

Christ Our Light Catholic Church

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston
9677 HIGHWAY 6 • NAVASOTA, TEXAS

OFFICES AND MAILING ADDRESS
510 Manley Street • Navasota, TX 77868

Phone: 936-825-3920 • Fax: 936-825-7612

Religious Education: 936-825-1869

After hour emergencies: 936-825-3920

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday

9:15am - noon & 1:00pm - 5:00pm

Friday 9:15am- noon

Other times by appointment

Website: www.christourlight.org

PASTORAL STAFF

Pastor Rev. Elías López

Grant Holt, Permanent Deacon

Garry Janota, Permanent Deacon

Russell Pasket, Permanent Deacon

Gregory Jelinek, MD, Permanent Deacon (Retired)

Ryan Burns, Seminarian in Resident

ADMINISTRATION & BOOKKEEPER

Nelda Kurten

COORDINATOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Carolyn Katkoski

DIRECTOR OF LITURGY AND MUSIC

Susan Russell

SACRISTAN

Samuel Pry

PASTORAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Michael Culver (Chairperson), Teresa Morales, Jason Katkoski, Laura Quirino, and Sam Pry

FINANCE COUNCIL

Teresa Morales, Carolynn Katkoski

DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN

Deacon Grant Holt, Jason Katkoski, Bill Heathcott, Gregorio Gonzalez

RE BOARD

President: Brandi Tejeda, Vice President: Jessica Herrera

Secretary: Teresa Morales, Board Members: Lucy Coronilla, Jason Katkoski, Allyson Sweeney, Den Grant Holt

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Deacon Grant Holt, Danny Clark, Richard Krolczyk, and Joe Rangel

YOUTH MINISTER COORDINATOR

Jessica Herrera

SUNDAY EUCHARIST

Saturday Vigil: 6:00pm

Sunday: (English) 8:00am

Sunday: (Spanish) 1:00pm

WEEKDAY EUCHARIST

First Saturday 9am

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30am

Tuesday 6:00pm (English)

Thursday 6:00pm (Spanish)

ROSARY PRAYED IN COMMON

Tuesday & Thursday: 5:40pm

Wednesday & Friday: 8:10am

Saturday: 5:15pm

Sunday: 7:15am & 12:15pm

RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION

Tuesday, Thursday and

2nd & 4th Saturdays 5:00-5:45pm

and by appointment 936-825-3920

RECONCILIACION/CONFESIONES

Los Martes, jueves y el

segundo y cuarto sábado a las 5:00-5:45pm

y por cita 936-825-3920

November 21, 2021 - Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Christ Our Light Catholic Church • Navasota, Texas

November 20 & 21, 2021

Under the Patronage of St. Patrick and Our Lady of Guadalupe

MASS SCHEDULE & INTENTION

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22

No Mass

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

5:30 PM Deborah Ann Alwell †

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

8:30 AM Cecil Wilde †

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 25—THANKSGIVING DAY

9:00 AM Celeste Coronilla, Birthday

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26

No Mass

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27

6:00 PM Linda † and Ana † Escamilla

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

8:00 AM Henry Wisnoski †

1:00 PM People of the Parish

*Spanish

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22

5:00 PM Spanish, Legion of Mary, Cry room, CH

6:00 PM Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible, SPH

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

5:00 PM to 5:45 PM Confession, CH

7:00 PM English Choir Practice, CH

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24

After Mass Providing meals for those in Need

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27

10:00 AM Decorate for Advent, CH

5:00 PM to 5:45 PM Confession, CH

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28

10:15 AM CCE Grades 6-12th, SPH

Christ Our Light Catholic Church



The Archdiocese of Galveston - Houston

The Church is open every day from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. for people to come stop by and Pray.

