“The bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, ‘Lord, Lord, open the door for us!’ But he said in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.’”

- Mt 25:10b-12
Why John Paul and Benedict say “Start your purgatory today”
By Judy Landrieu Klein

While the month of November brings to the fore the awareness of the holy souls in purgatory, it also begets an important question: Is purgatory a faraway “place” or is it a state of existence all of us are called to, starting now?

St. John Paul II created a bit of a firestorm during a papal audience in 1999 when he stated during a catechesis on the Last Things, “Purgatory … is not a place, but a condition of existence.”

He continued, “Those who, after death, exist in a state of purification are already in the love of Christ who removes from them the remnants of imperfection.” (General Audience, July 21, 1999)

Earlier, in Crossing the Threshold of Hope, John Paul II had written:

The “living flame of love,” of which St. John (of the Cross) speaks, is above all, a purifying fire. The mystical nights described by this great doctor of the church on the basis of his own experience correspond, in a certain sense, to purgatory. God makes man pass through such an interior purgatory of his sensual and spiritual nature in order to bring him into union with Himself. Here we do not find ourselves before a mere tribunal. We present ourselves before the power of Love itself … It is Love that demands purification, before man can be made ready for that union with God which is his ultimate vocation and destiny. (Crossing the Threshold of Hope, 186-187)

The Bible is replete with images that portray God’s love as fire, with a key theme being that the fire of God’s love burns that which it touches without destroying it (Exodus 3:2, Hebrews 12:28). Pope Benedict XVI explained this concept pointedly in the following words:

Jesus sets fire to the earth. Whoever comes close to Jesus, according, must be prepared to be burned … It burns, yet this is not a destructive fire but one that makes things bright and pure and free and grand. Being a Christian, then, is daring to entrust oneself to this burning fire. (God and the World, 222)

It could thus be said that purification is the experience wherein one is immersed in the fire of the love of God, with the effect being that whatever is not of God, i.e., everything within us that is incongruent with his love, is burned away. As Catholics, we may readily accept that such purification will happen to us after death. But what we don’t often consider is that the same love we will encounter after death is meant to cleanse us even now, while we are still alive. In fact, the degree to which we allow the fire of God’s love to purify us in this life will determine how much purification we will need in the next!

So bring on the fire, right?

Well, it’s not quite that simple. Because purification involves the pain of suffering and death, most of us try our damnedest to avoid it.

What within us, exactly, must be purified unto death as we draw near to Christ? While St. Paul called it “the flesh,” Trappist monk Thomas Merton named it the “false self,” which he said is the illusory persona projected by the human ego that “wants to exist outside the reach of God’s will and God’s love … the self that exists only in my own egocentric desires.” (New Seeds of Contemplation, 35)

This is the self that finds its identity in pleasure, popularity, power, posturing and pride instead of authentic love; the self constructed by the ego that gives us an identity of our own making instead of the identity that God invites us to discover only through love of him. This self must die that we might truly live; one must allow it to be stripped away in order to become real and true in loving God, self and others.

Purgatory now? Indeed, may it be so. Let us pray:

Sanctify, O Lord, our souls, minds, and bodies. Touch our minds and search out our consciences. Cast out from us every evil thought, every base desire and memory, every unseemly word, all envy, pride and hypocrisy, every lie, every deceit, all greed, all wickedness, all wrath, all anger, all malice, all blasphemy, all sloth, every movement that is alien to your holy will. Enable us to turn to you, O God, who loves humankind, to call upon you with boldness, with a pure heart, a contrite soul, a face unashamed, and with lips that are sanctified. Amen. (From The Divine Liturgy of James the Holy Apostle and Brother of the Lord)

Jesus said there is no better novena than this one, and it has only 11 words

By Ellen Mady

I ask God for what I need. A lot. Sometimes I feel like I run through a continuous strain of “Lord, please give me this” or “I need that” from morning to night. My needs sometimes spill over into conversations with friends too, when I ask them to pray on my behalf for a variety of intentions.

Although I try not to let my own needs be the exclusive focus of my prayer, they’re a big part of the reality. So much so that sometimes, as I hear my own thoughts and petitions, I wonder if I sound too needy. I wonder if I am too needy.

