

Month of November

WORD: *As disciples of Christ, we work with God's grace to inherit His Kingdom.*

READINGS

Nov 2 Wis 3:1-9

Ps 27: 1,4,7,8a,9a,13,14

Rom 6:3-9

Mt 25:31-46

Nov 9 Ez 47:1-2,8-9,12

Ps 46:2-3,5-6,8-9

Cor 3:9c-11,16-17

Jn 2:13-22

Nov 16 Pro 31:10-13,19-20,30-31

Ps 128:1-5

Thes 5:1-6

Mt 25:14-33

Nov 23 Ez 34:11-12,15-17

Ps 23:1-2,2-3,5-6

Cor 15:20-26,28

Mt 25:31-46

(Note: Nov 30, First Sunday of Advent is included in December readings)

DIRECTIONS (BLD GLOBAL):

1. *Be involved in our BLD activities for the least of our brethren through corporal works of mercy*

PROPHECIES (BLD GLOBAL):

1. *See My face in every stranger, reach out to him in love, and you will be in My presence.*
2. *Always be ready, for you do not know when I will call you to serve Me.*

ORDER (BLD GLOBAL):

*"Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."
(Mat 25:31)*

Nov 30 - Come and celebrate the Eucharist together with the Filipino Community at Our Lady of the Valley's BLD-Sponsored 5 PM Filipino Mass!

REFLECTION FOR NOVEMBER

Word: As disciples of Christ, we work with God's grace to inherit His Kingdom.

Order: *"Come you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."* (Matt 25:31)

The Order for this month from Matthew 25: 31 is an invitation to all. November is a time to think about death - not to be morbid but to be wise and to focus on what is important in our life. Death and the remembrance of the dead is a good time to ask ourselves how well we are doing at this moment. God constantly calls us closer to Him because He knows that it is in His presence we will be fully true to ourselves and to Him. It is here that we will discover what it means to live life to the full.

The first Sunday of November is the Solemnity of All Souls - in honor of our family members, relatives, and friends who have gone ahead and are suffering because they are being purified. Not only that, the commemoration also makes us realize that God is our Father. Whether we are living, triumphant or suffering – we are all brothers and sisters who must intercede for each one's good before God. We form a communion of the Body of Christ.

Our theme for this week is: *"We work with God's grace to inherit His Kingdom when we unite in prayer for the faithful departed."* As believers we ought to encourage each other to pray for one another; a day to pray for the faithful departed, to show love to those who did us well and to reconcile with those who may have harmed us. One of the great truths of our faith is that we can pray for those who have died. Prayer can unite what death divides. In Jesus Christ, we are given the power to help those who have died through prayer, to renew broken connections, to show our gratitude or forgiveness.

On the second Sunday, we celebrate the dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome, celebrating the inauguration of Basilica of St. John in honor of both St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist, the oldest and the first of the four great churches in Rome. The church was donated by the emperor to be used as a residence and official church of the Pope. Among the relics preserved on its altar are parts of the original wooden altar used by St. Peter, the heads of Sts. Peter and Paul. We thank God for this gift – a sign and source of unity in the service of God's will.

Our theme for this week is: *"We work with God's grace to inherit His Kingdom when we take care of our body, the temple of the Spirit."* The gospel reading tells us about the cleansing of the temple. Jesus sets his anger on the house of worship being insulted and disrespected, a place of worship to bring the Good News to His people. In another context, God reminds us to take care of our body, and to remember the example of Jesus when He cleansed his temple, seeking to protect the temple of our body from all kinds of pollution caused by sin, so that we will always grow in holiness. We should always seek to glorify God through the way we use our bodies – not to glorify the agenda and values of the world. Jesus teaches us that He is the foundation of the Church, our reason for being; assuring us that He is ready to be consumed in us as long as we are clean. Let us undertake a regular cleansing of our Christian body and soul because we are the temple of God.

Continued next page...



November Reflection *continued...*

The third week is the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time and the theme is: *"We work with God's grace to inherit the Kingdom when we are faithful stewards of His gifts."* The gospel is forthright in reminding us of the blunt truth that the gifts of God are not ours to dispense with as we please. Neither does it suffice to hide them away, leave them unused or allow them to wither. As Christians whatever our gifts are, and we have all the variety, as stewards of this gifts - we are expected to make full use of them for God's glory. This is a call to be energetic and active in living the gospel.

