

John Phillips

Pastor's Column – November 16th 2025

November is a time of quiet reflection and grateful remembrance, a sacred time in the life of the Church dedicated to giving thanks and remembering loved ones. As the final month of the liturgical year, November invites us to pause and look both backward and forward: backward in remembrance of those who have gone before us, and forward in hope toward the fulfillment of God's promises.

The Church dedicates this month especially to praying for and remembering those who have passed away. It is a tender season, one that holds both sorrow and thanksgiving in the same heart. The season acknowledges that grief and gratitude can coexist. Even in the ache of loss, there is room to give thanks—for the love that shaped us, the memories that sustain us, and the faith that entrusts our loved ones to God's mercy and the hope of eternal life.

This sacred time encourages us to see that gratitude is not only for moments of joy, but also for the quiet ways God's presence carries us through pain. To be thankful does not mean we ignore our grief; it means we trust that love is stronger than death. In remembering those who have gone before us, we affirm our belief in the communion of saints and in the hope of resurrection.

As Thanksgiving approaches, this reflection leads us to give thanks not only for material blessings, but for the ways God has shaped and strengthened us through the events of the past year. Gratitude keeps us grounded in God's providence and opens our eyes to the simple ways His love surrounds us each day.

November also turns our eyes forward with confidence in God's mercy and the promise of eternal life. As we near the Feast of Christ the King, which closes the Church year, we are reminded that Christ's kingship is not one of worldly power or dominance, but of self-giving love. His reign is one of compassion, mercy, and hope.

As we give thanks this month, may we find comfort in remembering, courage in grieving, and peace in trusting that Christ holds all things together. In this season of reflection and gratitude, may we rest in the assurance that love endures, life is transformed, and God's mercy is forever.

In Christ peace,

Deacon John