

# A Joyful Word

News from the Office of the Director of Religious Education

November 2023

## We Should Show Gratitude at All Times

Happy Autumn! It is hard to believe that the leaves are changing colors, the nights are growing cooler, and as we enter this month of celebrating Thanksgiving, there is much to be thankful for here at St. Malachy.

In 2015 during the closing of the World Meeting of Families the Holy Father, Pope Francis, said, "Faith grows when it is lived and shaped by love. That is why our families, our homes, are true domestic churches. They are the right place for faith to become life, and life to grow in faith."

I am grateful for you and the faith foundation you have already given to your children. Our continued goal is to foster opportunities for them to grow closer in their relationship with Christ.

Gratitude is a virtue. It's something we strive to integrate into our lives, as well as cultivate in our children. Beyond the pursuit of moral excellence, gratitude is a value that can produce substantial pay off. When we are grateful, we can escape the comparison trap. Instead, our hearts become full as we recognize our own blessings.

For me, gratitude does not always come naturally, and so giving thanks has to be a very intentional practice on my part. When I walk into St. Malachy Church and School each morning, however, it truly isn't hard to feel grateful. I see joyful parishioners and parish/school staff, happy children, invested teachers, and programs that are flourishing. I am extremely grateful for this community of nurture and faith-filled believers who play such a vital role in creating this environment.

It truly is a joy for me to spend my time here. I'm blessed to do what I love and love what I do. And that is because of each person I encounter daily. What brings you gratitude? I encourage you to take some time personally and with your family to reflect on all that you are grateful for.

I pray that your family experiences an enrichment of faith in your lives and in your home this year, and may God abundantly bless you and your family as we prepare our hearts for the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons.



# Feast of the Presentation of Mary

The Church celebrates the feast of the Presentation of Mary in the Jerusalem Temple Nov. 21 even though it is not Sacred Scripture. However, we should not doubt the ancient tradition that Joachim and Anne consecrated their daughter, Mary, to God.

Children are gifts. A child is not a piece of property or an object a parent has a right to possess. When parents consecrate a child to God through baptism, they are expressing a willingness to return a gift to the Maker by giving Him what He already possesses, life itself and all who share in it.

*Saints Anne and Joachim, in gratitude for the gift of life, you presented Mary in the Temple. Help all parents to see you as a model of dependence on God's providence and may similar consecrations in today's world prepare saints for the Church of tomorrow. Amen.*



## Scavenger Hunt Benefits Food Pantry

The Rock Youth Ministry group had a blast doing a scavenger hunt around Geneseo Oct. 5 where they had to perform different tasks that included purchasing food items to benefit the Geneseo-Atkinson Food Pantry. Students had \$10 to go to the store to purchase as many items as possible without going over. Those items were then donated to the food pantry as a way to give back to the community. The group ended the night at Dairy Queen sharing all the fun they had with the different tasks. Thank you to Monica Sottos and Tabitha Glisan for driving the students around town.



Other tasks included a photo with firemen, pumping gas for a stranger, getting \$0.27 worth of gas, and doing what a sign says.



# Eucharistic Miracles Presented

St. Malachy Parish and School were blessed to have Myron and Shari Schulte present the Vatican Eucharistic Exhibition Sept. 13-17. They spoke to all the students within the school and CCD Program as well as showcase the many Eucharistic miracles in the parish hall. In their presentation, they helped all to understand the miracles as well as consider the two miracles that take place every time we go to Mass.

"Having the opportunity to host the International Exhibit of the Eucharistic Miracles of the World was a real privilege for our parish and community," Tom Heise, one of the organizers of the event said.

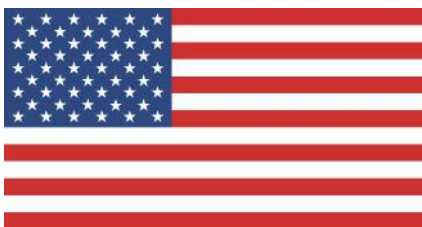
"While here for just a few days, the hope was and is that we touched many hearts. For those who routinely practice the faith, the exhibit was an affirmation to the Real Presence and an inspiration to encourage others to follow our lead to this truth. For those who may have some doubts as to this truth, or who may not believe at all, the hope was and is that a light may have been lit that would encourage them to seek to find what we have been blessed to receive, the full understanding that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. (He is) the ultimate GIFT to us all... a GIFT meant to be shared."



## See You at the Pole

On September 27, the Memorial of St. Vincent de Paul, the sixth-graders of St. Malachy School led students, staff, parents, and parishioners in a prayer around the flagpole to commemorate the National See You at the Pole Day. Students prayed for our political and church leaders, peace in our country, and all students across the country as well as here at St. Malachy.

May we make Christ known to one another through our witness of peace, joy, and love.



# Save Important Dates

Nov. 1 - School Mass 9:15 am; All Saints' Day CCD Mass 3:45 pm; Oasis; Adore

Nov. 2 - The Rock

Nov. 8 - CCD; Oasis

Nov. 9 - The Rock

Nov. 5 - Children's Liturgy of the Word; 6th Grade CCD; Confirmation Prep

Nov. 8 - CCD (Food Pantry Collection); Oasis

Nov. 12 - Children's Mass; 6th Grade CCD; Confirmation Prep (7th & 8th Grade Saint Reports Due; Food Pantry Collection)

Nov. 15 - School Mass 9 am; No CCD (Early dismissal public school); Oasis

Nov. 16 - The Rock

Nov. 19 - Children's Liturgy of the Word; No 6th Grade CCD; No Confirmation Prep

Nov. 20-24 - Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 22 - No CCD

Nov. 23 - Happy Thanksgiving

Nov. 26 - No Children's Liturgy of the Word; 6th Grade CCD; Confirmation Prep

Nov. 29 - CCD; Oasis

Nov. 30 - The Rock



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