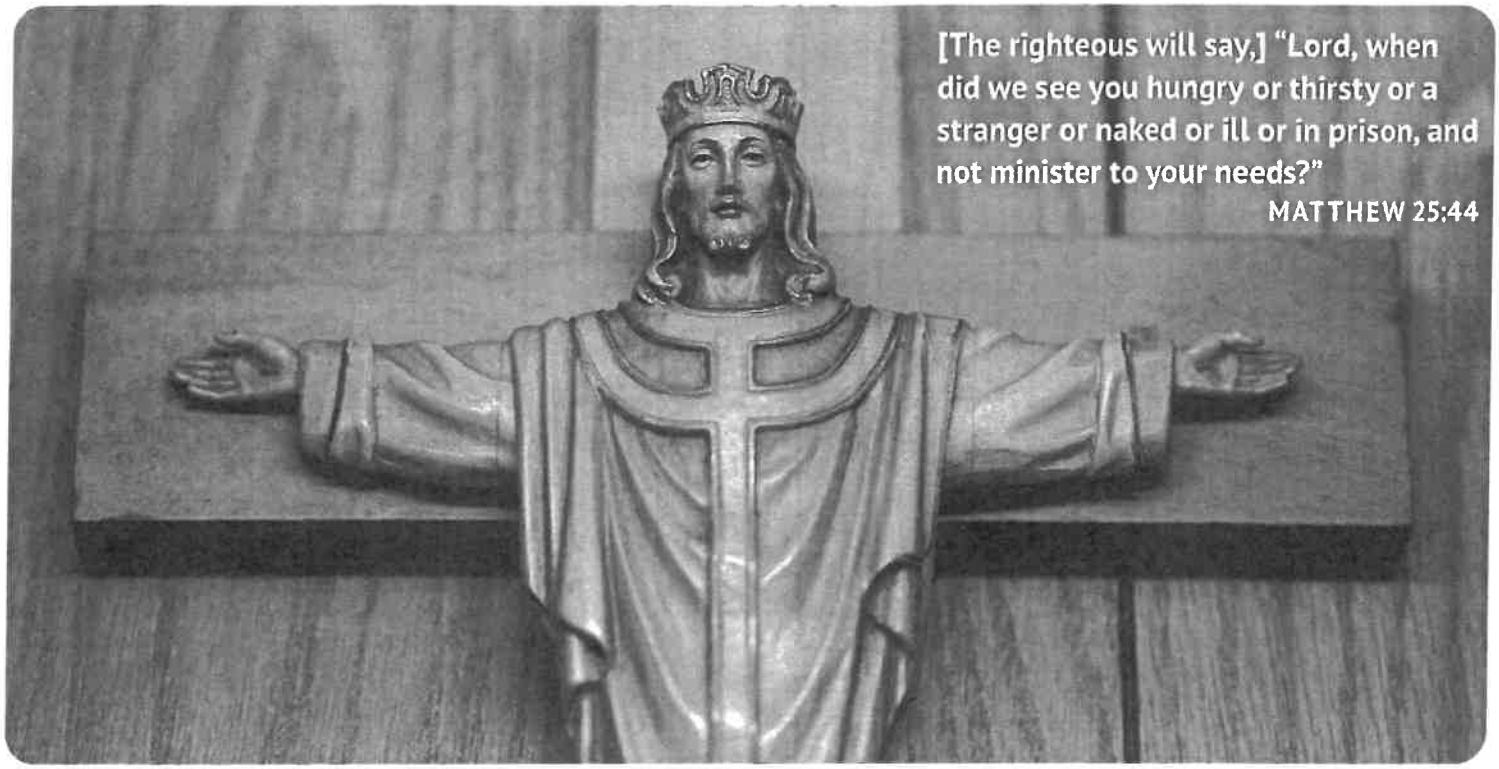
Our Parish COMMUNITY

November 22, 2026

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (A)

Ezekiel 34:11–12, 15–17 / 1 Corinthians 15:20–26, 28 / Matthew 25:31–46



Living the Beatitudes

MIGUEL DULICK

For his last sermon, Jesus revisits his first. In the Sermon on the Mount, if you are poor, or in mourning, or meek; if you hunger and thirst for righteousness; if you are merciful or clean of heart or a peacemaker or even persecuted, you are blessed! Now, Jesus reframes the Beatitudes as blessings bestowed, ultimately, on Jesus himself, in the persons of his "least brothers" with very specific needs: I was hungry; I was thirsty; I was a stranger; I was naked; I was sick; I was in jail. "Whatever you did, you did for me!"

