

# St Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, Michigan www.stvincentferrer.net

#### OCTOBER 30, 2022 † THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

#### From The Pastor

By every measure, our Parish Mission was highly successful. I am happy to report eighty to one hundred people were present each night to hear Father Craig Marion share his thoughtful insights. Many joined us for a reception each night and spoke energetically about each evening. Father Craig reflected with us about the past, the present, and the future as a people of faith, our parish community, and the Church at large. I appreciated his theme of hope and encouragement in these challenging times as he reflected various stories of the Church and its past. Our hope and our strength is in the Lord regardless of the trials that lean against us. Countless believers gone before us have borne the weight of every kind of trial and persisted in the promises of Christ through faith, hope, and the power of the Mass in the reception of the Holy Eucharist.

For the past, Father Craig calls us to surrender loss and hurt, trials and disappointments to the Divine mercy of Jesus and the promise of redemption. For the future, we were called to anticipate with hope the providence of God. This theme is evident in the first reading today. The author reflects beyond the boundaries of church religion to share with us both the power and the mercy of God in the Divine Essence. This is an important reality today. Our image of God is too often limited by our experience and complaints about the Church and its faults. God is not the Church and the Church is not God. God's power is rooted in the authority of truth in the essence and nature of Divine Love. God created in the desire of Divine love. God loves all created things and loathes nothing that is made. God hates nothing he has made and is merciful to all that they may realize the disorder of sin and turn to the God who created them in goodness and love.

The power of God's mercy invites us to realize the Divine Spirit as our deepest nature and identity in God. This nature is most evident and active only in the present. Father Craig reflected that we approach the present as a gift; a gift given freely in love. God can only be experienced in the present time. The past is a memory and the future is unknown. In the present, we are called to love in the example of Jesus who is the perfect image of the invisible God. To love serves the happiness and joy of our lives intended by God who created us for love. This is played out for us in the story of Zacchaeus.

Like many of the parables of Jesus, this story could have a very contemporary face. The story is packed with emotions of hope and longing. This hope is fulfilled in the encouragement given by Jesus in such a way that the life of Zacchaeus is forever changed. Put yourself in the story and consider how the emotions of

this person may be in you. Zacchaeus wants to see Jesus. More to the point, he wants Jesus to see him. Why? It is a simple step to understand that Zacchaeus is lonely, probably isolated in his life, and regularly hearing the rejection of others, if not from his own inner voice. He wants a change. He wants to be seen for who he is, or who he could be if given the chance. He seeks relationship, acceptance, and a more valid place among others.

Jesus is keen for this. Is Zacchaeus seeking Jesus or is Jesus seeking Zacchaeus? Changing his plan of simply passing through town, Jesus stops and engages the one longing to meet him. Could this in any way reflect a desire in you? Given the times we are in, I think most of us would love more mutual support, acceptance, and deeper connections with others.

Reflecting the first reading, notice how Jesus embodies the mercy of God as he receives Zacchaeus. No comment is made about what Zacchaeus wants, where he is from, or what he wants from Jesus. Jesus knows all this because he is love incarnate. Jesus makes no mention of the source, kind, number, or degree of sin that may be weighing on Zacchaeus. He simply welcomes him with full desire, acceptance, and love. Notice the acceptance of Jesus transforms a lonely, rejected, and unhappy man into a person alive and animated to freely change and reverse his way of life. Acceptance is another word for love. Love transforms and Zacchaeus is all in. Even the complaints of the religiously righteous do not dampen his opportunity for a new life. Without being asked, he freely gives half of his wealth to the poor, and any whom he cheated will be repaid four times more.

That is conversion. That is a living encounter with the Lord Jesus who is the incarnate flesh of the living God. Even so, Jesus does very little in the scene. He invites, receives, and accepts. No speech, no confession of sin, no explanation of why, just acceptance that conveys love and brings new life.