FEAST OF FAITH — Procession

"The Mass is ended, go in peace." At the beginning of Mass, the ministers entered in solemn procession, an emblem of the diverse community that comes together around the altar each week to celebrate the Eucharist. As Mass ends, another procession forms, and the ministers go forth from the church. This concluding procession also acts as an emblem of the entire assembly, who, nourished by the Eucharist, will now go forth to our scattered homes and places of work to be a transforming leaven of the gospel in the world. At the beginning of Mass, the priest kissed the altar as a sign of greeting, a gesture of reverence for Christ. Now, the priest reverences the altar again, this time in a gesture of farewell. We gather our things and go forth as we entered—but not quite. Through our celebration of the Eucharist, we have renewed our commitment to service of Christ our King, and we go forth nourished, strengthened, renewed—changed. —Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

E-Mail Addresses for the Parish

To e-mail Fr. Elias...fr.eli@christourlight.org

To e-mail Nelda: nelda@christourlight.org

To e-mail RE Board: reboard@christourlight.org

Christ Our Light web-site: www.christourlight.org

BULLETIN DEADLINE TUESDAY 12:00 NOON

Announcements and or articles are to be submitted in writing to the Parish Office, or faxed to 825-7612 or e-mailed nelda@christourlight.org.

Events, meeting etc. for the Parish Calendar are to be submitted in writing to the Parish Office in advance.

AFTER MASS WEEKLY PULPIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deadline Tuesday, 12:00 Noon. Announcements are to be submitted in writing to the Parish Office. The Pastor reserves the right to pick and choose which announcements are made in this forum as there is a need to keep these to a minimum.

Todos los anuncios deben ser presentados por escrito en la oficina de la parroquia no mas tarde que los martes al mediodia. El Pastor decidirá si las noticias son de importancia para ser pronuncia das.

PARISH REGISTRATION

To our new parishioner, we welcome you to Christ Our Light Parish. Please register at the parish office or ask one of the Hospitality Ministers to help you. For parishioners moving out of the parish or changing your address or phone number, please notify the parish office, 825-3920.

Sacrament of Baptism Schedule



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English Baptism Class Schedule for 2021: 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM, October 9th **PARTICIPANTS MUST REGISTER AT LEAST 1 WEEK PRIOR TO CLASS.** To register please contact Deacon Grant Holt at 936-825-6448 or Lucy Coronilla at 936-419-9296.

Spanish Baptism Class Schedule for 2021: 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM, October 24th. For Information, call Rosa Torres at 936-419-8974

ALL DOCUMENTS AND FORMS must be completed and turned in before Baptism Date. SCHEDULED Baptism will be celebrated once a month at 11:30 AM in English every 3rd Saturday and every 4th Saturday at 11:30 AM in Spanish following completion of the baptismal classes the prior month and Fr. Eli has been informed in advance. The Sacrament of Baptism is a communal celebration. Therefore, private baptisms are not celebrated here.



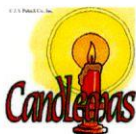
**PRAY for THE CONTINUING
RECOVERY OR COMFORT OF
the infirmed and homebound
members of our community.**

Sarina Alo, Andrew Castillo, Jo Ann Clepper, Frank Crouch, Elizabeth Culmer, Herman Culmer, Eva Estrada, Liz Estrada, Lois Finke, Fabryna Hitchcock, Liz Johnson, Rachel Kammel, Mary Ann Knowles, Liz Kubricht, Glenda Lawrence, John Lawrence, Nancy Lopez, Ramon Mendez, Christian Mills, Leslie Mills, France Munoz, Delia Nunez, Anita Olguin, Leona Pasket, Cecilia Pearson, Angelina Peterson, Wallace Peterson, Irene Ramirez, Lucila Rivera, Zek Rueda, Rosalinda Salazar, Josh Sechelski, Sherrie Shiflett, Dana Sowell, Lydia Torres, Jessie Torres, Robert Mario Torres, Jessie Valadez, III, Crystal Winkler.

Call the parish office when a member of our community has a need to be remembered in prayer, 825-3920.

Also, if you have added a name to the prayer list, **please call to let us know when to remove the name from the list.**

Thank you.



New Memorial Candles

The new Candle Stands are electrical.

Anyone wanting to light a candle may do so by pressing the red button and give an offering. The candle will burn for 12 hours. Memorial Candles burning for one year are \$150.00 each. Come by the parish office to schedule and pay your offering of \$150.00 for your Memorial candle.



**YOUR PARISH
SUPPORT
SU APOYO
PARROQUIAL**

TRESASURE YOU HAVE SHARED:

GIFTS FOR GOD — YOUR TITHE REPONDS

November 13 & 14, 2021

(69) Offertory Envelopes/Loose Checks, On Line Giving,	
Mail Ins, Drop Ins	3,852.00
Children Offering	39.00
II Collection, Maintenance	1,353.81

Thank you thank you for Mailing, Bringing in, and On Line Giving your Offertory. Baskets will be passed during the Offertory. Baskets will also be passed when we have a II Collection.



The Flowers this past weekend
Were in Memory of Cecil Wilde.
The parish thanks Dorothy Wilde.

In Our Prayers

We remember in prayer our friends and loved ones in active military duty, both in and out of harms way, in the service of their our country. Pray for peace in the world and for our leaders.

SSG Jorge Aguilar, Jr., Alexander Cortez,
Jesus Cortez, Spec. SFC Antinia Franco, ISG, Jason Malek, Antonio Magallon, Jose Rene Milan,
Christopher Munoz, Javier Salinas, Shelby Seale,
SSgt Allen Thane

**OUR HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS
FOR NOVEMBER**

Universal Intention — People who suffer from depression. We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.



**P.E.R.A. (Perpetual Eucharistic
Reparative Adoration)**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has resumed on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. following the 8:30 AM Masses and will be reposed at 9:00 PM on Wednesdays and Friday and Thursdays at 5:45 PM before the 6:00 PM Spanish Mass.

The "Church and the world have a great need for Eucharistic worship. Jesus awaits us in this sacrament of love. Let us not refuse the time to go to meet him in adoration, in contemplation full of faith, and open to make amends for the serious offenses and crimes of the world. Let our adoration never cease."

Please call Mary Rangel @ 936-419-9024 to sign up for a time slot on Thursdays.

**THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND
Web site is FORMED.ORG**

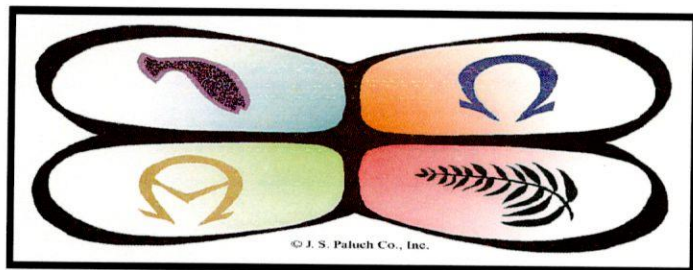
The Parish Code to access the website is
MVMZKF

Then register to create an account.

**There are 2 easy ways to connect to
FLOCKNOTE (pick one):**

NOTE: Do not use Mozilla Firefox browser.

1. Visit our church at: www.flocknote.com/chistourlightchurch
2. Text SPOLG to 84576 from your phone to subscribe to updates.



Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe November 21, 2021

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead and ruler of the Kings of the earth.
—Revelation 1:5

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Every 1st weekend of the month (Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses) blessing of all who have a birthday or Wedding Anniversary during the month.

MONTHLY REFRESHMENTS AFTER MASSES

Refreshment will be served after Masses the first Sunday of each month. The refreshments and service will be provided by the following:

Altar Society—January and July
Pastoral Council—February and October
Finance Council—March and September
R.E. Board—April and August
Stewardship—May and November
Choir—June and December

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe “Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom does not belong to this world.’ John 18:36 Life is short. How much time, energy and money do you put into building “your” kingdom here on earth? We all know we can’t take it with us. The real kingdom is in the next life. Yet, how much time, energy and money do you invest in working for that eternal kingdom? Ask God for His guidance. Detach from earthly possessions. Generously share your material goods with others for the greater glory of God.