Indeed, Jesus may be anticipating the last few days of his own life, when he will himself know every need: he will be hungry, thirsty, displaced, naked, hurt, and jailed, at least for one wicked night. Who "did" for him?

Once, I visited friends with their first baby. They said, "Oh, Miguel, we admire you so much. You're always helping people." This—while they're holding their newborn!

I just laughed and quoted Jesus: "When I was hungry, when I was thirsty, homeless, naked, sick, in prison.... You do *all* of this every day with your baby—except for the jail thing! Who is more 'least' than a newborn?"

"We never thought of it like that."

"Yes! Your baby is Jesus!"

And maybe Jesus is always a baby. Even Michelangelo's *Pieta* depicts Jesus as the size of a child in a teen mother's lap. ●

Reflect

Who are the "least" in my world? Is there anyone I'm ignoring?

LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF *OUR PARISH COMMUNITY*

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Pastoral Director: Nancy Woodcock
Sacramental Minister: Nov. 14 & 15: Fr. Larry King
November 20: Fr. Tom Boufford
Nov. 21 & 22: Fr. Larry King
Confession: SM: Saturday – 3:00 - 3:30 p.m.
SJB: Sunday – 8:00 - 8:45 a.m.
Please keep those who are serving our country in your prayers! Tech. Army Special Forces Blaine Woodman, Spencer Harwood, David Black, Sgt. Hunter Williams, & SSG Curtis Jason; SGT Spencer Malek; Isaac Fahey (Navy); Isaac Eves (Army); PFC Josh Billings
PARISH OFFICE HOURS:
Monday— 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday & Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday – closed
Friday: 9:00-3:00 p.m. or any day by appointment
If you have any questions, need to plan a funeral, prepare for Baptism or Marriage, or an Annulment, etc., please contact Nancy at:
Parish office: 989-584-6044 (with answering machine)
Nancy's home: **(989-762-5320); Cell: (989-287-0089)**
Church e-mail: secretary@smsjbparish.com
Nancy's email: nwoodcock@smsjbparish.com
Website: http://stmarystjohn.net/
Appointments are available evenings & weekends.
The parish office address is: 404 N. Division St., Carson City, MI 48811. **Feel free to contact us.**
FACEBOOK: St. Mary/St. John the Baptist Parishes
The deadline for bulletin information is noon on Monday.
T-Coil is available in both churches.
AED Units are in both Parish Halls & Churches.

SATURDAY – Nov. 21, 2026-Solemnity Christ the King
SM – 4:00 p.m. – Mary Bliss by Friend; **Rick Kelley** by Mary Jo Cusack; **Carl & Ella Beck** by Lilly Beck; **Grace Hagerty Kelly (67thAnniv.)** by Family

SUNDAY – Nov. 22, 2026-Solemnity of Christ the King
SJB – 9:00 a.m. – Florence Cusack by Chuck & Connie Malek; **Kitty Burns** by Chuck & Connie Malek; **Leo McMillan** by Dave & Nancy Speckin; **Roger & Patty Shively** by Joan McKenna; **Joanne Ruhlman** by a Friend; **Bill Gage** by Doug & Nancy Cusack

SUNDAY – Nov. 22, 2026–33rd Solemnity of Christ the King
SM – 11:00 a.m. – Jim Beck by Lilly Beck; **Bernadine Trudell** by Dennis Trudell; **Mike McCrackin** by McCrackin Family

TUESDAY– Nov. 24, 2026 – SJB Rosary for Peace & Noon Prayer
THURSDAY – Nov. 26, 2026 – THANKSGIVING DAY
SM – 9:00 - Gratitude for our Parishes

