

PARISH FAMILY 14

ST. ALPHONSUS | ST. BENEDICT | ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST



**“TODAY
YOU WILL BE
WITH ME
IN PARADISE.”**

LUKE 23:35-43

SUNDAY MASSES

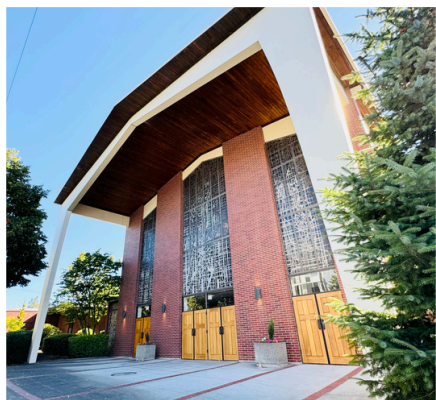
Saturday: 5:00 PM Vigil at St. Alphonsus
5:00 PM Vigil at St. John
Sunday: 8:30 AM at St. John
9:00 AM at St. Alphonsus
10:30 AM at St. John
11:00 AM at St. Benedict

DAILY MASSES

Mon - Thurs: 7:30 AM at St. Alphonsus
Friday: 9:00 AM at St. John
Saturday: 8:00 AM at St. Alphonsus
(except 1st Sat: 9:00 AM at St. John)

CONFESSION

Mon - Thurs: 7:00 - 7:20 AM at St. Alphonsus
Saturday: 4:00-4:45 PM at St. Alphonsus
Sunday: 8:00 - 8:45 AM at St. Alphonsus
Sunday: 9:45 - 10:15 AM at St. John
By appointment: info@parishfamily14.org
First Thursday Confession and Adoration:
7:00-8:00 PM at St. Alphonsus



ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH

5816 15th Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98107
Website: <https://stalseattle.org>



ST. BENEDICT PARISH

1805 N 49th St, Seattle, WA 98103
Website: <https://parish.stbens.net>



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH

106 N 79th St, Seattle, WA 98103
Website: <https://stjohnsea.org>

Admin Office/Front Desk: 206-782-2810 | 206-770-6494 (Fax) | info@parishfamily14.org | 106 N 79th St, Seattle
Faith Formation Office: 206-632-0843 | lcrcoro@parishfamily14.org | 1805 N 49th St, Seattle

  @parishfamily14

For pastoral emergencies, please call: 206-271-3543.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

November 23, 2025
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE
 2 Sm 5:1-3/Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43

	ST. ALPHONSUS		ST. BENEDICT		ST. JOHN	
NOVEMBER 23 SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE	8 AM	Confession	11 AM	Mass with CLOW (Livestream) - Volunteer Appreciation	8:30 AM	Mass
	9 AM	Mass - Volunteer Appreciation			9:30 AM	Lectio Divina
	10 AM	Coffee & Donuts	12 PM	Coffee & Donuts	9:35 AM	Confirmation Class PF14
					9:45 AM	Confession
					10:30 AM	Mass with CLOW - Volunteer Appreciation
						Coffee & Donuts after both Masses
					7:30 PM	Faith Sharing Group via Zoom
November 24 Monday <i>Saint Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs</i>	7 AM	Confession	7 PM	Gospel Study via Zoom		
	7:30 AM	Daily Mass RIP: Charles Bielaczy				
	6 PM	YA Friendsgiving - Convent				
	7 PM	Men's Group - McGrath Rm				
November 25 Tuesday <i>Saint Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr</i>	7 AM	Confession			6 PM	Advent Community Dinner - Egan Hall
	7:30 AM	Daily Mass INT: Anne Leache				
	6:30 PM	Women's Group - McGrath Rm				
November 26 Wednesday	7 AM	Confession				
	7:30 AM	Daily mass RIP: Henry Hayato Magno & Jojo Magno				
November 27 Thursday	7 AM	Confession - Cancelled	9 AM	Thanksgiving Day Mass RIP: Antonio Eclarin		
	7:30 AM	Daily Mass - Cancelled				
		<i>T h a n k s g i v i n g - P a r i s h O f f i c e s C l o s e d</i>				
November 28 Friday	8:15 AM to 8 PM	Adoration Chapel open			9 AM	Daily Mass RIP: Maria Nhi Dang & Maria Ly Nguyen & Than Nguyen
		<i>D a y A f t e r T h a n k s g i v i n g - P a r i s h O f f i c e s C l o s e d</i>				
November 29 Saturday	8 AM	Daily Mass INT: Leah Slagle			5 PM	Vigil Mass (Livestream)
	4 PM	Confession				
	5 PM	Vigil Mass				
November 30 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8 AM	Confession	11 AM	Mass with CLOW (Livestream)	8:30 AM	Mass
	9 AM	Mass			9:30 AM	Lectio Divina
	10 AM	Coffee & Donuts	12 PM	Coffee & Donuts	9:35 AM	Confirmation Class PF14
	10:30 AM	OCIC - McGrath Room			9:45 AM	Confession
					10:30 AM	Mass with CLOW
						Coffee & Donuts after both Masses in Egan Hall
					11:30 AM	Advent Wreath Making - Egan Hall
					7:30 PM	Faith Sharing Group via Zoom
	For livestream and recorded masses, click the links:		https://parish.stbens.net www.facebook.com/stbenseattle		www.stjohnsea.org/live-stream-masses	

PARISH FAMILY HIGHLIGHTS

FR. PARRISH AND FR. NKOLOMBIDZO SWITCH LOCATIONS

Beginning November 23, our priests will switch locations as part of their 10-week rotation.

