

Catholic Information Center

Friends of the Center · November 2023 Newsletter

catholicinformationcenter.org



Dear Friends,

As November unfolds, we find ourselves amidst a tapestry of change, both within our Church and the broader world. The recent conclusion of the Synod on synodality in Rome represents a significant shift in our perspective on the Church's functioning, emphasizing collaboration and mutual engagement, even if it did not entail major doctrinal modifications.

In Michigan, the vibrant autumn foliage has given way to the falling leaves, symbolizing the transition from the peak of life's

beauty to the inevitable embrace of winter. Nature's cyclical rhythm mirrors the profound concept of the paschal mystery, where death serves as the gateway to rebirth.

However, amidst these harmonious transformations, the disheartening eruption of conflict in the Holy Land leaves us grappling with the stark reality of violence in a place considered sacred by Christians, Jews, and Muslims alike.

These manifold changes, from seasonal shifts to ecclesiastical transformations and global turmoil, can disrupt our accustomed lives and challenge our established beliefs. While the change of seasons is a familiar occurrence, it may be more difficult to envision the Church as increasingly synodal, emphasizing inclusivity and the significance of every voice. The distressing events in the Holy Land evoke a deeper sense of helplessness in the face of profound violence.

In this context, the upcoming Solemnity of Christ the King on November 26 holds particular significance. I like this feast day because it is a poignant reminder that in midst of changes, Christ remains our unwavering anchor. Reflecting on the Gospel reading, we are presented with a notion of kingship starkly different from traditional concepts, one that centers on service rather than authority.

The Gospel reading, often referred to as the Last Judgment, challenges us to evaluate our lives based on how we treat the most vulnerable, for these are the individuals with whom Jesus identifies most closely. Christ the King, in this context, embodies not the might of a ruler but the humility of a servant. It is through caring for the weakest among us that we draw nearer to Him.

Two events at the Center this month will help us deepen our commitment to serving those in the margins. Paul Fahey will reflect on the call to friendship and solidarity on Nov. 8, and Molly Keating with other panelists will offer ideas for how we grieve with those who have experienced loss on Nov. 14.

As we navigate the shifting landscapes of November, we are grateful for your steadfast partnership in the mission and ministry of the Center. Let us remember that our faith calls us to serve and assures us that we can "cast our cares on the Lord because he cares for us." (1 Peter 5:7)

With gratitude and hope,

Rev. Mike Cruickshank, CSP
Fr. Mike Cruickshank, CSP

Associate Director of the Catholic Information Center
and Associate Pastor of the Cathedral of Saint Andrew

Pray for:

+Iris Bradley
+Juan Manuel Estrada
Nora Galvin
Mary Ann Glover
+Ben McGlothlin
+Mary Pannozo
+Martenia Salinas
+David Stark
Roger Szczepanski
Barbara Turner

**November Mass for
CIC Intentions:
Sunday, Nov. 12
5:30 p.m. at the
Cathedral**

Please include your prayer intentions with your green envelope or email them to cicoffice@catholicinformationcenter.org

Upcoming Programs

Brothers and Sisters All Wednesday, Nov. 8 7-8:30 p.m. ET

Our prophetic call as Christians is to cooperate with the coming of God's Kingdom in a world marked by inequality, polarization, and a "throwaway culture." **Paul Fahey** will explore the call in "Fratelli Tutti" - the letter on social friendship and human fraternity by Pope Francis.



Spiritual Practices for Grieving Well

Tuesday, Nov. 14
10-11:30 a.m. ET

Explore spiritual practices for coping with grief and loss. Expressing our grief in both personal and community prayer provides solace, meaning, and a sense of connection during challenging times. Panelists will share valuable insights into navigating their own grief journeys. This presentation is part of the 55 Plus Series, exploring spirituality and vitality in the second half of life.



Inconceivable! Navigating Truth in a Mixed-Up World

Thursday, Nov. 16
7-8:30 p.m. ET

In today's world it can be almost (but not nearly) impossible to know what information to trust and even harder to help family, friends, and neighbors who have fallen victim to misinformation. **Kevin McIntosh** is a community builder and loves making new connections. At the One America Movement, he serves as the Faith Over Division Senior Manager.



NEW

OUR STORIES

75 Years of Paulist Mission
in West Michigan

Grateful for the Past
Anchored in the Present
Hopeful for the Future

A collection of stories and photos celebrating the past 75 years of the Paulist Fathers in West Michigan as told by Friends of the Center.

Suggested donation: \$10 - \$50

GIVING TUESDAY

Donate on November 28 to help us upgrade our classroom technology allowing us to provide better programs for everyone in the Diocese and around the nation.



For information about upcoming programs or receive a copy of "Our Stories", visit catholicinformationcenter.org or call 616-459-7267

Your generous and regular contributions help ensure a vibrant and enduring future for the Paulist ministry at the CIC. All donations, no matter the size, make a significant impact.

Become a monthly contributor through online giving by scanning the QR code below or by visiting our website.



Follow us on Social Media for the latest updates and news.

AN EVENING IN DECEMBER

Behold

AN ECUMENICAL COMMUNITY-WIDE
ADVENT EVENING OF REFLECTION

12.07.2023 AT 6:30 PM

ATTEND ONSITE OR ONLINE

SPONSORED BY
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN
CATHEDRAL OF SAINT ANDREW
ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN

THE EVENT IS FREE
PLEASE RSVP ONLINE.
A DONATION FOR COMMUNITY
FOOD CLUB IS REQUESTED.
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
616.459.7267

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360 DIVISION AVE S. GRAND RAPIDS

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