

From My Rectory Window...



This coming week on Friday, October 27th we will gather in our Parish Center for a workshop entitled: **“Catholics and the Last Things on their minds”**

As we are approaching the month of November which is traditionally the month of the Holy Souls, we thought it would be timely to have an in-depth and practical reflection on what the experience of death means for all of us who are the spiritual children of Adam and Eve and by virtue of the saving work of Christ, a new creation. There will be a practical explanation of what spiritual care for the very seriously ill entails for those who are care-givers. What exactly is the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick? Where do “Last Rites” come into the scene? How we should prepare for this experience? What are the time-honored traditions of our Church? Why we should observe them as much as we can. Also, a strong reminder to the next of kin how important the time of the wake and the funeral Mass and committal is. There will be some very practical guidelines given by a legal professional to families so that they can make intelligent choices.

Representatives of the town funeral homes will be available for questions. Like a lot of things in life they may not be enjoyable from an entertainment point of view, but they certainly can help us to act correctly according to our traditions as practicing Catholics when death comes. Please come, listen, ask questions and perhaps have some misconceptions explained so that one can make preparations for that inevitable time when we will physically pass away as our souls go back to God. You will notice the series of articles which we have included in your bulletin this week to help you reflect on this reality. I think that the articles are well written and basically reflect the expectations of our Parish and Diocese in conjunction with time honored customs. Each Parish is a little different however I believe that these materials and this seminar will be invaluable to you. Come be informed and enjoy the company of Parishioners over refreshments which will be served. You may already know that our Parish substantially supports All Saints Regional Parochial School in Manahawkin. On October 31st, the School will celebrate its twentieth anniversary with our Bishop, the Most Reverend David M. O’Connell C.M. as chief celebrant, along with the Pastors of the contributing Parishes in the area. The Mass will be at 10:15 A.M. on Tuesday the 31st of October at St. Mary of the Pines Church on Doc Cramer Blvd. in Manahawkin. Our Parish Children who are attending grammar school there will be directly involved in the Mass. Congratulations and our best support to All Saints School! This weekend we will be addressed at each Mass by our new Grand Knight of the Our Lady of the Pines Council #9852 of the Knights of Columbus: Mr. Jay Schiller. He will share his experiences with this great men’s fraternal organization and give all the men a warm invitation to make the group even greater by their presence and participation in the very wonderful work that they do. Finally, the HVAC work has begun in earnest, on the heating and cooling systems in our Parish Center now that the necessary permits have come through and as you remember from last week’s colorful depiction, not a bit too soon. The work should take about a month and we will be much better served because of it. Your “sunny yellow envelopes” keep coming in and hopefully will continue to do so over the next year (remember four times a year, not all at the same time). Believe me this will help greatly in replacing whatever we are taking from our reserves. Always remember that this Parish is brought to you by You; each week we are able (hopefully) to pay our bills, diocesan assessments and the like because you do your part to keep the Parish in the pink. Thanks for all you do and continue to do. Where has October gone? Don’t forget the great Holy Day of Obligation: **All Saints Day**: Masses are celebrated at 4 P.M. in the afternoon of October 31st and then again on November 1st at 8:00 AM in the morning, at noon and at 6:30 P.M. **ALSO REMEMBER ALL SOULS DAY** on Thursday November the 2nd. All Souls Masses will be celebrated at 8:00 A. M. at 12 Noon and the special remembrance Mass at 6:30 P.M. with the reading of the list of names of those who have died since last November 2nd. Lots going on. Let us pray for each other as the season flies by before you know it we’ll be getting ready for Thanksgiving. Peace and all good things.

Your Pastor and servant. Fr. Pat Papalia