

# NOVEMBER 1, 2015 THE SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS



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## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

A fundamental concept in physics is the distinction between conductors and insulators. Conductors such as copper, aluminum, platinum, and the human body, have atomic structures which allow electricity to flow through them easily. Insulators on the other hand, such as rubber, plastic, and glass offer resistance, preventing the flow of electricity. Copper is an excellent conductor but even copper and in fact all common electrical conductors have some resistance to the flow of electricity. There are however materials that under certain conditions (usually extreme subzero temperatures) offer zero electrical resistance; electricity flows through them without any degradation; they are called superconductors. So why the science refresher and what does all of this have to do with our readings this weekend and the Solemnity of All Saints? Well, it's all about resistance.

I bet you'd love to have a nickel for every time you've heard me mention self-sacrificing love. I know I speak of it often but I can't help myself because it is after all, Jesus' greatest commandment. As Christians, we are required to be selfless, to put others before ourselves and to allow the Holy Spirit to work through us. What this means practically is that it's not enough for us to just follow Christ we in fact must strive to become conduits of Christ. This principle is summed up well by John the Baptist who famously said "He must increase, I must decrease." *John 3:30*. In other words, we must be careful not to allow ourselves to get in the way of the Lord's work. We must not offer any resistance to the Holy Spirit; we must let God work through us. God's grace should be able to pass through us to others without any interference.

Interference and resistance comes from selfishness, holding on to grudges and anger, bigotry,

indifference, callousness, and hatred, just to name a few. The task of the spiritual life is to constantly and consistently decrease the amount of resistance we offer to God and remove those things from our hearts that interfere with God's will.

All of this leads us to today's Solemnity of All Saints. Saints are venerated because they lived extraordinary lives of discipleship. At their very best, the saints offered no resistance to God therefore, they can be thought of as spiritual superconductors. The saints manifest, in their various ways, the most authentic representation of Christ that is humanly possible. They decreased so He could increase. This is why the Saints are so important to us. They are role models and represent the very best of Christianity as they remind us of our human potential to be superconductors of God's Grace. The Saints were human just like us, they were flawed just like us but they were able to evolve in their communion with God to a point where they cooperated fully and allowed His Holy Spirit to pass through them without any opposition.

So are we spiritual conductors or insulators? I would guess that we are at times both. Some days we are like copper, offering very little resistance to the Holy Spirit working through us as we authentically make God visible to others through our words and deed. Other times we are like rubber and the Holy Spirit hits us and is totally dissipated. And perhaps sometimes we offer no resistance at all and for a moment or two, we become superconductors. It's really quite possible. God has given us everything we need so, as we honor all the Saints today, let us be inspired by them and challenge ourselves to decrease our resistance and allow the Lord to work through us more easily.

May God bless you,

Monsignor Hurley

## REMEMBER THE FEAST

Do you know the meaning of Halloween? Just like we all know Christmas Eve is the night before Christmas, Halloween is the night before All Saints Day. The original term, Hallows means holy. All Saints are holy. Hallows Eve is the vigil of a Christian Holy Day! It is All Saints Eve. Has it been corrupted by our culture? Yes, much in the same way that Christmas and Easter have been. It's fine to indulge in the secular celebrations but let's make sure we remember the sacred tradition and take some time to honor All Saints.

## THE FEAST OF ALL SOULS

Monday, November 2



On this day the Church commemorates the Faithfully Departed. Our Christian belief holds that the faithful on earth

can help the departed by prayers, the giving of alms, and the celebration of Mass. We will celebrate Mass on this feast with a special **Mass at 7pm** on **Monday November 2**. During this Mass we will remember all of our friends and family who have died, but especially those who had a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Thomas during the past year. Please come to support your parish family.

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## OFFERINGS LAST WEEK....\$2,875.00

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Thank you for your generosity and for your continued support. And thank you for all you do for St. Thomas.