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REFLEXIONES DEL BOLETIN DE CORRESPONSABILIDAD

La fiesta de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo, el Rey del Universo — “Jesús respondió, ‘Mi reino no pertenece a este mundo’.” Juan 18:36 La vida es corta. ¿Cuánto tiempo, energía y dinero ha puesto para construir “su” reino aquí en la tierra? Todos sabemos que eso no podemos llevárnoslo. El reino real es en la otra vida. Sin embargo, ¿qué tanto tiempo, energía y dinero invierte en trabajar para ese reino eterno? Pídale a Dios que lo guíe. Sepárese de sus posesiones terrenales. Comparta generosamente sus bienes materiales con los demás para la mayor gloria de Dios.

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TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — One like a Son of man received dominion, glory, and kingship (Daniel 7:13-14).

Psalm — The Lord is king; he is robed in majesty (Psalm 93).

Second Reading — Jesus Christ is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead (Revelation 1:5-8).

Gospel — For this I came into the world, to testify to the truth (John 18:33b-37).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

PLEASE PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

*Pray for
Vocations*

to the Priesthood and Religious Life especially in our

Archdiocese.

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MEMORIALIZING THE SANCTUARY CANDLE

If you are interested in memorializing the Sanctuary candle, in memory of, in personal reverence and petition or Special Intention for the week, stop by the parish office for more information.

ParishSOFT
Giving

SIGN UP NOW

Sign Up for Christ Our Light
Online Giving Now

Christ Our Light now accepts online giving. Parish Soft is our parish’s online giving program. Enroll at the link below. It is secure and easy to use. You will be able to use Parish Soft for normal tithing and special collections throughout the year. Apps are available, so your cell phones/tablets can be used for online giving.

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/dl?uid=chri510191>

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II Collections in November

November 20th & 21st — Campaign for Human Development

November 27th & 28th — DSF Shortfall of Our Assigned Goal

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A THANKFUL HEART — A thankful heart is not only the greatest virtue, but the parent of all the virtues. —Cierco

DIOCESAN SERVICES FUND 2021

DSF Goal \$25,000.00
Gifts Received \$16,842.57
57 Donors

IGNITE

Ignite Parish Goal \$208,632.00
Gifts Amount Received \$70,406.00
39 Donors

An Invitation

"All Women in the BCS Deanery are invited to a special presentation on December 4 from 1-3 PM at the PAC at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Bryan, Texas. Kevin Wells, an award-winning journalist, author, evangelist, and great defender of the Catholic faith, will give a talk on "THE WOMEN WE NEED TO NOURISH THE CHURCH." He has spoken on the National Catholic stage including EWTN, TIMY, Legatus, and at hundreds of other men's and women's conferences. Don't miss this opportunity. Admission is free.

Organizer-Meredith Olson, a parishioner at St. Thomas Aquinas olsonjm25@aol.com
Monica Mize monica.mize87@gmail.com

This is a Deanery-wide event for women.

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Servicio penitencial de adviento

Prepare the way of the Lord

SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday, November 30, 2021 WHERE: Christ Our Light Catholic Church TIME: 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. There will be several priest to hear confessions in English and Spanish.

RESERVE LA FECHA: MARTES 30 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2021 Dónde: Iglesia Católica Cristo Nuestra Luz Habrá varios sacerdotes para escuchar confesiones in inglés y español.



We are planning to provide meals for families and people in need once again this year. Please stay tuned for more information on how you and your family can help us feed those in our community on Thanksgiving Day. If you have any questions, please get in touch with the Sweeney family at allyson@thesweeneys.org, or sign up on the sign up sheets in the Narthex of the church.

Estamos planeando proporcionar comidas para familias y personas necesitadas una vez más est año. Estén atentos para obtener más información sobre cómo usted y su familia pueden ayudarnos a alimentar a los miembros de nuestra comunidad el Día de Acción de Gracias. Si tiene alguna pregunta, comuníquese con la familia Sweeney en Allyson@thesweeneys.org. O regístrate en las hojas de registro en el Narthex de la iglesia. Gracias.

