

Dear Padre,

Why is a US secular holiday like Thanksgiving on the Church’s liturgical calendar?

Since November 1969, the Proper Calendar offers a Thanksgiving Day Mass for US dioceses. While it also includes Independence Day, no suggestion is made for other civic holidays (Memorial Day, Labor Day, etc.). Instead, the *Roman Missal* provides “Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions” that are suited to these observances (*Ordo* #5, *GIRM* 368–378).

In the United States, November is associated with giving thanks to God. In 1623—three years after the Pilgrims sailed to this land on the *Mayflower*—a severe drought threatened their crops. Consequently, a day of prayer was observed, an abundant rain saved the harvest, and a Day of Thanksgiving was established. In 1863, President Lincoln issued a proclamation for “Thanksgiving and Praise to Our Beneficent Father” on the last Thursday of November (later moved to the fourth Thursday).

However, thanking God isn’t just a one-day event; it’s meant to be a perennial practice. Recall the lesson of the ten lepers healed by Jesus, only one of whom returned to thank him. (See Luke 17:11–19.) People who don’t take their blessings for granted return thanks to God in prayer. Therefore, offer brief prayers of gratitude to God throughout the day, every day, for such gifts as your health and faith, the freedoms allowed in this country, “thy daily bread,” and the Eucharist—a word that means “thanksgiving.”

“Become what you pray”—a grateful disciple of our Lord! ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
November 24	November 25	November 26	November 27	November 28	November 29	November 30
St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs	Weekday	Weekday	Thanksgiving Day (US)	Weekday	Weekday	First Sunday of Advent
Dn 1:1–6, 8–20	Dn 2:31–45	Dn 5:1–6, 13–14, 16–17, 23–28	Sir 50:22–24	Dn 7:2–14	Dn 7:15–27	Is 2:1–5
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	Rom 13:11–14
			Lk 17:11–19			Mt 24:37–44



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Listen to [Christ’s] offer of love and become his one family: in the One Christ, we are one. This is the path to follow together, among ourselves but also with our sister Christian churches, with those who follow other religious paths, with those who are searching for God, with all women and men of good will, in order to build a new world where peace reigns!

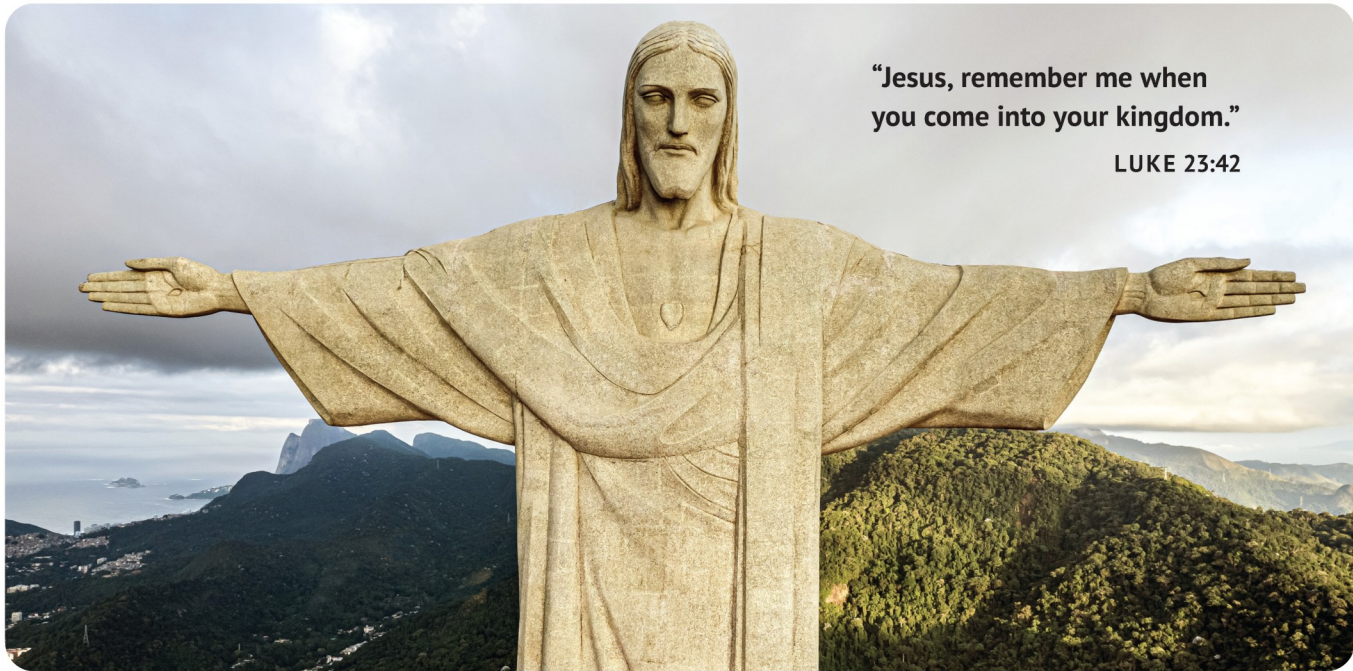
HOMILY, MAY 18, 2025

Our Parish COMMUNITY

November 23, 2025

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

2 Samuel 5:1–3 / Colossians 1:12–20 / Luke 23:35–43



“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

LUKE 23:42

The Hero King

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Some think of a myth as something once presumed to be true but discovered to be false. For example, we say it’s a myth that Christopher Columbus discovered America. There is, however, another quite different meaning to “myth,” as in a story that helps us understand life and how to negotiate it. Such myths are often centered around heroes who overcome great odds for the sake of the greater good. *Star Wars* and Luke Skywalker is one such myth. *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy and Frodo Baggins is another. These are myths capturing the need for courage and commitment to the good at the hero’s own expense. We often find ourselves wishing we could be like these heroes.

The biblical story of the Hebrew people can be thought of as such a myth, culminating in the story of Jesus. It differs from those other myths in that this story is not fiction. It is a saga that helps us understand and negotiate life as we live it. It culminates with the sacrificial death of the one we call King of the Universe. This King is a servant-king, one who gives his life for us so that we might live. Despite being urged by religious leaders and soldiers and the thief on the cross to save himself, he resists. Saving himself is not what he is about. Jesus is the King whose true myth we tell whenever we come together. ●

Editor’s note: This is Fr. Josph Juknialis’ final reflection for *Our Parish Community* bulletins. The new liturgical cycle begins next Sunday, November 30, 2025, and we will welcome three new reflection authors: Miguel Dulick, Ann M. Garrido, and Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR, the president and publisher of Liguori Publications. We thank Fr. Joe for his three years of insightful reflections and wish him well.

Reflect

What does servant-leadership mean to me in my job, my community, my home?



St. Paul Catholic Church

713 CRAWFORD STREET
VICKSBURG, MS 39180

Christ the King
November 22 & 23, 2025



St. Paul Catholic Church

713 CRAWFORD STREET
VICKSBURG, MS 39180

Christ the King
November 22 & 23, 2025

Parish Announcements

Congratulations

Congratulations to Hunter & Lily Johnson on the Baptism of their son, William, who was baptized on Saturday. We joyfully welcome him into our parish family.

Parish Christmas Party

Our Parish Christmas party will be on December 7th following the 10:30 AM Mass, and all are invited! The main dish for the meal will be provided; please visit our Meal Train website to sign up to bring a side dish. Go to Mealtrain.com and type in the link; mealtrain.com/potlucks/4g7k58

Christmas Flowers

Donations towards the flowers for the Christmas Season will be collected this weekend and can either be placed in the collection basket or dropped off at the office.

Our Condolences

The St. Paul community offers our prayers and sympathies to the Booth family for the loss of their brother, William. May he, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

I Give Catholic

St. Paul Parish is participating in I Give Catholic this year. This annual fundraiser falls the day after Thanksgiving. Funds that are raised will go toward beautification of the church. This year, Giving Tuesday is on December 2nd; however, advanced giving started Monday, November 17th. If you would like to give, please go to <https://www.igivecatholic.org/organization/st.paul-catholic-church-vicksburg>

Thanksgiving Week

The office will be closed starting on Wednesday, November 26th and continuing through Friday, November 28th for the Thanksgiving Holiday. There will be no daily Mass on these days.