Is anyone here interested in that? Could other people in that crowd have changed that day as they witnessed the effect of acceptance and love? Or were they stuck in their religious judgements? One way or another, many of us could be Zacchaeus. Do we similarly desire to see Jesus? Are we willing to step beyond our comfort zone and bring our desire to the Lord? Love happens in the present. In Christ, it very often happens in prayer or through the prayer we make to God. Trust God. Believe in the truth of love in the Divine essence. Act on your faith. If God wants to use another person or event to help you to be free, be prepared to accept what the good Lord desires for you.

Say a prayer for our Religious Formation group as we Commission our Catechists today. Father John Esper

# LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

#### DAILY MASS

8:00am Monday thru Thursday

#### WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 9:00am

Church doors open 1/2 hour before Mass begins

# SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Saturdays 3:00 - 3:45pm in Adoration Chapel

Only one person allowed in chapel at a time. Persons seeking Sacrament of Reconciliation will be allowed in church to line up at 3:00pm



Live Streaming of Mass Monday thru Thursday 8:00am and Sunday 9:00am

One hour of Adoration on Tuesday following 8am Mass

#### Livestream of Rosary on Thursday following Mass

Search for St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church (in Madison Heights) on youtube to find our channel or connect via our APP or website

## PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

#### ST VINCENT FERRER PARISH OFFICE

28353 Herbert St., Madison Heights, MI 48071 248-542-8720 Fax 248-542-8721 Website: www.stvincentferrer.net

#### **PARISH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday through Thursday
9am to Noon - 1:00pm to 4:30pm
Friday - 9am to Noon - Closed Saturday & Sunday
Parish Office Staff

Reverend John C. Esper, Priest in Solidum Deborah Tourville, Business Manager/Spiritual Direction

Sheryl Brown, Parish Secretary/Bulletin Jim Balistreri, Music Coordinator

Mary Ann Przybysz, Evangelical Charity Coordinator/ Order of Christian Initiation of Adults(OCIA) Coordinator

Carl Copen, Facilities Supervisor Alex Mototolea, Maintenance

# Faith Formation Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday Noon-3pm or by appointment 248-398-1743

Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

For information on Baptisms, RCIA and Funerals contact the Parish Office 248-542-8720



#### MONDAY, October 31, 2022

8:00am Mass: Christopher Hudy (special intention) req. by Mom TUESDAY, November 1, 2022 All Saints Day

8:00am Mass: Deceased Miceli & Virga Family req. by Virga Family

7:00pm Mass: All deceased parishioners

WEDNESDAY, November 2, 2022 All Souls Day

8:00am Mass: Milda Svoba Walters† (7th R.A.) req. by Regina Juska-Svoba

**7**:00pm Mass: **Mass of Remembrance** for deceased parishioners and those who had funerals at SVF this past year

#### THURSDAY, November 3, 2022

8:00am Mass: Rose & Paul Halkey† req. by Bill and Mary Beth Hochstetler

#### SATURDAY, November 5, 2022

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Fred Karolski† (1st R.A.) req. by Wife, Linda

Peter Conway req. by Mom

Mark Smith† (1st R.A.) req.by Smith Family Deceased clergy who ministered in the AOD

#### SUNDAY, November 6, 2022

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer All deceased clergy who ministered at St. Vincent Ferrer and St. Dennis

Leonard Vertel† (18th R.A.) req. by Jerry & Bernadette Gutowski

Michael Celmer† req. by Bill & Mary Beth Hochstetler Clarice Kovala† req. by Camille Keyes Amy Brock† req. by Grandma Stefan Campa† req. by Wife, Jadranka

# READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF October 30, 2022



Sunday: Wis 11:22 — 12:2; Ps 145:1-2, 8-11,

13-14; 2 Thes 1:11 — 2:2; Lk 19:1-10

Monday: Phil 2:1-4; Ps 131:1bcde-3; Lk 14:12-14 Tuesday: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14; Ps 24:1-6; 1 Jn 3:1-3;

Mt 5:1-12a

Wednesday: Wis 3:1-9; Ps 23:1-6; Rom 5:5-11 or

6:3-9; Jn 6:37-40, or any readings from no. 668 or from Masses for the

Dead, nos. 1011-1016

Thursday: Phil 3:3-8a; Ps 105:2-7; Lk 15:1-10 Friday: Phil 3:17—4:1; Ps 122:1-5; Lk 16:1-8 Saturday: Phil 4:10-19; Ps 112:1b-2, 5-6, 8a, 9;

Lk 16:9-15

Sunday: 2 Mc 7:1-2, 9-14; Ps 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15; 2

Thes 2:16 — 3:5; Lk 20:27-38 [27, 34-38]



Tuesday,
November 1, 2022
Holy Day Masses
8:00am and 7:00pm

# Reproductive Freedom for All **Proposal 3 - Vote NO**

"If passed, this proposal would turn Michigan into ground zero for abortions performed anywhere, at any time, by any person for any reason."

