



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised Be Jesus Christ! Fifty-five years ago this year, a sledding accident on a hill in New York State changed the life of a young seminarian forever. His name was Bill Atkinson. Like many of our parishioners, Bill was a native of DELCO and his life changed the lives of countless people. Tonight, Sunday, Nov. 1, @5PM PBS will air his story: **Extraordinary: the Bill Atkinson Story**. It's worth watching it or recording.

If you were to rewind, one hundred years before Bill Atkinson, you would find the life of Michael McGivney. Michael was not from DELCO and he did not have a sledding accident. But his experience with immigrants as a young priest not only changed his life, but the lives of countless people. Tonight, Michael McGivney is now recognized as a citizen of heaven and was declared Blessed by the Church just yesterday. You can find his story on EWTN this weekend.

I share these two stories because as we turn forward into November, we remember all those who have gone before us. The Saints, those in purgatory and all are brothers and sisters who have died. They are countless but each is known and created by Almighty God. Each is an immortal soul. Each changed the world in big or small ways. And this weekend, as we turn our clocks backward, they remind us that there is no going back. Our lives move forward quite quickly. And those who have gone before us invite us to call to mind where we are going, to take stock of our lives: the gift of human life, the power of life and the eternal nature of it.

Here at St. Patrick's to assist in this regard, please note the following:

The Book of the Names of the Dead will once again be displayed in Church. Feel free to write the names of loved ones who have died especially this past year.

The Holy Souls Envelopes will be placed on the Altar throughout this month.

This Saturday, we will have a special 9 AM Mass for over 45 of our parishioners who died this past year. All are welcome.

Holy Water in plastic containers will be available in the front of Church to take home. This sacramental reminds us that in the waters of baptism we died with Christ.

In short, in November, we remember, we repent, we believe.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers