

PARISH BULLETIN

FEAST OF THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA – November 9, 2025

The parish schedule published herein continues to the weekend of November 30, 2025

As circumstances suggest, updates will be posted on the parish website.



Saint John XXIII Roman Catholic Church

3390 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3K 0Z3

Telephone: 204-832-7175 • Fax: 204-885-2447

Email: office.stjohnxxiii@gmail.com

Website: www.johnxxiii.ca

Office Hours: On designated afternoons until 4:00 pm
and at other times for pre-arranged appointments

SACRAMENT OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

SUNDAY LITURGIES (MASSES)

Saturday 4:00 pm, Sunday 9:00 am and 11:45 am

WEEKDAY LITURGIES

As announced in the schedule in this bulletin.

ASSISTANCE TO THE SICK AND SHUT-IN

For emergencies, you may contact the parish office.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS)

*As circumstances permit, on Wednesday evenings,
on Friday afternoons or by appointment.*

PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

Pastor: Reverend Fr. Robert Polz

204-832-7335 rpolz.stjohnxxiii@gmail.com

Custodian: José Barrera

204-888-9340

Pastoral Assistant: Sharon Camier

204-832-7206 scamier.stjohnxxiii@gmail.com

Music Ministry: Donna Vendramelli

204-888-8200 d_vendramelli@mymts.net

Trustee: William Gould

204-832-7175 william.d.gould@gmail.com

Parish Pastoral Council Facilitator: Laurette Burch

204-885-6988 burchd@mymts.net

Trustee: Derek Lobo

204-832-7175 dereklobo73@gmail.com

FAITH FORMATION:

Contact our Pastoral Assistant (Sharon) for further information concerning catechism materials for lessons to take place in the home setting and/or at church on Sunday mornings as circumstances permit.

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION (BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, EUCHARIST): Contact our Pastoral Assistant for further information.

SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Contact the Pastor (Fr. Robert).

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: Arrangements for preparation and celebration should be made at least six months in advance.

CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS: Contact the parish office before finalizing arrangements with funeral directors.



Your Gift to the 2025 SHARING GOD’S GIFTS ANNUAL APPEAL

We are pleased to announce this year’s *Sharing God’s Gifts Appeal!*

Commitment Sunday for this year’s Appeal will take place on November 23rd, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe – a fitting time to celebrate Christ’s reign of love and to reflect on our call to generosity and service. The overall goal of the Archdiocese is to raise \$1.2 million this year.

Small acts of kindness and generosity can create a lasting impact, transforming lives in ways we may never fully see. Through Sharing God’s Gifts (SGG), we can bring hope, compassion, and love to countless members of our faith community. Our gifts directly support ministries that impact lives of people every day. By participating in Sharing God’s Gifts we become an essential part of the mission. Our generosity helps sustain the many ministries and programs that share God’s love and serve those in need throughout our Archdiocese. For example:

- Youth and Religious Education: Help guide young people in faith through Religious Education, Youth Ministry, and Chaplaincy.
- Home Missions: Stand with Indigenous communities and parishes in need, sustaining pastoral care and essential programs.
- Clergy Support and Formation: Equip priests and deacons for effective ministry and assist seminarians preparing for leadership.
- Archdiocesan Ministries: Strengthen services that support parishes, liturgy, social justice, and sacramental life.

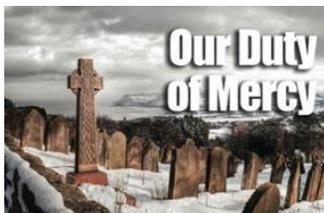
Our parish has been asked to raise \$28,196.00. We can accomplish this if, after prayerful consideration, everyone gives what they can. Let us all prayerfully consider making a gift—no gift is too small when offered with love! Any amount raised over our goal will be returned to our parish to be used for our parish’s particular needs.

If you wish to make your gift before November 23rd, you may pick up a Sharing God’s Gifts brochure available in the pamphlet rack at the south entrance to the church, or to participate today, you may go online and visit <https://archwinnipeg.ca/donate>. **If donating by cheque, please make it payable to SHARING GOD’S GIFTS.** On the weekend of Commitment Sunday, November 22nd – 23rd, everyone will have an opportunity, if they haven’t already done so, to make their gift or pledge to SGG.

Marriage Milestone Anniversary Celebration

November 16, 2025, St. John XXIII Parish, Winnipeg
11:45 am to 1:00 pm

On November 16th married couples celebrating a milestone wedding anniversary in 2025 will participate in a **special Mass of thanksgiving and renewal of vows** in honour of their Sacrament of Matrimony. His Grace, **Archbishop Murray Chatlain**, will preside at the celebration and offer a heartfelt blessing to couples marking significant anniversaries. This annual tradition, first introduced in our Archdiocese last year, is initiated by the Marriage and Family Life Synod Implementation Commission. Following the Mass, all are welcome to join a simple reception downstairs in the parish hall.



November is the Month of the Holy Souls

The *Book of the Names of the Dead* is a tangible sign of our solidarity with the rest of the Church in prayer for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed. **All are invited to take some time to remember their deceased loved ones, and to inscribe their names in this special book if not previously included.** The book has been placed on a table near the sanctuary and will remain there for the month of November.

POPE’S PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER

For the prevention of suicide – Let us pray that those who are tempted to commit suicide might find the support, care and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 9 – 30, 2025

As circumstances suggest, the schedule published here may be subject to change.

Sunday, November 9	FEAST: THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA
4:00 pm Saturday	MASS – <i>Jordan Braun+</i> , requested by <i>Laurette and Doug Burch</i>
9:00 am	MASS (livestreamed) – “ <i>Pro populo</i> ” / <i>Intentions of parishioners</i>
10:15 am – 11:15 am	CATECHISM CLASSES (<i>downstairs in the parish hall and classrooms</i>)
11:45 am	MASS – <i>Orlando Florida+</i> , requested by <i>Sigue family</i>
Monday, November 10	MEMORIAL: SAINT LEO THE GREAT, Pope, Doctor
	Mass (offered in private) – <i>Luz San Luis+</i> , requested by <i>Ruth Barbon</i>
Tuesday, November 11	MEMORIAL: SAINT MARTIN OF TOURS, Bishop
	REMEMBRANCE DAY
	Mass (offered in private) – <i>For all those who died in the defense of country and freedom+</i>
	N.B.: Parish Office will be closed today
Wednesday, November 12	MEMORIAL: SAINT JOSAPHAT, Bishop, Martyr
6:45 pm	OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS
7:00 pm	MASS – <i>Ignatius Wilson+</i> , requested by <i>the Wilson family</i>
	Mass this evening includes Rite of Reception into Full Communion of Kevin Richard Dyer
7:45 pm approx.	Inquiry Session – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (<i>downstairs in room 8</i>)
Thursday, November 13	FERIAL
10:30 am	MASS at Golden West Centennial Lodge, 811 School Road
	– <i>Patricia Arnal+</i> , requested by <i>Gloria Olson</i>
7:00 pm	Wedding Rehearsal – <i>Arvin Dela Cruz and Patricia Neameyer</i>
Friday, November 14	FERIAL
12:00 pm	Praying of the Angelus
12:10 pm	MASS – <i>Morris and Adele Hardman+</i> , requested by <i>Michael Hardman</i>
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Office Hours – call or ring door buzzer for assistance
3:00 pm	Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Saturday, November 15	FERIAL
1:00 pm	CELEBRATION OF MATRIMONY within Mass – <i>Arvin Dela Cruz and Patricia Neameyer</i>
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	LEGION OF MARY Praesidium Meeting (<i>downstairs in room 6</i>)
4:00 pm	MASS for Sunday – <i>George Bonnefoy+</i> , requested by <i>Bonnefoy family</i>
Sunday, November 16	THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
9:00 am	MASS – <i>Magno Sigue+</i> , requested by <i>Sigue family</i>
	N.B.: No catechism classes at church today – <i>lessons to be completed at home this week</i>
11:45 am	MASS presided by Archbishop Murray Chatlain (livestreamed)
	The 11:45 am Mass will include the renewal of marriage vows and the blessing of couples celebrating their milestone anniversaries. Reception to follow downstairs in the parish hall.
Monday, November 17	MEMORIAL: SAINT ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY, Religious
	Mass (offered in private) – <i>Mary Capri+</i> , requested by <i>Bonnie Pelczar</i>
Tuesday, November 18	FERIAL
10:30 am	Mass with students and staff of Saint Charles Catholic School at St. Charles Church
	– <i>Parishioners, parents, and others are welcome to join in this celebration</i>
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Office Hours – call or ring door buzzer for assistance
Wednesday, November 19	FERIAL
6:45 pm	OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS
7:00 pm	MASS – <i>Jeffrey Penner+</i> , requested by <i>Motuz family</i>
7:40 pm	Inquiry Session – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (<i>downstairs in room 8</i>)

Thursday, November 20	FERIAL 7:00 pm 7:45 pm	MASS – Douglas Arsenault+, requested by Tannena Korolyk PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL MEETING (downstairs in room 8)
Friday, November 21	MEMORIAL: PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 12:00 pm 12:10 pm 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm 3:00 pm	Praying of the Angelus MASS – Angela Krassie+, requested by Laurette and Doug Burch Office Hours – call or ring door buzzer for assistance Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Saturday, November 22	MEMORIAL: SAINT CECILIA, Virgin, Martyr 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm 4:00 pm	LEGION OF MARY Praesidium Meeting (downstairs in room 6) MASS for Sunday – Mary Capri+, requested by Bonnie Pelczar
Sunday, November 23	SOLEMNITY: OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE SHARING GOD'S GIFTS COMMITMENT SUNDAY 9:00 am 10:15 am – 11:15 am 11:45 am	MASS (livestreamed) – “Pro populo” / Intentions of parishioners CATECHISM CLASSES (downstairs in the parish hall and classrooms) MASS – Edith McNaughtan+, requested by Genevieve Defries
Monday, November 24	MEMORIAL: SAINT ANDREW DÜNG-LAC, Priest, AND COMPANIONS, Martyrs	Mass (offered in private) – Barry Burke+, requested by Dorothy Gair
Tuesday, November 25	FERIAL 10:30 am 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Mass (offered in private) – Intentions of Sue and Rene Gobeil, requested by Laurette and Doug Burch Fr. Robert is scheduled to attend a Council of Priests meeting at the Catholic Centre Office Hours – call or ring door buzzer for assistance
Wednesday, November 26	FERIAL 6:45 pm 7:00 pm 7:40 pm	OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS MASS – Frantisek Onderka+, requested by Henrietta Zhanel Inquiry Session – Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (downstairs in room 8)
Thursday, November 27	FERIAL	Mass (offered in private) – Intentions of Sharon Camier (birthday), requested by parishioners
Friday, November 28	FERIAL 12:00 pm 12:10 pm 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm 3:00 pm	Praying of the Angelus MASS – Intentions of Janet and Wally Williams, requested by Laurette and Doug Burch Office Hours – call or ring door buzzer for assistance Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy
Saturday, November 29	FERIAL 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm 4:00 pm	Today marks the end of the Liturgical Year of Grace 2025 LEGION OF MARY Praesidium Meeting (downstairs in room 6) MASS for Sunday – Monica Bird+, requested by Tannena Korolyk
Sunday, November 30	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9:00 am 10:15 am – 11:15 am 11:45 am	N.B.: Readings in this new liturgical year are taken from Year A of the Lectionary MASS (livestreamed) – “Pro populo” / Intentions of parishioners CATECHISM CLASSES (downstairs in the parish hall and classrooms) MASS – Rene Defries+, requested by Genevieve Defries

NRSV CATHOLIC BIBLES from the Canadian Bible Society are now available at the parish office:
Attractive Presentation Bible with imitation leather cover, presentation page, gilt edges, ribbon marker: \$35 per bible.
NRSV Bible with forest green hardcover and gold stamping: \$25 per bible.