Fr. Parrish will celebrate masses at St. Alphonsus and St. Benedict, while Fr. Nkolombidzo will celebrate masses at St. John for the next 10 weeks, with a possible slight extension due to the Advent season.

Fr. Nkolombidzo, who is new to our Parish Family, is grateful for the chance he's had over the past 10 weeks to get to know the communities of St. Alphonsus and St. Benedict.

This rotation allows both priests to deepen their connections with each parish community while providing parishioners with the chance to grow in fellowship across the Parish Family.

We encourage everyone to warmly welcome Fr. Parrish and Fr. Nkolombidzo in their new Mass assignments and take advantage of this time to get to know them better.

ADVENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We need your help!

Setting up of Christmas lights at St. Benedict - after the 11 AM mass on December 7, Sunday

Church Christmas decorating - December 21, Sunday; Taking down of decorations - January 11, Sunday

- after 9 AM at St. Alphonsus
- after the 11 AM mass at St. Benedict
- after 10:30 AM mass at St. John



Where are we in the One Parish Planning Process?



One Parish Planning is the process our Parish Family uses to restructure and re-envision parish life as we prepare to become one canonical parish.

The fruit of this discernment will be the One Parish Plan, which will be submitted to the Archbishop as part of forming the new unified parish.

We are currently in the **“Who Are We?”** stage. This phase lays the foundation for understanding our Parish Family and the broader community we serve. Recently, we held synodal listening sessions and conducted a survey to learn more about the gifts, charisms, experiences, and spiritual impact of our parish in our family.

On November 13, our Parish Leadership Council (PLC) began its initial discussion and synthesis of the listening session results. These results will be shared with all three parishes on the second weekend of December. Please stay tuned as we learn more about the unique gifts and charisms of each community. Our [survey](#) will remain open, so you still have the opportunity to share your voice.



bit.ly/PF14WhoRWeSurvey

We are also gathering baseline data on evangelization efforts, ministry participation, school enrollment, staffing, financial viability, and other key metrics. The PLC will review these areas and provide each parish with its baseline viability metrics early next year.

Looking ahead, we will collect and reflect on Parish Family demographics to help us discern whom we serve and identify our opportunities and challenges as a Parish Family. A second round of listening sessions will be scheduled for this next phase, and we hope you will all participate.

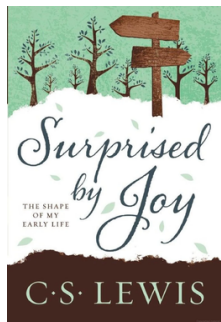
For questions or inquiries about our Partners in the Gospel efforts, please feel free to submit them here: <https://bit.ly/PF14Queries>.



bit.ly/PF14Queries

To learn more about the One Parish Planning Process, visit archseattle.org/partners.

UPCOMING EVENTS



ADVENT COMMUNITY Dinners

Tuesdays of Advent, 6 - 8 PM

November 25

December 2, 9, and 16

Hosted at St. John's Egan Hall

Join us for a four-week Advent series as we reflect together on *Surprised by Joy* by C.S. Lewis. Come for dinner, stay for prayer, and leave with a renewed connection with your parish community.

Childcare available. Register Today!

RSVP by calling the Faith Formation Office at 206-632-0843 or online:



bit.ly/PFAdventDinner

Volunteers needed!

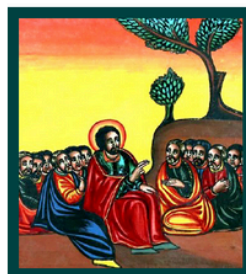
We warmly welcome volunteers and dish contributions, but your presence and participation matter most! See you there! Questions or to sign up, email cshea@parishfamily14.org.

Thanksgiving MASS

Thursday, November 27, 9:00 AM

St. Benedict Church

Note: Weekday Mass and confession at St. Alphonsus are cancelled.



an introduction to the
Gospel of Matthew
with **Ron Ryan, D. Min.**

Wednesday, December 3

7:00 - 8:30 pm • St. John Parish Admin Bldg.

In a time when our own world struggles, the Gospel of Matthew offers us a message of hope. Join us for this one session introduction as Ron Ryan offers an overview of the Gospel we will hear at Mass throughout the new year.

There is no registration or fee. Everyone is welcome.

ADVENT Wreath Making

Party

SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 30

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

ST. JOHN'S 10:30 AM MASS

AT EGAN HALL

Create a beautiful Advent wreath to celebrate the season!

All supplies are provided, with a **suggested donation of \$15.**

Enjoy a fun, festive atmosphere and take home your handmade wreath!



Put "Advent Wreath" in the memo line.

EVERYONE'S INVITED!



ADVENT Penance Service

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

7:00 - 9:00 PM AT

ST. ALPHONSUS CHURCH

Join us for adoration and confessions and a prayerful evening set to contemplative music and reflections.



PAROL (Lantern) Making Workshop

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ST. BENEDICT'S

11:00 AM MASS AT THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS

Monday, December 8

9:00 AM - St. John Church

11:00 AM - St. Benedict Church

2:00 PM - St. Alphonsus Church

7:00 PM - St. Benedict Church

For details on all our meaningful and joyful Parish Family Advent programs and events, click here: bit.ly/PF14Advent2025.