The first reading of the week in the book of Proverbs exemplifies the gifts of a virtuous wife, not spectacular but small acts, yet real and important. Raising a family, caring for a spouse, managing a home and keeping a family together is a talent desperately needed today. The parable in the Gospel tells us that the three men all received a gift and merit comes when it is made in full use. All are stewards of their very gift and they have to faithfully use it. Making good use of the 3 T's (time, talent, treasure) to serve God completely and diligently should be carried out right away. Our intention should be to do well as we can whatever job we are carrying out, avoiding apathy and the 'couldn't care less' attitude. In this way we can offer back to the Father the lives given to us, more fulfilled and more enriched. Jesus teaches us to live in a responsible and faithful manner because there is an accounting each of us will have to give personally to the Lord on the last day.

In the last Sunday of the liturgical year, we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, the Good Shepherd of all the earth. Our theme for this week is: *"We work with God's grace to inherit His Kingdom when we embrace Jesus as King of our lives."* The feast brings the Church's year to a close and with it comes a reminder that the cycle of our own lives here on earth will also reach its completion. The end of the year is review time and it affords us the opportunity to take stock of our behavior as members of God's household.

This is truly a challenging parable of judging the sheep and goats, which takes on exceptional importance as it portrays a powerful image of judgment and presents us with complete choice of being for or against Christ. There is no in between. God is going to judge us on the works of mercy we perform which is a response to human need. It is also about responsibility for another in body or in spirit as the most reliable gauge of our loyalty to Christ. It is finally about the absolute truth that we will be separated from God not only from doing wrong but also for doing nothing. *"What ever you do to least of these, you are doing to me, what you failed to do for them, you failed to do for me."* These words are both disturbing and comforting because they teach us the proof of how much we love the Lord.

As the world around us is put into our hands in trust and stewardship, Christianity lays a great emphasis on involvement in the community. The Council of Servant Leaders had discerned a sole global direction - "Be involved in our BLD activities for the least of our brethren through corporal works of mercy." a statement drawn from Matthew 25: 35 - 42 with a litany of loving acts of mercy - feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, giving shelter the homeless, visiting those in prison, comforting the sick, and burying the dead. The basic source of these merciful acts is not our good intentions or energies, but rather by God's grace we are able to actualize them.

November Reflection *continued...*

"God is rich in mercy, because of his great love for us; he brought us to life with Christ when we are dead in sin. By this favor you were saved" (Eph 2:4-5). This poses a challenge for us as a community of disciples, in putting these works into action.

Christ becomes real when we reach out and show our concern for the welfare of the least and our commitment to promote their dignity. Love is giving time and energy in performing practical acts of charity. At the end of the day we ask ourselves, are we Christ to others? Are we prepared to face the Lord? Have we done enough to inherit the Kingdom?

November is a good month to reflect about our end, not as gloomy preoccupation with death, but because it energizes our appreciation of life. It is the day for a healthy dose of Christian realism by remembering those who have been a part of our life, by renewing our faith in Christ and reviewing the direction of our life. It is also an opportune time to see the areas of change and needed improvement in our lives. Whatever we missed in many chances, let us put every opportunity into action now, that is, how we will work with God's grace towards the inheritance of the kingdom. Advent is around the corner; it is time to welcome and prepare for the coming of Christ.

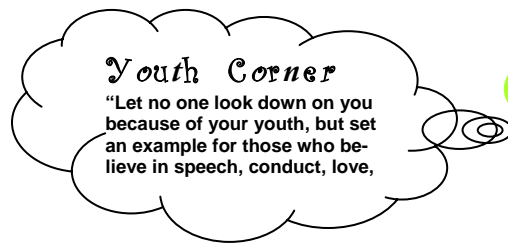
Catholic History Tidbits: Basilica of St John Lateran

On November 9, we celebrate the Dedication of the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome because it is the head and mother church of all churches in the world. On the façade of the basilica there is an inscription in Latin which reads, "the mother and mistress of all churches of Rome and the world." One might think St. Peter's Basilica is the head of all the churches but in fact it is the Basilica of St. John Lateran. Every bishop has a cathedral and the Pope's cathedral is the Basilica of St. John Lateran not the Basilica of St. Peter.



