

ST. JOHN'S MESSENGER

St. John's Episcopal Church • 325 Little Silver Point Road • Little Silver, NJ 07739

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Website: www.stjohnsls.com



Rector

Rev. Valerie T. Redpath

Deacon

Rev. Eve Chamberlain

Parish Administrator

Janice Lima

Treasurer

Lyle Connor

Music Ministers

Karen Feeny

James Scavone

Sexton

Orinzo Martinez

Vestry

Paul Chalifour

Sr. Warden

Hazel Kelly

Jr. Warden

John Davies

Kate Galbavy

Curt Goss

Paula Hayes

Eileen Kennedy

Chris Nalbandian

Tom Perez

Amy Thomas

Beverly Van Winkle

Reflections From the Rector

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Autumn is a smorgasbord for the senses. Crisp, cool days, long shadows on the ground, the smell of fireplaces being used for the first time in months. Trees and shrubs decked out in beautiful colors. Crunchy leaves to step on. Hot chocolate, caramel apples, candy corn, pumpkin pie. (Wait! Did someone say: 'candy corn'?) And let us not forget the smell of turkeys roasting. Thanksgiving can't be too far off.

History tells us that the first Thanksgiving was a three day feast in the fall of 1621 that took place when Pilgrims and Native Americans gathered to celebrate a bountiful harvest. Our current holiday, while based on that feast in 1621, did not become an official holiday right away. Like all things 'national', it moved forward in fits and starts. While local towns declared 'Thanksgivings' to mark occasions like the end of a drought, bountiful crops or end of a battle, it wasn't until George Washington declared Thursday, November 26, 1789, to be

"...a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favours of Almighty God."

But the day or date was never officially fixed on the calendar as a national holiday, until October 3, 1863, when President Lincoln declared the last Thursday in November to be a day of "thanksgiving and praise."

All was well until 1939 when retailers complained that the last Thursday was November 30th! "Oh No," said the shop keepers! That date was too close to Christmas and did not leave enough time for people to shop--and, most importantly--for retailers to make a profit! (Sound familiar?) More time needed to be added to the pre-Christmas shopping season. So President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared Thanksgiving to be the second-to-last Thursday of the month. Again, not everyone agreed. Eventually Congress passed a law declaring that Thanksgiving would be celebrated on the *fourth* Thursday in November.

Imagine all of that controversy over an appropriate time to celebrate 'Thanksgiving'! Thankfully, Christians didn't wait for the government to designate a time to give thanks! (We might still be waiting! ☺)

For over 2000 years Christians have given thanks on a regular basis. We give thanks to God when we gather to celebrate the Holy Eucharist, also known as the Great Thanksgiving (BCP P. 361). The word eucharist comes from the Greek word that translates as grateful, thankful. In the upper room--the night before his crucifixion--Jesus celebrated by sharing a meal with his closest friends. Over the simple foods of bread and wine he gave thanks to his Father for all that had been given...for life itself, for the food they were sharing, for companionship on life's journey...for the promise of eternal life.

When we gather as a community of faith to remember Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for us and to give thanks for that gift, we use those simple elements of bread and wine. And we hear his words echoed over time:

On the night before he died, he took bread (cup); and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." (BCP 362)

We believe that the consecrated Bread and Wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus for us, nourishing and strengthening us spiritually as we are sent into the world to proclaim the Gospel with our lives, in service to others in Jesus' name. Together we give thanks...we remember. The Invitation to the Sacrament in the BCP P. 364-5 reminds us that at the altar rail we are given

"(t)he Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts with thanksgiving."

We feed on him *in our hearts*---with thanksgiving.

No national holiday needed. Just come together in his name...gather as the Church for worship. Now THAT'S what I call a really 'Great Thanksgiving.'