Archbishop Allen Vigneron

See his video message at www.aod.org/prolife

#### PROPOSAL 3 WOULD RESULT IN:

- Taxpayer funded abortions
- \* Legalized partial birth abortions
- Unregulated & unsafe abortion clinics
- \* Abortions performed by unqualified individuals
- \* No parental consent or informed consent

To learn more, Archbishop Allen Vigneron encourages visiting: supportmiwomenandchildren.org.

The full letter from the Archbishop can be found on our website, at aod.org or pick up a paper copy in back of church or at the Parish Office.

# TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION



The Solemnity of All Saints and the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed fit well at the beginning of November. The liturgical readings of this final month in the Church year are keyed to the end of time and the fulfillment of Jesus' saving acts. Nowhere is this more fully celebrated than in Mexico, where November 2 is the "Day of the Dead." Missionaries moved an ancient Aztec festival from midsummer to November, linking the festival to Christian themes. Today, it is a time for remembering the dead and celebrating the continuity of life, principally by festive picnics in cemeteries. There are special foods and games, and people socialize with other families and tell favorite stories about their dear ones. The sweetness of life is honored by sugary desserts and treats. Flowers, music, lights, and feasting assure that the day is not at all morbid. Traditionally, the day begins with Mass, a procession to the cemetery, and a morning feast. Most families have a special dinner with the pan de muerto, or "bread of the dead." A toy skeleton is baked into the loaf, and the one who bites into it is considered lucky indeed. The dead are not feared, but deeply loved, and this joyful family feast points both to age-old customs and Resurrection faith.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

# **ALL SOULS MASS OF REMEMBRANCE**



## Wednesday, November 2, 2022 - 7:00pm Eternal rest grant unto them 0 Lord.

Lillian Wieczorek Carol Wentworth Kathy Shonts Anna Antosiek Frederick Karolski Marvin Berner Mark Smith Donald Winarski Wayne Maynard Frank Nuber Mary Anne Cikota Robert Gettings Dolores Amato Virginia Dombrowski Michael DeRubeis Iulie Morello Margaret Mary Withorn Eleanor Paraskevin Jennifer Dionisio Cecilia Reisner Dorothy Peacock

Theresa Maynard Robert Pipp Jeanne Shepley Gerrí Stann Constance Nuber Oanh Ma Michael Bush Patricia Zaleski Clarice Perisi Al Napolitano Joyce Maierle Cheri Fisher Thomas Varee Robert Wrobel Paul Halkey Edward Novak, Jr. Shirley Novak Robert Tomlinson Clarice Kovala Gerald Gutowski Joe Arant

That day which you fear as being the end of all things is the birthday of your eternity.

—Seneca

# SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: Halloween Tuesday: All Saints

Wednesday: The Commemoration of All the Faithful

Departed (All Souls' Day)

Thursday: St. Martin de Porres

Friday: St. Charles Borromeo; First Friday Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary; First Saturday



...openness to God's will and election integrity at the ballot box ...all government leaders to seek wisdom in finding a peaceful resolution to the Ukraine crisis.

...medical and humanitarian aid for those suffering from economic hardship and from complications caused by catastrophic weather

...the safety of men and women dedicated to protecting lives and freedom.

...the homeless, the addicted and all who are suffering physically, spiritually and emotionally

...all who are sick, homebound, undergoing or recovering from surgery, medical procedures, treatments or testing, and those who have made specific prayer requests.

Lord Jesus.