You may ask "Why is the Basilica of St. John Lateran the Pope's cathedral and not the Basilica of St. Peter since he lives next to St. Peter's Basilica?" History gives us the

answer. In the early centuries Christianity was outlawed in Rome and many Christians in Rome suffered martyrdom. The Emperor Constantine converted to Christianity and the famous Edict of Milan in 313 AD allowed Christians to practice their religion in public. Constantine had been given the palace in Rome that belonged to the Laterani and after his conversion to Christianity he gave it to the Pope. The Lateran Palace was then adapted to become a church and was dedicated on 9th November 324 and the Pope then lived in the Lateran Palace as it was called for the next 1000 years and the basilica was his cathedral. It was first called the Basilica of the Savior but later was also dedicated to St. John the Baptist and St. John the Evangelist and so it acquired the name Basilica of St. John Lateran.



"Two Songs"



On October 3rd, a few of the teens in our very own BLD Youth Ministry had the opportunity to show just exactly how they praised the Lord. They had the chance to show to other people how BLD dedicate their worship through song. That night BLD Youth was one of the few acts to participate in the CRM that was held in Phoenix, Arizona. They performed two songs and although had little time to practice, they pulled through and only left the crowd wondering why there was only two songs presented and not more.

The night started off in prayer where the host of the event spoke to the crowd exactly what the CRM concert would contain. There were several acts of the night and the first one was a Big Band style that had the crowd clapping and dancing along with them. The next act was an interpretative dance to I Can Only Imagine by Mercy Me. Following that was a group that came from California that performed a captivating and emotional performance highlighting the danger that can come from just one sin but how God is always there to save you, no matter how far you stray. The next act after was a man and woman singing with merely a guitar and an incredible voice. During this act, the people participating from BLD huddled together, put their hands in the middle, said a prayer and got themselves ready to take on the stage. After being introduced, the group walked on and to their respective microphones and prayed that they could honor their Lord as well as move the audience before them. The songs that BLD performed was Lord, I Give You My Heart where audience members were singing right along, their hands raised in the air in praise. A prayer was said as the drum beats began to escalate and the Youth members began to smile at each other knowing that this song would no doubt make the crowd clap along. The second song that was performed was One Way Jesus by Hillsong, where the adults were swaying and smiling as the teenagers clapped and raised their arms in the air for worship. The BLD group walked off with fire in their hearts and a smile on their faces knowing their job, to show the talents that they offer to the Lord every Friday, was done. The night went on with prayers and worship leaving an elated crowd wanting more of their Lord's presence.

As Phoenix BLD's Youth Ministry made their first step into the spotlight to show other groups how they praise the Lord, the audience could only ask one question: "Why did they only sing two songs?" Though the group was small, their CRM performance was successful and only showed people that the gifts that God provided them with could be presented to more than just our own BLD community. Gifts that will only be presented again next CRM- which will have to be in more than just two songs.

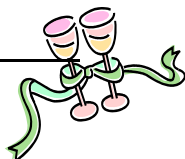
NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Jonathan Lureñana (ME 1)
- 3 - Thelma Alata (ME 6)
- 4 - Gladdine Bautista (ME 2)
- 4 - Maria David (ME 5)
- 8 - Jason Felipe (YE 1)
- 8 - Janice Kodumal (YE 1)
- 13 - Milrose Kodumal (ME 5 Newark)
- 14 - Ben Felipe (ME 1)
- 14 - Joseph Kodumal (ME 5 Newark)
- 16 - Lee Junia (ME 2)
- 19 - Nikka De Jesus (YE 1)
- 23 - Arlene Junia (ME 2)
- 24- Evan Pangilinan (ME 5)
- 30 - Andre' Bautista (YE 1)



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

-none on file-



Ministry Announcements

Intercessory Ministry:

- ◆ Please update petitions monthly for continuous prayers and/or update Intercessory ministry heads for answered prayers. You may please make/update prayer requests through a link in the website or e-mail ministry heads: Denny & Nina Custodio at dennyc1220@cox.net.