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## MASS INTENTIONS

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### Monday, November 2

7:00pm.....All Souls' Novena of Masses

### Tuesday November 3

8:00am.....Special Intention

### Wednesday, November 4

8:00am.....Richard S. DiSabatino

### Thursday, November 5

8:00am.....All Souls' Novena of Masses

### Friday, November 6

8:00am.....Steve Facciolo & Beth Carpenter

### Saturday, November 7

5:00pm .....Rose Mercante

### Sunday, November 8

8:00am.....Christopher Ableman

10:00am.....Mac Gardner

## PARISH MEETINGS

Dear Parishioners,

I invite you to join me and members of our Finance Council and Building and Maintenance Committee to discuss the social hall building project. There are three meetings to choose from. We will be gathering after each of the 3 Masses on the weekend of November 7th & 8th. Please give us 15 minutes of your time so that we can share some important information with you. Your opinion matters to me and it is important that you are aware of what is happening in your parish.

Thank you for all of your support and may God bless you,

Monsignor Hurley

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## FOR THE HEALING OF THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

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**People to be prayed for will be listed weekly in the Parish Bulletin for an initial period of two months.**

At the end of the two-month period, the list will be updated.

**Please join us in praying for:**

Ann Abbott; Stephanie Barlow; Joseph Bendistis; John Brady; John Bradley; Marie Bromwell; Dina Casale; Bob Clark; Teresa DeBright; Joseph DiLeonardo; Colleen D'Orio; Cecil Ellis; Richard Finney; Barbara Groff; Shawn Helmick; MaryAnn Hopkins; Nancy Hogan; Zdzislaw Kacpierski; Ava King; John King; Kenneth Kozlowski; Eleanor Kempczynski; Barbara Krawczyk; Charles Maguire; Helen Mahek; Francis McDermott; Tina Miller; Kathleen Murphy; Sean McFarland; Tom Nicastro; Kathleen O'Neill; Alexandra Orsini; Gloria Orsini; Wayne Orsini; Paul Reeder; Sandra Rees; Maria Robinson; Marjorie Robinson; Mark Schweiger, Sr.; Mary Ann Segner; Virginia Selner and Robert E. Selner; James Sharkey; Joanne Sheehan; Donna Smith; Frank Swalkowski; Aileen Tansey; Anthony Teoli; Ann Vietri; Kathlyn Walls; Mary Weaver; Donna Wirt; Daniel Webb and Carolyn Wright.

Prayers for the healing of the sick of the parish will be included in the General Intercessions. Please also remember the **Intention Book** at the entrance of the Church.

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## SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL RAFFLE

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A warm welcome to the Sisters of St. Francis visiting this weekend!



Just \$10 will support the Sisters of St. Francis in providing for the care of their elderly Sisters.

Many of you may remember the Sisters teaching at St. Thomas School. After each Mass, you will have the opportunity to support this fundraising effort. We appreciate your support.

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## ST. VINCENT PAUL SOCIETY

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Would you like to follow to Christ more closely? Would you like to make a difference in your own neighborhood? If so, the St. Vincent de Paul Society can help you as you help others. We are hoping to start a St. Vincent de Paul Society Conference here at St. Thomas. Becoming a member doesn't cost you anything except your time, dedication, and love of Christ and His people. A representative from the Society will give a 5 minute talk after Communion at all of the Masses on the weekend of November 14 & 15. Please prayerfully consider being part of this wonderful organization which we hope will become an integral part of our spiritual life here at St. Thomas. For more information visit [www.svdpde.org](http://www.svdpde.org).

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## THE ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE 'MEMORIAL WALKWAY'

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We are pleased to announce the latest order of bricks have been installed in time for All Souls Day.



