Parish Offices

Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs & St. Bernard

110 Adams Avenue, Delhi, ON N4B 1P7 Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 am-12:00 noon 1:00 pm-4:30 pm PHONE (519) 582-1312 EMAIL olmstbern@dol.ca

St. Mary & St. Cecilia 211 Union Street

Simcoe, ON N3Y 2B3
Wednesday & Thursday
8:30 am-12 noon
1:00pm-4:30 pm
PHONE (519) 426-0887
EMAIL stmarycecilia@dol.ca

SUNDAY EUCHARIST

Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs

110 Adams Ave., Delhi Saturday Vigil at 5:00 pm Sunday at 11:00 am

St. Mary

211 Union St., Simcoe Saturday Vigil at 5:00 pm Sunday at 11:00 am

St. Bernard of Clairvaux

165 Thompson Rd, Waterford Sunday at 9:00 am Spanish Mass Sunday at 7:00 pm Easter Sunday to November 1

St. Cecilia

17 Lynn Park Ave. Port Dover Sunday at 9:00 am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Mary & Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs

Every Saturday 4:00 pm-4:30 pm St. Cecilia & St. Bernard

of Clairvaux Every Sunday 8:15 am or by appointment

CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES IN NORFOLK



St. Mary, Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs, St. Bernard of Clairvaux, and St. Cecilia

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

"We are a Eucharistic community forming faith-filled disciples of Jesus in loving service of God and neighbour for salvation"

Website: www.catholicfamilyparishesnorfolk.dol.ca
Facebook: www.facebook.com/stbstcstmolgm

Pastoral Team

To reach a staff member, call your Parish Office and use the extension provided

Rev. Alan Dufraimont, Pastor adufraimont@dol.ca ext: 222
Rev. Robert Weaver, Associate Pastor rweaver@dol.ca ext: 223
Rev. Frank Murphy, Migrant Ministry, (Retired)
lan Duckworth, Family & Youth Minister iduckworth@dol.ca ext: 227
Kathryn Heemskerk, Pastoral Minister kheemskerk@dol.ca ext: 224
Deacon Andy Alway aalway@dol.ca
Deacon Dave Callaghan doallaghan@dol.ca ext: 237
Deacon John Doomernik idoomernik@dol.ca
Deacon Gerard Van Schyndel gvanschyndel@dol.ca ext: 236

Parish Team

Debbie Drinkwater, Administration Manager ddrinkwater@dol.ca ext: 240

Rick Hobbins, Coordinator of Property and Maintenance and Custodian-St. Mary rhobbins@dol.ca ext: 249

Mary Zylstra, Finance Secretary mzylstra@dol.ca ext: 241

Barb Balog, Office Secretary bbalog@dol.ca ext: 0

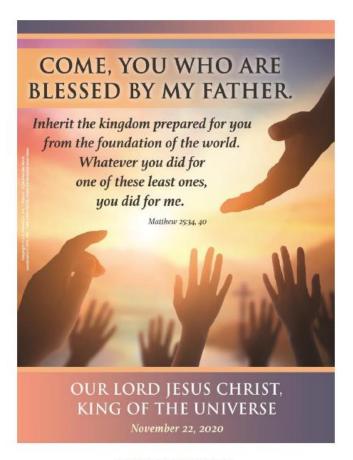
Laurie Smith, Bulletin Editor and Scheduling Coordinator lsmith@dol.ca ext: 225

Judy Wilkie, St. Bernard, Custodian

Bill Hasilo, Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs, Custodian

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

St. Joseph, Simcoe 519 426-0820 École Sainte-Marie, Simcoe 519 426-4775 Holy Trinity Catholic High School, Simcoe 519 429-3600 St. Frances Cabrini, Delhi 519 582-2470 St. Cecilia, Port Dover 519 583-0224 St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Waterford 519 443-8607



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — We are the clay and you, O Lord, are the potter: we are the work of your hands (Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7).

Psalm — Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved (Psalm 80).

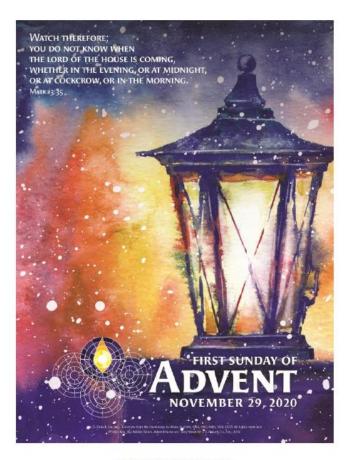
Second Reading — God is faithful; by God you were called to fellowship with the Son (1 Corinthians 1:3-9).

