The Oblates of the Virgin Mary at
SAINT FRANCIS CHAPEL
Encountering the Heart of Christ in the Heart of Boston
Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time — November 18, 2018

The Last Supper, Juan de Juanes

THANKSGIVING DAY, NOVEMBER 22
MASSES: 9 AM & 12 PM; CONFESSIONS: 9:45 – 11:45 AM
THE CHAPEL CLOSES AFTER THE NOON MASS

CHAPEL SCHEDULE

Sunday Masses:
Saturday Vigil 4:00 PM, 5:30 PM, 7:00 PM (en español);
Sunday 8:00 AM, 9:15 AM, 10:30 AM, 11:45 AM, 1:15 PM (en español), 4:00 PM, 5:30 PM

Weekday Masses:
Monday - Friday 8:00 AM, 12:05 PM, 4:45 PM; Saturday 9:00 AM, 12 PM

Confessions:
Monday - Friday 11:15 -11:50 AM, 12:45 - 4:15 PM; Saturday 9:45 - 11:45 AM, 12:45 - 3:30 PM

Devotions:
Mon. -Fri. after 4:45 p.m. Mass: Rosary; Tues. after Mass: Our Lady, 5:30 p.m. Vespers; Thurs. after Mass: St. Jude

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:
Mon. - Fri. 8:30-11:45 AM, 1:00-4:30 PM; Sat. 9:30 - 11:30 AM, 12:30 - 3:30 PM; Sun. 2:30-3:30 PM

Gift Shop Hours:
Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM; Tuesday - closed; Sat. 9:30 AM - 6:45 PM*; Sun. 8:45 AM - 5:30 PM*
(*Closed during Sunday Masses and Saturday Vigil Masses)
Eucharist Means Thanksgiving

In the observance of [Thanksgiving Day], what is essentially a harvest festival, we give thanks to God for the fruits of the earth. In so doing we are faithful to the command found in the Book of Exodus: “You shall keep the feast of harvest, of the first fruits of your labor, of what you sow in the field. You shall keep the feast of ingathering at the end of the year when you gather in from the field the fruit of your labor” (Ex 23:16). It is also a time of sharing with those in need, a reminder that there is a solidarity which binds all human beings together and that concern for the wellbeing of our neighbor is never far from our thoughts.

As Catholics, we can have a deeper understanding of Thanksgiving because of the Eucharist which is the central focus of our lives. It is an ancient saying of the Church that “our way of thinking is attuned to the Eucharist and the Eucharist in turn, confirms our way of thinking.” The word Eucharist means thanksgiving; and so the coming together, sharing, and outreach that define Thanksgiving Day are for us not a yearly or sporadic occurrence, but realities or parts of a rhythm that define our lives always. In fidelity to the third commandment and the Church’s precepts, we come together weekly, that is to say, every Sunday, in the sacred assembly and we share the Banquet that our Lord Himself provides for us. We also share with those in need; and in this constant outreach, we are sent out to invite all to share the grace and goodness of God. It is a simple path that we are invited to walk.

Perhaps more than any other parable of [God’s] Kingdom, the image of a banquet describes what [His] Kingdom is like. The sharing of food is so ordinary an action and yet so profoundly an expression of care, concern, and even intimacy. It is by means of this action, one essential to the wellbeing and development of life that our Savior Jesus Christ chose to remain among us and to make His gift of salvation an ever-present Reality in the Eucharistic Banquet.

When at the Last Supper our Lord took bread into His hands and gave it to His disciples, now changed into His Body, He gave His Flesh and Blood, His humanity and His divinity, for these are inseparable from Him; He gave Himself completely. Our Lord gave us His life by means of His Body and it is in this manner that He continues to give Himself to us. The same is true of us. In this life we cannot separate our souls from our bodies. We are by definition, a unity of body and soul. We live our life in Christ through our bodies. Just as His Body was the means by which He offered Himself as a sacrifice to the Father, so too, by means of our bodies we unite ourselves to our Lord’s offering to the Father and we give Him to others, no less through our own
self-offering. The Apostle Paul exhorts us: “I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship” (Rom 12:1).

Growth and development in the Christian life do not depend on pious exercises or good works done outside our daily life; on a practice of religion in our leisure time, on coming to Mass occasionally. Christ’s life in us must be stable and constant; it has to be expressed and experienced tangibly. Otherwise we risk the danger of reducing religion to mere sentiment. When this happens, religion is no longer a necessary virtue that positively impacts on our lives but an optional exercise devoid of any real meaning. When asked why he became a Catholic, the English poet Fr. Gerard Manley Hopkins explained that it was because of “the common sense of it all.” He further explained: “it was because of its consolations, its marvelous idea of holiness, the faith and devotion of its children, its multiplicity, its array of saints and martyrs, its consistency and unit, its glowing prayers.”