FRIDAY- Nov 27, 2026 – SM NO Noon Mass

SATURDAY- Nov. 28, 2026 – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SM – 4:00 p.m. Gail Kennedy by Jim & Sue Lowe; **Robert & Marie Ingraham** by Mike Ingraham & Family

SUNDAY–November 29, 2026–FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SJB– 9:00 a.m. – Tom Gallagher by Doug & Nancy Cusack; **Gale Beardslee** by Dave & Nancy Speckin; **Patrick Kilchermann** by a Friend; **Max Pinkney** by Jack McCrackin; **Rita Gesselman** by Joanne Pinkney; **Helen Tait** by Mike & Mary Cashen

Nov. 28, 2026 – Sat. 4:00 p.m. SM

Lector: Frank Ladiski
Ushers: Team 23
Greeters: Holly & Craig Keiffer
OMHC: Cheryl Miller, Deb McCrackin, Margaret Lauer
Altar Servers: Volunteers
Musicians: Mike & Choir

Nov. 29, 2026– Sun. 9:00 a.m. SJB
Lector: Karol Sanborn
Ushers: Team 15
Greeters: Volunteers
OMHC: Volunteers
Altar Servers: Volunteers
Musicians: Connie

Nov. 29, 2026– Sun. 11:00 a.m. SM
Lector: Kim Brown
Ushers: Team 21
Greeters: Eddie Trevino
OMHC: Sam Jensen, Linda Tasker, Kali Trevino
Altar Servers: Volunteers
Musicians: Brian & Group

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS!!!
They can be mailed to:
404 N. Division St.
Carson City, MI 48811
For either parish or use the Online information to give electronically.

SUNDAY Nov. 29, 2026 –FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SM – 11:00 a.m. – Norma Fitzpatrick by Larry DeVito; **Jim & Judy Cook** by Nolan Datema & Olivia Datema

Money Counters for December: Kathy Marshall & Penny Huhn

Live – Streaming can be found at www.YouTube.com, click on the search icon and look for St Mary-St John the Baptist (do not use any punctuation); **the video should be running just before 11:00 a.m. Mass will be available on the St. Mary/St. John the Baptist Facebook** page within 30 minutes after the Mass. Volunteers NEEDED!

Please call the Parish Office (989) 584-6044) if you are interested in having your baby or child baptized. Baptisms can be held during Mass.

First Reading: Ezekiel 34: 11-12, 15-17
In the first reading, the Lord promises to look after and tend his sheep, giving them rest and binding up the injured.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28
In the second reading, St. Paul writes to the Church at Corinth that Christ will reign until everything is subjected to him.

PRAY FOR PEACE!

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Gordon Gladden, Deb O'Neil, John Myers, Fr. Tony Vainavicz, Marley Ward, Jack Fahey, Tony Shepard, Phyllis Gage, Donna Schumacher, Linda Tasker (Bruce's wife), Daniel O'Connell, Erin Cavanaugh, Tanner Schrauben, LaVern Wyer, Bob Pouget, Genevieve McGuire, Kyran Breimayer, Neil Speckin, Janice McKenna-Reynolds, Dennis Trudell, Sr., Sierra Rose Cordova, Leigh Ann Harwood, Jack Kapral, Sam Burns, Mike Riley, Judy Miller, Harry Sanborn, Michelle Van Arman, Mary Pouget, Denny Vander, Debbie Osborne, Ann Darland, Mason Burns, Carmen Richardson, John Shively, Agnes McKenna, Jen Schafer, Fred Peiffer, Sue Findlay, Gary DeVito, Aiden Thurston, Judy Sheaffer, Sherry Hopkins, Douglas Werner, Larry Elliott, Ted Kingsley; Camilla Hogan, Mary Lou Tucker Andrews, Petra Medrano, Alberta Gage, Deb Coon, Fr. Doug Osborn, Sam Riley, Hazel Gallagher, Edie Rudd, Fr. Jim Wyse, Brenda Demenov, Libby & Jordan Lehnen, Judy Schlegel, Bonnie Harter, Alicia Smith, Darrel Ferris, John Ford, Alayne Howard, Lavern Jacobs, Phil Fletcher, Anita Heppard, Judy Schaeffer, Zack Burns, Jack Warner, Delores Schmitt, Mary Freund, Thomas Heckman, Lynn Schneider, Jim Barker, Pope Leo, Mike Crystal, Heidi Fare, and Robert Gamez.