Parish Calendar

NOV 23, SUN	Children's Church: Led by Aston Hotard Christmas Flowers Collection
NOV 24, MON	Offertory Counters: Pam Melsheimer & Marie Renaud
NOV 26, WED	No Daily Mass. No RCIA class– Thanksgiving Holiday
NOV 27, THUR	Thanksgiving Day - No Daily Mass
NOV 28, FRI	No Daily Mass

Offertory Summary

Weekly Budget\$7,700

Online Giving

Nov 10 - Nov 16 \$1,641

Weekend Offertory

Oct 25–26 \$3,168

Nov 1 & 2 \$5,869

Nov 8 & 9 \$6,427

Nov 15 & 16 \$3,488

Nov 22 & 23 \$____

Special Collections

November 2: Diocesan Missions....
\$95



Sign up for automatic online giving at www.osvhub.com/st-paulscatholic-church

Knights of Columbus

<https://facebook.com/kc898>

www.ms-kofc.com/898

Become a KNIGHT.
Scan this QR code to
join the Knights today!



NOV 25 Rosary 6:30 PM followed
by Recruitment & Ren-
tion Social

NOV 30 Fr. Marvin's Installation
Mass 9:00 AM @ St.
Mary's

DEC 2 Rosary 6:30 PM followed by
Council Meeting

Weekend Mass Schedule†

Saturday

#Confession 3:15-3:45 PM
Mass 4:00 PM

Sunday

#Confession 9:45-10:15 AM
Mass 10:30 AM

Daily Mass Schedule†

Monday 7:00 AM

Tuesday 12:00 PM

Wednesday 7:00 AM

Thursday 12:00 PM

Friday 7:00 AM

† All schedule updates can be found in the
Parish Calendar section of the bulletin.

‡ For Confessions during the week, please
call the Parish Office.

Mass Intentions

NOV 24, MON Rad Styron, Deceased

NOV 25, TUES Bill Pinner, Deceased

NOV 26, WED No Daily Mass

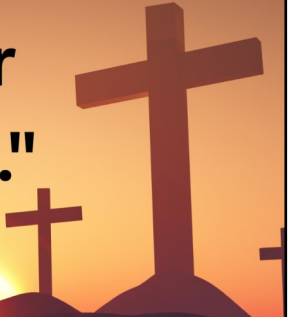
NOV 27, THUR No Daily Mass

NOV 28, FRI No Daily Mass

NOV 29, SAT Mary Martha Hilbun,
Deceased

To request a Mass Intention for a Daily Mass or
the Saturday Vigil Mass, please call, email,
or visit the parish office. Each Mass with no
intention is offered for all St. Paul's parishioners.

"Jesus, remember me
when you come
into your
kingdom."



Today's Readings

Visit bible.usccb.org
or scan this QR code
to find the readings



Check out our Social Media!

St. Paul
Catholic Church

@stpaulvicksburg

@stpaulvicksburg
@frrustyvinct

Sanctuary Flowers

The flowers placed at the
Ambo are in Memory of Joe
and JoeAnn Gerache

St. Paul Parish Staff

Pastor Fr. Rusty Vincent Office Manager Ashley Roesch Office Assistant Janis Koestler

Bookkeeper Beverly Connelly Maintenance Charles Hahn Organist Karen Harrison

Leadership & Ministries

Parish Council President Kevin Mahoney Finance Council Chair Bill Fulcher

Bereavement Story Ebersole RCIA Connie and David Hosemann, and Bruce Ebersole Meals On Wheels Jan Jackson, Christy Guizerix, and Rae Perry

Altar Flowers Cynthia Montalbano Homebound Janis Koestler Children's Church Ashley Lawrence

Baptism Prep Barbara Hill Confirmation Jordan Amborn