FAITH FORMATION AND SACRAMENTS

SMALL FAITH SHARING GROUPS

Gospel/Scripture Ministry

November 24, 7 PM | St. Benedict Gospel Study via Zoom
Meeting ID: 864 2616 6842 Password: 961919 (Contact: Brenda Stratton at bjandmes@msn.com)

December 4, 10 AM | St. Alphonsus Scripture Study in the St. Alphonsus McGrath Room (Contact: Mary Green at amgquilt46@gmail.com)

Book Group

December 4, 7 PM | St. Benedict Book Group at St. Mary Room (upper level of Parish Center); Reading schedule: November - *Moon Flower* by David Grann, December - *A Redbird Christmas* by Fannie Flagg (Contact: Brenda Stratton at bjandmes@msn.com)

Men's Group

November 24, 7 PM | St. Alphonsus Men's Group fellowship and faith sharing in the St. Al McGrath Room (Contact: Brian LeBlanc at brianleblanc76@gmail.com)

Women's Group

November 25, 6:30 PM | St. Alphonsus Women's Group in McGrath Room; Join us for discussion and prayer on cultivating peace during the busy holiday season. No RSVP needed. Questions? Contact olivia_fannin@yahoo.com.

December 2, 7 PM | St. Benedict Women's Ministry via Zoom Meeting ID: 83832067839 Password: 042299
For more info, please contact Debra Reilly at debras.reilly@gmail.com.



Looking to grow in faith and friendship? Check out the many Small Faith Sharing Groups across our Parish Family! Scan the QR code or visit: bit.ly/PF14SmallGroups. These groups are wonderful opportunities to pray together, reflect on Scripture, share life experiences, and build meaningful connections within our community. Everyone is welcome, whether you're new or have been with us for years. Come find a group that feels right for you!



SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Infant Baptism

Baptisms in our Parish Family are scheduled during the Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses at our three churches. Upcoming baptism dates: **December 13 and 14, 2025; February 28 and March 1, 2026; June 13 and 14, 2026**
For more information, contact Julia Rudden at jrudden@parishfamily14.org.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA)

Are you an adult seeking confirmation or interested in becoming Catholic? Join our OCIA! Sessions are held on **Thursday evenings at 7 PM in the St. Alphonsus Family Center**. This is open to anyone who would like to learn more about the Catholic faith. Email Claire Shea at cshea@parishfamily14.org for more information. All are welcome!

Order of Christian Initiation of Children (OCIC)

If your kids are from another faith tradition but feel at home in our Parish Family, or baptized Catholic but want to learn more, OCIC might be the perfect place for them to grow in faith. For more information, please contact Claire Shea at cshea@parishfamily14.org.

Youth Confirmation

All baptized Catholic youth of our Parish Family in grades 7 and above are invited to join.

- Classes meet at St. John's Egan Hall (unless otherwise communicated).
- Register here: bit.ly/PF14ConfirmationReg
- For full details, go to www.stjohnsea.org/confirmation or contact jrudden@parishfamily14.org.



Marriage

Marriage in the Catholic Church is a sacrament and a lifetime commitment—preparation is vital to ensuring that the bride and groom are ready to enter into this serious, life-affirming and life-long commitment.

We aim to support and assist you as you start your journey toward the joys of married life. To get started, please contact Julia Rudden at jrudden@parishfamily14.org or 206-632-0843 ext 217.

Please feel free to contact us for the following:

First Holy Communion and Reconciliation, Youth Confirmation, Sacrament of Matrimony and Funeral -

Julia Rudden at jrudden@parishfamily14.org

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults and Children - Claire Shea at cshea@parishfamily14.org

Parish Advocates for Annulment - annulment@stjohnsea.org

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

Holy Name Society's DONATION DRIVE

Thanksgiving Food Drive for Ballard Food Bank



Please bring your offering of canned goods and shelf-stable packaged foods to any weekend Mass this **November at St. Alphonsus Church**. Kindly avoid items that require refrigeration or freezing.

Sock Drive for St. Martin de Porres Men's Shelter

You can drop off your socks donations at the **St. Alphonsus Family Center during the Pancake Breakfast on December 7**.

The shelter is also in need of the following new items: toothbrushes, travel-sized toiletries (shampoo, lotion, shaving cream), disposable razors and deodorant.



Thank you for sharing the spirit of compassion and generosity this season!

Sancta Vita

Our Giving Tree will be in the St. Alphonsus vestibule beginning next weekend Nov 29. Please take an ornament with a gift request from Next Step Pregnancy Services.

Next Step helps those facing unplanned pregnancy with free pregnancy tests, diagnostic ultrasounds, information and resources as well as material assistance.

Every Christmas St. Alphonsus takes the opportunity to help Next Step in stocking up their baby boutique with needed items. Please take a tag from the tree and return your unwrapped gift and place it by the tree by Sunday, December 14 or to the parish office during office hours. If you'd prefer to make a financial donation to the Next Step you can do so online at nextstepnw.com/donate.

Everyone's invited!

HAM AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST AT ST. ALPHONSUS



On Sunday, **December 7**, the men of the **Holy Name Society** will serve up a ham and pancake breakfast after the 9 AM Mass, at the St. Alphonsus Family Center. All donation proceeds will go to the St. Martin de Porres Men's Shelter.

THANKSGIVING *Dinner*

Let's extend our hearts to those in need!

Donations will be accepted until December 1, 2025.

Your generous donations will help provide nourishing meals and festive treats, ensuring everyone can celebrate this season of gratitude.

Parish Family Social Justice Commission will be distributing meals to **Patrick Place residents and St. Vincent de Paul families**.

OUR GOAL = \$2,500.00 (Cost of the Meals)



Scan the QR code,
or go to
bit.ly/PF14TGiving2025



Questions? Want to help deliver the meals?
Please contact Len Kannapell at 206-909-2735 or
kannapell@yahoo.com.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREES

Our Christmas Giving Trees will be up next weekend—an opportunity to share your blessings this holiday season!

Pick a tag, return your gift to the church or parish office, and help bring joy to children, families, and individuals in need in our community.

Gift recipients include:

St. Alphonsus

- Next Step Pregnancy Services

St. Benedict

- St. Vincent de Paul families
- St. Martin de Porres Men's Shelter
- St. Francis House
- Columbia Lutheran Home
- Jubilee Women's Center
- King County Juvenile Detention Center
- Friends of Limlunga

St. John

- Noel House Women's Shelter
- St. Martin de Porres Men's Shelter
- Broadview-Thompson K-8 Program



FAITH IN FOCUS



Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

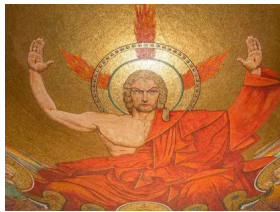
JESUS CHRIST is king of all creation. At the end of Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (28:18). The Book of Revelation calls him, "King of kings and Lord of lords" (19:16). People wanted to make Jesus a king after he worked the miracle of the loaves, but he went away by himself instead (John 6:15). They wanted a secular king to govern their land. Jesus wanted to rule their hearts.

The Catholic Church celebrates the kingship of Christ on the last Sunday of the Church year. The liturgical year reaches its climax in a celebration that honors the supreme command of Christ. He has dominion over all creation, and he rules every person who believes in him.

The Solemnity of Christ the King entered the Catholic calendar in 1925, which Pope Pius XI had set aside as a holy year. Pius thought the feast would bring the year to a solemn close, help combat the forces of secularism, and remind the world that Christ is its ultimate ruler. The pope chose the last Sunday of October because of its proximity to the end of the liturgical year and to serve as a prelude to All Saints Day on Nov. 1. The same day was already being observed as Reformation Sunday in the Protestant traditions.

Pope Paul VI moved the observance from the end of October to the very last Sunday of the Church year in order to exalt its theme even more. Now we end the year with an idea that sums up all that we have celebrated and that prepares us to start anew: this Jesus, whose birth we will soon celebrate, is the king of all creation.

Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: The Liturgical Year © 2020
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Written by Paul Turner.



SAINT OF THE MONTH

Martin de Porres

Feast Day: November 3

Beatified: October 29, 1837

Some people do good no matter what happens to them. Martin de Porres did. His mother was an African or Indian from Panama, a former slave. His father was a Spanish soldier and nobleman. So people made fun of Martin because he came from two different races.

What did Martin do? He blessed his enemies; he did good to those who laughed at him. Was this easy? No. But Martin simply loved to do good.

Martin was born in Lima, Peru, in 1579. His father left his family when Martin was eight. This left Martin and his baby sister and their mother very poor. But Martin still gave away whatever he could to other hungry and poor people.

When he was 12, Martin went to work for a barber. He learned to cut hair and to heal wounds. Later, Martin wanted to join the Dominicans in their work. He was allowed to work with them as a servant who swept floors and answered the door (at the time, the law in Peru did not allow persons of other races or mixed race to enter religious life). Finally his years of good works and miraculous cures led the Dominicans to allow him to become a lay brother, but even some of his fellow Dominicans still scorned him.

He eventually founded orphanages for homeless children and cared for lonely African slaves who had been forced to come to Lima. He gave shirts to those who had no clothes; bread to those who had no food; shelter to those who had no homes. One of his closest friends was St. Rose of Lima.

In 1639, Martin died. Everyone in Lima mourned him, even bishops and members of the royal court in Lima. In 1962, the Church declared that Martin de Porres was a saint. Many statues of St. Martin de Porres show him holding a broom, with a dog, cat, and mouse at his feet; he loved animals and was said to have solved a rat problem by simply asking the rats to leave. The house where he was born has been well preserved in Lima.

He is the patron saint of persons of mixed race and of those who suffer from discrimination.



<http://www.saintsresource.com/martin-de-porres>

FORMEDNOW

**SACRED
ART**

Basilica of Santa Pudenziana
CHRIST THE KING MOSAIC

formed
Forming Catholics for Life.

Jesus Christ, King of the Universe | Sacred Art

Sit down with Dr. Ben Akers and Taylor Kemp as they explore Catholic theology through the lens of Sacred Art. In this episode, they discuss the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.



Our parish has a free Formed subscription for you! Simply scan the QR code or visit formed.org/signup to create your account and select our parish family to get free access to this content and much more!

PARISH FAMILY UPDATES

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER...

Please remember the following people who are ill, homebound, or need your prayers this week: Marnie Ahern, Lillian Anderson, Len Andrews, Fridon Bahrimandarlini, Alexander Bodsky, Anneliese Bodsky, Linda Broderick, Joe Chitty, Donna Day, Jeff D'Amelio, Natasha Ryan D'Amelio, Bertha Eriksson, Ritchell Cunanan, Todd Galvão, Espedito P. Galvão, Margaret Goodrich, Carol Grimes, Lianne Grimes, Myrna Israkul, Joanne Jepson, Emily Jones, Joan Knebel, Nicholas Konopik, Daniel Love, Josephine Lynch, Seamus Lynch, Norma Macke, Ginny Massett, Darren Miller, Joanne Morgan, Jerry Mulka, Patricia Mulka, Jennifer Nagel, Ray Naidu, Dan Nichols, Patricia Patterson, Jack Piza, Bob Pohlman, Lucy Rogers, Janet Rossignol, Hilda Saleh, Lisa Schmidt, Jack Serwold, Abby Simpson, Lil' Stanley, Jeannette Tannario, Scott Tom, Jane Treeheal, Dennis Weiler, Jerilyn Wetzel, Shea Wilson, Lillian Yamamoto, and Megan Yoshimura.

For those who have died, that they may rest in the healing embrace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, we pray to the Lord. For Armed Forces personnel throughout the world, that they come home safely to their families, we pray to the Lord.

Note: To request a prayer, please call the Parish Office or use the QR code or this link:

<https://bit.ly/PF14Prayer>



READINGS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30 -

First Reading

They shall beat their swords into plowshares.

Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm

"Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord."

Psalm 122

Second Reading

Instead of keeping busy, some are minding the business of others.

Romans 13:11-14

Gospel

The Son of Man will come at an hour you least expect.

Matthew 24:37-44

First Sunday of Advent

Jesus paints a scary picture of his second coming in today's Gospel, warning his disciples to be ready always. We too must prepare ourselves, not only for his return at any time, but also for his coming into our hearts in a deeper way at a time we least expect. The words of the prophet Isaiah and the apostle Paul can help. "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ," Paul says, or, as Isaiah puts it, "Let us walk in the light of the Lord." May God's word inspire us to prepare our hearts so that we may all "go rejoicing to the house of the Lord."

EVENT RECAP

North Seattle SACRED SALMON PILGRIMAGE



Many of our Parish Family members joined the walk, including Fr. Paul Nkolombidzo, who offered the opening blessing. Along the way we prayed, sang, and enjoyed fellowship. At Carkeek Park, salmon stewards shared insights on salmon, beavers, and environmental stewardship.



A FILM PRESENTATION

The First Black American Catholic Priest

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this meaningful time of learning, reflection, and community. The inspiring film highlighted his courage, faith, and perseverance in the face of adversity.



THROUGHOUT THE ARCHDIOCESE



December 6 | 9 AM - 5 PM | Holy Rosary Church

Join Young Catholic Professionals Seattle Chapter for a day of prayer, community and reflection for our Annual Advent retreat.

Led by Abbot Marion Q. Nguyen, O.S.B., we will begin the day with Mass followed by time for prayer, fellowship, and small group discussions. We will be reflecting on John 10:9 "I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."

There will be an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and pray a holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament.

Learn more and register at <https://bit.ly/4r6u1bF>



Join us for the 31st Celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on **Saturday, December 6.**

The Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe honors the Virgin Mary, who appeared to an Aztec peasant, Juan Diego, for the first time on a hill called Tepeyac on Dec. 9, 1531, in Mexico City. Mary told the Christian convert, in his native language of Nahuatl, that she wanted a church built in her honor on the site of her apparition.

Our Lady of Guadalupe was declared Patroness of the Americas in 1945 by Pope Pius XII, and her Feast Day was elevated to an obligatory memorial by Pope John Paul II in 1999. She is also the Patroness of the Philippines.

The program starts at 8:00 AM at Immaculate Conception with Holy Hour, Rosary and Mañanitas, then a procession to St. James Cathedral for Mass. Please see the program schedule at <https://bit.ly/4oEolrc>



CYO VOLLEYBALL REFEREES WANTED

Training Dates

- Sat., January 10, 11:30am – 1:30pm (Holy Family Kirkland Gym)
- Tues., January 13, 6:30pm – 8:30pm (Our Lady of the Lake Gym)
- Sat., January 24, 10:00am – 12:00pm (St. Anthony Gym)
- Sat., February 7, 10:00am – 12:00pm (St. John Gym)



bit.ly/43mfuVJ

Information

- 1st year and 2nd year referees will need to attend one of the offered trainings above.
- Must be at least 14 years old to apply.
- Pay for new referees will start at \$24 per hour.
- CYO will provide referees with a polo shirt for matches.
- The CYO volleyball season runs February 21 through May 3.
- Matches will take place on Saturday & Sunday.
- Some playoff matches will take place during the weekdays.
- If you are interested in being a CYO volleyball referee this season, please scan the QR code or go to the link and fill out the required information.

Questions, please email Will Woodworth (William.woodworth@seattlearch.org)





OPUS7.ORG

**SUNDAY
DEC 7
7:30PM**

Britten's Saint Nicolas

OPUS 7'S HOLIDAY TRADITION RETURNS TO ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL!

Come experience the wonder!
This semi-staged production features 150+ singers, tenor, treble, and string soloists, historic vestments, piano, organ, and chamber orchestra in the beautiful St. James Cathedral

Featuring OPUS 7 VOCAL ENSEMBLE LOREN W. PONTÉN, FOUNDER & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR CHAD DEMARIS, TENOR ST. JAMES YOUTH MUSIC PROGRAM STACEY SUNDE, DIRECTOR BELLEVUE HIGH SCHOOL CHOIRS ANDREW JACOBSON, DIRECTOR	OPUS 7 CHAMBER ORCHESTRA DENISE DILLENBECK, CONCERTMASTER & SOLOIST JOSEPH ADAM & MATT WILKINS, PIANO CHRISTOPHER STROH, ORGAN ANTHONY KIM, BOY NICOLAS
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Drawing by M. Laughlin

Parish Family 14

Seattle, WA

2025 Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 November Light the first violet candle on the Advent wreath, symbolizing Hope. Reflect on the source of your hope in Christ and what it means in your life.	1 December Be intentional. As soon as your alarm goes off, rise and kneel before a crucifix. Offer your season—to God with purpose and reverence.	2 Decide how you will draw closer to Christ this Advent—through intentional prayer, acts of penance, charitable giving, or participation in the Sacraments.	3 Read Luke 1:26–38, where Mary's "Yes" made way for the coming of Christ. Ask for the grace to respond with your own "Yes" to God's will in your life.	4 Set out your empty nativity scene as a sign of anticipation of the coming of the King. Gradually add the remaining figures throughout the Advent season.	5 Attend First Friday Mass, in honor of Jesus' Sacred Heart. "O Sacred Heart of Jesus, make my heart like yours." And He will.	6 St. Nicholas of Myra Call or visit your parish office and ask who needs help this Christmas. Then do something about it — quietly, as St. Nicholas did.
7 Light the second violet candle for Peace. Pray for the "peace which surpasses all understanding" (Philippians 4:7) for yourself and whoever needs it most.	8 Immaculate Conception God preserved Mary from sin so that she could be the mother of Jesus. Attend Mass and pray for our country. It is a holy day of obligation.	9 Make a small sacrifice today, offered solely to God. It is even more meaningful if it's done in secret, as encouraged in Matthew 6:18.	10 Prepare your heart and soul to welcome the King. Participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and encounter the mercy of God.	11 Advent is a busy season for parishes. Consider calling or emailing your parish office to ask how you can offer your time and support.	12 Our Lady of Guadalupe Mary's miraculous image reveals a profound mystery of Christmas (John 1:14). Take time today to pray for expectant mothers and the gift of new life.	13 "If you have two shirts in your closet, one belongs to you and the other to the man with no shirt" (St. Basil the Great). Donate gently used clothing you don't need.
14 <i>Gaudete Sunday</i> Light the rose candle for joy to mark the halfway point to Christmas.	15 Offer the alms of patience when you're irritated, a smile when you're weary, and a kind word in place of judgment. You will touch hearts in ways you'll never fully realize.	16 Harboring unforgiveness burdens the heart and disrupts inner peace. Pray for the grace to let go, so you can move forward in freedom and healing.	17 Only nine days remain until Christmas. Place a lamp or candle in a window as a sign of welcome for the Christ Child.	18 Visit the Blessed Sacrament, where Jesus fulfills His promise to remain with us (Matthew 28:20). Take this time to renew your faith in His unwavering love.	19 Today, refrain from recreational screen use between 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Offer this sacrifice for those who struggle with screen-related addictions.	20 Share the joy of the Gospel—gather a group of friends and go caroling to bring the Good News to others through song.
21 Light the final violet candle, symbolizing Love—awaiting the coming of Christ, the ultimate expression of the Father's love (John 3:16).	22 The King is coming—prepare to welcome Him. Take time to ready your home as a reflection of the joy and reverence in your heart.	23 Discern which Advent practices you feel called to carry beyond Christmas. Which ones deepened your relationship with God? Which ones strengthened your capacity for charity?	24 <i>Rejoice!</i> Tonight, place the Christ Child in the manger and rejoice!	<i>"In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be enrolled, each to his own town. And Joseph too went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Luke 2:1-7).</i>		

CHRIST THE KING

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST KING OF THE UNIVERSE

The Feast of *Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe* is celebrated on the last Sunday of Ordinary Time, before the beginning of Advent that starts the new Church Year. As the last Sunday of the year, Christ the King Sunday is the conclusion of the Church's liturgical journey through the life of Christ and the gospel message. Its purpose is to celebrate the coming reign of Christ as ruler of the renewed creation that will characterize the fullness of the Kingdom of God. That hope is born from the entire life of Christ and his teachings that we have been celebrating during the past twelve months.

The first Sunday of Advent follows Christ the King Sunday and consequently, a new cycle of Sunday Mass readings, drawn from a different Gospel, begins the new cycle of the Church Year.

History

The Solemnity of Christ the King is a newer feast in the Catholic Church that was instituted by Pope Pius XI in his encyclical *Quas Primas* in 1925.

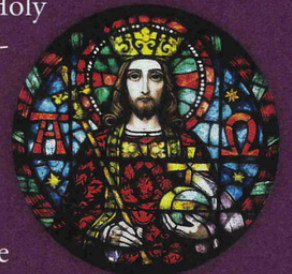
At the time, secularism was on the rise with the establishment of non-Christian dictatorships in Europe and many Christians began to doubt Christ's existence and authority. In response, Pius XI established the feast with the intent to reaffirm and refocus faith and respect for the kingship of Jesus and as the ruler over both creation and history.

Christ as King

Christians have long celebrated Jesus as Christ, and various aspects of his reign are celebrated in Advent (when Christians wait for his second coming in glory), Christmas (when his star reveals him to be "King of the Jews"), Holy Week (when he is the crucified king), Easter (when he is resurrected in power and glory), and the Ascension (when he returns to the glory he had with the Father before the world was created).

Originally, the feast was celebrated on the final Sunday of October, prior to All Saints Day.

In 1969, to emphasize its importance, Pope Paul VI moved the feast to the last Sunday before Advent. So now the old liturgical year ends by celebrating Christ's kingship and the new year begins with Advent, when we await the coming of Christ to rule our hearts and lives.



SEASONS OF THE LITURGICAL YEAR

Advent begins the liturgical year on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. A season of hope as well as penance, Advent features the writings of the Old Testament prophets in its Mass readings.

Christmas begins with Christmas Day, goes through Epiphany and concludes with the Baptism of the Lord. As a celebration of the Incarnation, the Christmas season also highlights the manifestation of Christ's divinity to the world.

Lent is a 40 day preparation for Easter that focuses on fasting, prayer and almsgiving. Lent is a time to reflect on how well we are living out our baptism.

The Paschal or Easter Triduum (from the Latin, three days) begins with the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper and continues until Easter evening.

The **Easter Season** extends from Easter Sunday through Pentecost Sunday. During this time, the Church reflects on the mystery of our redemption through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Ordinary Time is the only liturgical season that comes in two sections. The first begins with the Baptism of the Lord and goes until Ash Wednesday. The second follows Pentecost and concludes with the Feast of Christ the King.



LITURGICAL COLORS

Through the Church Year, the vestments worn by the priest at Mass signifies meaning associated with the various seasons of the liturgical calendar.

White, the color of joy and victory, is used for the seasons of Easter and Christmas and select feasts through the year. Select saints who are not martyrs are also celebrated with white. In addition, white is also a reminder of the resurrection and can therefore be used at funerals.

Red, the color of fire and blood is used on the days when we celebrate the passion of Jesus, Passion (Palm) Sunday and Good Friday. It is also used for the birth feasts of the apostles and evangelists and for the celebrations of martyrs.

Green, symbolizes life, anticipation, and hope and is used during Ordinary Time.

Violet or purple, seen in Advent, helps us to remember that we are preparing for the coming of Christ. Lent, the season of penance, repentance, and renewal, also uses this color.

Rose is an optional color and may be used on the Third Sunday of Advent, *Gaudete Sunday*, and on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, *Laetare Sunday*. It expresses the joy of anticipation for Christmas and Easter.

THE LECTIONARY AND THE LITURGICAL YEAR

In the Church Year, beginning with the First Sunday of Advent and concluding with the Solemnity of Christ the King, the Church celebrates and lives out the mystery of Christ. The history of salvation unfolds throughout this liturgical cycle.

The liturgical cycle divides the year into a series of seasons, each with its own mood and theological emphasis, which is expressed by different ways of decorating the church, the colors of the priest's vestments (see below, left) and the scripture readings chosen for each day found in the Lectionary for Mass.

Before Vatican II, the selection of readings for the lectionary consisted of a one year cycle of two readings, one from a New Testament letter and one from one of the Gospels.

Vatican II wanted Catholics to become more familiar with Scripture and so changed the Sunday Mass readings to the present three-year cycle (A, B or C) with three readings (plus the Psalm) at each Mass. This resulted in Catholics hearing much more of the Old Testament, and hearing the majority of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. The Gospel of John is read during the Easter season and in the other seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Lent where appropriate.

In addition, the Catholic lectionary also includes a two-year cycle for the weekday Mass readings (Cycle I and Cycle II). These readings are generally shorter than those chosen for use on Sundays, and the Gospels are arranged so that portions of all four are read every year.

Thanksgiving

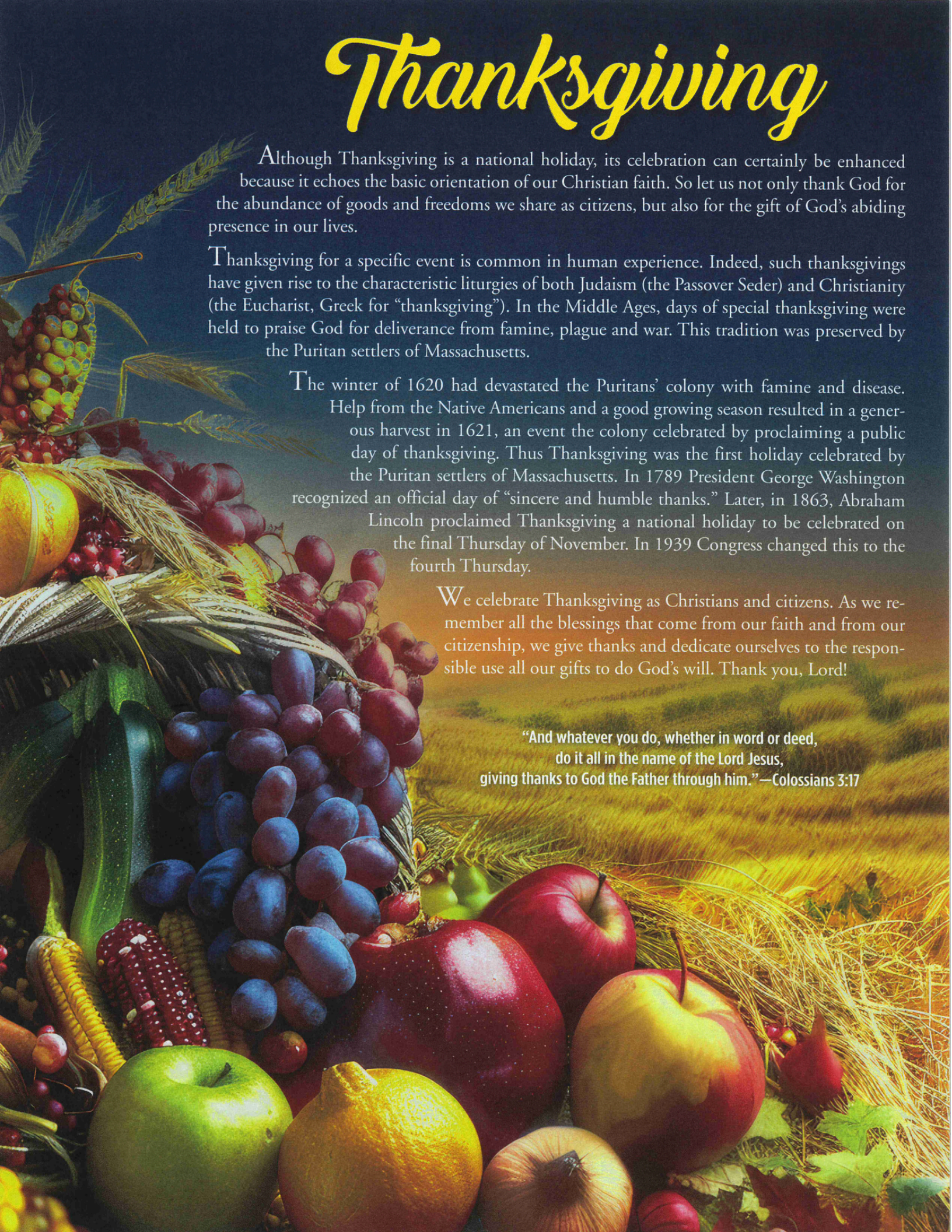
Although Thanksgiving is a national holiday, its celebration can certainly be enhanced because it echoes the basic orientation of our Christian faith. So let us not only thank God for the abundance of goods and freedoms we share as citizens, but also for the gift of God's abiding presence in our lives.

Thanksgiving for a specific event is common in human experience. Indeed, such thanksgivings have given rise to the characteristic liturgies of both Judaism (the Passover Seder) and Christianity (the Eucharist, Greek for "thanksgiving"). In the Middle Ages, days of special thanksgiving were held to praise God for deliverance from famine, plague and war. This tradition was preserved by the Puritan settlers of Massachusetts.

The winter of 1620 had devastated the Puritans' colony with famine and disease. Help from the Native Americans and a good growing season resulted in a generous harvest in 1621, an event the colony celebrated by proclaiming a public day of thanksgiving. Thus Thanksgiving was the first holiday celebrated by the Puritan settlers of Massachusetts. In 1789 President George Washington recognized an official day of "sincere and humble thanks." Later, in 1863, Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday to be celebrated on the final Thursday of November. In 1939 Congress changed this to the fourth Thursday.

We celebrate Thanksgiving as Christians and citizens. As we remember all the blessings that come from our faith and from our citizenship, we give thanks and dedicate ourselves to the responsible use all our gifts to do God's will. Thank you, Lord!

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed,
do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him."—Colossians 3:17



Grateful Service

A HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITY

Pope Francis says that “a grateful heart is spontaneously impelled to serve the Lord and to find expression in a life of service.” Pope John Paul II also encouraged us to bring “into people’s lives the love of Christ received at the Eucharistic table” (*Dies Domini*, #73) and suggested that some ways to do this might be:

- Organize or contribute to a food drive, collecting non-perishable items for local shelters or food pantries.
- Look around in your neighborhood to find people who may need your help the most, for example, the sick, the elderly, children or immigrants who might feel their isolation, their needs and sufferings more intensely on this holiday.
 - Invite those who are alone to share a meal.
 - Visit the sick.
- Help prepare and serve meals to those in need at a local soup kitchen.
- Organize a neighborhood clean-up to pick up litter and beautify the community.
 - Perform random acts of kindness, such as paying for someone’s groceries or leaving a generous tip.



A Thanksgiving Day Prayer

Lord, we thank you for the goodness of our people and for the spirit of justice that fills this nation.

We thank you for the beauty and fullness of the land and the challenge of the cities.

We thank you for our work and our rest, for one another, and for our homes.

Accept our thanksgiving on this day.

We pray and give thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

—*Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*

Thanksgiving Day

AND THE CHURCH

Festivals thanking God for bountiful harvests have been common among all cultures and religions. Ritual feasts of thanksgiving to Yahweh were a vital part of the Israelite religion, which had two thanksgiving festival periods, one in the spring and one in the fall.

The Church has never had a feast dedicated specifically to thanksgiving—likely because thanksgiving is already an integral part of all liturgical celebration. But in the late Middle Ages in Europe, thanksgiving themes became part of the feast day of St. Martin on Nov. 11.

The history of Thanksgiving Day in the U.S. reveals that the observance was primarily Protestant in its origins, and that wide Catholic recognition and acceptance of the holiday came late.

Traditionally, the first Thanksgiving was thought to be a festival in the fall of 1621 at the Pilgrim settlement in Plymouth, MA. Pilgrim settlers and Native Americans celebrated a good harvest. By the 1660s, some New England communities were holding a Thanksgiving feast annually, but it was not until two centuries later that Abraham Lincoln set the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.

By the late 1800s, some Catholic priests forbade parishioners to celebrate what seemed to them a public Protestant festival. However, Cardinal James Gibbons of Baltimore allowed it.

During the 1900s, Catholics were marking Thanksgiving Day as many others were, with private family meals and celebrations, and, less so, by attending parades or other public events.

It was not until 1969 that the American Bishops Committee on the Liturgy prepared and published Lectionary readings and prayers for a Mass specifically for Thanksgiving Day.



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