We’re all needy: It’s part of the human condition. Making peace with that reality and learning how to respond to it is an important step in recognizing who God wants to be for us.

While our neediness might make us feel a little vulnerable and weak, God sees it differently. He knows our needs before we know them ourselves. Our needs glorify him, giving him the opportunity to overwhelm us with his goodness and mercy.

Don Dolindo Ruotolo, an Italian priest who lived from 1882-1970, deeply understood the relationship between our neediness and God’s goodness.

Ordained at the age of 23, Don Dolindo spent his life in prayer, sacrifice and service. He heard confession, gave spiritual guidance and cared for those in need. Don Dolindo was a contemporary of the more widely known saint, Padre Pio. When some pilgrims from Naples, where Don Dolindo resided, went to Padre Pio in Pietrelcina, Padre Pio responded: “Why do you come here, if you have Don Dolindo in Naples? Go to him, he’s a saint!”

The simple friar is becoming most known for his spirituality of surrender. Well aware of the depth of human weakness and neediness, Don Dolindo saw this as a way of fostering continual union with God.

While inviting us to continually bring our worries and concerns to the Lord, Don Dolindo teaches us that the focus doesn’t stay on our needs. He encourages us to bring our needs to God and then be at peace, leaving God free to care for us in his wisdom. Don Dolindo tells us that the Lord has promised to fully take on all the needs we entrust to him. In the words of Jesus to Don Dolindo:

Why do you confuse yourselves by worrying? Leave the care of your affairs to me and everything will be peaceful. I say to you in truth that every act of true, blind, complete surrender to me produces the effect that you desire and resolves all difficult situations.

A thousand prayers do not equal one act of abandonment; don’t ever forget it. There is no better novena than this: O Jesus, I abandon myself to you. Jesus, you take over.

The many healings and favors obtained by people who went to Don Dolindo and followed his advice, as well as those that have been attributed to his intercession, give witness to the power of grace that can be unleashed through such abandonment to Divine Providence.
Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord.
Praise and exalt Him above all forever.
You spacious skies, bless the Lord.
You purple mountains and fruited plains, bless the Lord.
All you cranberries, bless the Lord.
You turnips and all you pumpkins, bless the Lord.
Everything that grows from the Earth, bless the Lord.
Praise and exalt Him above all forever.
You soaring eagles and strutting turkeys, bless the Lord.
You supporters of life and those who choose, bless the Lord.
All pilgrims, indigenous, Black thru White, bless the Lord.
Donald, Hilary, Francis, Muhammad, bless the Lord.
Praise and exalt Him above all forever.
House owners and homeless, bless the Lord.
You clouds and rainbows, bless the Lord.
Priests and leaders of the people, bless the Lord.
All you lovers of music and owners of guns, bless the Lord.
Praise and exalt Him above all forever.
Mom and Dad, bless the Lord.
Brothers, sisters, children and babies, and all things learning, bless the Lord.
All you believers and atheists and hurting and crowded, bless the Lord.
You dead and shot, and all you heading home, bless the Lord.
Praise and exalt Him above all forever.
Let us bless the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Praiseworthy and glorious and exalted above all forever.
~Father Michael~

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Are we ready and prepared for what life will ask of us? The answers to life's challenges, especially those that involve purpose, meaning, and happiness are not found in material things or by searching the Internet. Many things in life require a journey of the heart and the acquisition of wisdom. When one acquires wisdom, one acquires priceless wealth. Sadly, pursuing wisdom is not valued by our world these days. Examining our lives, pondering the bigger questions, reflecting on where we have been and where we are going, are invaluable exercises that not only bring us wisdom but open our eyes to God's presence. Those who seek wisdom shall not be disappointed and will always be ready for whatever comes their way.
Mark your calendars! The Festival of Trees and Lights is Coming December 2-3, 2017. We are in need of crafters to make handmade boutique items as well as Christmas décor, ornaments, and gift baskets. For more information please call Raquel at (916) 601-9640 or Dorothy at (916)801-7599.

ACTS: The Spread of the Kingdom is a Catholic Bible study course which explores the story of the Early Church in light of the Holy Spirit and demonstrates how this story is important for all Disciples of Christ. Enrich and deepen your faith.