TABERNACLE LAMP OFFERING

November 9 – November 15

Intentions of Jason Braun, requested by Sharon Camier

November 16 – November 22

Jordan Braun+, requested by Mom and Dad

November 23 – November 29

For safe and enjoyable travels, requested by Hermalyn Agcaoili



If you wish to have the Tabernacle Lamp in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of Saint John XXIII Church burn in memory of a loved one, to honour a special occasion, or for a particular intention, you may make arrangements through the Parish Office.

PLEASE PRAY for the loved ones of our community in need of healing and comfort:

Cathy Blaquera, Jean-Louis Charles, Betty Connor, René and Sue Gobeil, Bev and Steve Hewitt, Magdeline Johnston, Larry Kuyzk, Brett Lawrence, Kristy O'Toole, Lauran Peters, John Powell, Fr. Barry Schoonbaert, Jerome Strachan, Joe and Maria Wallack, Helen Yankoski.



If you wish your name or any of your loved ones to be included in our prayer list, please notify the parish office. Be sure to obtain the consent of persons concerned before submitting their names.

Parish Catechism Classes 2025 – 2026

Regular catechism classes have begun and are held on **Sunday mornings at 10:15 am** in the parish hall and classrooms. Children who will be receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist in the spring of 2026 as a **PREREQUISITE SHOULD BE ENROLLED NOW** in our regular catechism program held on Sunday mornings. Later this year further details will be made available about proximate preparation sessions for these two sacraments which will begin shortly after Christmas and will involve a mixture of lessons to be completed at church and at home. **To register your children and/or if you are willing to help as a catechist or catechetical assistant, please contact Sharon Camier, our pastoral assistant.**

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

How do I become Catholic?: Whatever path has led you to this time of searching or interest in becoming a baptized Christian or, if already baptized, to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process that could be Good News for you in your journey of faith. **RCIA inquiry sessions are held immediately following Mass on WEDNESDAY EVENINGS. Please contact Sharon at the parish office if you are interested in participating.**

St James Assiniboia Catholic Women's League

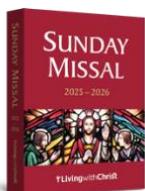
The next CWL General Meeting will be on Tuesday, November 25th at 2:00 pm at St. Charles Church. There will be no Mass to begin. St. Paul the Apostle members are to provide refreshments. Tickets for the Christmas lunch on December 2nd (11 am – 2 pm) at Viscount Gort will be available for sale for \$25. At the lunch, we will collect children's winter hats and mitts and cash donations for Brookland School. Membership renewal will also be accepted at \$45. We continue to collect men's toiletries (soap, deodorant, bodywash and shampoo) and non-perishable food items for Harvest Manitoba. If anyone needs a ride, please contact Jodeen Stewart at 204-891-4740.



Fertility Awareness Seminar

The Archdiocese of Saint Boniface invites engaged couples—and anyone interested in Natural Family Planning—to attend the upcoming Online Fertility Health Awareness Seminars this fall. These free sessions offer valuable insights into fertility awareness methods and their benefits for marriage and overall health. Two seminars are available: **November 17** (6:30 - 9:00 pm) featuring the Creighton & NaPro Method (register by November 10), and **November 26** (6:30 - 9:00 pm) featuring the Marquette Method (register by November 19). Registration is required at bit.ly/fhas-register. For more information, visit bit.ly/fertilityhealth-stboniface or contact the Office of Marriage, Family and Life: Marie at mfl@archsaintboniface.ca / 204-594-0274 or Nadine at mfl2@archsaintboniface.ca / 204-594-0295.

For other news and events in and around the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, go to: www.archwinnipeg.ca



Living with Christ SUNDAY MISSAL 2025 – 2026

Now Available at the parish office - Price \$7.25 each

Current English translation of the Roman Missal, COMPLETE Scripture readings for Sunday Masses, Reflections for all Sunday liturgies, Monthly Calendar of Saints, Inspiration from the Saints, Papal Prayer Intentions for each month of the year, etc. **Use of the new 2025-2026 edition commences on the weekend of November 30, 2025 which is the First Sunday of Advent.**

Kindergarten Open House

St. Charles Catholic School, 331 St. Charles Street, invites you to attend its Kindergarten Open House for the 2026-2027 school year on **Tuesday, November 25, 2026 at 6:30 pm.**

If your child was born in 2021, they will be ready for Kindergarten! Come and meet our Kindergarten teachers. You will hear about a Day in the Life of a Kindergarten student.