All of these elements and so much more are in evidence when we celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and partake of the Eucharistic Banquet. “I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship” (Rom 12:1). The charity that the Eucharist inspires and the many ways that this charity is generously shared, these are the tangible expressions of the flowering and growth of the life of Christ in us; for in giving there is always a sacrifice and in this action both gift and giver are transformed. This is the root idea of sacrifice—not so much death but transformation. We, who partake of our Lord’s Banquet each week, understand thanksgiving as expressive of our life always. Each Sunday, not grudgingly, but with gratitude and holy longing, we come to assist and participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We make our very own the words of the North African Martyrs of Abitina who, in the year 304, in opposition to the Emperor Diocletian’s anti-Christian edicts were martyred for having worshipped on Sunday: Sine dominico non possimus. We cannot live without the Sunday Eucharist.

“Pray brethren; that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty.” This invitation to prayer and self-offering rightly distinguishes the difference between the one eternal Sacrifice of our Lord offered through the ministry of the priest and your sacrifices: your offerings, the work of our hands, our labors, our sufferings, our very selves. Everything is offered in sacrifice so that it may be transformed. This is why from the very beginning Christians have brought, along with the bread and wine for the Eucharist, gifts to share with those in need.

It is truly awesome that the Son of God should join us to Himself in His sacrificial offering to the Father. This truth imbues our every act of charity with great meaning and purpose. Our charity and generosity are an integral part of our worship and enable us to worship in spirit and in truth. May the Eucharistic Sacrifice offered on our Altar today and every Sunday so transform our lives that we might simply be in all things and in all times for the praise of God’s glory (Cf. Eph 1:12); “as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God” (Rom 12:1). As you share with others the work of our hands, may God our Father “satisfy every need of yours according to the his riches in glory in Christ Jesus” (Phil 4:20).

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If you are now considering your end-of-the-year charitable giving, we humbly ask you to consider St. Francis Chapel.

It costs us over $50,000 a month to stay open.

We gratefully appreciate your prayerful consideration.

From catholicinsight.com

**Mass Intentions This Week**

**Sunday, November 18**
- 8:00 AM + Barbara Carrington
- 9:15 AM + Picardi Family
- 10:30 AM + Rev. Timothy Murphy
- 11:45 AM Ursula Steele — health
- 1:15 PM (esp) + Roman Roldan
- 4:00 PM Ligia Castaño
- 5:30 PM + Americo Ursoleo

**Monday, November 19**
- 8:00 AM Una Martin — birthday
- 12:05 PM + Grace Uchenna Mweli
- 4:45 PM + Cristina

**Tuesday, November 20**
- 8:00 AM + Mrs. Lucinda Micklette
- 12:05 PM Holy Souls in Purgatory
- 4:45 PM Beatrice Mezzeri

**Wednesday, November 21**
- 8:00 AM + Melissa
- 12:05 PM + Inge Sutopo
- 4:45 PM Oscar, James, Amy, Benjamin, Ooi

**Thursday, November 22, Thanksgiving Day**
- 9:00 AM + Imelda & + Ralph Rogers
- 12:00 PM + Tom White

The chapel closes after the noon Mass.

**Friday, November 23**
- 8:00 AM + Richard Leahy
- 12:05 PM The Morgan Family
- 4:45 PM + Patrick McDonough

**Saturday, November 24**
- 9:00 AM + Martin & + Julia Rimmele
- 12:00 PM + Jose Antonio Garrido
- 4:00 PM Noreen Ferricter
- 5:30 PM + Kamal Abu-Hussein
- 7:00 PM (esp) + Evelia Esther Lopera - 11 años

**Feast Days This Week**

**November 21**: The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**November 22**: St. Cecilia
- Virgin and Martyr

**November 23**: St. Clement I, Pope and Martyr
- St. Columban, Abbot

**Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro**, Priest and Martyr

**November 24**: St. Andrew Dúng-Lac, Priest and Companions
- Martyrs

**Have a Blessed Thanksgiving!**

The Staff of St. Francis Chapel
Oblates of the Virgin Mary—USA

The Oblates of the Virgin Mary is an international religious community of priests and brothers serving in Italy, France, Austria, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Nigeria, the United States and the Philippines. The Oblates are involved in retreat and parish missions, spiritual direction, parish work, the mass media, clergy formation, and the foreign missions.

The US Province of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary is dedicated to St. Ignatius of Loyola, and includes communities in Massachusetts, Illinois, Colorado, California and the Philippines.

The OMV US Province House is at St. Clement’s in Boston.

The OMV motto, “MARIAM COGITA, MARIAM INVOCA” “THINK OF MARY, CALL ON MARY” is taken from a homily by St. Bernard.