If you are better – please call the Office and ask to have your name taken OFF the Prayer List. (989- 584-6044)

St. John the Baptist Parish Chairpersons for December

Cindy Howard (989-763-9558); Susanne Gallagher (989-292-5264; Penny Peiffer (c. 517-242-5119)

St. Mary Chairpersons for December

Nora Ryan (989) 763-2232) & Ronda Schneider (989-763-1432)

The Parish Office will be closed on Friday, November 27th. In an emergency, please call Nancy at home or on her cell (989) 287-0089

		COMING EVENTS	
SM	Nov 21	Mass	4:00
SJB	Nov 22	Mass	9:00
SM	Nov 22	Mass – Live-Streamed	11:00
SJB	Nov 24	Over 50's Group	12:30
SM	Nov 26	Thanksgiving Day Mass	9:00
SM/ SJB	Nov 27	No Prayer/Parish Office Closed	All day!
SM	Nov 28	Mass	4:00
SJB	Nov 29	Mass	9:00
SM	Nov 29	Mass – Live-Streamed	11:00
SM	Dec 4	Mass	Noon
SM	Dec 5	Mass	4:00
SJB	Dec 6	Mass	9:00
SM	Dec 6	Mass Live-Streamed	11:00
SM	Dec 6	Religious Education K-12	Noon-3:00
SM	Dec 7	Knights of Columbus Mtg.	6:00
SJB	Dec 8	Immaculate Conception Mass	Noon
SM	Dec 8	Immaculate Conception Mass	5:00

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Interested in being a Knight or needing a ramp for your home? Contact Grand Knight Perry McCrackin at 989-506-8044.Want clear concise news from a Catholic perspective? Watch EWTN – 370 Direct TV; -Dish or Family Life Radio 99.7FM.

"Keep Christ in Christmas" yard signs will be sold after all Masses the weekends of November 21& 22 and November 28 & 29. The cost is $15.00 per sign.

Adoption-Loving Option -1-616-667-0677
Pregnant? 1-800-712-HELP
Nationally, the Knights of Columbus have contributed over $100 million to more than 125,000 men & women **pursuing their vocations to the priesthood or religious life.**

NOTES FROM NANCY:

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe formerly known as the Solemnity of Christ the King. **If we are saying "yes" to Christ, then our tender shepherd will provide all that we need. Christ** will give us insight into where our gifts and talents are to be used. **He will give us the resources and time to respond "yes." Christ will give** us the strength and help us to respond to his call. **To be called** is not just for high school or young people. **Many times life experiences** prepare us to serve God in ways that we might never have acknowledged when we were 18, 25, or onward. **To be called** is not just for priesthood or religious life – Lay people greatly outnumber priests, sisters,brothers, etc. and **respond to God's call within parish work – what can YOU do in either parish? Take time to reflect…**and respond! This week is the end of our Liturgical Year A – 2026-27 – Year B is coming! **Perhaps it is time for you to return to church and bless (convalidate) your marriage. Interested in baptizing your infant or child? You only need to attend Baptism Class once.** Please call me at 989-584-6044 or 989-287-0089 to receive a Baptism Registration Form and set the date for the Baptism.



Interested in returning to Mass? Please leave your home, **drive** to either parish, **park** your car, **walk in** the church, **select** a pew **and participate – YOU are back –** ***WELCOME!!!***

Thanksgiving Day Mass will be held on Thursday, November 26th at 9:00 at St. Mary Parish. **Put the turkey in the oven, make a few sides, set the table on Wednesday night and come pray for YOUR family & peace!!!**

St. John the Baptist Parish
Nov. 22, 2026

Adult Envelopes: (22)	$ 960.30
Sunday Loose:	107.91
Tithe:	10.79
Total:	$ 1,079.00
Campaign Human Dev. (12)	337.00
Campaign Human Dev. Loose	99.00
CHD Total:	436.00
Grand Total:	$1,515.00

St. Mary Parish
Nov. 21 & 22, 2026

Adult Envelopes: (29)	$ 1,460.00
Sunday Loose:	342.00
Total:	1,802.00
Campaign Human Dev. (6)	135.00
Campaign Human Dev. Loose	430.00
Total:	565.00
Grand **Total:**	$ 2,367.00

Mass Intentions, parish envelope donations, donations to collections for Missions, etc. need separate checks as they are deposited into different accounts.
Thank you for your willingness and cooperation.

