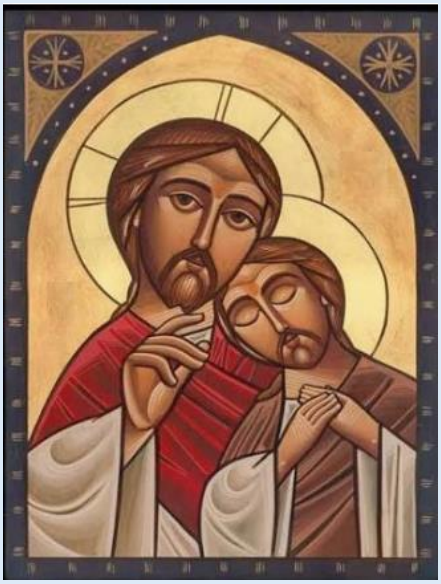

BELOVED DISCIPLE PARISH

November 2026

Welcome to our third edition of the Beloved Disciple Parish Faith Formation Newsletter. If you would like to see the past edition, please visit the parish website at https://www.beloveddiscipleparish.org/faith-formation3eb4292b Ordinary Time is anything but ordinary! It is often overlooked, but it is actually a unique season on the Church calendar that is dedicated to the growth of our faith. As we look at this month that is dedicated to the Souls in Purgatory, we can use this season to reflect on how, with God by our side, we can freely grow into future Saints! Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let Your perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

Marialyce Garvis, Director of Faith Formation

NOVEMBER FAITH FORMATION SCHEDULE



1+Student Faith Formation Classes with Saint procession at Mass
10+Adult Faith Formation
11+Parish Soup Fest – service hours opportunity!
15+Student Faith Formation Classes
21/22 + Student Service Project and Parish Social after all Masses at BD
22+Meeting for the First Reconciliation Families-parents/students 10 to 10:45 am day chaple
26+Thanksgiving
29+First Sunday of Advent

Upcoming in DECEMBER

2+Parish wide St. Nick dinner with kid activities and visit from St. Nick 5:30 pm in GC

November - Overview The month of November is dedicated to the Souls in Purgatory, whose feast is celebrated on November 2. With the exception of the last two days, the entire month of November falls during the liturgical season known as Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical color green. This symbol of hope is the color of the sprouting seed and arouses in the faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. It is used in the offices and Masses of Ordinary Time. The last portion of the liturgical year represents the time of our pilgrimage to heaven during which we hope for reward. The last Sunday, November 29th, marks the beginning of Advent, the liturgical color changes to purple, representing a time of penance.



What are the Pope's Monthly Prayer Intentions? https://popesprayerusa.net/

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month. Praying with Pope Leo XIV in this way is a concrete act of service, because our prayers make a difference in the world. As we pray, the Holy Spirit may call some of us to extend prayer into additional action.

NOVEMBER* 2026** ***For the proper use of wealth.

Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service of the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

ACTIONS

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- Volunteer and/or donated to our *Grove City Food Pantry and Thrifty Threads*. The food brought to our Parish in Gove City and put in the box by our church entrance, goes to the Food Pantry.
- In Emlenton you can volunteer or donate to *Chaple on the Hill* food pantry.
- The Angel Tree helps low income families with Christmas presents for their children.
- New and slightly used toys can be donated to *Toys for Tot.*
- There are many clothing drives for winter coats and clothes to help with.

The Days of the Dead

The month of November is dedicated to the souls in purgatory, but we begin the month with All Saints and All Souls Days.



November 1 - THE SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS

On this day, we honor all the saints of the Church. Saints are considered people in Heaven who live virtuous lives (canonized or not), offered themselves to God and others, were martyred, and were heroic. As a holy day of obligation, we attend Mass in the presence of the Eucharist to ask God for the intercession of those on their way to sainthood and those saints who have imitated God while on earth. We listen to the Gospel story of the Sermon on the Mount, which describes the Beatitudes, or "Basic Attitudes of Christ." Saints practiced the way of the Beatitudes. We, too are called to live by the Beatitudes, contributing to the building of God's kingdom every day. Along with attending Mass on this day, we can pray to our favorite saint, learn about saints less familiar to us, or explore artwork depicting these holy people.

