

Last Saturday evening St. Francis School held its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala and Auction, “Denim & Diamonds.” It was a wonderful evening and it was great to see so many school and parish families enjoying an evening of fun and friendship while also supporting our parish school. Many thanks to co-chairs Jasmine Utberg & Joanna Martson and their entire team for all of the hard work, sweat and tears that were poured out so that this amazing night would be a success! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!! Final results will be presented in the school section of the bulletin within the next couple of weeks.

This next week, we have two special holy days that we celebrate in our church. On Wednesday, November 1, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of All Saints.

**THIS IS A HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION AND AS A CATHOLIC YOU ARE OBLIGATED TO ATTEND MASS.**

Mass at St. Francis Church will be held at 8:30 am, with our parish school students in attendance, or at 7:00 pm. Both liturgies will be held in the main church. There is a collection.

On Thursday, November 2, we celebrate the Solemnity of All the Faithful Departed. While this is not a Holy Day of Obligation, I would highly recommend coming together with our parish family to remember those that have passed on from this life, to our hoped for eternal life with God in heaven. In particular at this Holy Sacrifice of the Mass we will remember those that have died from our own St. Francis Church since last November 2nd.

Also, during the month of November, it is customary for us to place the names of our beloved faithful departed upon our altar during all the masses. Please take advantage of the offering envelope for All Souls Day to write down the names of those you would like remembered at all the Masses during November. If you do not have offertory envelopes, you may simply write the names of your beloved dead on a white envelope with your offering and place them in the collection basket. The monies collected are used for the General Fund.

Another tradition that many Catholics observe during the month of November is paying a visit to the local cemetery and saying a pray for the dead. While, ideally we should pay a visit to the cemetery were our family members and friends have been laid to rest, sometimes distance prevents us from visiting those specific locations. Therefore, I would propose that any cemetery would be suitable or even your own home. Following is a prayer example. There are many, many others to be found...

Lord God,  
whose days are without end  
and whose mercies beyond counting,  
keep us mindful  
that life is short and the hour of death unknown.  
Let your Spirit guide our days on earth  
in the ways of holiness and justice,  
that we may serve you  
in union with the whole Church,

sure in faith, strong in hope, perfected in love.  
And when our earthly journey is ended,  
lead us rejoicing into your kingdom,  
where you live for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

V. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,  
R. and let perpetual light shine upon them.

V. May they rest in peace.

R. Amen.

V. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed,  
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

R. Amen.

(from catholicdoors.com)