revelation 21:27).

Those in purgatory can no longer earn merit or do anything to lessen their own suffering or hasten their entry into heaven. Their time for earning spiritual rewards ended at death. So they are dependent on us, the living. Their purification and release from purgatory can be aided only by the prayers and good works of the faithful on earth. This is why it is important - imperative, actually - that we, the Church Militant, remember to pray for those souls in purgatory, and to do so often. [From angelusnews.com]

A Reflection on

The Saints

by Marie Bauman



Friends in High Places

HOW THE SAINTS INTERCEDED TO SAVE OUR DAUGHTER'S LIFE



Back in August 2014, I was 39 weeks pregnant with our daughter Katharine. She was my 6th pregnancy, but unfortunately, my husband Greg and I had only 1 living child at that point, a boisterous 2 ½ year old named Elizabeth. We had miscarried 4 other times. The actual details of Katharine's birth were non-eventful. She was a scheduled c-section and weighed 8lbs 11oz. There were no complications with her birth. We thanked the Lord for his mercy and kindness in bringing this new life into the world.

However, little did we know the crazy turn of events that were to occur less than 48 hours after her birth. And in retrospect, the events leading up to her birth and then those in the days afterwards were such that I can't help but see the direct handprint of the Saints all over it and I am in awe at how things worked out. This is that story. **The story of how the intercession of the Communion of Saints saved my daughter's life.**

But first let me back up all the way to January 1st, 2014. Ever since the early 2010s, I have used the **Saints Name Generator** to find out who our family's patron saints for the year will be. I do this on January 1st and have always been excited to see which saints "pick us" for the year. On January 1st, 2014, my patron saint for the year was St. Philomena – patron saint against many things including infertility, bodily ills, mental illness, desperate causes, impossible causes, etc. I was excited to get St. Philomena because we had recently found out I was pregnant and I knew she would be a powerful intercessor for me and the baby.

Greg and I found out the gender early on and picked Katharine for her name after St. Katharine Drexel, one of my favorite saints, and also in honor of his paternal grandmother Catherine Bauman. I struggled with a lot of anxiety during Katharine's pregnancy and turned often to praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet for comfort.



Fr. Fehn shortly after baptizing Katharine



Fr. Williams (now Bishop) praying over Katharine



Fr. Fehn concelebrated at Katharine's First Communion Mass in 2023

The hospital scheduled the c-section for August 14th. I thought that was a great date because it was the feast of St. Maximilian Kolbe and it had been recently announced that as of July 1st, 2014, our home churches of St. Peter and St. Joseph were being merged into the Parish of St. Maximilian Kolbe.

Fast forward to the morning of Monday, August 11th, 2014. It was St. Philomena's and St. Clare of Assisi's feast day. What timely providence! I vividly remember asking both saints point blank "please help me get through the next 3 days and protect Baby K from all distress and harm." I was consumed by an overwhelming feeling of dread and that the baby needed to be born soon! I was very worried. I even called my OB and asked her if we could move up the c-section date. She agreed, saying she had an opening the next day, Tuesday, August 12th. She said Katharine would be exactly 39 weeks and she had no concerns whatsoever about moving up the date 2 days.

A huge sense of relief came over me. Immediately, I looked at the calendar to see if the next day had an assigned Saint feast day. It did! August 12th was the feast day of St. Jane Frances de Chantal. Wow, this was perfect! She was a mother and would understand my desire to bring this baby safe into the world! I said a prayer of thanks to St. Philomena and St. Clare for their intercession on moving the date. The c-section went smoothly and I remembered thinking when I saw the official birth time of 3:29pm, how cool it was that she was born during the hour of Divine Mercy. The rest of Tuesday and Wednesday passed peacefully.

Early Thursday morning August 14th, our pediatrician Dr. April Lind stopped by my hospital room unexpectedly to visit. I asked her if she wanted to hold Katharine and she declined, saying she had been rounding at the hospital overnight and didn't want to pass on any germs. She said she would hold her in the clinic the next week. I sat down in the chair, holding Katharine, and Dr. Lind stayed to chat. However, after a few minutes the most unusual thing happened.

While I was talking, Dr. Lind interrupted me and said "**Marie, give me the baby.**" My first thought was "wow, that is weird, you just told me you didn't want to hold her!" However, before I could react, she grabbed her from me saying "**Marie, I am taking the baby.**" I looked down and saw that Katharine was a deep grayish blue color. Dr. Lind told me to call the nurses. I hit a button on the wall and a loud alarm went off. Within seconds several nurses burst through the door and I heard one of them yell "give me the baby". A nurse picked up Katharine and ran out of the room. Dr. Lind and I followed. They put an oxygen mask on her and it initially measured at 50%, but within 30 seconds, her color returned, her heart rate increased, and she looked around like nothing had happened. However, over the next few hours Katharine had several more cyanotic episodes and the doctors determined she needed to be transferred to the Level III NICU at Children's Hospital, Minneapolis. We asked Fr. Jerome Fehn, the hospital chaplain, to come baptize her. A Catholic nurse stood in as proxy for her Godparents. We didn't want to wait until they could get there.

"The patient and humble endurance of the cross - whatever nature it may be - is the highest work we have to do."

-St. Katharine Drexel

Right before Katharine was loaded into the ambulance, my OB Dr. Schaefer came to talk with the Children's team. She assured them that Katharine's birth was normal and there were no complications. Then Dr. Schaefer looked at me and said "Marie, I know what you are thinking. This has nothing to do with her being delivered 2 days before she was scheduled to. She is full-term and has a healthy weight. If anything, I think your intuition was telling you something." I was shocked. Boy, did she know me.

Over the next 6 days, Katharine had a spinal tap and many other tests. The ultimate diagnosis was infant sleep apnea caused by an underdeveloped nervous system. They were never able to pinpoint why Katharine's nervous system was underdeveloped. However, regardless of the cause, the treatment was 30 days of 40mg of liquid caffeine. She went from a baby who stopped breathing in her sleep, to a baby that rarely ever slept. She also wore a heart & lung monitor 24/7 and it would alert us to when she was having a cyanotic episode. Usually, just rubbing her stomach would "wake" her up and remind her brain to start breathing again. Additionally, the hospital required that Greg and I be trained in infant CPR. Katharine wore the heart & lung monitor for 4 months and did outgrow the sleep apnea. She has had no lasting heart or breathing side effects to this day and is a very creative and active 11-year-old.

Throughout those days in the NICU and many days since that fateful Thursday morning when she first turned blue in the presence of Dr. Lind, I have thought about what would have happened if we hadn't moved her c-section date up. Because we learned that it is common for these types of infant sleep apnea episodes to not start appearing until 2 days after birth, and had she been born on her original scheduled date, that 2 day window would have most likely been Saturday morning when this started for her. Dr. Lind wouldn't have been in my room. And who knows for sure, what "could" have happened. But I do know many of the Saint's were praying for her and while I am not glad she stopped breathing, I am so grateful for their intercession in putting the right people in the right place at the right time to help her. And although her birthday didn't end up on St. Maximilian's feast day on August 14th, she was baptized on August 14th due to the circumstances. Clearly, he still found a way to be connected to her and we are so grateful!

All the Angels and Saints, pray for us!

P.S. Katharine's middle name is Therese after St. Therese of Lisieux and it wasn't until after her birth that I found out that St. Katharine Drexel was canonized on October 1st, 2000. October 1st is the feast day of St. Therese. Truly another God-wink from Heaven!





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|| **MEET** **THE**
Baumans ||
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How long have you been parishioners?

Greg is a 4th generation member of the Parish. Greg and I were married at St. Peter's on May 31st, 2008 and I have been a member since then.

What do you appreciate about St. Max?

We love the liturgy, the family atmosphere, and the school. We want our kids to grow up immersed in Catholic culture and we find many opportunities for that here at St. Max's.

Tell us a little bit about your family.

Greg and I have 2 living daughters, Elizabeth, 13, and Katharine, 11. We have also experienced the loss of seven children to miscarriage; Peter 2008, Rose 2009, Mary 2012, Anne 2013, Francis 2015, Zelie 2019, and John 2020. Five of these seven children are buried at Calvary Cemetery. We thank the Lord for their lives, albeit short, and hope to be reunited with them one day in Heaven. We live on the farm Greg grew up on with his dad, Anthony Bauman. We love living on the farm and have 7 chickens, and 2 barn cats, named Juan and Lupe.

How are you involved in the parish/what do you currently participate in?