You are the Divine Physician and Healer. To You, we lift up in prayer all who are lonely, homeless, sick or addicted; all who are unemployed or underemployed; all who are anxious or depressed and all who are suffering in any way spiritually, physically or emotionally in these difficult times. In their pain and brokenness, we ask that you bring them the comfort of your loving presence. In You, may they find strength for the day and hope for the journey. Amen



#### TOUGH LOVE

The first reading tells us that the God of all the universe is a merciful God who loves all creatures, not just enough to keep them in existence, but

enough to give sinners the chance to repent. God, who made all things, has the right to punish our transgressions. Instead, God gives us warnings and reminders to lead us to repentance.

Warnings are found in God's word, in the scriptures, and in Jesus. Besides the Ten Commandments, we also have the books of the law, which can be warnings that even the smallest of sins need to be repented. White lies, for example, are usually told to keep from hurting someone's feelings. When we get used to telling white lies, however, we can be inclined to tell other lies, such as those told to protect ourselves. Those lies not only make it harder for people to trust us, they also keep us from facing our faults and taking responsibility for our actions.

Jesus also warns us about sin, both in his teaching and when he forgives sinners. In today's Gospel Jesus has dinner with the tax collector, who demonstrates his repentance by offering to repay those he has extorted. Jesus tells Zachaeus and the bystanders that he came to save the lost. But part of being saved is the intention not to get lost again.

And what about "reminders"—the results of sin that usually catch up with us? The sin of arrogance can lead a driver to think he can ignore the speed limit. But when he has to pay a speeding ticket, that is the reminder that his arrogance, not the speeding, was a sin. If we ignore those reminders, we may suffer eternal consequences. If we think of the results of sin as God's "tough love," perhaps they will remind us to sin no more.

Tom Schmidt,

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### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH.







### EVANGELICAL SERVICE CORNER



SEPTEMBER 28 TO NOVEMBER 6

40 Days for Life is a National Prayer
Campaign to end abortion
Participants offer prayers, fasting, and peaceful vigils at local abortion centers if able

To participate in a peaceful vigil at a local abortion center, visit: https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/vigil-search.aspx



#### HOLIDAY JAIL OUTREACH OCTOBER 29 TO NOVEMBER 13

We are collecting white socks, bars of soap and postage stamps for those incarcerated at Oakland County Jail. Baskets for donations are available in church or at the Parish Office during business hours.

# THANKSGIVING BASKET NON-PERISHABLE FOOD COLLECTION BEGINNING NOVEMBER 5 TO 20

Stuffing
Gravy
Soups
Cranberry Sauce
Pickles
Olives



Yams
Applesauce
Canned Fruit
Cookies

**Canned Vegetables** 

Foods can be regular or sugar free

The requested items listed above can be dropped off in church before Mass or at the parish office during business hours. Monetary donations can be marked "Thanksgiving baskets" and put in the collection basket in church or left at the parish office. Donate electronically at our website: www.stvincentferrer.net Click the donation tab and then the On Line Giving button. Choose Evangelical Charity Outreach as the fund.

#### **EYEGLASSES & HEARING AID COLLECTION**

We continue to collect hearing aids and eyeglasses for the Lions Club. Donation boxes are at the church entrances. Please do not leave eyeglass cases. FAITH
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Our religious education classes for children are off to a great start. We are still accepting registrations if you know of anyone in grades 1-8 that should be in religious education classes, or teenagers that have not yet received the sacrament of Confirmation. We have also started a class for children with special needs (autism, language delay, nonverbal, etc.) Sometimes, parents with children who have special needs don't send them to religion classes because they are afraid we won't be able to accommodate them, or because they don't want them to distract the other children in the class. It is, however, our mission as a parish community to announce the Gospel to all people, and we have established this class to help prepare children with special needs for the sacraments. Perhaps you know of a parent with a child with special needs? Encourage them to sign

their child up for our program, so that they can prepare for First Holy Communion. We are happy to have them in our program!

If you have any questions about the religious education program, please contact me at 248-398-1743, or matthew@stvincentferrer.net

God bless you and your families,

Matthew Zinser

Catechetical blessing for Faith Formation Ministers at the 9:00am Mass this weekend. Pray for them and our young people.



# Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Almighty and merciful God,

by whose gift your faithful offer you right and praiseworthy service, grant, we pray,

that we may hasten without stumbling to receive the things you have promised.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

#### **Reflection question:**

What does it mean to offer God right and praiseworthy service?

Collect text from the English translation of *The Roman Missal*, © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Company, Inc.



COMING SOON!! **TUESDAY, Nov. 15th** 

Join us in church at 7:00pm for an evening of

# THANKSGIVING PRAISE AND WORSHIP

followed by refreshments and fellowship in the Parish Hall

Is there someone whom you believe that the Lord has placed in your path to bring to Him through the OCIA at this time? If so, be sure to pray for her/him as the Holy Spirit urges you. You may be the link between that person and the gift of the Grace of life in God for



her/him. What greater gift can we share with another?
For more information, contact Mary Ann Przybysz in the Parish Office at 248-542-8720.

# Ministry Schedule November 5/6

Mass	Sat. 4 pm	Sun 9 am
Sacristan	T Riley	L Yolkiewicz
Reader #1	R Pasiak	D Gray
Reader #2	T Riley	L Yolkiewicz
EME	M Kairis	D Gray
	J McCown	A Goll
	R Pasiak	C McCarthy
Greeters	R Pasiak	B Turchin
	T Pasiak	J Turchin
	K Heffner	S Bosetti
	R Juska-Svoba	B McEvoy

### Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

It is difficult for us to comprehend God's mercy. We are constrained by own experience of and often-limited willingness to be patient and forgiving. God loves all of creation and desires that we fulfill our call, glorifying our Lord in all we do. Yet we often fall short of this great purpose. We get lost in the pursuit of worldly things and lose sight of what really matters. Then, when we realize our failings, we falter, uncertain that we can really be forgiven. Today's readings invite us to deepen our trust in God's great kindness with the assurance that, as Jesus did with Zacchaeus, God waits with open arms when we turn away from our sinfulness. Let us grow in belief in Christ who came to seek and to save what was lost.

#### **GO UP IN A TREE**

Zacchaeus was a tax collector and a wealthy man; it is likely he had amassed his wealth by charging more taxes than were due. While materially wealthy, he was derided by his fellow Jews, known as a sinner, isolated from the company of his people. He had become curious about Jesus. So much so that he climbed a tree to see Jesus as he passed by. And from that vantage point, he saw his weaknesses and failings clearly. When Jesus called, he responded, a changed man. Are we ready to go up in a tree of prayer and reflection, peer into our hearts and lives, and grow in readiness to change?

#### **COME DOWN QUICKLY**

"Come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house." Jesus' call to Zacchaeus was likely as surprising to Zacchaeus as it was to those who watched this encounter. The Gospel story is not only about Zacchaeus' change of heart. It is also about Jesus' eagerness to bring Zacchaeus into the fold, to show him mercy and forgiveness, to "seek and to save what was lost." Jesus calls us out of our sinfulness, too. He is ready to forgive and to stay with us, to be near to us as we embrace new life as his disciples. Zacchaeus claimed his sinfulness and named what he would do to repair his relationship with God and others. This is what we do in the sacrament of Reconciliation—we name our sins, make a promise to do penance, repair our relationship with God and others, and receive forgiveness, restored in our relationship with Christ. Reflect on Zacchaeus' example: what failings and sinfulness to you need to claim? Are you ready to hear Jesus' call to you? Come down quickly. Receive the mercy of the Lord and know that salvation can be yours.

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# St. Vincent Ferrer Stewardship

Instead of taking up additional collections at this time, Fr. John and the Finance Commission have decided donations to Hurricane Ian Relief (thru the AOD) and the Archdiocese for Military Service Collection (requested every 3 years) would come from existing St. Vincent Ferrer Funds.

\$1,500.00 went to Hurricane IAN Relief thru the AOD \$1,000.00 went to the Archdiocese for Military Service from the St. Vincent Ferrer Parish Community.



