

FROM THE PASTOR'S PRINTER

LIVING FOR A WORLD TO COME

Very clearly, a Christian is expected to always be living for the world to come. The decisions we make in our moral life are always to be rooted in the reality that this world is passing. Because we have been reborn in Christ Jesus, we live for His kingdom to come in its fullest at the end of our lives. Yet, we also find that certain times can serve well to remind us that “we have not here an eternal city.” Nature provides us with one of these times in November, when the shortening of daylight becomes more apparent, the colder weather begins to pluck life out of plants, and even fall flowers lose their blooms. While many ancient religions celebrated death in November, Catholic Christians celebrate that there is more life after death than even before it. There is the eternal life won for us by Christ’s Paschal Mystery, which far surpasses anything we can imagine in this world. Any image of heaven, even those in the Scriptures, is only a glimpse as to what eternal life is. As St. John says in his first letter: “What we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.” (3: 2)

We begin this informal period of reflection on eternal life with All Saints Day on November 1st, a holy day proclaiming the effectiveness of Jesus death and resurrection by honoring those “who have run the race, and fought the good fight, and who wear the crown of righteousness.” (see 2Tm 4:7-8) The

number of people who have done this are not simply canonized saints, but people we have known and loved in our own life who have striven to live faithfully in the Lord. (Canonization does not make a person a saint; it merely proclaims that this person lived according to the way of Christ.)

On the next day – Commemoration of All Souls (with a service at 7 PM), we pray for those among us who have died, and are being purged of any sin or evil that may keep them from seeing God clearly and face to face so that they can come before the Lord dressed in the garment of the eternal wedding feast (see Mt. 22: 1-14). These two days pull together our faith, hope, and love, as we profess our belief in life after death, our hope in God that this is possible for us, and our love shown through prayer for the souls of the faithful departed that they may come quickly to the light and peace of being in the presence of the Lord.

Down the road, towards month’s end, we celebrate the feast of Christ the King, when we in praise and joy acknowledge God’s victory over all that exists spiritually and materially, and his Kingdom shines forth in all its glory.

While the world may show forth signs of death, the Church proclaims life, a life that will not end, life which we each choose or reject by how we live here and now. The victory is Christ’s; the choice is ours. Happy November!



WHAT A PANE!

Last week the windows in the back of church were removed so that the restoration company can get the specs needed for fitting them into the new church.

