

# AUTUMN LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

Oct. 28, 2023

**H**ello all from Fr. Barry. I write to you as our church anniversary approaches on Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>, recalling that in 1989 we had Archbishop Hickey bless the church altar and sanctuary to our upstairs worship place on this same Sunday date. A yellowed certificate over our holy water font in church shows the moment put to a decree on paper; now it is 34 Novembers later, in our anniversary Mass with Auxiliary Bishop Evelio Menjivar coming to our 10:30 liturgy to help us celebrate. It will mark at least 21,000 sacred liturgies since then in our upstairs church. That's a wonderful number to celebrate—to look back in appreciation and look to who we are right now. We also will have a Day of Renewal with Brian Pusateri, a special Catholic speaker from 9 to 3 in our Amadeo Room, Sat. Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>. I dearly invite you to join and mark well our anniversary weekend. Brian will also speak in the 1 o'clock hour at Riderwood in the Chapel, after a brief Communion service on Friday, Nov. 10<sup>th</sup>. Note in this letter, reminders or news about All Souls envelopes and prayers, the time change soon, our Winterfest Dec. 1-2, the Christmas Mass schedule at Resurrection and Riderwood, and a financial report.



On a past Sunday concert in our Amadeo Room, the Olney Big Band performed the timely song called “Autumn Leaves” with a musical interpretation of

flittering, fluttering, descending leaves—having come loose off a tree, to make their colorful, autumn air, one-time dance to the earth. *The falling leaves drift by the window... The autumn leaves of red and gold... And soon I'll hear, old winter's song... (I tell you) I miss you (Love) most of all, when Autumn Leaves start to fall.* Originally just a sad French song about loss, it's been reinterpreted to offer other meanings or feelings, as like—here comes nature again with its fall show. Here we move in November to Thanksgiving—time that evokes memories, even as we make new ones. Turning leaves tell us that we are moving along, as using experiences of the past, for wisdom of how we can better accept life in the present, and do so with true thanksgiving to God as in Christ Jesus (1 Thess. 5:16-18). Abiding in God's will, we see the colors of the Lord to us, of His dying-rising Mystery, that we can be hopeful for what is ahead, and lay down in trust with God in the finish. Phil. 3:20b-21 tells of the **Mystery of Faith in a 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming Hope** “*We await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself—onto fulfillment.*”

Speaking of memories as the leaves change now, I saw people of my former parish a week ago. They told me of how much they liked the supplement programs of special speakers through that decade at St. Eds. They said: "I was changed into Gospel living by Frank Runyeon's one-man play on St. Luke's scriptures!" "I gave up my resistance and anxieties because of Gary Zimak's parish mission!" "The Passionist Mission opened me up anew to the Mercy of God." "The concert-talk by Jackie Francios is a blessing that stays in me still!" I took all their words to me as the Lord saying that Resurrection parish needs it, too. We are trying to do it here, but need more to participate. We did have such a nice two-night musical mission in July with Laura Huval. Were *you* there? Those who came said it was a blessing. But we could have seen many more of you. I'd like more to say to me "Their heart-felt ministry was great. I am encouraged by what God is doing in the Church." So now we have Lay Evangelist-Author-Blogger-Speaker Brian Pusateri coming soon—please do come on Nov. 11th. His message is just for adults. (16-over persons.) It is entitled: "Blessed, Broken, and Scared." He says: *Let's face it, all of us are wounded by the world and have areas of hidden brokenness in our lives. I use stories, music, pictures, scripture, humor, and my own personal testimony to call attendees to a conversion from living life scared to living a shared life. I explain how the actions that Jesus took during the Last Supper challenges us to become Eucharist for others. The retreat offers hope, healing, and change as it explores the profound implications of God's mercy, forgiveness, and love.*

### November Notes

On Sunday, Nov. 5 our clock's go back an hour at bedtime Saturday night (2 a.m. Sunday is the actual mark.)

On Sunday, Nov. 5 it is our last day of collection for the 2023 Thanksgiving Food drive, for our 75 Food Baskets to go forth. It's been a bulletin blurb the last few weeks. By the way, our Food Pantry ministry has also been faith-fully serving the needy-hungry on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays nights monthly from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thanks for the parish support to the effort.

We have announced at Masses, in the bulletin, and on the web, that the pair of All Saints and All Souls days are coming up. At Resurrection, the Masses for both days of Wed., Nov. 1 and Thurs. Nov. 2 are at 9 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. At Riderwood, All Saints Masses are in our usual Wednesday 10 a.m. Mass at Arbor Ridge and the 3 p.m. one in the Chapel. All Saints is a Holy Day; All Souls is not—but it begins our month of prayers for the souls of the departed, and daily in

November the names of the All Soul's envelopes (which you turn in) are prayed in a Mass either at Resurrection or Riderwood. (The intentions are in a jar on the altar.) Extra envelopes remain in the back of chapel or church. Drop the envelope in the collection, or to a person in the office, or send by mail.