If you wish to purchase a Memorial Brick honoring a loved one or special occasion please call the Rectory or visit the St. Thomas the Apostle

web-site at [www.sainttom.org](http://www.sainttom.org)

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## GOD IS ON THE AIR

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Listen to Catholic Forum every Sunday morning at 10:05 a.m. on WDEL 101.7 FM, 1150 AM and [www.wdel.com](http://www.wdel.com). Next Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, special guest, Bishop Francis Malooly will discuss Pope Francis' recent pastoral visit to the United States. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, podcasts and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/catholicforum](http://www.facebook.com/catholicforum)

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## "MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE CORNER"

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### Marriage Moments:

"They seemed...to be dead, and their passing away was thought an affliction." (Wisdom 3:2) November 2 is All Souls Day when we are urged to remember those who have gone before us in death. As a couple, call to mind your deceased relatives. What have you learned from each of them? In prayer, ask them to watch over you and lead you to God.

### Parenting Pointers:

"This poor widow put in more than all the other contributors..." (Mark 12:43) Our faith (and common decency) calls us to share our resources with those who have less. BUT, how much is a fair amount to give? A 10% tithe is easier for a person of wealth than a person who is poor. Review with your kids how your family donates money and time. Between now and Thanksgiving, how will you be generous?

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## VOCATION REFLECTION

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The true vocation of every Christian is to be a saint. God calls each of us to sanctity in a personal, intimate way. Some are called to become saints through priesthood, religious life, or diaconate. Could God be calling you to one of these vocations? Call or write Fr. David Kelley, Diocesan Director of Priestly and Religious Vocations (302-573-3113; [vocations@cdow.org](mailto:vocations@cdow.org)). Visit our new website: [www.CalledByTheLord.com](http://www.CalledByTheLord.com).

### NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS

**WEEK** begins on Sunday, November 1. Do your part to encourage vocations – join the Diocesan Vocations Guild. The Guild is open to Catholics from within or with ties to the Diocese of Wilmington who pray for, encourage and support the bishop, priests, religious, deacons and seminarians of the diocese. The objectives of the Guild are achieved through prayer, service and the affirmation of the importance of the priesthood, diaconate and the religious life to the mission of the diocese. For more membership information visit [cdow.org/dvg](http://cdow.org/dvg).

Happy Birthday and very best wishes to

Marie Lally, St. Thomas' most 'Senior Parishioner' from all of us here at St. Thomas the Apostle!

MARIE





## What's Your Catholic IQ?

Can you answer these ten questions? Give it a try and check next week's bulletin for the answers along with another round of questions.

1. **What does a person have to do to become a martyr?**
  - a. have apparitions
  - b. build a Catholic school
  - c. go on a pilgrimage
  - d. die for the faith
2. **Who was the first Christian martyr?**
  - a. St. Stephen
  - b. St. Peter
  - c. St. John
  - d. St. Paul
3. **The Communion of Saints consists of those officially canonized by the Church.**
  - a. True
  - b. False
4. **Which of the Twelve Apostles was the first Bishop of Ephesus, wrote the book of Revelation while in exile on the island of Patmos, and died of natural causes?**
  - a. Judas Iscariot
  - b. St. Matthew
  - c. St. John the Evangelist
  - d. St. Peter
5. **The Golden Rule (see Luke 6:31) states**
  - a. make as much money as you can
  - b. treat others as you would like them to treat you
  - c. gold is more precious than silver
  - d. an eye for an eye
6. **The first woman named Doctor of the Church was**
  - a. St. Teresa of Ávila
  - b. St. Thérèse, the Little Flower
  - c. St. Mary Magdalene
  - d. St. Julian of Norwich
7. **The patron of Mexico is**
  - a. St. Thérèse of Lisieux
  - b. St. Juan Diego
  - c. St. Katherine Drexel
  - d. Our Lady of Guadalupe
8. **As Catholics, we pray to Mary and the saints just like we pray to God.**
  - a. True
  - b. False
9. **Mary, the Mother of God, is the \_\_\_ of all Saints.**
  - a. Mother
  - b. Queen
  - c. patroness
  - d. role model
10. **The Church militant refers to**
  - a. Catholics serving in the military
  - b. the blessed ones in heaven
  - c) the baptized living on earth today
  - d) intense and serious Catholics