



Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for November

Universal – In Service of Peace

That the language of love and dialogue may always prevail over the language of conflict.



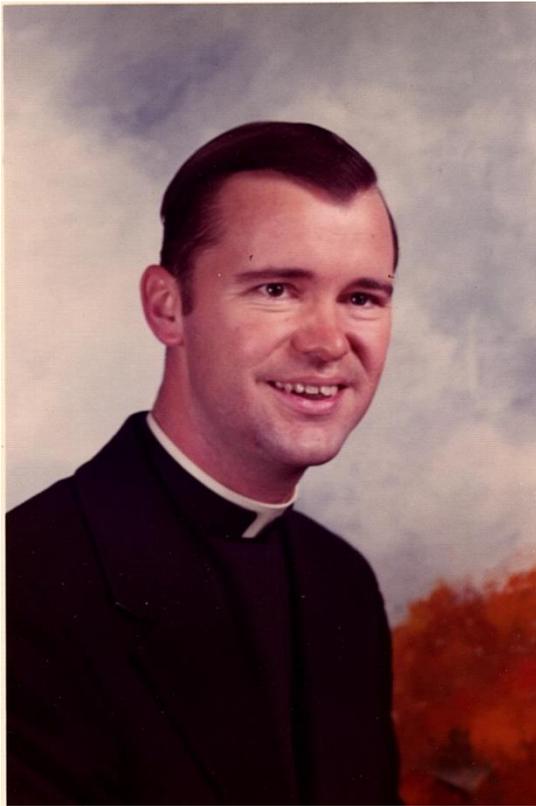
Great job, 1st Grade Saints!



These kids are now the 8th grade prayer partners who helped their 1st grade saint buddies!

Vocations
Week is
Nov. 4-10

Every Catholic has three tasks: **KNOW** the faith, **LIVE** the faith, and **SPREAD** the faith. How you go about doing this and what role you choose to play is called your **VOCATION!** Everyone has a vocation, a way for you to serve God and others, as a “layperson” who is married or single, or living the ordained or consecrated life. Figuring out your vocation is just another step of **LISTENING** to God in your life as He speaks through prayer, through Scripture, and through wise counsel of others. Might you serve God by being a school teacher and passing on the faith? Maybe you’ll be a dad and raise your children to love the Lord. Maybe our parish has some future priests or nuns! Read below to hear Monsignor’s vocation story!



A Short History of Monsignor Eckert

I was born at a very young age in the Stetson Hat Company hospital in Philadelphia on August 19, 1944. I grew up in the Olney section of North Philadelphia. Our parish was St. Helena. I attended the parish school and since second grade I wanted to be a priest. I was an altar boy from fifth grade through twelfth grade when I graduated from Cardinal Dougherty High School. I entered St. Charles Seminary right after graduation (1962) and ten years later I was ordained a priest on May 20, 1972. I have served in six parishes: Nativity of Our Lord (Warminster), Epiphany of Our Lord (South Philadelphia), St. Titus (Norristown), St. Eleanor (Collegetown), St. Dominic (Northeast Philadelphia), and finally I arrived here in June 1994 as the Assistant Pastor to Father Calpin. When Father Calpin retired in May 1997, I requested to be Pastor and my request was granted by Cardinal Bevilacqua. I was installed as pastor on June 15, 1997. On November 4, 2017, I received word that Pope Francis named me as a Chaplain to His Holiness with the title of "Monsignor". I am truly honored and humbled by this recognition by Pope Francis! I really am living the dream!

God-willing, with good health I hope to be here for many more years with all of you!

Monsignor Eckert

Questions the children of our parish asked Monsignor

If you didn't become a priest, what do you think you would be doing? I always (since 2nd grade) wanted to be a priest. Other vocations that crossed my mind were becoming a forest ranger because I love the outdoors or becoming an FBI agent because I like figuring out mysteries.

What was the hardest choice or decision you had to make on the way to becoming a priest? The hardest decision was saying "yes" to God to enter the Seminary. I was very shy and I couldn't picture myself standing up in front of hundreds of people to give a sermon. Reciting a poem in class made me tremble!

How did you feel when you first became a priest? Scared! I never liked getting up in front of people to recite a poem. I couldn't imagine standing in a pulpit and giving a sermon to hundreds of people!

What is your favorite part about being a priest? Celebrating Mass.

Did you ever want to have a family or do you feel that God and the parishioners are all the family you need? I truly feel that the people here at Holy Trinity are all the family I need (besides my blood relatives). For more than 20 years here, I have watched children grow up. I have witnessed them getting married, having their children baptised, and I have celebrated the funerals of over 900 people here. This is my life, this is my family!

Why did you become a priest? Because I wanted to help people get closer to God. And, I wanted to celebrate Mass and the other Sacraments.

As a priest, are you allowed to have pets? Do you have any? We are allowed to have pets but I wouldn't have the time to take care of a pet. All my pets are stuffed animals...much easier to take care of!

HAPPY
thanksgiving



Every November, millions of people celebrate the holiday *Thanksgiving*. For many faiths, the act of giving thanks to God is important. For Catholics, it is the name we give to the most important thing we do: the Eucharist.

Catholics believe that the Eucharist is truly the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. At Mass, his once-for-all sacrifice on the cross is re-presented. In doing this, we remember and participate in his sacrifice. But most of all, we are giving God thanks.

And that's exactly what the word Eucharist means: *thanksgiving*. Literally: the Greek word for Eucharist, εὐχαριστία, means "thanksgiving." It was a common term for communion in the early Church, and is even associated with communion in the Bible. For example, in 1 Corinthians 10:16 it reads: "Is not the cup of **thanksgiving** [εὐχαριστία] for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ?"