This is the fourth year of this popular study program. The study will include a series of twenty videos presented by Jeff Cavins. Each video will be preceded by a lively group discussion. Each week, participants can attend on Wednesday at Holy Family in Citrus Heights, or on Thursday at the Cathedral, from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm.

Attendance is free. We will also provide materials. Please join us for a life-changing journey through the Bible! Contact Sister Jenny at 916-444-5364 or register at jenny@cathedralsacramento.org.

Next week, our second collection will be for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. Over 46 million people in the United States live in poverty. This collection supports programs to empower people to identify and address the obstacles they face as they work to lift themselves out of poverty. By supporting this collection, you give people a hand up, not a hand out. Learn more about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development at www.usccb.org/cchd/collection.

ADVERTISE IN THE NEW CATHEDRAL BULLETIN!
The Cathedral is partnering with Liturgical Publications Inc, a national bulletin printing company, beginning the first week of January, 2018. Our bulletin is expanding to twelve full-color pages, packed with articles, reflections, announcements, a complete roster of information about the cathedral, and of course, fan favorites, “Pastor’s Corner” and “Mystagogy.” Your advertisement in the bulletin enables us to provide this valuable tool of information and evangelization to parishioners and visitors of the cathedral.

More than 900 copies of our bulletin are distributed to parishioners each weekend after every Mass. It is also posted online on the cathedral website, which is visited by more than 1,000 people every week.

Advertising in the bulletin is not just about growing your business. It tells potential customers that you care about supporting your church and connecting with your fellow parishioners.

Jeff Tkachuk from LPi will be here this week. Don’t miss your opportunity to advertise in this very popular publication. Space is limited! To get priority placement and pricing, submit your name and phone number and/or email address, to cathedralsacramento@gmail.com.

A Concert to Help the Homeless in Sacramento is a Triumph!

“I just like helping,” said Ayana Jaycox in an interview with Fox News just before she dazzled the audience with her incredible skill and finesse on the violin. Her performance pieces were ambitious for any violinist, but made even more remarkable by the fact she’s only thirteen years old. The motivation for Ayana and Father Michael O’Reilly behind arranging this concert was just as impressive; the more than $1,000 raised will be going to the Cathedral’s Brown Bag Lunch Program.

In that same interview, Father Michael, who accompanied Ayana on piano, said, “Music can bring so many cultures and facets of people’s lives together.” When asked about the purpose behind the concert, he explained, “It brings attention to the needs of those who are hurting right now and in the streets as the weather gets cold.” The BBLP ministry was created by Father Michael in response to the growing need of our hungry brothers and sisters in our downtown community. It is in its fourth year of operation and is funded solely by donations. For an in-depth explanation about this ministry and how you can help, go to cathedralsacramento.org/ministries.

You can see the full interview with Sara Zendehnam on Fox40.com, and catch excerpts of the concert on the Cathedral’s facebook page.

VISIT TO JOJUTLA, MEXICO - A Message from Leticia Hilbert

Thank you, Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament parishioners, who contributed with donations to help the families in need in Jojutla, México.

During the September 19 earthquake in México, the town of Jojutla de Juarez in Morelos, was greatly affected. Many families lost a love one and many more lost their house and their belongings. Thanks to your generosity, the cathedral was present to lend a helping hand. Deacon Edgar and his family went there on October 6 to take food, clothing, rosaries and prayer cards, and even chairs and stools, since the people were living in tents and were sitting on broken bricks from their knocked down homes. Most of all, they received hope knowing that God has not forgotten them, since even the people of Sacramento, their brothers and sisters in Christ, care about them.

THANKSGIVING DINNER FOR THE LESS FORTUNATE

Can you donate a turkey or ham, or the trimmings? Please contact Deacon Edgar at 916-444-3071 x 15. Twenty-six turkeys or hams are needed as well as canned veggies: corn, green beans, cranberry, yams, and all that the Thanksgiving dinner entails. Thank you!