We are a K-8 school, offering full day, every day Kindergarten, Before and After School Care program – No waiting list to register for Before and After School Care, K-5 Orff Music program, K-8 French, K-2 Learn to Skate program, Gr. 6-8 Band, and a Gr. 6-8 Hockey Skills program. For more information, please visit our website at www.stccs.ca. Please call 204-837-1520 or email sec@stccs.ca to R.S.V.P. *Quality Education that is Intellectually Challenging and Faith Filled*



Saint Charles
Catholic School

Gaudete Sunday Fiesta

Sunday Afternoon, December 14, 2025, Saint John XXIII Parish Hall

The FAMILY CELEBRATION after the 11:45 a.m. Mass will include a Potluck Lunch, Rainbow Auction, SING-A-LONG ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS CAROLS, and other music and activities, including the well-loved smashing of the Piñata by the children.

ADMISSION is by MONETARY DONATION and/or by the DONATION OF FOOD for the Potluck Lunch. The donated food (preferably commercially prepared) will be set up buffet style in room 9. In the interest of health and food safety, as in previous years arrangements will be made for designated food handlers to serve the food buffet style. For those with food allergies and/or other health concerns, you are welcome to omit the buffet and bring your own bag lunch for your family.

If you are willing to donate items for the Rainbow Auction and/or help in other ways (e.g. provide food to share, soft drinks, juice, lead children's activities, assist with food service or clean up, etc.) please let us know in which area(s) you would like to help. You may contact the parish office at 204-832-7175 or email office.stjohnxxiii@gmail.com, or you may contact Norie Celestino at 204-881-0290 or Elona Paragas at 204-930-2426.

Memorial Christmas Appeal 2025

Given overwhelming support in recent years, we once again are soliciting donations for a Seventh "Memorial Christmas Appeal". **Those who have lost loved ones are invited to make a minimum donation of \$25 towards each ornament to be placed on the large Christmas tree which will be located in the sanctuary near the altar this Christmas.** The names of your departed loved ones will be specially printed onto ribbons to be attached to each Christmas tree ornament. Immediately following Mass on Wednesday evening, December 17th, we plan to place all the ornaments donated onto our Memorial Christmas Trees and officially turn on the Christmas tree lights.



Our pastor will offer a special Mass intention on Christmas Day, December 25th for the repose of the souls of all those remembered on our Memorial Christmas Trees. Your deceased loved ones will continue to be prayed for at Masses offered by our pastor throughout the entire Christmas season. At the end of the Christmas Season those who have contributed to the Memorial Christmas Appeal may take home the ornaments they have donated.

For Memorial Christmas Appeal envelopes and further information, you may contact our pastoral assistant, Sharon Camier, at the parish office for assistance after liturgies or during announced office hours. Thank you for your continued support.

Advent – Christmas Caroling Fundraiser

This year some parishioners are initiating a Caroling Fundraiser in support of Saint John XXIII Parish. Many of these parishioners are members of Couples for Christ and belong to the West 2 Chapter. Groups of carolers will be willing to visit homes, usually on the evenings of each weekend (i.e. Friday, Saturday and Sunday) throughout the Advent and Christmas Seasons.



If you are willing to welcome carolers and to make a generous donation to Saint John XXIII Parish, please visit or contact our parish office to add your name and contact information to the *Caroling Fundraiser List*. Alternately, you may contact directly the members of Couples for Christ involved to make arrangements for carolers to come out to your dwelling place.