Please keep Janet Waldorf (sister-in-law of Connie Ladiski) in your prayers. Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen

ONLINE GIVING FROM THE WEB PAGE

Select: The Parish you wish to donate to. Each parish has its own Online Giving Page. **Click** on Sign in, **Enter** your e-mail (your e-mail will be your User ID). **Click below on** "Don't have an account? Create One" **Enter** your Login Information and remember your password. **Now you will be able to login & submit your information. You can set up recurring donations - weekly or monthly. You can also give one-time gifts as well.**

PLEASE NOTE: The credit card fees for Online Giving have doubled to $30.00/month/parish plus transaction fees

Suggestions for Credit Card USERS

1. Give an extra $1.00 to help with increase.

2. Give monthly instead of weekly to save on transaction fees.

Religious Education for students in Grades K-12 will be held on Sunday, December 6th at St. Mary Parish. **Parents & students** are welcome to have a pizza lunch from Noon – 12:30 p.m. **before each class. All are welcome!**

COME ONE, COME ALL!!!

Volunteers are NEEDED to pack & deliver Fruit baskets on Sunday, December 13th. Students and adults (OF ALL AGES) can help pack and then deliver the baskets. Cards with names and addresses on them will be provided. **If people from BOTH parishes help,** then 80 baskets should be delivered quickly.

Baskets will be packed & ready to go by 12:30 – CAN YOU HELP???

Save 10:00-Noon on Dec.8 for a **Morning of Reflection** at SJB Parish. **Interested?**

OUR DIOCESE AND BEYOND:

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:

O God, hear our prayer and let our cry come unto You. Bless the Diocese of Grand Rapids with many vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life. Give your sons and daughters the confidence to accept Your call, and the love to follow always in the footsteps of Your beloved Son with courage and dedication to your will. **Amen**

Seminarian: Jeffrey S. Davlin

Discernment is a time of prayerfully obtaining spiritual guidance and understanding. If you are considering the priesthood, the Diocese of Grand Rapids invites you to meet with other young men in high school and college to come together, pray, and discern God's will for your life.

Discernment Meeting Dates are:
2026: November 29
2027: Jan. 24, Feb. 28, April 25, May 23 from 12:30-1:30 at
St. Luke's University Parish
10144 42nd Ave.
Georgetown Twp. MI 49428 **RSVP:**
vocations@GRdiocese.org

Are you being called to become a deacon? The Office of Diaconate is calling men age 35 and over to a meeting on Monday, December 7 from 6:30-8:30 at Cathedral Square Center, 360 Division Ave. S., Grand Rapids. **To RSVP contact Deacon Jerry Roersma, Director of Deacon Formation, at 616-288-0913 or** jroersma@grdiocese.org

Mass of Healing, Recovery, Renewal Wed. Nov. 25 – 7:00 p.m. Parish of the Holy Spirit – GR Road to recovery – sobriety – grieving

Partners *in* FAITH™

Helping our children grow in their Catholic faith.

November 2026

St. John the Baptist Parish
St. Mary Parish

Thoughtful Moments

St. Gertrude the Great



Born in thirteenth-century Germany, St. Gertrude was raised and educated by Benedictine nuns. Little is known of her family, and she may have been orphaned. A gifted student with a love of languages, she eventually entered religious life. Around age twenty-five, she began experiencing visions of Jesus that continued throughout her life. Known for her deep holiness and compassion for rich and poor alike, St. Gertrude was especially devoted to praying for the souls in Purgatory.

Preparing for the King

Advent begins at the end of the month. This is a time of preparation. As we anticipate Christmas, the Church also calls us to prepare our souls for Heaven. Most importantly, we must welcome Christ daily through the Sacraments, by reading Scripture, acts of charity, and moments of prayer. Amid holiday preparations, are we making room for Him in our hearts?