#### **OUR FAMILY - MASS SCHEDULES**

### National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica

2100 W. 12 Mile, Royal Oak, 48073 SATURDAY 8:30 am and 4:30 pm (livestreamed)

**SUNDAY** 

7:30 am, 9:30 am (livestreamed), 11:30 am 4:00 pm (Spanish-livestreamed), and 6:00 pm

WEEKDAYS (Monday - Friday) 6:30 am (livestreamed), 8:30 am

#### St. Justin, St. Mary Magdalen

1631 E. Elza Hazel Park, 48030 (St J)
50 E Annabelle Ave. Hazel Park, 48030 (St MM)
SATURDAY - 4 pm - St. Justin
SUNDAY - 9 am & 11 am - St. Mary Magdalen
MON-WED & FRI- 9am - St. Justin

### St. Mary

730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, 48067 SATURDAY - 4:30 pm SUNDAY - 9 am, 11 am MON, TUES, THURS, FRI - 7:30 am WED - 12:10 pm

Weekly

#### Offering Offertory Env. Distributed & e-fund participants 723 Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants 113 Total Amount in Offertory Env. & e-funds rec'd \$ 4,617.00 Loose Cash /Check Collection 249.00 4,866.00 9,340.46 **Budgeted Amount for Offertory** Energy 67.00 World Mission/Propagation of the Faith 480.00



#### THEY ARE IN PEACE

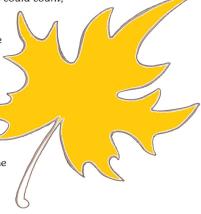
I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue.

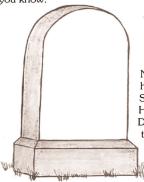
(Revelation 7:9a)

This is how the book of Revelation describes all the saints in heaven. We know the names of many saints but we do not know their number. We know they come from our country and many other places and times. These are people who listened to God's word and spoke it to others in every language of the world. The saints are people who are with God forever.

On November 1 we celebrate the solemnity of All Saints, a holy day of obligation in the United States. Just as we harvest the bounty of the earth, this day reminds us that God gathers home all the good people who have lived on earth.

On the leaf, write the names of some of the saints





The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them. They are in peace. (Wisdom 3:1, 3b)

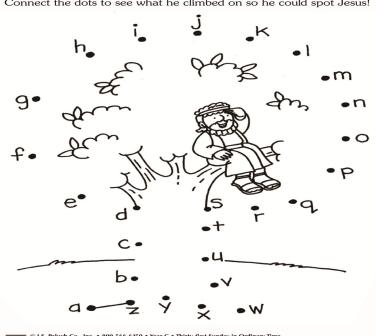
We hear this passage from the book of Wisdom on November 2, All Souls' Day. On this day we remember all who have died. People remember the dead in many different ways. Some memorials are very elaborate and some are very simple. How do you remember the people in your family who have died? Do you share stories about them? Do you display pictures of them? Do you visit their graves? Do you remember them in your prayers?

On the tombstone, write the names of some of the members of your family who have died.

Zacchaeus was excited to see Jesus!

But he was short and couldn't see over the crowd.

Connect the dots to see what he climbed on so he could spot Jesus!



# TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION



Every week, some treasures from our tradition are shared here. Where does all this history come from? The history of God's people of prayer is always coming to light, mostly because scholars have dedicated their lives to research. They translate and ponder prayers and songs; explore the places used for worship; look at the vessels, books, and vestments; and read works from legal documents to letters and diaries. In the 1930s, Hitler's rush to arm Germany closed seminaries priests as seminarians alike were drafted into service.

One professor, Father Josef Jungman, forced from his classroom, spent the war years in an Austrian library. His careful work disclosed much of what we know of the history of the Mass. His great work, The Mass of the Roman Rite, describes of evolution Eucharistic celebration and inspired generations of scholars to explore a tradition surprisingly rich and varied. It was said of him that he had a command of the past that cast new light on the present, and opened up a clear direction the future. to contributions to the Second Vatican Council helped shape the way that we worship today. At the end of his life, in 1975, his studies completed, he told a friend that he was waiting patiently for the Lord's knock at the door to take him to the heavenly -James Field. banquet. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co

HAPPY HALLOWEEN

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Michael Kairis, Sherry Marshall
- Parishioners

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