IDLC:

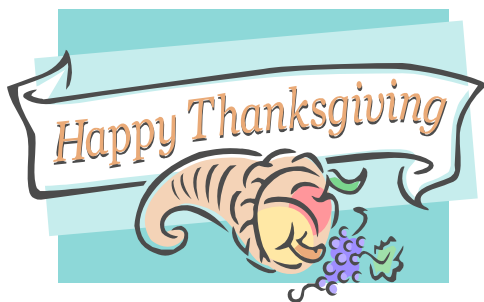
- ◆ To all DCS and Ministry Heads (and all those Involved in handling minors) please take the Safety Environment Training for Ministries offered by local parishes. Please check the Diocese website for training Schedule:
<http://safeenvironmenttraining.org/index.php>

Secretariat

- ◆ Please wear your community I.D. If you do not have one contact Evan & Joie Pangilinan directly or e-mail: evanjoie@yahoo.com.

Word:

- ◆ Share your walk/faith/transformation in the Lord or an answered prayer with the community thru an article (350 words max). E-mail to eunex@aol.com.



from
BLD Phoenix

BLD Phoenix Community Schedule Last Quarter 2008

Dec 13 - **Community Christmas Party**

4-8 pm Mountain View Community Center
8625 E. Mountain View Rd
Scottsdale AZ 85258

Dec 19 - **Simbang Gabi** (BLD-Sponsored Mass)

7 pm Our Lady of the Valley Church

Schedule for 2009

Jan 30 - Feb 1- **Solo Parents Encounter #3**

Desert Outdoor Center
41402 N. 87th Ave Peoria 85383

Mar 27-29 - **Marriage Encounter #9**

Camp Pinerock
1400 Pine Dr. Prescott 86303

Invitation Letters & Registration Forms are available from class shepherds & members. These are also available online for printing at www.bldphoenix.com.

Catholic History *continued...*

When the Papacy transferred to Avignon for about a century the condition of the Lateran deteriorated so much that when the Papacy returned to Rome the Pope lived in two other locations before finally settling adjacent to St. Peter's Basilica where he now lives.

Perhaps we could say that the many times the Basilica suffered destruction of some kind is a symbol of the attacks on the Church and the hatred of some for the Church. The Basilica was attacked by the Vandals twice in 408 and 455. It was almost totally destroyed by an earthquake in 896 and it was destroyed by fire in 1308 and 1360. The Basilica is visited by huge numbers of pilgrims every year also symbolizing the love of so many people for the Church.

Those who visit the Basilica on pilgrimage visit it not just because it is the head of all churches and the Pope's cathedral. The wooden altar on which St. Peter celebrated Mass while in Rome is inside the main altar. The heads of Sts Peter and Paul were once believed to be inside busts above the main altar. Part of the table on which the Last Supper was celebrated is said to be behind a bronze depiction of the Last Supper. At one time the Holy Stairs which is nearby was also in the Lateran, the stairs in Pilate's house on which Jesus is said to have walked during his trial. It is a marble stairs and is now covered with wood to protect it. Pilgrims ascend the stairs on their knees contemplating Jesus' Passion and on the way up drops of blood may be seen on the marble stairs beneath protective glass. The stairs was brought to Rome by Constantine's mother St. Helena.

Celebrating the dedication of the Pope's cathedral shows our unity with the Pope and our love and respect for him. Not only that, but it shows that we are united with each other in the Church.

As we celebrate today the dedication of the "the mother and mistress of all churches of Rome and the world" let us pray also for those who have got lost going through life that they find the Church as a true mother to them and that Jesus may become the foundation stone and corner stone of their lives.

Healing Mass with Fr. Fernando Suarez

Dec 3, 2008 at 6:30 pm

St. Mary's Church Chandler, AZ

THE LORD'S PROVISIONS

Cash flow as of September 2008

<i>Receipts</i>	\$ 4,012.00
<i>Disbursements</i>	\$ 1,306.00
<i>Surplus (Deficits)</i>	\$ 2,706.00

See Treasury Logbook for details-available at Registration Area or see Treasury Ministry Heads Pedro & Cita Rivera

Thank you for your generosity!