



Campus Ministry Online

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Autumn

- **Feel the Cool Air**
- **Watch the falling leaves**
- **Smell the damp leaves**
- **Enjoy the colors**
- **Praise God**

Prayer for the Day

Lord,
May all that we do this day,
from morning until night,
begin with your inspiration,
and continue with your powerful help.
May our work this day be rooted in love and mercy,
that we might love you,
and love our neighbors,
as perfectly as you love us.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Cardinal: A time to renew devotion to Mass

The latest issue of [The Catholic Standard](#), the newspaper of the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C., has a column by Cardinal Donald Wuerl about the new English translation of the Roman Missal, and the opportunities the revisions will give Catholics to reflect on "the very heart of our life as members of the Church." Here is some of what the cardinal had to say:

While the translation will not affect the Scripture readings or the hymns, there are a number of translation precisions that have been introduced into the new edition of the missal to make it reflect more accurately and clearly the Latin missal which is normative for all translations.

The third edition of the Roman Missal in Latin was published in 2002. Our current translation goes back to 1973. The new translation reflects the effort of the Church to capture as best we can in the vernacular the rule of faith that is at the heart of the Church's public prayer.

For all of us, this moment of attention to some word changes in the Mass can provide us, as well, an occasion to reflect on the meaning of the Mass and why it is that the Mass is at the very heart of our life as members of the Church. It is right to say that "the Mass is what Catholics do." It is at the heart of Catholic life for individuals and for the entire community.

History of Halloween

Halloween is a holiday celebrated on the night of October 31. Traditional activities include trick-or-treating, bonfires, costume parties, visiting "haunted houses" and carving jack-o-lanterns. Irish and Scottish immigrants carried versions of the tradition to North America in the nineteenth century.

Halloween has its origins in the ancient Celtic festival known as Samhain (pronounced "sah-win"). The festival of Samhain is a celebration of the end of the harvest season in Gaelic culture. Samhain was a time used by the ancient pagans to take stock of supplies and prepare for winter. The ancient Gaels believed that on October 31, the boundaries between the worlds of the living and the dead overlapped and the deceased would come back to life and cause havoc such as sickness or damaged crops. The festival would frequently involve bonfires. It is believed that the fires attracted insects to the area which attracted bats to the area. These are additional attributes of the history of Halloween.

Masks and costumes were worn in an attempt to mimic the evil spirits or appease them. Part of the history of Halloween is Halloween costumes. The practice of dressing up in costumes and begging door to door for treats on holidays goes back to the Middle Ages, and includes Christmas wassailing. Trick-or-treating resembles the late medieval practice of "souling," when poor folk would go door to door on Hallowmas (November 1), receiving food in return for prayers for the dead on All Souls Day (November 2). It originated in Ireland and Britain, although similar practices for the souls of the dead were found as far south as Italy.

These newsletters are a service of Mater Dei Campus Ministry in an attempt to:

- 1. Share information about our Catholic faith to keep our community aware of some of the teachings of our tradition.*
- 2. Update our community of changes in understandings and rituals*
- 3. Assist parents with the faith formation of their youth.*
- 4. Provide links to sites with helpful information on faith and parenting.*

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Know Your Faith

Eucharist

Derived from the Greek word for thanksgiving, this ancient term describes the central act of Christian worship, partaking of Christ's Body and Blood under the species of bread and wine. Also known as the Mass, the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion, and the Divine Liturgy, in the Eucharist Christians partake of Christ's body and blood.

Blessed Sacrament

The term for the consecrated bread and wine when they become the Body and Blood of Christ. The blessed Sacrament (the host) is perpetually reserved in a prominent place in the Western Churches, marked by a burning sanctuary lamp.

Retreat Opportunities

Mater Dei provides a retreat opportunity for her students each year. While these are very important, they are limited to a six-hour school day. We encourage our students to take part in the much deeper retreat experiences provided by our diocese, namely the Quest and TEC retreats. Quest is a 33 hour experience for freshmen and sophomores while TEC is a 3 day experience for juniors and seniors. Both of these retreats provide a more intense immersion into real Christian living and community. **Please encourage your young person to take the time and be part of the Quest and TEC communities.** The next Quest retreat will be held at St. Teresa in Belleville on November 5 & 6. The next TEC will be in Red Bud on January 14 – 16. Applications are available in Campus Ministry.

Vocations

All of us are painfully aware that our Diocese is in the process of studying and evaluating the viability of parishes. Sadly the number of priests available to minister is growing smaller and smaller with many priests who are aging. We have been blessed with over 20 international priests who help staff our parishes. We encourage everyone to continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We currently have several students who are considering a Church vocation. We will also have religious present at our college night available to share about their ministries. Vocations are all of our responsibility.

Helpful Websites

U.S.Conference of Catholic Bishops

www.usccb.org

Center for Parent/Youth Understanding

www.cpyu.org

Diocese of Belleville

www.diobelle.org

TEC Retreats

chairperson@bellevilletec.com

Quest Retreats

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