I pray that your Thanksgiving Day celebration with family and friends on Thursday, November 23rd is a joyous one. Mark your calendar for the evening before, Wednesday, November 22 at 7PM when we will 'gather together to ask the Lord's blessings' and to give thanks to God for this past year that was filled with abundance of love, fellowship and service at St John's. I look forward to celebrating and giving thanks *with you--and for you.*

In Christ's love,

Val+

CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING

Wednesday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Invite your friends & neighbors to join you for our

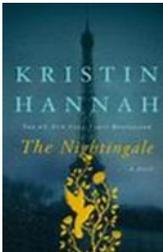
Thanksgiving Eve Mass.

COME YE THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME!

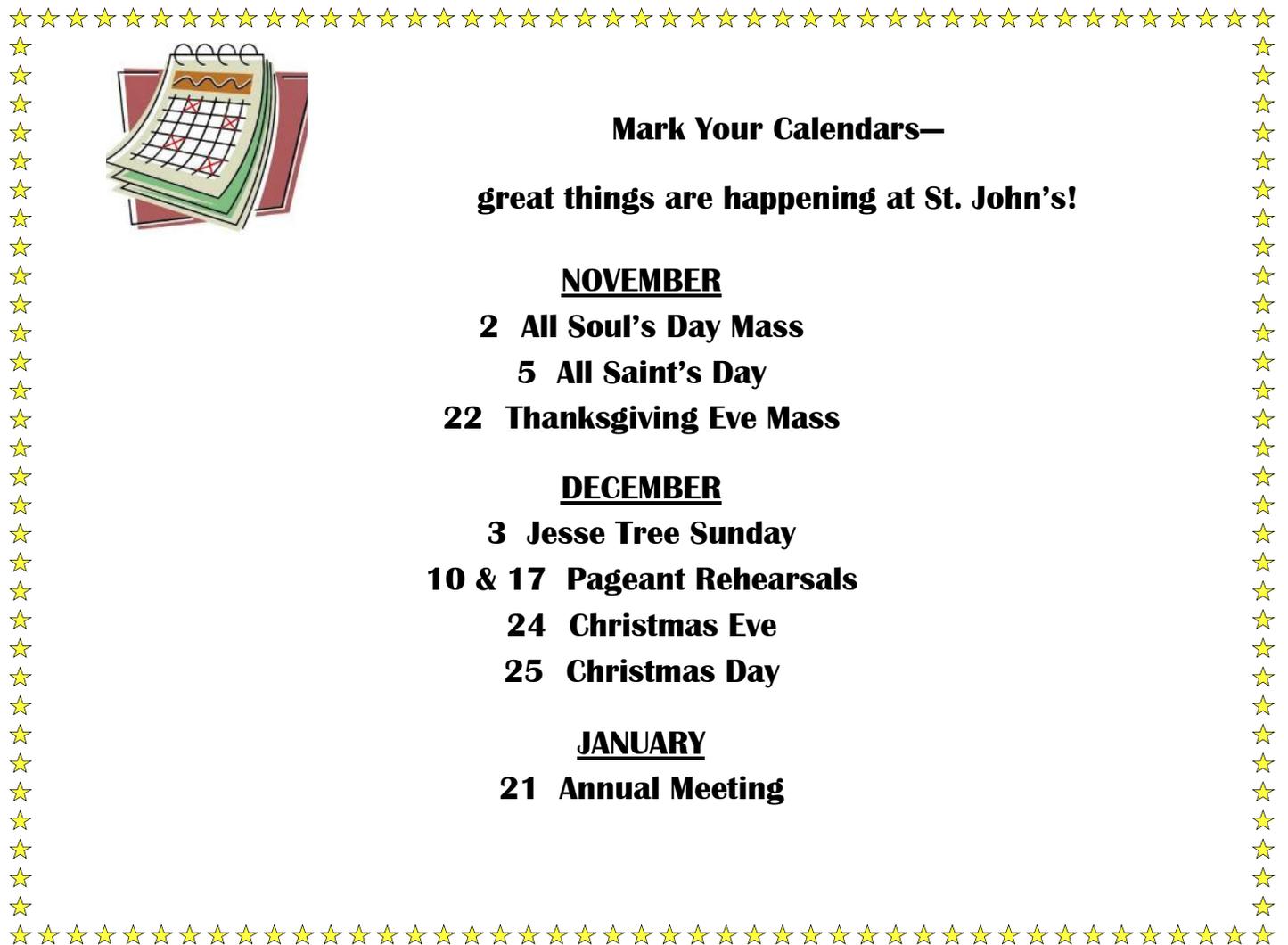




ST. JOHN'S BOOK CLUB
 Wednesday, November 8, 7 p.m.
The Nightingale by Kristen Hannah
 at Linda Rizzo's house.