CHRIST OUR LIGHT 2021 BAZAAR REPORT

Booth	Revenue	Donations	Expenses	Net 2021	Net 2020
B.B.Q. Dinners	6,307.50		590.11	5,717.39	5,046.43
Meat by the Pound	807.00			807.00	290.00
Bazaar Donations		600.00		600.00	240.00
Fruit Cup Booth	361.00			361.00	
Junk Food Booth	541.30		172.44	368.86	
Religious Goods	129.00			129.00	380.00
Tacos					
Mechanical Bull	465.00			465.00	
Funnel Cake	350.00		80.11	269.89	95.00
Auction	20,235.00	1,350.00	266.78	21,318.22	12,495.00
Cake Booth	1,140.30			1,140.30	
Silent Auction	2,540.00			2,540.00	
Children's Booths	491.50			491.50	
Fruit Booth	1,145.00	669.05	812.65	1,001.40	400.59
Grocery Booth	897.25			897.25	1,225.00
Corn Booth	222.00			222.00	382.75
Plant Booth	645.85			645.85	976.00
Raffle	31,363.00		8,897.75	22,465.25	26,548.00
Raffle Prizes					83.19
Raffle Tickets, Envelopes and Posters		972.00	1,152.85	-180.85	-734.71
Coke Booth					252.00
Toy Booth					309.50
Dominoe Game	1,400.00			1,400.00	1,400.00
Train	102.00			102.00	
Wine Toss	335.00		56.92	278.08	
Beer, Wine & Coke	1,075.30	980.95	537.32	1,518.93	804.81
Agua Frescars	600.00			600.00	328.00
Country Conner Store					94.81
Postage			475.30	-475.30	-92.50
Mexican Game	527.00			527.00	
Advertisment			252.00	-252.00	-267.00
Safety Items, Gloves, Wipes Etc,			97.10	-97.10	
Portable Toilets/Hand Washing			310.00	-310.00	-435.00
Social Distance Signs			247.00	-247.00	-255.00
Overage	178.14			178.14	569.19
Totals	71,858.14	4,572.00	13,948.33	62,481.81	50,136.06
Net				62,481.81	50,136.06

Outstanding Auction \$1,220.00

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE. YOUR ARE APPRECIATED.

Congratulations to our students who were Confirmed on November 6th. Continue to keep them in your prayers.

Angel Gonzalez

Callan Katkoski

Corner Dennis

Cristofer Abeja

Diego Hernandez

Edgar Hernandez

Francisco Herrera

Jimena Murillo

Jonathan Castaneda

Juan Mijangos

Marisol Tovar

Matthew Sosa

Monica Cienfuegos

Nancy Abeja

Ramon Arredondo

Rebeka Castanon

Rosario Lopez

William Reyes



November 21, 2021

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Dn 7:13-14 | Rv 1:5-8 | Jn 18:33b-37

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Many Americans have a fascination with royalty. We love to follow the royal family in real life and via the binge-worthy *Crown* series on Netflix. As royal-watchers know, the crown isn't all it's cracked up to be! History and experience, too, show that earthly kingdoms include their share of divisiveness, betrayal and, at times, a total disregard for other people. Jesus gives us a different kind of kingdom and kingship to aspire to – one based on truth not fiction, and born of suffering and not succession. Jesus did not seek earthly glory but endured a crown of thorns and death on a cross to establish the kingdom of heaven – a kingdom that perfects us and unites us with the Holy Trinity. So it is fitting that as we end the liturgical year, we honor Jesus as King of the Universe – heaven, earth, and all creation. Jesus established his kingdom by sacrificing himself out of love for us. By our baptism we have a share in this holy identity, and therefore, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we have the authority and power to proclaim Christ's Kingship to all the world by our words and deeds. In this way we are able to serve the one true king, and participate in building God's kingdom on earth.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Some people aren't shy about saying where they stand: I'm especially fascinated by bumper stickers. We don't like to talk about politics or religion, but somehow it's OK to proclaim our most deeply held beliefs as we tool down the highway. As we celebrate Jesus as King of the Universe, it's a good time to ask ourselves: Is Jesus king of *our* universe? If so, how do we proclaim it? Bumper stickers can be fun, but sharing our belief in Jesus as our Savior requires human interaction. Introverts like me may find it difficult, but we can witness to our faith in a number of ways: Yes, through conversation, but also through the priorities we choose and the examples we set. As members of the kingdom of God – present on earth but not yet fully realized – our baptismal vocation is to participate in Christ's priestly, prophetic, and kingly mission. We can ask Jesus to help us find the words and actions that best help us do so.