Currently, both Greg and I are committed Adorers. Greg is a member of the Men's Monday small group and Marie has been the Accounting Manager for the Parish & School for the last 13 years. Both Elizabeth and Katharine have attended St. Max Kolbe Academy since Prekindergarten and enjoy helping with childcare at parish events. Elizabeth is a trained Sunday Mass lector. She also lectors and is a sacristan for the Friday school Masses.

Talk a bit about your faith journey.

Both Greg and I were raised Catholic and have tried to stay active in our faith throughout the years. In fact, we met on a Frassati Society Catholic Young Adults camping trip in Northern MN back in 2003. We prioritize Sunday Mass no matter where we are, and have attended Mass in some amazing places throughout the US. We enjoy celebrating 3 main dates for each of our daughters, their birthday, their baptism, and the feast day of their Patron Saint. We also pray the rosary together as a family every night around 8:30pm. Unfortunately, health issues have been prominent in our family's lives, multiple miscarriages, Greg had a stroke in December 2022, I am a cancer survivor, and I also had open heart surgery in 2023 to replace my aortic valve. We have tried to teach the girls about redemptive suffering and to lean into our faith when things are bleak. We are grateful for all the support of our St. Max Kolbe family during those times! Back in November 2017, we traveled to Detroit, MI and attended the Beatification Mass of Blessed Solanus Casey, who I have had a strong devotion to. I received my First Holy Communion at the same church he did, St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Hudson, WI. There were over 60,000 people at the Beatification Mass and although the girls were only ages 5 and 3 at the time, I am glad we were able to make the trip and show them how amazing the Communion of Saints is!

What is a fun fact about you/your family that may surprise people?

As mentioned above, Greg and I got to know each other through the Frassati Society and started dating in 2006. Saint Pier Giorgio's Frassati's feast day is July 4th. On July 4th, 2007, Greg picked me up to go to Mass and then we were going to go to the Delano 4th of July parade. I had never been to the parade. When he picked me up, he asked me "Are you ready for the best day of your life?" And I thought "boy, do these Delano people take their parade seriously!". We went to Mass at St. Peter's and then he proposed to me at the Blessed Mother side altar right afterwards as we were finishing praying a novena to (at the time) Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. I said yes, and then he said "let's go watch the parade!" And we did. And we have never missed the Delano 4th of July parade since.

Do you or your family have any favorite hobbies, activities, or traditions that you participate in?

We love the outdoors and traveling as a family, especially visiting National Parks and historical sites. We went to Glacier National Park in 2024, Washington D.C. in 2025, and in 2026 we are planning to visit Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Additionally, all four of us enjoy reading and can often be found with a book in hand.

Celebrating All Saints Day



Our first graders learning about our community, and the gift of their vocations!



**Mrs. Rose Rodriguez,
Wife, Mother, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine**

**Mrs. Roberta Meehan,
Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Nurse**

A LOOK AHEAD MARK YOUR CALENDAR



NOVEMBER

14

*Honoring our
VETERANS*

FRIDAY
Nov 14th
8:30AM

**8:30 AM MASS
SHORT PROGRAM AND
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS**

Spread the word! ✨ Invite a Veteran!

DECEMBER

09



DAIRY QUEEN ART NIGHT

All are invited to stop by the Delano Dairy Queen December 9th from 5:00-8:00pm to visit with other St. Max Kolbe Academy families and view our students' artwork. 10% of all purchases are given back to the school, so bring a friend! Hope to see you all there!

DECEMBER

19



ADVENT CONCERT - DECEMBER 19th at 6:30pm
Join the students of St. Max Kolbe Academy as they lead us all into the Christmas Season through song.

Beauty in Mourning: The Journey of a Requiem Vestment

BY CATHERINE TAYLOR

“Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.”

Each November, the Church turns her heart toward remembrance—honoring the faithful departed and reflecting on the promise of eternal life. Among the sacred symbols of this season are the black vestments once worn for Requiem Masses — Masses for the Dead, whose quiet dignity speaks of both mourning and hope.

The finely embroidered vestment shown at right, worked in silver-gray thread on rich black velvet satin, comes from a traditional Catholic Requiem vestment set, most likely produced between 1890–1930 in France. The floral motifs and flowing vines, stitched in graceful symmetry, symbolize eternal life and the soul’s return to God. Its restrained beauty reflects the artistry of European embroidery of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, fashioned with reverence and care. The vestment also carries a personal history.