This historical fiction novel tells the story of two sisters in France on the eve of World War II, and their struggle to survive and resist the German occupation of France.
 Everyone is invited and encouraged to join. Just read the book and show up!



Mark Your Calendars—

great things are happening at St. John's!

NOVEMBER

- 2 All Soul's Day Mass**
- 5 All Saint's Day**
- 22 Thanksgiving Eve Mass**

DECEMBER

- 3 Jesse Tree Sunday**
- 10 & 17 Pageant Rehearsals**
- 24 Christmas Eve**
- 25 Christmas Day**

JANUARY

- 21 Annual Meeting**

To trust Him means, of course, trying to do all that He says. There would be no sense in saying you trusted a person if you would not take his advice. Thus if you have really handed yourself over to Him, it must follow that you are trying to obey Him. But trying in a new way, a less worried way.

--C. S. Lewis, Into The Wardrobe

Adult Forum continues

on Sunday mornings after the 10 a.m. Mass.

Grab some coffee and a snack, check in with friends, and then join us in the Library to go deeper into Sunday's Scripture readings or to explore whatever faith issue is on people's hearts.

Every evening I turn my troubles over to God - He's going to be up all night anyway.

--Donald J. Morgan

St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals October 1, 2017



Journey to Thanks- giving

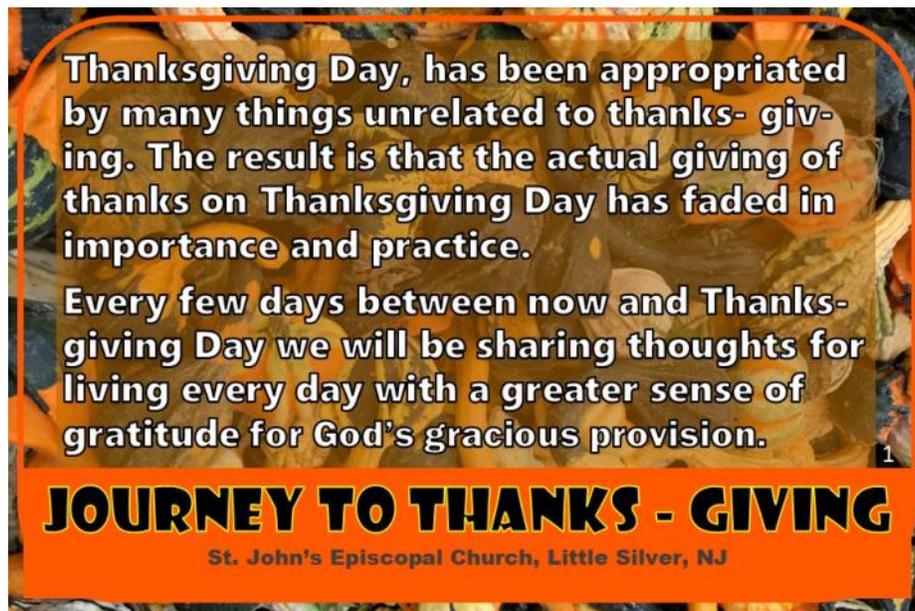
We live in a world that has such a supercharged economy that we tend to lose sight of the economy that really matters; God's economy. At the same time, we are so busy striving to accumulate what the marketplace tells us we must have, that we lose sight of how abundantly God blesses us in his economy.