PRAY THE DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET BEFORE THE 7 PM SPANISH SUNDAY MASS

If you have an intention or would like to come and pray with us the Divine Mercy Chaplet on Sundays, please come and join us 20 minutes before 7pm Mass.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mass / Intentions</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday November 11</td>
<td>5:00 pm / Souls in Purgatory VETERANS DAY</td>
<td>10:00 am CCD classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday November 12</td>
<td>7:30 am / Souls in Purgatory 9:00 am / Souls in Purgatory 11:00 am / Souls in Purgatory 1:00 pm Spanish / Souls in Purgatory 3:00 pm Chinese / Souls in Purgatory 5:00 pm / Souls in Purgatory 7:00 pm Spanish / Souls in Purgatory</td>
<td>9:30 am RCIA Breaking of the Word 11:00 am Liturgy of the Word for Children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday November 13</td>
<td>12:10 pm / Souls in Purgatory 5:10 pm / Souls in Purgatory</td>
<td>6:30 pm RCIA Evening Prayer 7:00 pm RCIA Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday November 14</td>
<td>12:10 pm / Souls in Purgatory 5:10 pm / Souls in Purgatory</td>
<td>6:00 pm Spanish Choir for the 7pm Mass 7:15 pm The Men's Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday November 15</td>
<td>12:10 pm / Souls in Purgatory 5:10 pm / Souls in Purgatory</td>
<td>7:15 pm Spanish Choir for the 1pm Mass 7:15 pm Communion &amp; Liberation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday November 16</td>
<td>12:10 pm / Souls in Purgatory 5:10 pm / Souls in Purgatory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday November 17</td>
<td>12:10 pm / Souls in Purgatory</td>
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</tbody>
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~The Book of the Dead~
Honor the memory of the faithful departed by writing their name in the Book of the Dead, located in the Martyrs Chapel.

“In trust of God’s infinite goodness, we pray to lift up our sick parishioners, family and friends, and those in need of healing of the body and soul. Almighty Father, hear our prayers for...

Deacon Don DeHaven
Emma Valdez
Eugenia Roque
Alfredo Rivera
Adolfo Espinoza
Raymundo Guerrero
Natalia Galan
Salomon Galan
Tomasita Rodriguez
Rosa Carrillo
Felix Nunez Claver
Alvin Sul
Anyrani Gonzalez
Erin Nicole Tam
Riley Hana
Lee McClure
Noah Anthony Hernandez
Giang Tran
Joel and Cesar
Miguel and Family
Marissa Mallani and Family
Michael Jose Mejia
Luis Gutierrez, Jr.
Luis Gutierrez, Sr.
Cynthia Belarma
Stephen and Julie
Miles Jedlinsky Flanagan
Louis Metzinger
The Brown Family
Nora and Padilla Family
Danny Velez
Guy Clifford Minter

Yenecia Gutierrez
Dennis Studebaker
S.I.
Lawrence Afamasanga
Vailouata Lopa
Michelle Mirvin
Chris Kunkel
Guy Cook
Andrea

Amen.”

Sharing the Gospel — Make sure your heart is ready for Jesus. One day Jesus will come back. If your heart is empty and dark - without love - you will be left out. But if your heart is filled with God’s love for other people, Jesus will bring you into heaven with him forever.

Prayer — God, fill my heart with your love. I want to be ready for Jesus.

Mission for the Week — As a family, go through your closets and drawers. Take out all the clothes you don’t wear anymore. Then donate them to charity.

Puzzle
Find and circle these words from today’s Gospel:

VIRGINS
LAMPS
FOOLISH
WISE
OIL JARS
BRIDEGROOM
WEDDING
DOOR
WATCH

AVIRBYGNO
LDOORMWATCH
EPSFILSLOW
SWEDINGAEF
AILERASMI
BSURGDEPGO
IEVIRGINES
LROMEOWEDUNI
UGYDOILJARS
OARIMAWTC
YHVAROIGN

Visit us online at cathedralsacramento.org, facebook & all your social media favorites
Bendice al Señor, todas tus obras del Señor.

Alabar y exaltarle sobre todo para siempre.

Espaciosos cielos, bendiga al Señor.

Vuestras montañas púrpuras y llanuras frutales, bendigan al Señor

Todos ustedes arándanos, bendiga al Señor.

Ustedes nabos y todas sus calabazas, bendigan al Señor.

Todo lo que crece desde la Tierra, bendiga al Señor.

Alabar y exaltarle sobre todo para siempre.

Vuelas águilas y pavos pavoneándose, bendice al Señor.

Mamá y papá, bendigan al Señor

Alabar y exaltarlo sobre todo para siempre.

