

Days of Prayer for Clergy, Religious and Lay Leaders - Nov. 2017

6th: Monsignor Ed Meulemans  
7th: Rev. Dennis Mullen  
8th: Rev. William Murphy  
9th: Rev. David Oberts  
10th: Rev. Joseph Trinka  
11th: Rev. Madanu Lourdu Raju  
12th: Rev. Simon Reddy Boyapati

Eternal Father, Thank you for the clergy, seminarians, religious women, staff & lay leaders in our Diocese. I lift them all up to you, but especially, name today. Sanctify him, Heal and guide him. Continue to mold him into the likeness and holiness of Your Son, Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May his life be pleasing to You. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen



Our Pastor: Rev. Gene Murphy & Deacon Larry Amell

**This week's Pick is Father.** In today's reading from the gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells the crowd of those gathered and his disciples, "*Call no one on earth your father.*" (23:9) Taking him literally, many Protestants consider the tradition of Roman Catholics calling our priests "Father" as engaging in a practice that Jesus forbids. Of course, we do not believe that, in this case, Jesus intended to be taken literally. After all, would Jesus forbid us from calling our Dads "father?" If so, that would render our association with our earthly fathers and God Our Father as void. And what about our ancestors? In that case, could we sing the old hymn, "Faith of Our Fathers"? The New Testament references to "our father Abraham" or "our father Isaac" would be heresy, as would all other mention of great and faithful spiritual leaders as "fathers" and the people they shepherd as their children. In this case, as in other teachings of Christ, Jesus uses hyperbole to make his point. (Remember, Jesus also advises us to pluck out our eyes or cut off our hands if they cause us to sin.) What he is trying to tell us is to take care in attributing to others the respect that is due only to God the Father. Yes, we may have fatherly figures who guide us on our spiritual path, but God is our principle Father. Just as Jesus gave authority to the Apostles to be spiritual fathers for those they shepherd, our priests are our spiritual Fathers, but the ultimate Father, who is our guide and our Shepherd—as well as the guide and Shepherd of all priests, bishops, and our Holy Father, the Pope—is God the Father.

By Kathy Long

**BIBLE STUDY - PHILIPPIANS**  
**Come join in with Luann House and others.**  
**Thursdays following 9:00am Mass**

Philippians - Chapter 2:1-30: Joy in Serving

Jesus Christ gives us power (through the Holy Spirit) to lay aside our personal needs and concerns. In addition to His power, we must imitate those leaders who show self-denying concern for others. Paul tells us not to be self-centered.

As believers, we should contend against our common enemy (the devil), not against one another. When we are unified in love, Christ's strength is most abundant. We are to keep in mind the ideals of teamwork, consideration of others, and unselfishness. Many people - even Christians - live only to make a good impression on others or to please themselves. But "selfish ambition or vain conceit" brings discord. Paul therefore stressed spiritual unity, asking the Philippians to love one another and to be one in spirit and purpose. When we work together, caring for the problems of others as if they were our problems, we demonstrate Christ's example of putting others first, and we experience unity.

**VETERANS DAY**

November 11, 2017

*Lord God, Almighty Father, creator of mankind and author of peace, as we are ever mindful of the cost paid for the liberty we possess, we ask you to bless the members of our armed forces. Give them courage, hope and strength. May they ever experience your firm support, gentle love and compassionate healing. Be their power and protector, leading them from darkness to light. To you be all glory, honor and praise, now and forever. Amen*



"But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you," nor again the head to the feet, "I do not need you." ... If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy."

— 1 Corinthians 12:20–21, 26