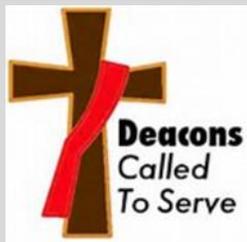
The day set aside to increase our awareness of God's blessings and the importance of continually being in a state of thanks- giving for them, Thanksgiving Day, has been substantially appropriated by the market place. The day is so filled with distractions, that little of the day is spent in thanks- giving.

A continuous attitude of gratitude to God for all that we have, and a deep awareness of all of the ways in which he blesses us, is life-changing. To help you with that transformation, we are conducting a Journey to Thanks- giving via email and our Facebook page between now and Thanksgiving Day. In following the journey, you will find Thanksgiving Day and every day more attuned to gratitude for God's provision through his economy.

The entire journey and additional resources can be found on the St. John's web site at

<http://stjohnsls.com/thanksgiving/>





From the Deacon's Desk

Greetings and Grace to all!

I saw a cartoon this week that really struck me. The drawing was of a city scene: office buildings, apartment buildings, a park with benches, cars, a bus, a taxi, airplane in the sky – a pretty full scene of life. In small print with little arrows pointing into all the different places were the words “HERE”. The title of the cartoon was “Where the Church Is”. How true!

We forget, sometimes, that church is not just the building in which we worship but so much more. “Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I with them”, Matthew 18:20. We are sent out to do the work of being Jesus in the world – to be the church in the world, to Love and to Serve.

We’ve been seeing a bit of Church at the Rectory on alternate Tuesday evenings. We’ve been gathering to watch a brief video of different folks talking about their particular understanding of Jesus. And then to discuss together how we respond to what we’ve heard. Below are links to the past two that we watched in case you’re interested in following along but weren’t able to make it. Perhaps you can join us next time! (November 7 at 7pm)

Several weeks ago we heard Brian Zahnd talk about how Jesus reveals God to us. Brian is an author and leader of a church in Missouri. “He is known for his focus on embracing the deep and long history of the Church and in God’s mission to redeem and restore His world.”

<http://www.theworkofthepeople.com/god-is-like-jesus>

Last week we listened to Richard Rohr talk about the Cosmic Christ. “Rohr, a Franciscan priest, is a globally recognized ecumenical teacher bearing witness to the universal awakening within mystical and transformational traditions.”