"Behold, I stand at the door and knock" (Revelation 3:20).

Become a blessing to others

Thanksgiving offers Catholic families a unique opportunity to do more than count their blessings. It is a time when we can turn gratitude into action. We thank God by sharing His love with others. This Thanksgiving, start with three simple family commitments.



Name it. Before the meal, invite each family member, young and old, to name one blessing from the past year and one person they are especially thankful for. Thank God, the source of all blessings.

Serve one another. Give everyone a role in preparing the celebration, from setting the table to helping with cleanup. Encourage family members to express appreciation for something specific another person has done. Small gestures teach children that love can be active.

Share blessings. As a family, choose one meaningful act of generosity. Deliver a meal to a neighbor, donate groceries to a food pantry, or invite someone who might otherwise spend Thanksgiving alone.

Start a new tradition. Invite each family member to choose one way to turn gratitude into action. Children can help a neighbor or make a card for someone lonely. Parents can support a family in need or spend more quality time with their children. Small acts of kindness can make gratitude a year-round family tradition.

The greatest Thanksgiving lesson children can learn is that gratitude isn't just spoken. It's lived.

Why Do Catholics Do That?

Why do Catholics honor the saints?

Non-Catholics may wonder why the Church honors saints with feast days, prayers, and statues. Catholics celebrate these holy men and women, whom the Church recognizes as being in Heaven, as models of lives transformed by God's grace. Their example



reveals what is possible when we respond fully to His love. The saints reflect God's goodness, beauty, and holiness. Just as praising a masterpiece honors its artist, honoring the saints ultimately gives glory to God, the source of their holiness.

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Holiday hospitality: Put people before perfection

The holidays offer countless opportunities to welcome others, from family dinners to parish celebrations. Yet the pressure to make everything perfect can overshadow what matters most: the people we are with. Here are three ways families can practice meaningful hospitality.



Presence over presentation. A welcoming atmosphere matters more than flawless decorations or spotless rooms. Involve children in preparing for gatherings, from setting the table to greeting guests. They'll learn that hospitality means making others feel comfortable and valued.

Presence over performance. Hospitality doesn't prioritize making the perfect impression. Place the focus on others by including someone who feels left out, listening attentively, offering help, and responding graciously when plans change. Small gestures often leave lasting impressions.

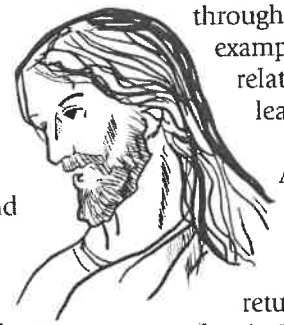
Presence over presents. Amid the excitement of gift exchanges, remind children that manners matter more than packages. Encourage them to read cards before opening gifts, thank the giver, and appreciate the thought behind each gesture.

This holiday season, remember that genuine hospitality isn't about perfection. It leads to kindness, generosity, and attention we offer others.

Scripture LESSON

Mark 13:33-37, Be watchful, be alert

On the First Sunday of Advent, the Church invites us to prepare not only for the celebration of Christ's birth, His First Coming, but also for His Second Coming in glory.



Because we do not know when Christ will return, Jesus calls us to remain watchful and spiritually prepared. This means examining our lives, turning away from sin, and growing closer to God through prayer and the Sacraments, especially the Sacrament of Penance. Living in a state of grace allows us to await His coming with confidence rather than fear.

Our preparation also has a missionary dimension. Having experienced God's love, we are called to share it through our words, actions, and example, inviting others into a relationship with Christ that leads to eternal life.

What can a parent do? Advent offers an opportunity to explain the Second Coming to our children. Jesus will return, not simply as the infant in Bethlehem, but as our glorious King. For those who love Him, this is a promise of hope and joy: the fulfillment of Christmas and the beginning of eternal life with God.

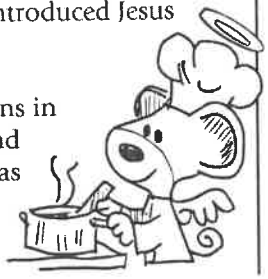
Feasts & Celebrations

November 21 – Presentation of the Blessed Virginia Mary. This memorial honors the tradition of her parents dedicating her to God at the Temple, reminding Catholics to embrace lives of faith and service.