So every time Catholics go to Mass, at the center of their worship is the ultimate Thanksgiving.

<https://churchpop.com/2015/11/25/the-eucharist-is-the-ultimate-thanksgiving-literally/>

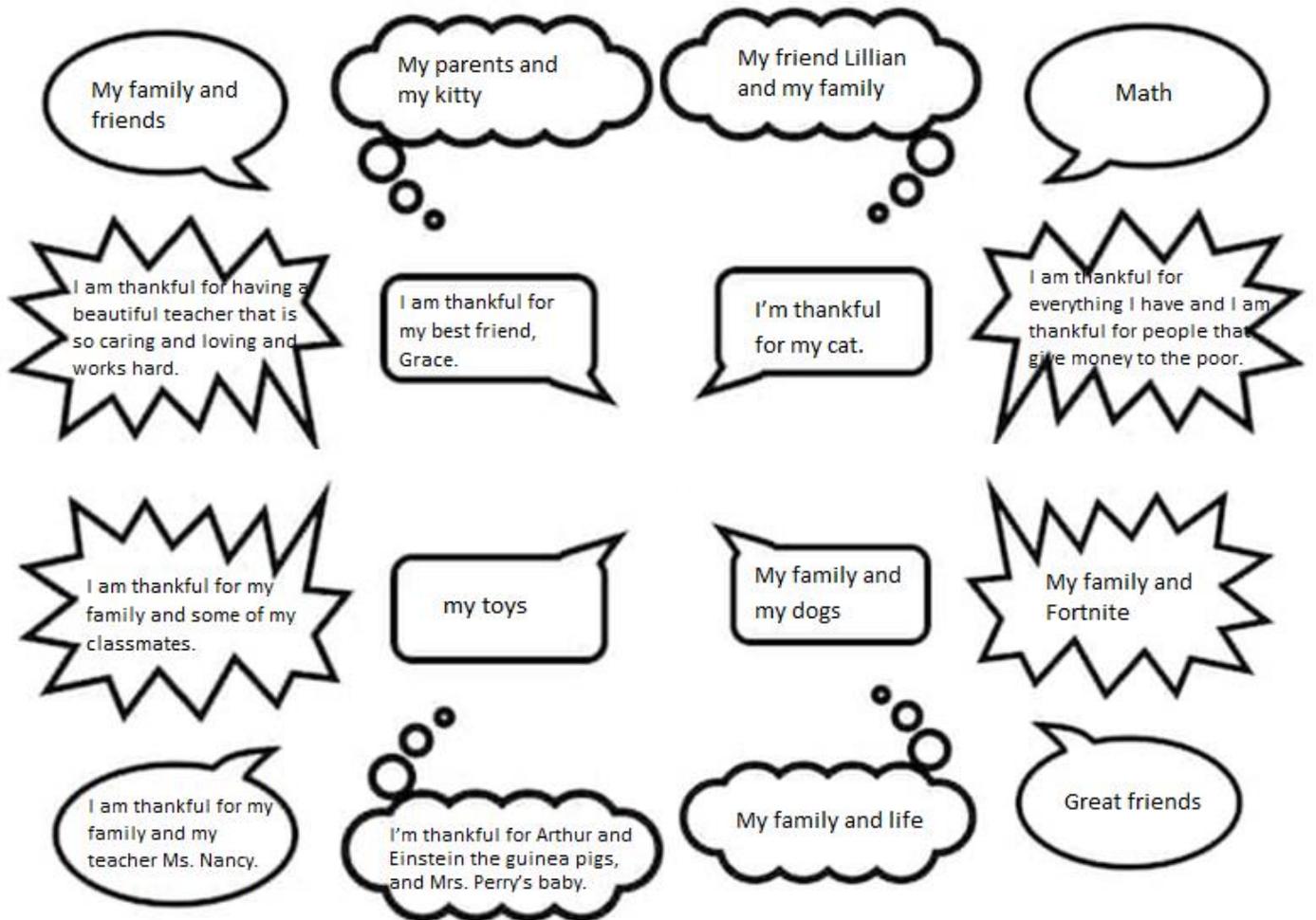
Did
you
know?

We give a sacrifice of ourselves at Mass! When the priest says, "Pray brothers and sisters that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father", we each add to Christ's ultimate sacrifice the little and big things that we have offered up during the week. We offer our prayers, works, joys, and sufferings. If you ever feel that you aren't "getting anything out of Mass", check that you are bringing something TO the Mass to offer! If at some point during the week you refrain from yelling at a kid, choose patience, take time in prayer, refrain from saying something negative about someone, do your work with diligence, etc. and offer these things up to God, you can be excited to go to Mass and unite your offering with that of Christ crucified!

Catechism of the Catholic Church 1368 *The Eucharist is also the sacrifice of the Church. The Church which is the Body of Christ participates in the offering of her Head. With him, she herself is offered whole and entire. She unites herself to his intercession with the Father for all men. In the Eucharist the sacrifice of Christ becomes also the sacrifice of the members of his Body. The lives of the faithful, their praise, sufferings, prayer, and work, are united with those of Christ and with his total offering, and so acquire a new value. Christ's sacrifice present on the altar makes it possible for all generations of Christians to be united with his offering.*

In the catacombs the Church is often represented as a woman in prayer, arms outstretched in the praying position. Like Christ who stretched out his arms on the cross, through him, with him, and in him, she offers herself and intercedes for all men.

Our 4th grade students have thankful hearts!



What are YOU Thankful For?

