



RECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends in Christ,

I have always, and will always love Halloween. My fascination for this holiday goes beyond my love for Skittles and pink Starbursts. When I was growing up in a diverse, yet geographically segregated suburb of New York City, Halloween was the only time of year you saw kids who looked like me in certain neighborhoods. The territorial and economic divisions were magically suspended for an evening of costumes and candy. Families of all types shared in a common bond, joyfully walking around in costumes and warning their children about eating too much candy. Holidays have the power to bring people together, family members and strangers alike. They give us permission to let go of our divisions, allowing us to share in our intrinsic human desire to be in community. Ultimately, they allow us to come closer to God's vision for humanity, yes, even on Halloween.

Luckily, early on in my priestly formation, I discovered the history and practice of All Hallows' Eve (Halloween) in the life of the Church. All Hallows' Eve is but the first part of a three-day celebration, the prologue to All Saints and All Souls Day. These three days mark an intentional time of preparation and remembrance, a unique time when we are invited to joyfully and solemnly remember the great cloud of witnesses, the holy saints of God, and all the faithful departed. These feast days are meant to connect us with those who have come before us, as we offer our thanks and

prayers for their souls. At Saint John's, we will participate in this great celebration and observance in our own extended way.

On Sunday, **November 3**, we will celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints. Along with offering glorious music, we will offer prayers of thanksgiving for those wonderful exemplars of the faith.

On the following week, Sunday, **November 10**, we will observe Remembrance Sunday, a



service which began in England to remember those who died during the Great War. Our own day of remembrance across the pond will allow us to recall those who have died in the

tragedy of war and to continue to pray for an end to violence in our country. We will also take this time to read the names from our Parish Necrology, the names submitted as part of our All Souls Remembrance. Our choir, under the direction of Erik Clayton, will offer Faure's *Requiem*, a truly beautiful and haunting mass setting you will not want to miss.

A few days later, on Tuesday,

November 12, I hope to see you for the parish's Celebration of New Ministry. This festive liturgy will officially mark my tenure as



your new rector. We will also celebrate the 150th anniversary of the laying of the church cornerstone. I'm extremely grateful that our guest preacher will be my own former rector, now friend, mentor, and colleague, Fr. James Lemler. Jim has known me since I was a 19-year-old trying to make sense of this world and to figure out what to do with my life, when I was transformed by the hope, love, and mercy of God in Christ. I can honestly say that if it weren't for Jim, his guidance, and his leadership, I would not be your priest right now. Please join me and the rest of the parish as we welcome our Bishop, Audrey Scanlan, clergy from the Diocese, and members from our wider community for this wonderful service. I hope that you will be there to celebrate our future and to ask for God's blessing on our parish.

Between our liturgical celebrations and parish initiatives—the parish dinner fundraiser, holiday bazaar, and collection efforts for our community partners—November is a full month. We are not killing time, but making things happen for the Kingdom of God. We are busy being the Body of Christ. Our increasing community involvement, the spike in our Sunday attendance, the expansion of our Sunday school room, the exploration of how to best use our space, and our strengthening spiritual formation—all of these are pointers that the Holy Spirit is at work in our parish.

By the time you read this note, you will have received or will shortly receive a stewardship letter. I hope as you take in all the work God is doing in this place that you will consider joining me and the vestry in making a financial pledge

to continue and shape our work. After all, we are in this together. Thank you for your commitment to St. John's. It is my honor and privilege to serve as your priest.

Yours in Christ,
Father Carlos

NEWS FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

The schedule and program for our Sunday School **Christmas Pageant** is in place. It will be filled with music and poetry, and we look forward to involving all youth in this event. The family service will be held at 5:00 on **December 24.**

FAITHCENTRE NOVEMBER COLLECTION

FaithCentre food bank has requested canned cranberry sauce (jellied



and whole) so they can prepare holiday baskets. They hope to collect 200 units by November 21. Please bring your donations to church for the next three Sundays and place them in the container at the back of the church.

FREE BREAKFAST! NOVEMBER 9 | 9 A.M.

Now that we have your attention, there will indeed be a free breakfast, provided by Father Carlos. In return, your help is requested after



breakfast to clean up the grounds. Junior Warden Jim Jackson requests at least 8-9 people to help. Focus will be on weeding and trimming the dead plants. If you have them, bring work gloves, clippers, and leaf rakes. It shouldn't take more than a couple of hours—if we have sufficient helpers—to get the church looking ship-shape in time for our visitors' arrival for the November 12 celebration service.

CELEBRATION OF A NEW MINISTRY AND COMMEMORATION OF LAYING THE CHURCH CORNERSTONE

Two years ago, we began the search process for a new rector. Clearly, the wait was worth it. Father Carlos de la Torre has fully embraced St. John's and his mission here. We are blessed with his energy, enthusiasm, knowledge, and vision, as well as with his deep commitment to liturgical integrity, our community, and his "flock."

On Tuesday, **November 12**, at 7 p.m., St. John's will formally welcome and install The Rev'd. Carlos de la Torre as our Rector. Bishop Scanlan will celebrate. Guests from out of town, local clergy, and a number of our own parishioners will participate. A wine and cheese reception will be held following the service in the fellowship hall. Sign-up sheets for food items will be on the back table starting this Sunday.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 10



You are invited to bring photos of your departed loved one(s)

to church on **November 10** and place them on the Lady Altar. They will be honored and blessed as part of the All Souls Remembrance at the 10:00 service. You may remove the photos after the service.