Your welcoming of our carolers and your generous participation in this *Advent – Christmas Caroling Fundraising* effort is most appreciated. Special donation envelopes will be provided and income tax receipts may be requested. If you wish to contribute by cheque, please make your cheque payable to "St. John XXIII Parish". *What better way to spread the Christmas message of peace and love than to welcome a bunch of carolers to your home! Thank you for your kind support!*

Reflection for the Feast of the Dedication of Saint John Lateran – November 9, 2025

The temple is you

What would you include on a list of holy places: Jerusalem? Rome? The local cathedral? We might agree that houses of worship, cloisters, shrines, retreat centers, and burial grounds are consecrated places. Yet the personal encounters we have with the Holy Presence may be far from mutually determined spots.

I remember a hill my older brother and I climbed when I was 10. From the top we could see the whole valley of our small town spread before us. The church steeples were visible, all in a row, as were city hall, the firehouses, Main Street, and—tiny but perceptible from that distance—our house. Available to us from that exalted perspective was our whole world, a vastness that opened our hearts, expanded our minds, and caught our breaths. Something like reverence settled over us, and we were quiet as we stood up there. We were gazing at what was, to our young selves, a view of everything.

Holy places like these are as unique as each of us. We may be overwhelmed by a sense of the sacred in the middle of a forest or at the shore of the ocean. As impressive as such grandeur is, we may also find the holy in microcosms: a spider web sparkling with drops after a rain, or the sighting of a rare and wonderful bird. We may be tempted to take off our shoes in the presence of a gracious act of kindness, or in the demonstration of a noble spirit rising from the labyrinth of suffering. God's dwelling place, we come to understand, is not limited to tabernacles and sanctuaries. Artistic achievement can also inspire awe, and love blooming in our hearts assures us that God lives within as much as without.

Today we celebrate a basilica in Rome named after Saint John and its original donor, the Lateran family. It is a consecrated place which withstood centuries of destructive forces and yet endured—like the universal church itself. We celebrate the Lateran basilica as a symbol of all the holy places in this world, communal and personal, that elevate our thoughts and move our hearts to the grand contemplation of "everything." Such sites help us to see as God sees: from an exalted and unified perspective across the isolation of given moments and particular places. They help us leap from the personal to the universal, from the present hour to the eternal. Jesus once cleared the Jerusalem temple to prepare for the radical replacement of its authority with himself. Holy places invite us to consider how the Holy One once pitched a tent among us. We who believe in "God-with-us" become quite literally that sacred meeting ground in flesh and blood. Our very lives are holy places.

—Alice Camille

"Be angry and sin not."

—Saint Paul to the Ephesians (4:26)

"If you do not close your ear to others, you open God's ear to yourself."

—Saint Peter Chrysologus, bishop (406-450 A.D.)

Reflection for the Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time – November 16, 2025

The global garage sale

I recently sold my home and moved, so I know the heartache and hardship of seeing your whole life packed into boxes or tossed into the trash outright. Of course it's not "life" that's contained in our material possessions or even our idea of home. Yet it feels that way because we're incarnate beings for whom the tangible world is the most real one.

Cups and dishes, clothes and furniture, mementos of the years and adventures behind us: There may be little monetary value attached to these things, yet still they're precious, irreplaceable. I have a shirt that belonged to my dead sister: It's literally rotting and not my style and I never wear it and wouldn't surrender it at gunpoint. Our attachment to possessions isn't a moral issue until we make it one—until we cross the line where the things we own, own us back. We know we've reached that point when our decisions are based on things rather than people, values, and goals. Will we turn down the right job because it won't support our lifestyle? Do we not help a stranger because we don't want to muss our clothes? Do we withhold the check for disaster relief because of exaggerated car payments? Are our possessions making our choices for us?

As the church year slides predictably into Armageddon again, we're reminded that the stuff claiming our time and attention today will be gone in short order. Lo, the day is coming, the prophet warns once more, when the world we know is going into the dumpster. As we cling to every book we'll never read on every shelf of every room, we need to keep this phrase in mind: Lo, the day is coming, no kidding.