White is the liturgical color for All Saints' Day, symbolizing the purity and holiness of the saints in Heaven.

NOVEMBER 2 - THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS' DAY)

This day is dedicated to prayer and remembrance for all the faithful departed who may still be in Purgatory, undergoing purification before entering Heaven. The Church offers Masses and special prayers to hasten their journey into eternal life. It is a powerful expression of the communion of saints, where the living and the dead are united in Christ. Traditionally, people visit cemeteries and light candles for their loved ones. It follows All Saints' Day and completes the focus on the afterlife.

- Let us pray for the intercession of these powerhouse saints, praying for their intercession to boldly live out our faith throughout our lives. Pray for deceased family members
- Read about it at https://www.ncregister.com/blog/what-we-remember-in-november

NOVEMBER 2026

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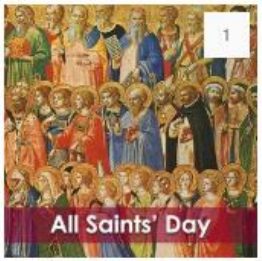
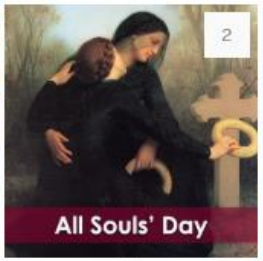
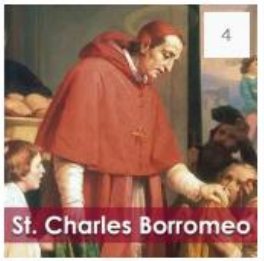
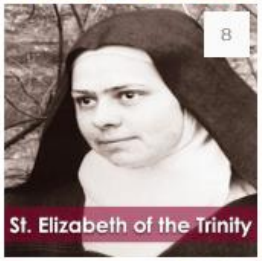
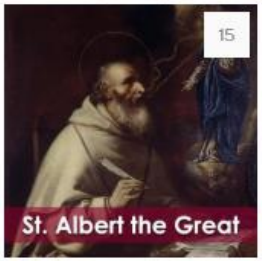
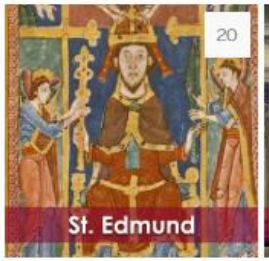
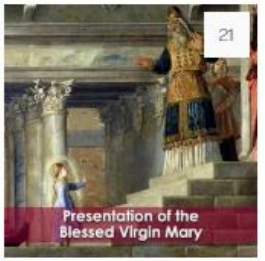
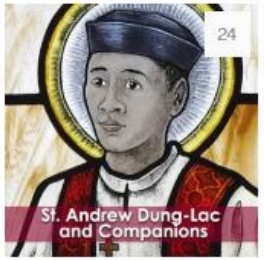
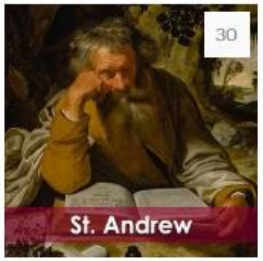
1  All Saints' Day	2  All Souls' Day	3  St. Martin de Porres	4  St. Charles Borromeo	5 Sts. Domninus, Teothimus and Companions, Martyrs	6 St. Leonard, Hermit	7 St. Willibrord, Bishop of Northern Europe St. Prosdocimus, First Bishop of Padua
8  St. Elizabeth of the Trinity	9  Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	10  St. Leo the Great	11  St. Martin of Tours	12  St. Josaphat	13  St. Frances Xavier Cabrini	14 St. Serapion of Algiers
15  St. Albert the Great	16 St. Giuseppe Moscati St. Gertrude the Great St. Margaret of Scotland	17  St. Elizabeth of Hungary	18 St. Rose Philippine Duchesne Dedication of Basilicas of Sts. Peter and Paul	19 St. Matilda (Mechtilde), Virgin	20  St. Edmund	21  Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
22 St. Cecilia Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe	23 Bl. Miguel Agustin Pro St. Columban Pope St. Clement I	24  St. Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions	25 St. Catherine of Alexandria Bl. Luigi Beltrame Quattrocchi and Maria Corsini	26 St. Siricius, Pope	27 St. Vergilius, Bishop of Salzburg	28  St. Catherine Labouré
St. Saturnin, Martyr on the via Salaria Nuova 29	30  St. Andrew					



NOVEMBER 9
THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

This feast celebrates the dedication of the Basilica of St. John Lateran in Rome, the cathedral of the Pope as Bishop of Rome. Though often mistaken for St. Peter's, it is the oldest and most important of the major basilicas. It is known as the "Mother and Head of all churches in the city and worldwide." This celebration reminds the faithful of the unity and universality of the Church, built upon the apostles and centered on Christ.

ACTIVITIES:

- **Write a Family Prayer:** Work together to write a short prayer for the Pope Leo XIV and for the unity of the global Catholic Church.
- **The Living Temple Craft:** Discuss how our bodies and hearts are living temples of God. Cut out a paper church and let children fill it with hearts labeled with virtues like "Love," "Kindness," "Prayer," and "Goodness".
- **Guard Your Heart Reflection:** Reflect on the Gospel story of Jesus cleansing the temple (John 2:13-22). Have family members write down their current feelings or emotions on a paper, then circle the ones that honor God and talk about letting go of the rest.
- **Clean and Welcome:** Just as we care for a sacred church building, help clean or tidy up a space in your home (the "domestic church") to make it peaceful and welcoming.

Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary – November 21

This feast commemorates the tradition that Mary was presented in the Temple in Jerusalem as a child, dedicated to the Lord by her parents, Saints Joachim and Anne. Though not found in Scripture, the event symbolizes Mary's total consecration to God from an early age. The Church celebrates her purity, obedience, and role in salvation history. It invites believers to renew their own dedication to God.



ACTIVITIES:

- Pray the rosary as a family
- Make a Presentation of Mary Picture Puzzles at https://www.catholicsistas.com/craft-presentation-of-mary-picture-puzzles/
- Make a paper bouquets: craft paper flower bouquets to symbolize spiritual gifts given to Our Lady at https://www.catholicinspired.com/post/create-a-paper-vase-and-bouquet-for-your-mother-and-mary-easy-amp-free-printable?m=1

National Vocation Awareness Week, celebrated **November 1-7, 2026**, is an annual week-long celebration of the Catholic Church in the United States dedicated to promoting vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life through prayer and education. NVAW began in 1976.

- It is also a time to renew our prayers and support for those who are considering one of these particular vocations.
- Try one or two activities on: https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/educators-and-youth-leaders/lesson-plans/lesson-plans-for-national-vocation-awareness-week-grades-k-8

Magnifica Humanitas



In his encyclical the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV talks about safeguarding the human person. Read it in it's entirety on the Vatican website: https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/encyclicals/documents/20260515-magnifica-humanitas.html
On the United Stated Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB) website Bishop Robert J. Brennan writes about the encyclical not only about artificial intelligence, but about what it means to be human. *What Does it Mean To Be Human? The Central Question of Magnifica Humanitas*. Bishop Brennan says, "Relationships are central to our humanity: certainly our relationships with one another, but above all our relationship with our Creator, the God who made us and loves us. God allows each of us to form a bond with him. This is a living, authentic relationship."
Read more at: https://www.usccb.org/committees/cultural-diversity-church/fall-winter-2026-newsletter-what-does-it-mean-be-human-central
Also, on the USCCB website, Fr. John Ernesto Cordero, MMHC | Pastor, Holy Family Catholic Church has an article entitled - *The Stories Only We Can Tell: Magnifica Humanitas on What a Machine Cannot Say.* https://www.usccb.org/resources/one-church-many-cultures-fall-winter-2026-newsletter-stories-only-we-can-tell-magnifica It tells of how diversity can still be unity.
The encyclical and these articles became even more important to me when I began to research All Souls Day. I looked at my own family history and who we should be praying for. I am second generation American. My grandparents on my Father's side came to America from what was then Czechoslovakia (so did my Mother's family). I am an American rooted in Slovak heritage. My children, we tell them, are 75% Slovak (my Mother-in-law's family is also from Czechoslovakia) and 25% a mixture of French, German, Canadian, and others. The French part arrived in the Americas well before it was ever called that. My husband's ancestors were in a settlement in Quebec area around 1665. Even though this part of his ancestry has been in the Americas for over 350 years, we are still immigrants. Immigration has been a heated topic in our country and just like many of these hot topics there is a lot of sensationalism in the media trying to sway us one way or the other. I do not want to debate who is right or wrong, I just want everyone to realize that every immigrant, good or bad, is a human person and has worth! Humans come in many races, genders, political parties, religions, economic classes, and so on. But we are all made in the image of God and are all brothers and sisters in Christ! That is my soap box for the month. Thank you for listening.
ACTIVITIES:

- Diversify your saint card collection adding saints from all over the world.
- Learn a loved prayer like the Our Father in another language, perhaps one from your family's heritage.
- Try a meal from a different culture, you can find recipes on Catholic Relief Service, CRS, website: https://www.crsricebowl.org/recipes

Newest Blesseds in the U.S. (2026)



• The Georgia Martyrs (Beatified October 31, 2026): Five Spanish Franciscan missionaries—Friars Pedro de Corpa, Blas Rodríguez, Miguel de Añon, Antonio de Badajoz, and Francisco de Veráscola—were beatified at the Savannah Convention Center in Savannah, Georgia. Killed in 1597 while serving the Indigenous Guale people, they were recognized as the first American martyrs for marriage after defending Christian teaching. This marked the first beatification ever held in the state of Georgia and in the American South.
• Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen (Beatified September 24, 2026): The renowned 20th-century American television evangelist, radio host, and bishop was beatified at The Dome at America's Center in St. Louis, Missouri. His beatification followed the official Vatican recognition of a miraculous healing, making him the first U.S.-born bishop raised to the title of Blessed.



Black Catholic History Month offers families a chance to celebrate stories of creativity, courage, and community. The National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus of the United States voted on Tuesday, July 24, 1990 to designate November as Black Catholic History Month because it marks a time when the Church prays for all saints and souls in loving remembrance, as well as a time to recall the saints and souls of Africa and the African Diaspora.



ACTIVITIES:

- Visit USCCB to learn about Black Saints: https://www.usccb.org/committees/african-american-affairs/road-sainthood-leaders-african-descent
- Take a quiz at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception : https://www.nationalshrine.org/blog/quiz-the-history-of-black-catholics-in-america/
- Celebrate Black Catholic History Month with Free Coloring Pages: https://beaheart.com/blogs/resources/celebrate-black-catholic-history-month-with-free-coloring-pages?srsltid=AYCX9vIMS77SyzBFaNwjjBQU4mzhMz3Ev9jY-LNk86OBiv_viYUfjpE9

The Feast of Christ the King



On the last Sunday of the liturgical year, Catholics celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. A relative newcomer to the Church calendar — established in the 20th century — this feast is designed to give special recognition to the dominion Christ our Lord has over all aspects of our lives. But why and how did it come about? And why is it so important today?

When Cardinal Ambrogio Achille Ratti was elected pope and took the name Pope Pius XI, much of the world was in shambles. The year was 1922, and while the bloodletting of World War I (1914-1918) had ended, widespread peace and tranquility were not evident.

In their distress, people clung to anyone who offered them hope, offered some kind of direction out of the chaos and promised to put food on their tables. They gravitated to the emerging dictators, and as they did they often sought to be self-sufficient to the exclusion of God from their everyday lives. In all these developments, the new Pope Pius XI saw that people were denying Christ in favor of a lifestyle dominated by secularism, material advantage and false hope.

In 1925, the Church celebrated a jubilee year in honor of the 1,600th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea. The council fathers taking part in that ancient gathering in A.D. 325 had affirmed the full divinity of Jesus Christ as God the Son, one in being with God the Father. Their pronouncement became a creed that was later expanded into what we now call the Nicene Creed, which we still profess at Mass every Sunday.

On Dec. 11 of the jubilee year, the pope issued the encyclical *Quas Primas*, which added the feast of "Our Lord Jesus Christ the King" to the annual Church liturgical calendar.

ACTIVITIES:

- Say the Nicene Creed together as a family
- Make a traditional Sunday dinner and end with a cake in the shape of a crown
- Read Pope Pius XI's encyclical *Quas primas* (On the Feast of Christ the King) which shows that secularism is the direct denial of Christ's Kingship.
- Make a crown for a statue of Jesus in your home draw a picture of Christ the King.

WHAT IS ADVENT?



The season of Advent is a time of expectation, when we prepare our home and our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. The word Advent is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, which means "coming".
Advent is a season of hope, a time to nurture peace and experience joy in anticipation for the love that is made incarnate with the birth of Jesus.
Keep this purpose ever in mind as you make your plans to prepare for Christmas. Everything will make sense or become senseless in relation to this purpose. If baking cookies helps you achieve this purpose, bake away. Sitting quietly on a park bench, taking long walks in quiet places, visiting your church each day, reading, singing, serving others...whatever it is that helps you achieve the purpose of Advent, give yourself to those activities.
Wake up each day with this purpose in your heart and on your mind. Purpose has a way of transforming the way we live our lives. Allow the purpose of Advent to transform you.

WHEN DOES ADVENT BEGIN?

This year, Advent begins on Sunday, November 29, 2026. The first day of Advent marks the beginning of the Catholic Church's liturgical calendar year.

- **New Liturgical Year:** This date marks the beginning of a new Church year (Liturgical Year B) in the Roman Catholic Church.
- **Liturgical Color:** Priests wear violet (purple) vestments to symbolize a season of humble waiting, penance, and preparation.

SOME FAMILY TRADITIONS

- **Advent Wreath:** Families and parishes light the first purple candle (the Candle of Hope) on the Advent wreath.
- **Advent Calendar:** There are many forms of Advent Calendars, but they are a way of counting down the days and learning more about Jesus and His birth.
- **Straw For Baby Jesus**: The idea is for kids to learn in action about Jesus' words in the parable: "as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me". Their sacrifices and good works during Advent, done for parents or friends or siblings, can help to create a soft, comfy bed for the baby Jesus when he is born on Christmas.
- **Jesse Tree:** an Advent activity in which salvation history from creation through the incarnation is traced using (mostly Old Testament) Bible readings and ornaments featuring associated traditional symbols, one for each day of the whole Advent season. https://eriercd.org/Jesse-Tree-Ornaments.html
- **Christmas Novena:** 9 days of prayers starting on December 16 and ending on Christmas Eve. An example of one is here https://market.catholicallyear.com/products/christmas-novena-digital-download?_pos=5&_sid=4db136700&_ss=r
- **A Gradual Approach To Decorating Or Not Decorating Until Christmas Eve:** taking a slow, gradual approach to decorating where we add new things weekly, or associated with particular feast days, helps to make Advent that season of waiting and preparation.
- **A Gradual Nativity Set Up**: The first Sunday of Advent, we set up the stable, the second Sunday we put in the animals, the third Sunday we add shepherds and any other extra people, the fourth Sunday we add Mary and Joseph, then on Christmas Eve we add the angel and baby Jesus. The Wisemen arrive later on Epiphany.
- **A Story A Day Until Christmas**: I recommend a series of books that I found when my children were younger. The more recent one is called *Jotham's Journey* and is divided into short chapters for each day of Advent, giving families the opportunity to create a seasonal tradition of storytelling in their home. Though he faces thieves, robbers, and kidnappers, Jotham also encounters friendly, wise men, shepherds, and innkeepers until at last he finds his way to his family, and to the Savior born in Bethlehem.