FALL BACK NOVEMBER 3

Don't forget to reset your clocks and change batteries in your smoke detectors this weekend.



HOLIDAY BAZAAR



This year's bazaar will be held **November 15 and 16** from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. each day in the fellowship hall. Bring your donations of white elephant items starting this Sunday (**November 3**). Speak to Sara Witmer to find out other ways you can help.

AROUND THE PARISH FAMILY TABLE



Alex and Ellen Dyakiw participated in a Free to Breathe Cancer walk in

New York in support of their friend, Frank Noll. More than \$103,000 was raised among all the teams for lung cancer research.



ARE YOU A “LURKER?”

Those familiar with social media will recognize this term as one who observes from the sidelines, but does not become involved or participate. As everyone knows, we have many projects, ministries, and opportunities to serve our church and the wider community. Sign-up sheets for contributions of goods and time are plentiful, and often the same names appear on those pages.

Won't you consider stepping off the sidelines and adding your name? We need Coffee Hour hosts, Sunday morning greeters, clean-up crews, fund-raising dinner helpers, contributions for the holiday bazaar, and so much more. Speak to Deacon Alex or Father Carlos if you need guidance.

A GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES

Blessed Alfred the Great, King & Confessor, 899

Alfred, alone of all English rulers, has been called “the Great,” because of his courage and Christian virtues. Born in 849 at Wantage, Berkshire, the youngest of five sons of King Aethelwulf, Alfred spent his life in a time of “battle, murder, and sudden death” during the Viking invasions and settlement in Britain. He was deeply impressed when, on a visit to Rome at the age of four, he was blessed by Pope Leo IV. Following his father's death and the short reigns of his brothers, Alfred became King in 871.

In heroic battles and by stratagems against the Danes, Alfred halted the tide of their invasion, and secured control of the southern, and part of the midland regions, of England for the English. After a decisive victory in 878 at Edington over the Danish leader Guthrum, he persuaded his foe to accept baptism.



In later years, Alfred sought to repair the damage that the Viking invasions had inflicted on culture and learning, especially among the parish clergy. With the help of scholars from Wales and the Continent, he supervised translations into English of important classics of theology and history, including works of Pope Gregory the Great, Augustine of Hippo, and the Venerable Bede. Alfred died on

October 26, 899, and was buried in the old Minster at Winchester.

Vestry Members: Larry Roberson (Sr. Warden), Jim Jackson (Jr. Warden), John Fusco, Carol Fyfe, Debra Cree, Mitch Holland, Matt Perkins, Thomas Quigley, David King

Herald Editors: Debra Cree and Kathryn Grossman



Vestry Collection Counters
John Fusco and Deb Cree

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|-------------|------------|
| Nov 3 | |
| Subdeacon | M. Holland |
| Book/Server | S. Dillon |
| Crucifer | M. Perkins |

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|-------------|------------|
| Nov 10 | |
| Subdeacon | T. Quigley |
| Book/Server | S. Dillon |
| Crucifer | M. Perkins |

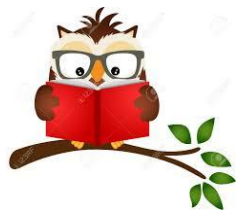
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Nov 17
Youth in Worship

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|-------------|------------|
| Nov 24 | |
| Subdeacon | D. Cree |
| Book/Server | S. Dillon |
| Crucifer | M. Perkins |

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Readers

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| Nov 3 | David Cree |
| Nov 10 | Charlotte Zmyslo |
| Nov 17 | Youth in Worship |
| Nov 24 | Open |



Birthdays

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|----|--------------------|
| 1 | Mark Eminhizer |
| 5 | Nathaniel Duminiak |
| | Matthew Reid, Jr |
| 7 | Carol Fyfe |
| 16 | Harry Witmer |
| 20 | Zackery Fitzgerald |
| 21 | Dylan Arrington |
| 26 | Leigh Meeker |
| 30 | Gwen Perkins |








Coffee Hour Hosts

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| Nov 3 | Father Carlos |
| Nov 10 | Open |
| Nov 17 | Open |
| Nov 24 | Perkin Family |

If there is an "open" spot for either readers or coffee hour hosts and you wish to sign up please contact the office. Thank you.

November 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | 1 Community Lunch @ Presbyterian Church, 10:30am | 2  4pm – 7pm Turn back clocks |
| 3 All Saints Sunday Low Mass 8am Solemn Mass 10 | 4 7pm Men's Group 8 pm AA Mtg | 5 7pm AA Mtg | 6 9:30 Healing Mass - Lady Altar 12pm AA Mtg | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Remembrance Sunday Low Mass 8am Solemn Mass 10 | 11 Veteran's Day  7pm Men's Group 8pm AA Mtg | 12 Father Carlos Installation 7pm  | 13 9:30 Healing Mass - Lady Altar 12pm AA Mtg | 14 | 15 HOLIDAY BAZAAR 9am - 1pm  | 16 HOLIDAY BAZAAR 9am - 1pm  |
| 17 Pentecost XXIV Low Mass 8am Solemn Mass 10 Youth in Worship | 18 7pm Men's Group 8pm AA Mtg | 19 7pm AA Mtg | 20 9:30 Healing Mass - Lady Altar 12pm AA Mtg 7pm Vestry Meeting | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Christ the King Low Mass 8am Solemn Mass 10 | 25 7 pm Men's Group 8pm AA Mtg | 26 7pm AA Mtg | 27 9:30 Healing Mass - Lady Altar 12pm AA Mtg | 28 Thanksgiving Office Closed  | 29 Office Closed | 30 |