My parents, Richard and Lorraine Brasket, were active members of Holy Family Catholic Church in St. Louis Park in the 1960s and 1970s. After Vatican II, when many traditional vestments were retired, my mother somehow came to receive two black Requiem dalmatics, a stole, and a maniple. We never discovered what became of the matching chasuble.



REQUIEM DALMATIC AND STOLE



CATHERINE, AGE 5

As a child, I remember the dalmatics (vestments worn by the deacons) hanging in my bedroom closet. They frightened me then, their somber presence both mysterious and holy. Part of my fear came from knowing they had been used at funerals — for “dead people,” as I understood it at five years old. As a teenager, I became more intrigued, even trying one on and asking if I could wear it for Halloween — thankfully my mother said no. Years later, I saw them differently: beautiful, haunting, and filled with quiet grace. When my parents downsized to an apartment, I gladly took them into my care.

They frightened me then, their somber presence both mysterious and holy.



LORRAINE BRASKET & DEACON BOWEN

In 2018, I donated the vestments to The Church of St. Maximilian Kolbe. That year, Bishop Cozzens celebrated All Souls' Day Mass with Deacon Bruce Bowen wearing one of the dalmatics (pictured at left with my mother). After over fifty years of hanging in a closet, it was deeply moving to see the vestments once again serve in the sacred liturgy.

The following year, textile artist Anna Meehan Enright refashioned one of the dalmatics into a priest's chasuble, along with a chalice veil, burse, and casket pall. Today, parishioners can honor memory and artistry when these Requiem vestments are used once again for funeral Masses - restoring their purpose in prayer and beauty. What once symbolized fear has become a testimony of faith—the same

fabric that once marked death now celebrates the hope of resurrection. Even in sorrow, beauty endures. Through the language of thread and symbol, these Requiem vestments whisper the hope of All Souls' Day: that love is stronger than death, and in God's mercy, every tear will be turned to light.

"Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine. Et lux perpetua luceat eis."



"For your faithful, Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when this earthly dwelling turns to dust, an eternal dwelling is made ready for them in heaven."

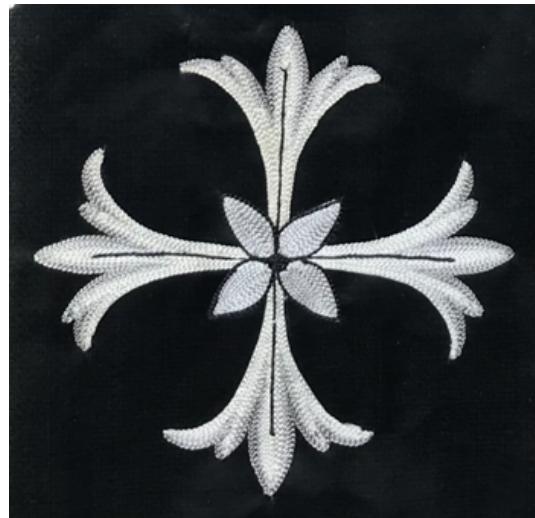
ROMAN MISSAL

The floral motifs and flowing vines, stitched in graceful symmetry, symbolize eternal life and the soul's return to God.

CHASABLE. The horizontal and vertical lines of the cross are from the original 19th-20th century dalmatic; the center circle design was replicated to match.



CHALICE BURSE AND VEIL. Newly fashioned using the embroidered silk of the original dalmatic.



Close up of the exquisite embroidery detail found in the original European textile garment.



ORIGINAL REQUIEM MANIPLE. Once worn on the left forearm of the priest to act as a sort of handkerchief, it is now worn as a symbol of sorrow and the hope for eternal life.



CASKET PALL. Fashioned in the shape of a cross with white symbolizing new life in Christ, and floral and center designs in imitation of the originals found on the European dalmatic.



RECLAIMING SUNDAYS

AN INITIATIVE OF THE ST. PAUL/MINNEAPOLIS ARCHDIOCESE

NOVEMBER

Beauty and Prayer

On Sunday we are called to participate in appreciating the beauty that is all around us and participate in it. Beauty can evoke in us an appreciation for what God has created in our life and lead us to participate in the creation through the materials around us. We are called to find and assist in creating beauty through the ordinariness of family life.



SAMPLE ACTIVITIES FOR NOVEMBER:

- Explore the beauty of our cathedral, basilica, or your parish by taking time to explore the art. Learn about the saints you see. If you have time, draw pictures of your favorite image or take a family photo with a beautiful sacred image in the background. Turn this into a small moment of evangelization by making it your Christmas card photo.
- Create a small sacred space (prayer table/family altar) in your home. Enlist contributions from everyone in your family to make it beautiful (flowers in a small vase, draw pictures for Jesus, etc.).
- Color with your children.
- Share passionate projects in which you create (the woodshop, knitting, etc.).
- **Liturgical Living:** Near the beginning of the month, visit a family member's gravesite. Make it neat and bring flowers (if permitted by the cemetery). Pass on family stories about this person to your children. Learn the Eternal Rest prayer and pray it daily for those you know who have died. Pray for the souls in purgatory this month.

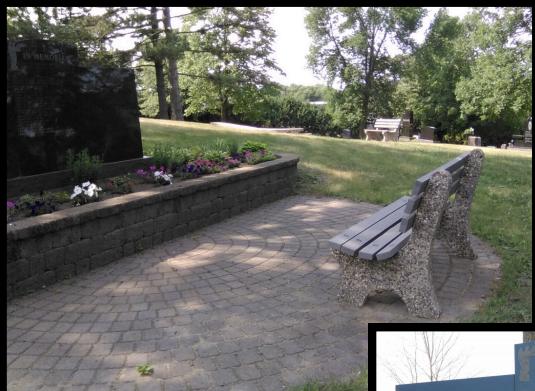
St. Max Miscarriage Memorial Ministry

Contact
Bobi Meehan
952-242-7865

St. Max is here to offer Spiritual and Physical Works for any parent experiencing the loss of a holy innocent through miscarriage. We offer guidance and the resources to help assist with any concerns, including a Supportive Care Package available at the parish office. Interment and burial inscription is offered at either cemetery. St. Joseph Cemetery features a Miscarriage Memorial Wall on the south side of the Passion, as well as an internment area. Calvary Cemetery has a memorial wall and a landscaped internment site.

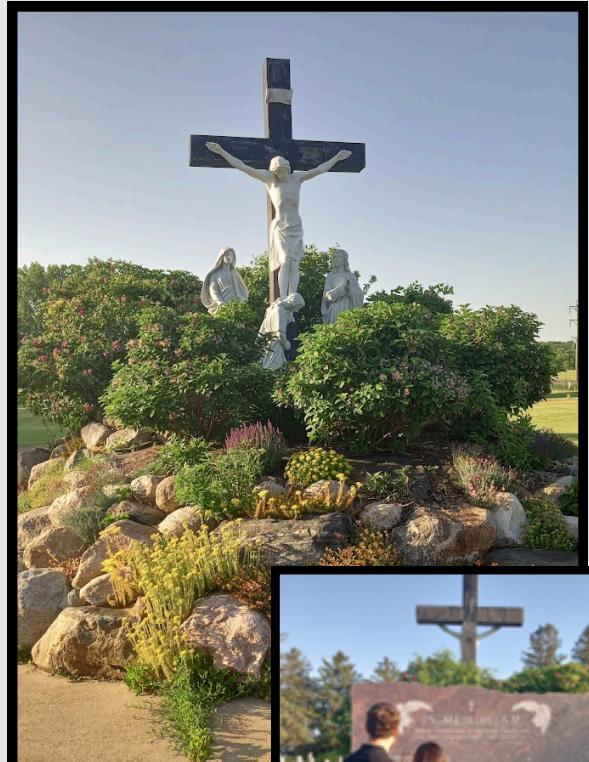
CALVARY CEMETERY UNBORN MEMORIAL

1/2 mile South of St. Peter Church on River St. (Cty. Rd. 17)



ST. JOSEPH'S UNBORN MEMORIAL

On the corner of Elm Street and County Line Road



Red Bird Ministry

Red Bird Ministries exists to help parents address the profound healing that needs to happen while also honoring the memory of the child throughout their grief journey.





We Celebrate the Saints!

We celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints, as it is celebrated every liturgical year, on November 1st. The feast of all saints dates to the earliest days of the Church, when Christians would often solemnize the date of a martyr's death for Christ at the particular location of his or her martyrdom. As the practice of venerating martyrs grew, eventually the celebration of their lives and deaths could not be assigned to individual days of the year - there were simply far too many saints to honor with a particular feast! After some development over the centuries, a chapel in the Basilica of St. Peter was consecrated by Pope Gregory III to all the saints, with its annual date of celebration set on November 1st. Pope Gregory IV extended the celebration to the universal Church, and thus, officially, we have the Solemnity of All Saints (see *The Catholic Encyclopedia*).