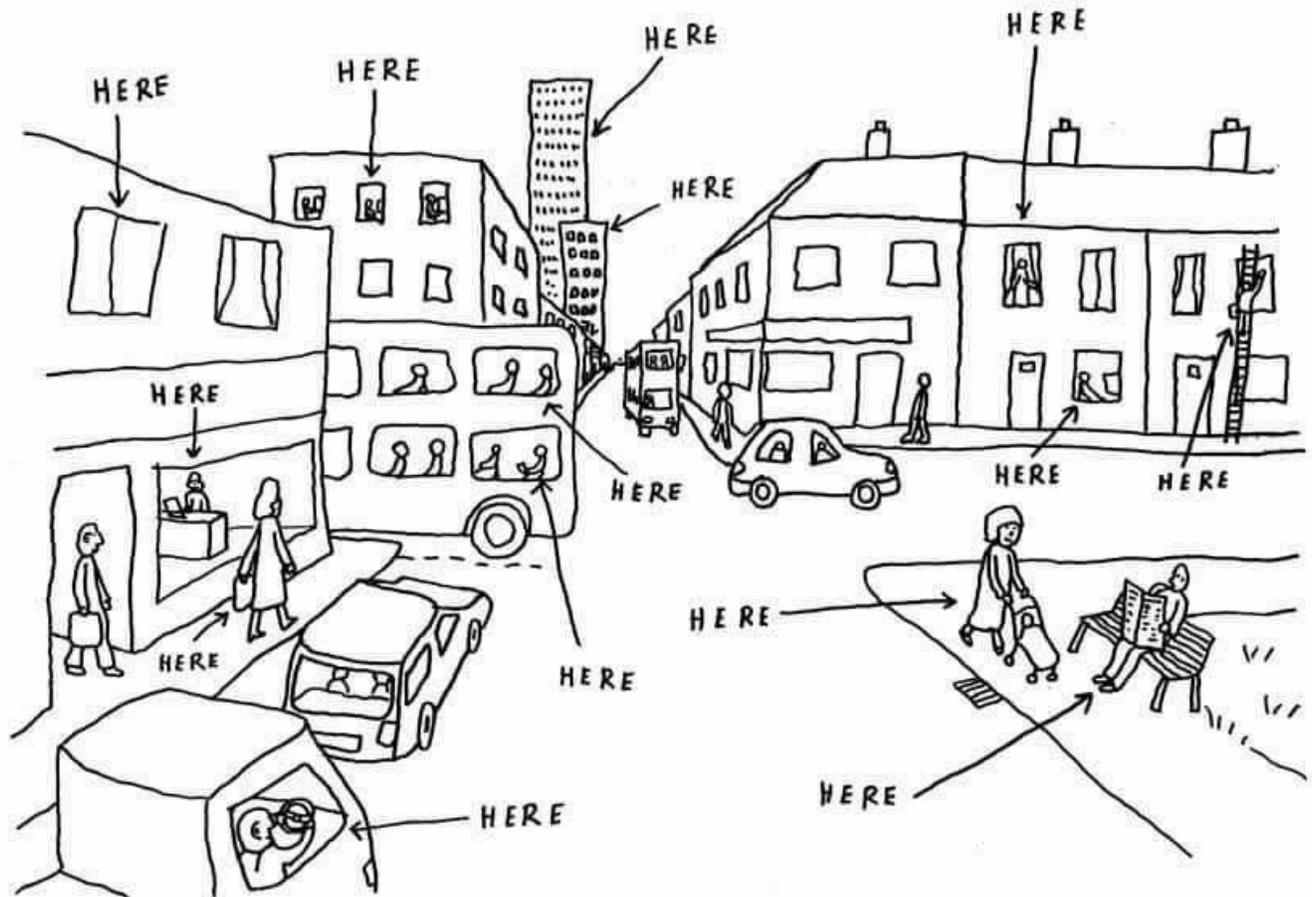
<http://www.theworkofthepeople.com/the-cosmic-christ>

Wherever you are and whatever you’re doing I hope you remember that you are The Church!
Believe it!

Blessings and Peace,

Eve

WHERE THE CHURCH IS



I will trust Him. Whatever, wherever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him; in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him; if I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. My sickness, or perplexity, or sorrow may be necessary causes of some great end, which is quite beyond us. He does nothing in vain. --John Henry Newman



BUDGET UPDATE

As of October 22, 2017

Total income: \$190,336.95

Total expenditures: \$200,911.37



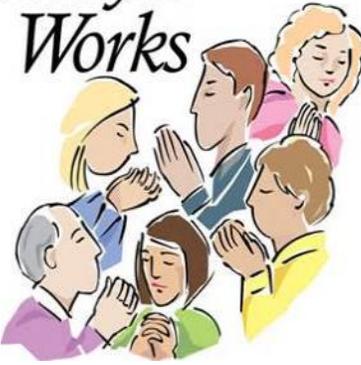
When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark,
you don't throw away the ticket and jump off.
You sit still and trust the engineer.
--Corrie Ten Boom

Crop Walk 2017

Thank you, walkers! And thanks to your sponsors, St. John's raised \$1300!



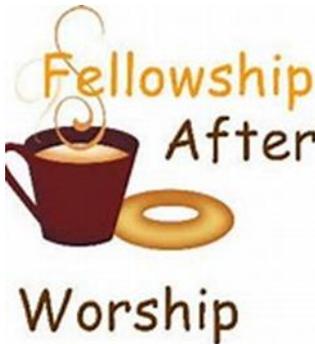
Prayer Works



We invite you to pray for those in our parish family and our friends who need our prayers. Our prayer list in our bulletin is for you to take home and pray daily for those listed. The list is below. Please call our office to add anyone.