PREPARE Advent starts next Sunday! Just as we prepare for major holidays like Christmas and Thanksgiving, we can start roughing out an Advent "menu." How will we observe as a family this year? What are our goals for the season? What can I accomplish in the week ahead to free up Advent for prayerful preparation?



God speaks to us in many ways, including through the Sunday Scripture readings. The Sunday Connection provides useful background and activities to better understand the upcoming Sunday's Scripture readings, helping you to connect the Scripture to daily life in a meaningful way.

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King (Thirty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time), Cycle B

Sunday, November 21, 2021

Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday is the last Sunday of the Church's liturgical year. On this Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. Each year we set aside this Sunday to reflect upon this title that we have given to Jesus. In Lectionary Cycle C, we read a portion of the passion from the Gospel of John, which is also part of the Gospel reading proclaimed each year on Good Friday.

In John's Gospel, Pilate is shown in a more favorable light than in the other Gospels. In today's reading, we hear one of two dialogues between Jesus and Pilate that are reported in John's Gospel. Pilate questions Jesus about the charges brought against him. Caiaphas and the high priests have charged Jesus with a political crime, one that would require a punishment of death. Pilate distances himself from the Jewish leaders who accuse Jesus; he is not a Jew, and he seems to want little to do with this Jewish affair.

In his responses to Pilate's questions, Jesus distinguishes his kingdom from the political powers of this world. King and kingdom may be appropriate terms for Jesus' mission and promise, but only by analogy. Jesus is king, but not the kind of king we imagine or expect. He was certainly not the kind of king Pilate feared he might be.

Jesus refers to a kingdom that does not belong to this world. This has been mentioned earlier in John's Gospel. Recall that in his prayer during the Last Supper discourse (see John 17:6-18), Jesus prayed for his disciples who are in the world but do not belong to the world. Yet like Jesus, they are sent into the world for the world's salvation. In today's reading, we see Jesus identify the final proof that his kingdom is not of this world: If his kingdom were of this world, then there would be people fighting to save him. Again we hear echoes of John's theme—salvation is worked out through a cosmic battle. It is helpful to return to the first chapter of John's Gospel to understand the context for Jesus' words to Pilate. Jesus came into the world, but the world did not know him. In John's language, the world prefers the darkness, and yet the light will not be overcome by the darkness.

Truth has been another important theme in John's Gospel. We see it emphasized in the conclusion of the dialogue between Jesus and Pilate. Those who know the truth will recognize Jesus as king and will know how to interpret this insight. Yet Jesus' kingship was hidden from many of his contemporaries. Only those chosen, those who have the eyes of faith, are able to see. As modern disciples of Jesus, we also struggle at times to recognize Jesus as king. Today's Gospel invites us to see with eyes of faith that we might recognize that Jesus, through his crucifixion and death, is indeed king and Savior of all.

Gracious Givers

Lay Reader Message

We are Accountable

The need for us to be accountable is well illustrated in the Parable of the Talents found in Matthew 25:14-30. Three servants were entrusted with a lot of money before their master went on a journey. One servant was given five talents, one two, and one one. They were given a period of time to put their funds to work. In Matthew 25:19 we read, *"After a long time the Master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them."* The servants knew the Master would return from his trip, and they would have to give an account of the money given to them. There would be a Day of Judgment, an accounting of their responsibilities. Two servants were very faithful and went out and invested their talents wisely, and they heard the words we all want to hear, *"Well done, good and faithful servant."* For those who do well, the accounting is a time for rejoicing. If a man is able to turn his talents from five into ten, he is praised for doing good work.

The parable is truly a picture of life itself. We are born into the world with certain talents and abilities which we do not choose. They are gifts from outside us, talents from God. Each of us is given a period of time in which to use these talents—our life span. Then at the end, beyond death, comes judgment, an accounting to render of our days upon earth.

As stewards, we understand our need to be responsible in our stewardship because we know that we at some time we will be held accountable. Our accountability provides an encouragement for us to use our time, talents, and treasures faithfully and properly. Accountability does imply hard work and effort. It conveys our responsibilities, not to take our tasks lightly. However, we know that God is always with us, and, with his help and strength, we can accomplish much.

We are accountable to God because he is the creator and owner of all. We become his stewards because he has chosen to entrust us with his love, grace, and mercy for which we are to render faithful and wise service. As the Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 4:2, *"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful."* Jesus' words, recorded in Luke 12:48 are, *"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."*

God, who loves us and calls us each by name, will enable us to be faithful and accountable stewards.

Give Thanks TO THE LORD

For Americans, Thanksgiving Day is a special day when we celebrate family unity. In fact, families get together on Thanksgiving more often than on any other holiday, including Christmas.

But besides the traditional family get-together and the big meal, there is also the religious meaning of the holiday that has been present since its origins. According to tradition, the pilgrims celebrated the first meal of thanksgiving in 1621 together with a group of natives to give thanks to God for the abundance of the harvests in the new world.

In 1789 President George Washington recognized an official holiday of "sincere and humble thanks." Later, in

1863, Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a national holiday to be celebrated usually on the last Thursday of November.

Today, we celebrate Thanksgiving not only as a national holiday but also as a day symbolic for Catholics. After all, the word *Eucharist* comes from the Greek word, *eucharistein*, which means *thanksgiving*.



The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* reminds us that "Believing in God, the only One, and loving him with all our being has enormous consequences for our whole life" (#222). Then it adds that this includes "living in thanksgiving: if God is the only One, everything we are and have comes from him: 'What have you that you did not receive?' (1 Cor 4:7) 'What shall I render to the Lord for all his bounty to me? (Ps 116:12)'" (#224).

Although Thanksgiving is not a strictly a religious holiday, nevertheless because a eucharistic celebration is most appropriate the US Bishops encourage US Catholics to celebrate it with readings taken from the Mass "In Thanksgiving to God" found in the *Lectionary for Ritual Masses*.

Thanksgiving should not only be celebrated with a deep sense of prayer, gratitude and joy, but the celebration this day should lead us to remember that our lives are a continual thanksgiving through our daily activities, all of which should give glory to God, especially through the celebration of the Eucharist.



Thanksgiving at Home

For Christians, every Sunday is Thanksgiving Day, for the term *eucharist* comes from a Greek word which means “thanksgiving.” The American Catholic *Lectionary* includes an appendix with readings for Thanksgiving Mass. Perhaps it is fitting that Thanksgiving is not a mandatory feast, for gratitude is best served by voluntary expressions like the ones suggested below.

Give from Your Table: Numerous agencies, parishes, and food banks offer opportunities to feed the hungry at Thanksgiving. Give what you are able to support those efforts.

Bless Your Bread: Your parish may include a blessing of bread at its morning Eucharist. If not, families can bless their bread at home, extending hands over it before it is baked or served.

Count Your blessings: The Thanksgiving newspaper comes stuffed with Black Friday ads. Instead of starting your “wish lists” or shopping, make a family “thanks list” and read it aloud.

Say Grace before Dinner: Have each member place grain seed, stuffing cubes, or candy corn—symbols of God’s gifts—into a goblet. Then pass the goblet and have each person hold it while naming a blessing. Then say grace or read Psalm 67.

Celebrate the Eucharist: Most parishes have one morning Mass on Thanksgiving Day. The Eucharist is a graceful way to begin the day focused on God’s blessings in praise and thanks.



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*

MORE ABOUT

Thanksgiving Day & The Church

Harvest festivals thanking God for favors received are 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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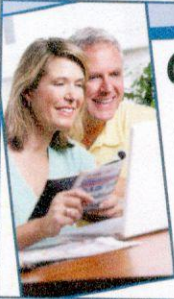
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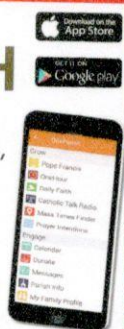
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he ADVERTISES it for sale.

WHY IS IT?