November 23 – St. Clement I (97). Arrested by the Emperor Trajan for refusing to worship pagan gods, Pope St. Clement I was sent to work in the mines in the Crimea. He comforted and encouraged the other Christians there until his own martyrdom.

November 29 - First Sunday in Advent. We anticipate Christ's birth in Bethlehem and His second coming in glory on the Last Day. Catholics everywhere light candles in an Advent wreath to signal the coming of Christ who said, *"I am the light of the world"* (John 8:12).

November 30 - St. Andrew, Apostle (1st Century). The son of a Galilean fisherman and brother of Simon Peter, he introduced Jesus to Peter. After the Resurrection, he conducted missions in Turkey, Greece, and Macedonia. He was martyred on a X-shaped cross.



Parent TALK

"Why can't I have a Nintendo Switch like Ethan?"Eddie complained. It seemed every conversation lately circled back to his friend's cooler video games, bigger house, or better clothes.



One afternoon, I stepped into his bedroom and spotted an expensive Lego set abandoned on the floor. I sighed. Somehow, everything he had was becoming invisible next to what he wanted.

So, I taped a sheet of paper to the refrigerator and challenged each of us to write down one thing we appreciated each day. At first, Eddie's answers were simple: Legos, chips, books. But then he put more thought into his answers: A safe place to sleep, fun friends, people who loved him, and God's love.

After a month, Eddie was tickled by the more than thirty blessings he'd listed. His life hadn't changed, but the way he saw it had. Comparison magnified what was missing. Gratitude revealed what was already there.

Our Mission

To help parents raise faithful Catholic children

Success Publishing & Media, LLC
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(540)662-7844 (540)662-7847 fax
http://www.partnersinfaith.com
(Unless noted Bible quotes and references are from the Revised Standard Version and the New American Bible.)

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Dear Padre,



Why do some parishes have only priests who can't speak English well?

The short answer to your question is that in many instances, a diocese does not have enough priests to staff all its parishes. In this case, the bishop "recruits" priests from parts of the world where the number of priests is more abundant.

This is not a new practice. In the 1830s, American bishops were recruiting priests from Europe to staff the parishes in the United States. As a result, men like St. John Neumann and Blessed Francis Seelos came to the United States. They worked not only for the German immigrants, whose language they knew because they were German themselves, but also for the Irish, the French-speaking, the Native Americans, and any other Catholic group that needed Catholic pastoral service.

In the first half of the twentieth century, the American Church was able to send missionaries to Latin America, Asia, and Africa, where there were not enough Catholic priests. The Maryknoll Missionaries, for instance, were founded for this purpose.

Today, the situation has reversed. The places with the most Catholic priests are in Asia, Africa, and some Latin American countries, as well as in Eastern Europe. If these men are willing to make the sacrifice of leaving their homeland, family, and friends to serve us, shouldn't we make the effort to show some gratitude and hospitality to them?

Fr. Gary Lauenstein, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	**Tuesday**	**Wednesday**	**Thursday**	**Friday**	**Saturday**	**Sunday**
November 23	November 24	November 25	November 26	November 27	November 28	November 29
Weekday	*St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs*	*Weekday*	*Thanksgiving Day (USA)*	*Weekday*	*Weekday*	*First Sunday of Advent*
Rv 14:1–3, 4b–5	Rv 14:14–19	Rv 15:1–4	Sir 50:22–24	Rv 20:1–4, 11–21:2	Rv 22:1–7	Is 63:16b–17, 19b; 64:2–7
Lk 21:1–4	Lk 21:5–11	Lk 21:12–19	1 Cor 1:3–9	Lk 21:29–33	Lk 21:34–36	1 Cor 1:3–9
			Lk 17:11–19			Mk 13:33–37



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Artificial intelligence now demands to be "disarmed," freed from logics that turn it into an instrument of domination, exclusion, and death. Like nuclear energy, it must be at the service of all and of the common good. Decisions about technology must never be separated from conscience and responsibility.

ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 25, 2026

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