

Avila News

PRAYER, SACRIFICE, SERVICE, AND STUDY

FIFTY-FIRST YEAR VOLUME II

avilascleveland.weebly.com

NOVEMBER, DECEMBER 2022



REGULAR MEETING AND HOLY HOUR

Wednesday,
November 16, 2022

PLEASE GATHER IN
FOUNDERS' ROOM
AT 10:00AM

HOLY HOUR WILL BEGIN
AT 10:30AM

Followed by Community
Mass with Seminarians,
Luncheon, and Speaker.

SPEAKER:

Rev. Michael McCandess
Director
Diocesan Vocation Office

As always, friends/guests are most welcome! Please contact Chris Ryan at 440-983-0805 or chrisryan78@yahoo.com, no later than noon on Monday, November 14, if you cannot attend or to make additional reservations. Guest donation is \$13.00. Please remember to bring your Holy Hour Prayer Book. **Members:** Please leave your full name and phone number when calling to cancel reservation. Also, please note that ALL Avila Members have a standing reservation and need to call in cancellations when necessary. **Members who are unable to regularly attend meetings and cannot call to cancel luncheon reservations might consider becoming a sustaining member. Thank you.**

President's Corner



It was so nice to see so many of you at our meeting in September. It is great to be back at the Seminary. This month we will celebrate Our Lord, Jesus Christ, King of the Universe on Sunday, November 20. We give glory to Jesus as the Universal King and honor his eternal priesthood. We adore our Eucharistic King before the Blessed Sacrament.

Our speaker this month will be Fr. Michael McCandless. We will also install the new Avila members that joined in the last year.

Advent is just around the corner, a time to prepare our hearts for Jesus' birth.

Please accept my sincere wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

Marianne Repinski

During the four weeks of Advent, these daily prayers and meditations can help calm your heart during a season filled with distractions. Pray these prayers each day to draw close to God during Advent in 2022.

- **God, be with me today. Help my heart be open to the ways Jesus is at work in my life. Amen.**
- **Give me peace today, O Lord. Help me to live this day in eternal hope knowing Jesus will come again.**
- **Heavenly Father, give me the strength to have the same trust in You that Mary had, as she awaited the birth of Jesus.**
- **I pray for humility today, Father. Our Savior entered this world in a manger with animals. When I feel too proud, let me remember the Holy Family and Jesus' humble birth.**

"I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A PRIEST"

The Avilas were honored to host Bishop Martin Amos as their September guest speaker. He was born on December 8, 1941, one day after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He said he was born with a chalice in his hands, although he did possibly briefly aspire to being a cowboy after seeing a picture of himself as a child! He was born in a working class neighborhood on the west side of Cleveland, the eldest of six children, an only child until age eight years. He attended Benjamin Franklin Elementary School and wanted to enter the seminary right afterward, but his parents did not permit it. After graduating from James Ford Rhodes High School, where he studied four years of Latin, he studied at Borromeo Seminary College and St. Mary's Seminary. It took him five years instead of four because he failed his Latin exam upon his entrance! He was ordained along with 36 other men on May 25, 1968.

Bishop Amos' first assignment was at St. James Church in Lakewood at age 26; the parish was so big that there were four associate priests in addition to the pastor. He was posted to St. Thomas Parish from 1970 until 1973 and was later assigned to St. Dominic's Parish in 1983 where he was ultimately named pastor in 1985. During this time, he also taught religion at Elyria Catholic High School and Lorain Catholic High School. He attended John Carroll University to obtain teaching and administration certifications, and was later appointed academic dean of Borromeo College where he also taught Latin and scripture in 1976 until 1988. He was appointed assistant pastor at St. Dominic Parish in Shaker Hts., becoming pastor in 1985. Pope John Paul II requested he be an Auxiliary Bishop in Cleveland; he was ordained on June 7, 2001. He spent five years in Akron before Pope Benedict XVI assigned him as the eighth bishop of Davenport, Iowa.

After many years of serving the Church, Pope Francis accepted Bishop Amos' letter requesting retirement in 2017 and returned to Cleveland where he has remained since. He spends much of his time doing Confirmations and helping out by saying Masses where needed. He was privileged to meet three Popes in his lifetime: Pope St. John Paul II with a private Mass on the occasion of his 25th anniversary, Pope Emeritus Benedict and most recently Pope Francis.

Bishop Amos repeatedly emphasized that he was born with a chalice in his hands and never wanted anything else but to be a priest. He has served the Church well wherever he was asked to go, serving with a heart full of love.

The Lord has sworn and will not waver:

"You are a priest forever in the manner of Melchizedek."

(Psalm 110:4)

Please correct the following email address on the Executive Board sheet that you received in the mail in August:

Blanche O'Brien
wcbaobrien@gmail.com

Thank you!



Pattie Collett

Susan Federico

Marie Huck

Joan Keating

Arch Tunnell



**For prayer requests contact Joan Evans at
joanevans1130ad@gmail.com or
440-331-2383.**



The families and friends of

Avila members,

Rosetta Comella and

Sandy Kaltner.



Marianne Repinski

on the death of her mother,

Rose Hutchinson.