The saints offer more than simply serving as exemplary role models and guides to a fruitful and happy life. By their intercessory prayer, the saints help us in direct and concrete ways.

The saints, then, can influence our lives in vastly superior ways, since they are initiators through intercessory prayer of many spiritual benefits and goods we may receive from Almighty God. In the saints, we have ordinary people made extraordinarily great through the gift of God, whose words of prayer unfailingly reach God on our behalf. These are precisely the people a sane, rightly ordered, and rational person wants to know!

Further, the merits of the saints' works, which they have won in Christ through lives of faith, hope and charity, can be communicated to others in the Church since all are joined together in the one body of Christ. This communion of goods in the Church means that the intercession of the saints can aid the entire Church (CCC 947).

Consecration to Jesus through Mary

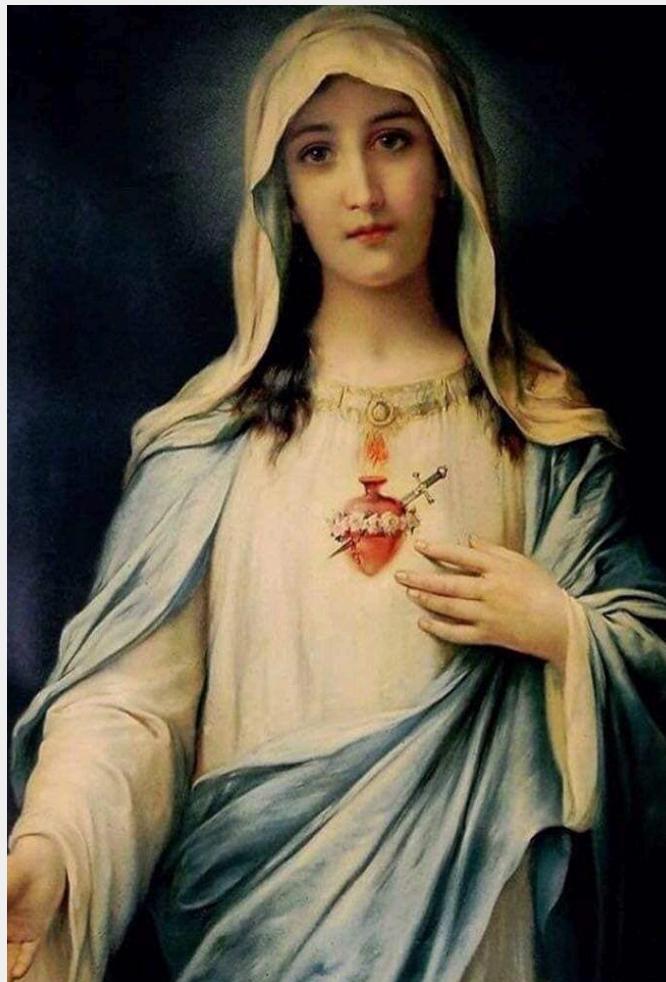
The St. Max Marian Consecration Retreat

A Reflection on a Marian Consecration by Jason Rudolph

In last month's Newsletter you may have read the moving Rosary testimonies from some our fellow parishioners. There is no doubt that the power of the story of our salvation – which is recalled in it – can move mountains. Like many of you, my daily prayer routine includes the Holy Rosary. As I contemplate the mysteries, I often find myself asking the Lord to show me His divine path. The path He's created for me so that I may live the fullness of life as He intends. The fullness Jesus intends for us has one common thread that we all share. Jesus wants us to be saints. Each of us adding our own unique skills and talents to God's plan. OK, but if you're like me, the question is "how do I do that?" I am not really an evangelist, an author (clearly), or clergy. So how do I transform myself into the person God wants me to be? Fortunately, we know just the person to ask and to guide us, our Holy Mother Mary. This is what Marian consecration is all about.

