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FROM THE PASCOR



Fr. Michael Schmitz of Ascension Presents has put out a number of videos aimed at young audiences. But one that caught my attention has a vitally universal message: The Real Purpose of Funerals. Regardless of your level of liturgical or theological training, this video may be useful to watch and pass along to those without such training.

To begin with, he lists three things that are not the reason we celebrate funerals. Yet these three reasons are embedded in American culture, and sadly, creeping into Roman Catholic culture. While there is absolutely nothing wrong with the following, they do not possess the depth of God’s calling for us:

1. To say goodbye
2. To have closure
3. To celebrate their life

I certainly hope that when I die, the above may be considered, but please, not at my funeral. As a distinguished sinner worthy of note, I’m going to need your prayers—urgently! In his video, Fr. Schmitz goes on to reference the funeral of Justice Antonin Scalia. Regardless of one’s political affiliations, the homily given by his son, Rev. Paul Scalia, is worth noting. The following statement has become legendary:

“We are gathered here because of one man, a man known personally to many of us, known only by reputation to many more; a man loved by many, scorned by others; a man known for great controversy and for great compassion. “That man, of course, is Jesus of Nazareth.”

Even in death, Christ—the Eucharist—is the very center of our prayer and of our entire being.

By reminding us that Christ is always the center, Fr. Paul Scalia speaks to us of hope. This hope is key to understanding the real reasons for the Roman Catholic funeral, outlined succinctly by Fr. Schmitz:

1. To worship God
2. Thank God for His unending mercy that fills us with hope
3. Renew our faith—our faith in the Resurrection

Number four is the most important of all:

4. Pray for the soul of the deceased—to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in petition for the deceased

Fr. Schmitz emphasizes multiple times that “we don’t know” if they are in heaven now. We hope for everlasting life! We are confident of everlasting life! But we, on earth, don’t truly know if our loved one is yet in heaven. And we look to hope.

CONSIDER THE astoundingly hopeful texts of chants of the Roman Catholic Mass that also emphasize our prayer for the deceased: Subvenite: “Come to her assistance, O you saints of God, go forth to meet her, O you Angels of the Lord; receive her soul and present it in the sight of the Most High.”

Additionally, consider the sequence, Dies Irae (still sing during the Liturgy of the Hours as well as the Extraordinary Form). A hymn of great poetic symmetry, the character of the chant changes dramatically at the Lacrimosa which implore God’s gentle mercy: “Tearful will be that day, on which from the ash arises the guilty man who is to be judged. Spare him, therefore, God. Merciful Lord Jesus, grant them rest. Amen.”

Not to be overlooked is a line buried in the middle of the prayer—this gem of remarkable Hope: Thou who absolved Mary, and heardest the robber, gavest hope to me, too.

Ultimately, I am greatly moved by the following text from the Credo quod Redemptor: “I believe that my Redeemer lives, and that on the last day, I shall rise from earth and in my flesh I shall behold God my Savior.” This is an astonishing text of joy and hope.

LET US NEVER forget to pray unceasingly. To pray for each other, and for the dead, is an act of mercy and kindness. In doing so, we proclaim as a community a central mystery: our hope of resurrection in light of the Paschal Mystery of Christ. As the Order of Christian Funerals states:

1. In the face of death, the Church confidently proclaims that God has created each person for eternal life and that Jesus, the Son of God, by his death and resurrection, has broken the chains of sin and death that bound humanity.

ST. PAUL NEWS:

K of C Pro-Life Breakfast will be on Sunday, November 16, serving from 8-10:30 am. At the hall in Angelus. A free will offering can be given.

K of C Trapshoot will be held in Angelus on Sunday, November 16, beginning at 12noon.

St. Anne's Altar Society Bingo/Raffle will be at the K of C Hall, on November 16, 2025, beginning with a free-will offering soup supper at 5 p.m., followed by Bingo, a drawing for raffle prizes, and homemade pie. **EVERYONE WELCOME!!!**

ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL NEWS:

Pizza Hut Fundraiser is on Monday, November 17th, 2nd-grade parents deliver.

ST. JOSEPH NEWS:

Fr. Brian Lager is holding a CCD Meeting in the church for parents of children in grades K–7th. This is concerning the upcoming Confirmation changes.

THANK YOU for filling our bus and fueling our faith! Your generosity has enabled our St. Joseph CYO youth to attend the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC). This will be a powerful, faith-forming weekend that will strengthen their relationship with God and each other. We can’t wait to return home filled with the zeal of our faith and a renewed love for our Father, ready to share the joy of our encounter with the Lord with our parish community. **The winner of our drawing was Kerri Scheetz.** Thank you so much for your support. If you’d still like to donate to our trip, please contact Bryn Kuhlman. — *St. Joseph CYO Youth & Leaders*

Our Tithes from Last Week

Oakley: \$2,394.00 Angelus: \$740.00

We welcome all our guests to our parishes. If you have moved here, we encourage you to register on our website.



Follow us on St. Joseph Catholic Church and School

@stjosephoakley

DAILY SCHEDULE

Sat	15 – 5pm Mass + Debra Campbell
Sun	16 – 8:00am Mass (Angelus) - Parishioners 8-10:30am Angelus Pro Life Breakfast 12noon K of C Trapshoot at the hall 5pm Soup Supper at the hall 6pm Angelus Bingo and card party at the hall 10:30am Mass + Ron Brenner
Mon	17 – NO Mass 5:30pm Parish/Finance Council Meeting St. Joe’s Pizza Hut Fundraiser
Tues	18 – 8:30am Mass + JoAnn Engel 9:30am Bible Study in the rectory
Wed	19 – 7:30am Mass (Angelus) + Leon Fellhoelter 7pm CCD Meeting in Church for parents of K-7th 7pm CCD Classes at both places
Thur	20 – 8:30am + Regan Lewis
Fri	21 – 7am Mass + Jim Albers
Sat	22 – 5pm Mass + Willie Zerr
Sun	23 – 8:00am Mass (Angelus) + Jean Rietcheck 10:30am Mass - Parishioners

Confessions are available 30 minutes before weekend Masses, by appointment, or as indicated on the schedule.

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Saturday Nov 22 nd 5pm	Servers	Volunteers	Sunday Nov 23 rd 10:30 am	Servers	Madeline K., Peyton K, & Shayden S.
	Lector	Tom Halbleib		Lector	Brad Joseph
	Gifts	Curt & Lila Thompson		Gifts	Ken & Bridgit Bockwinkel
	Hospitality	Curt & Lila Thompson		Hospitality	Ethan & Maureen Schwarz

Sunday, Nov 23 rd 8 am	Servers	Nick Robben
	Lectors	Barney Dickman and Ron Lager
	Gifts	Ron and Nancy Bixenman
	Ushers	Doug Robben, Ray Schroeder, Bob Schwarz, and Eugene Schwarz