The celebration of the **Platinum Jubilee (70th Year) of our Parish** will begin on **Nov 30th, 2026**, the **feast of St. Andrew the Apostle**. We will have a **Christmas Bazar** on Sunday **Nov 29th, Noon to 2 pm**

Weekend Confession Time

Saturday 4:15pm - 4:45pm; **Sunday** 10:10am - 10:40am

Weekday Evening Confessions: Tuesday to Friday 8:00 - 9:00pm

No evening Confessions on Nov.25 & 27 – diocesan celebrations.

Purgatory and the Importance of Praying for the Dead

If there is no purgatory, then Christians go straight to heaven, which is the popular Protestant belief. If this is so, then Paul's remarks are totally off base; it would be meaningless to ask mercy for Onesiphorus (1 Tm 1.18; 4.19). Purgatory alone makes the passage coherent. In Matthew 12.32 we read: " . . . but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven either in this age or the age to come." Such a statement clearly implies that there is a state, or "age" in which sins are forgiven. This cannot be heaven or hell.

The Fathers of the Church and other contemporary theologians spoke of purgatory quite frequently. See Tertullian, Cyprian, Clement of Alexandria, Origen, Gregory of Nyssa, John Chyrsostom, and Ambrose. For the sake of brevity, we shall look at only one Father: St. Augustine. He wrote many things on purgatory, but I shall limit it to these few: It cannot be denied that the souls of the dead obtain relief through the piety of their living friends when they have the Sacrifice of the Mediator offered for them or when alms are given in the Church on their behalf. St. Augustine saw it as a place of purification whereby we are made wholly pure for heaven. He also saw the benefit of praying for the dead; our prayers could alleviate the purification process that our loved ones must endure. Why was praying for the dead and belief in purgatory never denied until the Reformation? No dissenting patristic text can be found which denies anything the Catholic Church now teaches about purgatory and the efficacy of prayers for the dead.