So how does Mary fit into all this? As Fr. K has often said in his homilies, whenever Mary is mentioned in the Bible, the Holy Spirit shows up. The Holy Spirit overshadows Mary because of the unique union between the Sanctifier and the Mother of God. In other words, "Mary's great God given task, in union with and by the power of the Holy Spirit, to form every human being into 'another Christ,' that is, to unite everyone to the Body of Christ and form each person into a fully mature member of this Body. Therefore, every human being is invited to rest in the womb of Mary and be transformed there, by the power of the Holy Spirit, more perfectly into Christ's own image. Marian consecration basically means giving Mary our full permission (or as much permission as we can) "to complete her motherly task in us" (Fr. Gaitley, 33 Days to Morning Glory). Of course, this process of formation does not happen overnight. Wouldn't that be great if it did? It takes a little bit of effort on our part and most importantly we have answer "Yes" to our Mother's call. This is an invitation to answer "Yes" to her call.

On a personal note. I've been a Catholic for 8 years now and most recently been drawn to explore consecration through Mary. She has played a pivotal role in my faith journey. If you would have told me 10 years ago that I would be a proud, practicing Catholic I would have paused, smiled and probably said, "You're adorable, that's hilarious."



From the heartfelt miracles and apparitions of Medjugorje, the fruits of praying the Rosary, to the consecration to Jesus, it's always been Mary tirelessly pointing the way to her son. I can't possibly find enough words to describe how much of an impact Mary has made throughout my journey so far. I'd like to give you a short example though.

I was reading volume one of the 10-part series entitled "Direction for Our Times As given to Anne, a lay apostle." The series describes messages which Anne has been receiving directly from Jesus, the Blessed Mother, and number of saints through locutions (a form of private revelation similar to an apparition). The passage below was what inspired me to do the consecration:

“

Answer 'yes' to your mother and feel the closeness of Jesus, my Son. He will change you and introduce great beauty to your life. Be at peace as you follow the path to holiness. We are with you, and ask only that you do your best

”

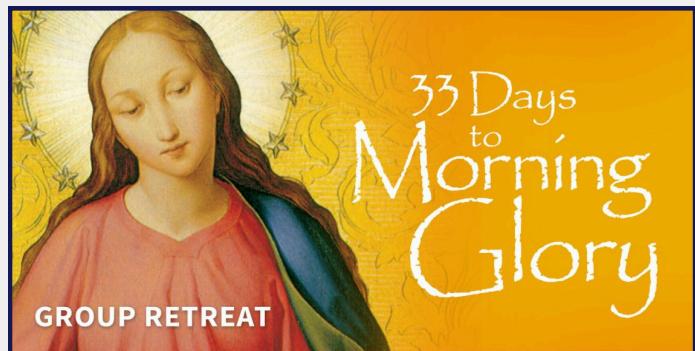
That night I decided I would say "yes" to consecration. The very next morning I received a phone call from our very own Andrew Zeisel, out of the blue. He simply asked, "Hey, we haven't done a consecration through Mary at St. Max. Are you interested in leading a group?" I smiled and "yes."

So, I am inviting you to join me in the Marian Consecration Group here at St. Max. During this 4-week and 5 day retreat we'll walk through "33 Days to Morning Glory" by Fr. Michael E. Gaitley, MIC. We will explore, reflect, and pray on the concepts from four of the "heavy hitters" of Marian saints, St. Louis de Montfort, St. Maximilian Kolbe, St. Mother Teresa, and Pope St. John Paul II. The intention of the retreat is to prepare you to consecrate yourself to Jesus through Mary, with the consecration date falling on a Marian feast day. For this retreat, that day is January 1 – Mother of God.

I look forward to seeing you there!!



Jason Rudolph
is a St. Max
Parishioner
who has
been active
since 2020



Marian Consecration Retreat

Group meeting details

- The group will meet for one hour to discuss the previous week's readings.
- We will meet for 5 consecutive Saturday's at 3:30 pm in St. Martha Hall, St. Peter campus.
- 1st meeting: Saturday, November 29th at 3:30pm
- Last meeting: Saturday, December 27th at 3:30 pm
- Lite snacks will be provided.
- Reading material will be provided, on loan (library-style): "33 Days to Morning Glory" by Fr. Michael E. Gaitley, MIC.
- The daily readings are only 2 pages in length, with a few reflective questions and a prayer. Read each passage daily, and we'll discuss the previous week's readings at our group meetings.
- At the end of the retreat, you will be prepared for consecration. The consecration is an individual prayer and offering to Jesus through Mary. Sample prayers are provided, or you can compose your own.
- Zero cost to participate.
- Register on Flocknote
- To promote a relaxed environment for discussion, there is a limit of 15 participants for this retreat. First come, first serve.

Consecration date: Thursday, January 1, 2026



SIGN UP

AD MAJOREM DEI GLORIAM: A CONCERT OF DEDICATION

WORKS BY THOMAS TALLIS, WILLIAM BYRD, CESAR FRANCK,
EDWARD ELGAR, AND MAX REGER

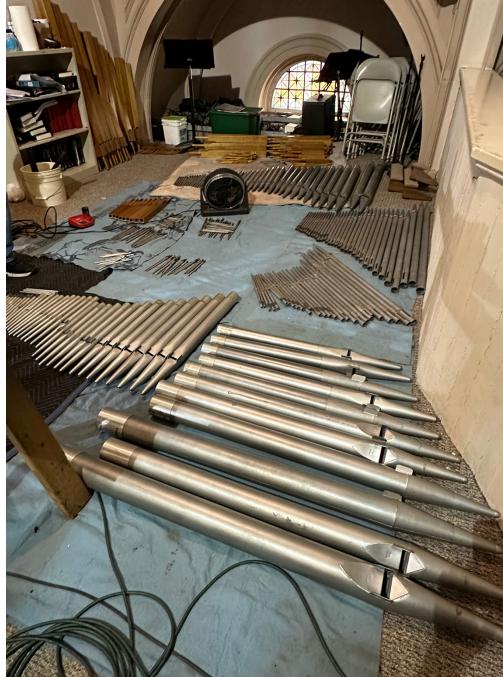
9 NOV
SUNDAY 3 pm

ST. PETER CAMPUS
FREE

Join us for a sacred music
concert featuring the
talents of our parish
cantors, musicians, & staff
in a program of choral
and instrumental works.

Wine Reception to follow





ST. MAX ORGAN UPDATE

The pipe organ at St. Maximilian Kolbe has been restored, tuned, and thoroughly cleaned, bringing renewed life to the instrument. The project was completed by Associated Organbuilders, operating under the direction of Mr. Timothy Patterson, who oversaw every detail of the restoration process. His expertise ensured that the instrument's full range of tones and colors were carefully preserved and enhanced. As part of the restoration, the long-silent reed stops were repaired and are now fully operational once again; these reeds add brilliant and majestic sounds that greatly enrich the music heard at Mass. The parish community is deeply grateful for this careful work. The photographs in the newsletter portray the careful and dedicated work by Associated Organbuilders.



UPCOMING *Events*

NOV
5

ARS VIVENDI

Join us for a special Community night where we grow in faith, fellowship, and build Catholic Culture. Meal for tonight is chili and cornbread. Special topic is "Living Monday, the Balanced Life. Starts at 5 pm with prayer, followed by a meal and a talk. Child care available.

NOV
9

ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF ST. PETER CHURCH

Join us in the morning for a pancake breakfast hosted by the Delano Knights of Columbus. All proceeds go to St. Max Kolbe Academy. In the afternoon, come for our first Dedication Day sacred music concert. Free to the public. Located in the Main Church at St. Peter Campus, followed by a wine and cheese reception. Doors open at 2:30 pm, concert begins at 3 pm.

NOV
19

ARS VIVENDI

Join us for a special Community night where we grow in faith, fellowship, and build Catholic Culture. Meal for tonight is hot sandwiches and soup. Special topic is "Living Tuesday, the Enemies of Peace. Starts at 5 pm with prayer, followed by a meal and a talk. Child care available.

NOV
27

THANKSGIVING

Mass at 9 am at the Adoration Chapel.

Dear Father, in Your infinite generosity, please grant us continued graces and blessing throughout the coming year.

NOV
30

ADVENT BEGINS

First Sunday of Advent. The Advent season is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to Christ's second coming at the end of time and to the anniversary of Our Lord's birth on Christmas.

DEC
8

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is a Holy Day of Obligation. All Masses will be at the Main Church at St. Peter Campus. Mass times are 6:30 am, 8:30 am (School Mass), and 5:30 pm.

DEC
12

WOMENS WINE EVENING

Our annual Women's Advent evening with wine, cake, and fun. Celebrating the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. 6 pm - 8 pm. Speaker is Pam Patnode.



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