Dueños de casas y personas sin hogar, bendigan al Señor.

Ustedes nubes y arcoíris, bendigan al Señor.

Sacerdotes y líderes del pueblo, bendigan al Señor

Todo los amantes de la música y dueños de armas, bendigan al Señor.

Alabar y exaltarle sobre todo para siempre.

Domingo: Prov 31, 10

Sábado: Sab 18, 14

Viernes: Sab 13, 1

Jueves: Sab 7, 22

Miércoles: Sab 6, 1

Martes: Sab 2, 23

Lunes: Sab 1, 1

Domingo: Sab 6, 12

Las lecturas de la semana del 12 de noviembre de 2017

Durante el terremoto de septiembre 19 en México, el poblado de Jojutla de Juarez en Morelos, fue gravemente afectado. Muchas familias perdieron algún ser querido y muchas más su casa y todas sus pertenencias. Gracias a su generosidad, la Catedral estuvo presente tendiéndoles una mano. El Diácono Edgar y su familia fueron allá el 6 de Octubre para llevar comida, ropa, rosarios y tarjetas de oraciones, y hasta sillas y bancos, ya que las personas estaban viviendo en casas de campaña y estaban sentados en ladrillos del escombro de su casa derrumbada. Más que nada recibieron Esperanza, sabiendo que Dios no se ha olvidado de ellos ya que hasta las personas de Sacramento, sus hermanos y hermanas en Cristo, se preocupan por ellos.

CENA DE ACCION DE GRACIAS PARA LOS MENOS AFORTUNADOS

Puede usted donar un pavo o jamón, o la guarnición clásica? Por favor llame al Diácono Edgar al 916 444 3071 x 15. Se necesitan 26 pavos o jamón y vegetales en latados: elote, ejotes, arandano, camote y todo lo que lleva una...
Chinese Community News
華人團體消息
本月事務會議將於12日(星期日)彌撒後在聖體大教堂會議室舉行，歡迎大家踴躍參加。
本月研經班將於18日(星期六)上午10:00 - 12:00 在Martin Luther King圖書館舉行，歡迎大家踴躍參加。

Our business meeting this month will be held on November 12, 2017 (Sun) after Mass at the meeting room of the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome to attend.

Bible study will be held on November 18 (Sat) at 10:00 - 12:00 at Martin Luther King Library. You are all welcome to join.

Save the date:
Thanksgiving Dinner November 19 (Sun) 6 - 9 pm
Christmas Caroling December 16 (Sat) 9 am - 4 pm
Christmas Dinner December 17 (Sun) 6 - 9 pm

The Most Reverend Jaime Soto, D.D, M.S.W, Bishop of Sacramento

The Most Reverend Myron Cotta
Auxiliary Bishop of Sacramento

The Very Reverend Michael O’Reilly, Rector
Reverend Kieran M. McMahon, Priest in Residence
Reverend Nicholas Ho, Chinese Mass
Deacon John Gisla Deacon Raul Leon
Deacon Don DeHaven Deacon Edgar Hilbert
Sister Jenny Aldeghi, FDCC, Dir. of Education
Rex Rallanka, Director of Music

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www.cathedralsacramento.org

SCHEDULE OF MASSES
Monday to Friday 12:10 pm
Monday to Thursday 5:10 pm
Saturday Vigil 5:00 pm
Sunday 7:30 am
9:00 am
11:00 am
1:00 pm en Español
3:00 pm Chinese
5:00 pm
7:00 pm en Español
State Holidays 12:10 pm only

SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION
Monday to Friday 11:30 am to 12:00 pm
Saturday 4:00 pm to 4:45 pm
Domingo - en Español 12:30 pm a 12:45 pm
6:30 pm a 7:00 pm

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
Wednesday 12:45 pm to 4:45 pm
Thursday 12:45 pm to 4:45 pm
Friday 12:45 pm to 3:45 pm

BAPTISMS (Registration is required)
English — 3rd Saturday of the month, 9:00 am
Español - 4° Sábado del mes, 9:00 am

BAPTISM CLASSES
English — 1st Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm
Español — 2do jueves del mes, 7:00 pm

WEDDINGS — Contact 916-444-3071,
Six (6)months in advance

GIFT SHOP — Sundays 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Mondays 10:30 am to 12:00pm