Dick Balmer, Mike Biehl, Bill Bowman, Bruce & Lori Lynn, Andrew Cook, Mike & Laurie Ann Collins, Mitties, Karen Feeney, Karina George, Alison Hayes, Emily Hayes, Alvaro Jaramillo, Kym, Maria Madden, Ann McClure, Marge Mistysyn, Pat Nelson, Rene O'Neil, Ron Portz, Mike Redpath, Loren Rabon, Lois Symons, Ray & Elizabeth Taylor, Phyllis & Rich Tetley, Justin Tucker, Wes Tyson, Florence Wasek

Our prayer chain has been actively praying for individuals as the requests come in. If you are interested in being a pray-er, contact Hazel Kelly at hazelann0214@gmail.com. Praying is something that can be done at your convenience...no meetings involved! If you know of someone who needs prayer, let us know after getting their permission, and we will put that out on our confidential prayer chain.



Fellowship is off to a great start. Our first weekend back to 10 am services saw a wonderful St. John's Day brunch. We had contributions from many parishioners before and after church, and it was greatly appreciated. The very next week we had another special event, the St. John's Ministry Fair. Many people stopped by at our table and we are happy to report that fellowship volunteers have filled almost all of our slots through Christmas! Some openings do remain, so anyone who is interested can sign up in the parish hall on the bulletin board, or online

by clicking the link below:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090f45a9a72babfa7-fellowship2>

Thanks again to all the volunteers who make fellowship hours into the warm and happy gatherings they always are!

Respectfully,

Fellowship Committee

Chris Nalbandian

Episcopal Church Women - ECW

ECW welcomes all women to its Wednesday, November 1 meeting, noon, in the parish library and large room. Paige from the Seamen's Church Institute will discuss the good work of the SCI, and she will receive our church's generous donations of toiletries, puzzle books and hard candy assembled into holiday ditty bags. The Nifty Knitters/Monday Night Knitting Group will contribute 48+ (as of "press time" 10/20) sets of handmade hats and scarves/cowls for the SCI ditty bags also. All knitwear will have been blessed by Mother Val+ during our 10AM Mass, Oct. 29. SCI will distribute the holiday bags to the crews aboard incoming container/cargo ships to Port Newark.

Also, this meeting marks the final preparations of our mini holiday bazaar to be held November 11-12, 18-19. (More below.) Please bring a sandwich for yourself, SCI donations and two cans of nonperishable food for St. James' Pantry. Desserts and beverages will be provided by Karen Trenton and her committee

ECW will host its annual mini Holiday Bazaar of beautifully-layered, handmade pop-up Christmas cards and "boutique-style," unique everyday and Christmas gift card holders in the parish hall on Saturdays, Nov 11 and 18, after 5:30PM Mass, and on Sundays, Nov 12 and 19, after the 10AM Mass. For \$10, select 3 items of ECW holiday cards, shaker cards and/or gift card holders and receive a bonus "vintage" card of St. John's altar, pin in holiday bag, and 3 embellished gift tags.. Of course, multiple purchases are welcome. Proceeds will support ECW's Outreach Ministry.



Our Fall/Winter Clothing and "Suited for Success" Collections, Oct 21-29, concluded with delivery to Lunch Break of Red Bank, on October 30. Shipment of coats and jackets to Appalachia will follow shortly. Your kind donations of clothes are appreciated by ECW for Appalachia and Lunch Break's needy recipients.

Mark your calendars: December 6, noon-ECW Christmas Luncheon, \$12

Happy Thanksgiving to all at St. John's Church. ECW is very blessed with your interest, thoughtfulness and support for our many projects. May God bless you and your family with continued joy, abundance, good health and heartfelt comfort and peace.

DON'T FORGET...

Turn your clocks back Saturday night,

November 4.



ST JOHN'S CHURCH
325 LITTLE SILVER POINT ROAD
LITTLE SILVER, NJ 07739

ALL SOULS' DAY MASS

Thursday, November 2nd at 7:00 p.m.