This is the time of the year to build up the Church, to get some momentum, to reach out to others. After a Summer break, we have re-started ministries for our music, religious education, bible studies, and more. The bulletins and web site provide information on them. Two new ministries are started in October 2023. One is the K of C Men's Council "Into the Breach" program that meets at 3 p.m. on the last Saturday of the month in the Amadeo Room "St. Monica" classroom, next on Oct. 28 and Nov.25.

Another new one is a Men's Bible Study and Brew meeting in the St. Helen's downstairs hall of the Keffer Center, next gathering on Oct. 30 and Nov. 20. AT 7:30-830 P.M.

Reminder: We share with you that we have renewed our "Formed" web program access to that Catholic library online of videos and audios of faith. Have you not joined in yet? Here's how to join. Google Formed.org and arrive at site. Click Org/signup. Enter Resurrection Parish Burtonsville. Enter in your name and your email. Done. Follow the email prompt or find yourself in the site. Done. Go to "home" to start.

Thanksgiving Mass at Resurrection church is at 9 a.m., Thurs., Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>. Wed. Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> Masses at Riderwood remain at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Winterfest is Fri. Dec. 1-Sat. Dec.2. We sent out a mailing on it; and an after-Communion pitch for it. Contact: [winterfestfun@gmail.com](mailto:winterfestfun@gmail.com). It's our biggest fundraiser—how are you helping out? It's also a fun-raiser, as it is a social time in the hall and Keffer center with others.

Our Living Arts music series here at the church has Dancing Heart: from Mozart to Milonga (Sun. Nov.12 4 p.m.) and at Riderwood Chapel its Voix de Femmes: Mary Speaks (Tues. Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Riderwood Chapel). I enjoyed the recent Big Band show—so did my mom next to me and about 10 people from my Bowie hometown. I also met a couple of new people, introducing them to our community.

Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> is the Immaculate Conception of Mary National Holy Day. Masses at Resurrection are at 9 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. For Riderwood, TBA.

The parish Christmas concert in Resurrection church is Monday Dec. 17 at 7:30 p.m. and repeated at Riderwood chapel, Mon. Dec. 18, 7 p.m.

Speaking of Christmas....

Christmas 2023 falls on Monday, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>. It makes the parish's four Christmas

vigils actually fall on Sunday, the 24<sup>th</sup> 😊🎄 so we have the following schedule. Riderwood Advent Sunday Mass. Dec. 24 at 9 a.m. only. Riderwood Christmas Vigil Mass. 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 24. Riderwood Christmas Day Mass, Dec. 25 9 a.m. Resurrection Advent Sunday Mass. Sat. Dec. 23 at 4 p.m. Sun. Dec. 24 at 7:30. No 9 am. Sun. Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 10:30 and 12:30 p.m. Advent Masses. Sunday Christmas Vigils at Resurrection. 4 pm (Family Pageant). 6 pm. 8:30 p.m.

New Year's Day Mass will be at 9 a.m. for Mary, Mother of God feast. Can you believe it will be 2024? The new millennia is going fast! 😊

Ongoing ministry.... Confessions and Adoration of The Lord all Fridays of the year except for Winterfest Friday (since the lot gets filled and the lower floor gets loud and busy that Dec. 1st.)

Here is a reminder of a Tabernacle that is always on display on our church side. Here is a reminder of the Reconciliation ministry of the parish on Fridays. It's 4:30-6:30 p.m. with confessions at the Vianney Confession house (drive-up or walk up) and the Eucharist in the monstrance in the 24.7 window. Then from 6:30-7:30 pm the confessions are inside church and the Eucharist is on the altar of the church. Benediction at 7:30 p.m.

*Fr. John Barry, Pastor*



THIS ELECTRONIC LETTER ON OUR WEBSITE IS ALSO A POSTAL MAILING AT OCTOBER'S END. IN THAT MAILING IS THE PARISH FINANCIAL STATEMENT, TOO.

THIS LETTER GOES OUT DURING MUCH STRIFE IN THE HOLY LAND. PRAY FOR PEACE! THE BELOW PHOTO IS THE HOLY CENACLE/ UPPER ROOM SITE.



<< THANKSGIVING TOTE BAGS

GOING OUT TO 75 FAMILIES. PTL!