As the disciples followed Jesus fatefully into Jerusalem, the backwater folks around him struggled against the magnetic pull of material wealth. They were slack-jawed at the monumental scale of Herodian walls and buildings: Some stones weighed many tons and were in place at the expense of human lives. Perhaps they felt small and ignorant in the face of such grand things. They were also surely swept up in amazement that Rome and its loyal clients could command such resources. How could Jerusalem's greatness be disputed and the powers-that-be not seem attractive, worthy of honor, perhaps even

allegiance? Jesus meanwhile sniffs at these wonders as if at a bad odor. Where the disciples see magnificent walls, Jesus already sees ruins. And indeed, most of the great cities of the ancient world are reduced to ruins today: artful, historically significant, and gone, baby, gone. If we plant our hearts there, we follow our treasure into the rubble. — Alice Camille

Reflection for the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe – November 23, 2025

Friends in high places?

Let's drop some names. Who's the most impressive person you ever met? I had a glass of wine with Henri Nouwen some years ago. I was at a party attended by Hans Küng—though he certainly wasn't aware of me. I think I passed Yoko Ono at a crowded bazaar and was nine rows from Paul McCartney at a concert, speaking of the Beatles. I even sat next to a soap opera star at a funeral reception. That's the extent of my brush with royalty. My usual circles are far less august.

If my fate were uncertain and I had to make a midnight appeal to the person with the most juice possible, I'm afraid I'm not even on speaking terms with a bishop, mayor, or billionaire. It can be rotten to be unfriended by VIPs! So imagine being an anonymous person who did the crime and some time—and now your time is up and you're going to be executed. Where can you turn for hope of a reprieve?

In ancient times you turned to the king. Only from the throne could such judgment be rendered. Because kings ruled by divine decree, a king's declaration went from his mouth to God's ear. Kings were bigger than high priests, procurators, and all their tribunals put together. What the king said came to pass. The problem for the average anonymous insurrectionist was gaining access to a king in the 11th hour—or any hour for that matter. Because neither you nor any friend of yours were on speaking terms with royalty, you could kiss your life good-bye.

So here you are, wretched and hanging from a cross, bleeding and dying, along with two other condemned men. And one of them, honest to God, is this Jesus person you've heard about. Rulers and soldiers are sneering, his friends and followers have clearly abandoned him—except for a few powerless women. Yet you know he's here under very different auspices than you. He did not do the crime, and he should not be on this cross, suffocating and humiliated in public like this. People who should know better are shouting: *If you have friends in high places, Christ, why don't you call on them now?* It's incredible that they speak to him this way. Even you, who are no angel, are offended. You take it upon yourself, criminal though you are, to be the only lawyer the Son of Man will ever have to represent him. And because you spoke for Jesus in this awful hour, when he doesn't look anything like a King of the Jews or a Prince of Peace, today you'll sit in the highest place of all with him.

— Alice Camille

The above reflections have been adapted from previously published *Exploring the word*. Alice Camille is a religious educator, scripture commentator, and author of many books including **This Transforming Word** and other titles found at alicecamille.com
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“Stripped of everything yet rich in love, from his throne on the cross he no longer teaches the crowds by his words; he no longer lifts his hands as a teacher. He does more: pointing a finger at no one, he opens his arms to all. That is how he shows himself to be our king: with open arms.”

—Pope Francis (Homily at Asti Cathedral, Sunday, 20 November 2022)

Saint John XXIII Parish Stewardship of Treasure

New parishioners are encouraged to contact the parish office to register with the parish and to arrange for pre-authorized debit or a box of regular offering envelopes.

If you prefer to donate via e-Transfer, go online and login to your online banking account.

For name of recipient you may use **ST. JOHN XXIII PARISH**

and be sure to use this **new email address: finance.stjohnxxiii@gmail.com**

Transfers sent to finance.stjohnxxiii@gmail.com will be automatically deposited to the account of TRUSTEES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF SAINT JOHN XXIII at RBC Royal Bank.

When making your contribution via Interac e-Transfer through your financial institution, please be sure to INDICATE IN THE MESSAGE/MEMO line what your payment is for.

As well, we urge parishioners to continue their regular contributions to our capital campaign to help pay off the debt of the loans our parish has received from the Trustees of the RCAW Inc.

For further information, you may contact staff in the parish office and/or check out information in previous parish bulletins published earlier in the year. Copies are available for viewing on the parish website.

A sincere THANK YOU for your continued generosity and support of our parish and its ministries!