God Bless,

Susan Federico

Publicity and Scripture Resource



“There is but one road which reaches God and that is *PRAYER*;
if anyone shows you another, you are being deceived.” *Saint Teresa of Avila*

November 2022

Please include the special intentions of the members of the following groups

November	6, 2022	Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland (OSU)
November	13, 2022	Ursuline Sisters of Youngstown (OSU)
November	20, 2022	Vocation Directors of the Diocese of Cleveland
November	27, 2022	Apostles of Jesus (AJ)
December	4, 2022	Order of St. Basil the Great (Philadelphia) (OSBM)

GIVE THANKS IN ALL THINGS

***“In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.”
(1 Thessalonians 5:18)***

It's November and our thoughts turn to Thanksgiving. For most of us, the year was filled with a combination of happiness and sadness, victories and losses. We must thank God no matter the circumstance, and find God in the middle of it all. When we look beyond our circumstance we will see God. He understands and feels what we feel. We give thanks because He promised that He will never leave us nor forsake us. He gave us the Holy Spirit as comforter and teacher, who is incredibly active in ministering to our pain or loss.

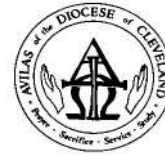
St. Paul says very simply and directly, *“In everything give thanks.”* No exceptions, no excuses, nothing is outside those boundaries, in everything give thanks no matter what struggle, trial or testing, we need to be thankful. No matter what situation we find ourselves in, we always have reason to thank God.

When we realize the truth of St. Paul's statement, our thanksgiving to God doesn't rely on circumstances around us, but rather the strength we find from a good God. Giving thanks in all circumstances creates security and hope. The circumstances we face may be grim and our questions may go unanswered, but if we give thanks in the middle of these circumstances we will come to know God in ways we could never imagine.

We may often find ourselves questioning what is happening in our lives, but we must remember that God's will is always for our good. He wants us to become saints; He wants our salvation; everything in our lives is directed toward those ends. Everything that happens to us, even those things such as suffering and hardship, are occasions of healing through Jesus. By uniting our suffering to His, we can die with Christ so that we might live with Christ. On the night before He was to suffer His great passion and death, Jesus took bread and wine, offered it to the Father, and gave thanks. The word in Greek for “thanksgiving” is Eucharist. Each time we celebrate the Eucharist, it is an offering of thanksgiving to the Father for the suffering, death, and resurrection of His Son.

For many of us, the idea of giving thanks in all circumstances can be a real challenge. When disappointments or bad things that come our way, we may be tempted to think, “How in the world can I give thanks for that!” How can we be thankful for untimely deaths, unwelcome diagnoses, painful experiences or costly expenses? But in these times, a reason for an attitude of gratitude can still be found. If you find it hard to give thanks for something that happened, give thanks for what didn't happen: You lost your job, but not your health. You didn't get the promotion, but your kids still think you're the best. Your dog died, but you enjoyed his companionship for many years. Your mother suffers from Alzheimer's, but not your father. You were in a car accident, but not seriously hurt. You broke your leg, but not your neck. You are suffering from the flu, but not a serious illness. You're broke, but not homeless.

No matter how bad things are, they could always be worse. As part of our Thanksgiving reflections, list some of the good things that happened and some of the bad things that didn't. We may not be thankful for everything, but we can always be thankful for something. At the end of the day, it's a choice we can all make. The prophet, Habakkuk, knew much disappointment in his life, but proclaimed, *“Though the fig tree does not blossom and no fruit appears on the vine, though the yield of olive fails and the terraces produce no nourishment, though the flocks disappear from the fold and there is no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord and exalt my saving God.” (Habakkuk 3:17-18)*



"There is but one road which reaches God and that is *PRAYER*;
if anyone shows you another, you are being deceived." *Saint Teresa of Avila*

December 2022

Please include the special intentions of the members of the following groups
in your Holy Hour this month:

December	4, 2022	Order of St. Basil the Great (Philadelphia) (OSBM)
December	11, 2022	Order of St. Basil the Great (Uniontown) (OSBM)
December	18, 2022	Order of St. Benedict (OSB)
December	25, 2022	Benedictine Sisters of Erie, PA (OSB)
January	1, 2023	Bishops of the Diocese of Cleveland

PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD

The Advent season is upon us again: time to sing carols, eat Christmas cookies, wear new clothes, decorate our homes, put up the tree and wish people Merry Christmas. It is time to rejoice in the good news of great joy that was announced to the shepherds by the angel Gabriel. It seems Christmas has gotten completely lost in all the commercial noise. We all complain about Christmas being commercialized. It really has become a time of shopping and discounts for some and for others a time of partying and merriment. In the United States, twenty-five percent of all personal annual spending takes place during the Christmas shopping season.

One of the challenges of a Christian is to keep our attention on the real meaning of the season. For us, the four weeks before Christmas is Advent, a time of preparation for the celebration of Jesus' birth, to reflect on the meaning of His coming. Advent is a vital part of our holiness journey. Often we're so busy we miss out on the joy that lasts – Jesus. Advent carries with it a season of expectation, of quiet joy, of preparation as we remember the coming of our Savior, His birth in Bethlehem. Our joy increases as we approach Christmas because we recognize that God made Himself a Child for us. He became an Infant in a manger out of love for us. The Christmas mystery cannot fail to bring us joy if we open our hearts to its true meaning.

Mary set out to see her cousin, Elizabeth, in holy haste. Her journey was one of joy. She was on a mission to share God's presence within her. The Scriptures speak of joy frequently. The Psalm on the first Sunday of Advent says, "*I rejoiced when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'*" (Psalm 122:1). The first reading on the third Sunday of Advent comes from Isaiah 35: "*And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and enter Zion singing, crowned with everlasting joy; They meet with joy and gladness, sorrow and mourning flee away.*"

If we want to experience the true joy of Christianity, be like Mary. Be a gift for others. Joy comes from simple acts of love. With her help, may we grow spiritually during this season and be filled with hope and joy as we prepare for the birth of her Son.