Gospel — Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. (Mark 13:33-37).



Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe November 22, 2020

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink." — Matthew 25:35



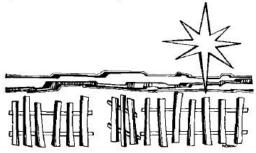
TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — I will rescue my scattered sheep (Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17).

Psalm — The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want (Psalm 23).

Second Reading — As in Adam all die, so too in Christ all shall be brought to life (1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28).

Gospel — Whatever you did to the least ones, you did to me (Matthew 25:31-46).



First Sunday of Advent November 29, 2020

Be watchful! Be alert!
You do not know when the time will come.
— Mark 13:33

From the desk of Kathryn Heemskerk:



This year our Advent journey will be a bit different, but do not look at that with a sorrowful heart. Instead, let it be an Advent where you can slowly move with Mary and Joseph on the long path to Bethlehem. This can be the year you can finally slow down, think about the true meaning of Christmas, and count your blessings instead of your social gatherings. Your to-do list might have more room for things like prayer and praise. Your gifts might be gifting others with your love, shining with hope, becoming beacons in the winter dark to those around you.

There was a song when I was growing up that said something about it only takes a spark, to get a fire going/growing/glowing....If each day of Advent you could be the spark of joy for someone else, imagine the warmth we could spread.

Call someone, bake a plate of cookies and bless someone, write a letter and share a story with someone, give a donation to a cause you would not normally think of but with this unusual year, choose to. You could pray for others and write their name on a paper snowflake and put it on your window, to remind you to carry that person in your heart until Christmas. Maybe you have a soft spot for babies, and you bless an organization that supports unwed mothers. If you love animals, take this time and bless the rescue shelter. Maybe your neighbour has not been well lately, and you can offer up a winter of shoveling their driveway all winter, because that is a safe way to be present. If this is the first year you cannot go see your grandmother, you could choose to bless a charity that reminds you of her. Since you do not have all your social gatherings, maybe you have money to spare for the soup kitchen or St Vincent de Paul. On these quiet days at home, you can fill your home with joyful song and sing praises there, where you are safe to sing. You can set up one nativity scene early, so you can pray at night while sitting in the presence of the empty crèche, waiting on Christmas' promise.

"Every small step we make toward Jesus is a step in the right direction." –Sarah Reinhard



We are live streaming on Facebook and on our website our Sunday Eucharist every Sunday at 11:00 am.



Family of Parishes Pastoral Council Meeting will meet Wednesday, November 25, 7:00 pm at St. Mary's Parish Upper Hall

We will practice six feet distancing and wear masks, with all other protocols utilized for this meeting.

We ask all other groups and ministries to NOT meet in our Parish facilities until further

notice. We want to keep everyone safe.



Baptism News

I know that there are many parents wondering about Baptism. First, let me reassure you that if you are uneasy and want to wait, that we completely understand. In each of the parishes, we have a separate space for Baptism and we have one family celebrating at a time. We are wearing masks,

using sanitizer and keeping our distance when possible. We are keeping our numbers as low as possible as well. We are only celebrating Baptism on Sundays after mass right now. Once Christmas has passed, we will return to the practice of only 2nd and 4th Sundays. First step is for you to go onto the Catholic Family of Parishes website and under the Sacramental Tab find Baptism. Fill in the electronic form on line and it will go to Kathryn's inbox. She will then reach out to you. If you have any questions, you can call either office and ask for extension 224 or you can e-mail Kathryn directly at kheemskerk@dol.ca.

New Life in Our Parish

We welcome into our Family of Parishes through the Waters of Baptism the following:

St. Bernard—Ryker Copeland, child of Sadie and Robert; and Calder Van Groningen, child of Raelynn and Kyle

St. Mary—Lachlan Brophy, child of Laura and Peter; and Claire Santo, child of Erin and Bryan

We Commend to your Prayers:

We pray for all the sick of our Parishes: Daphne Jarman; Ruth Lampman; Maria Carvalho; and Marilyn Koot.

We pray for all the faithful departed including: Andre Puype; Rosemary Wallace; and Susie Decker

Prayer Line: 519 426-0788 ~ jeanninekowalsky@gmail.com or 519 582-243l

Preregistration Procedure for our Weekend Masses

- Please phone the office at 519 426-0887 or 519 582-1312 on Tuesday 9:00 am to 12:00 noon or Thursday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm to preregister for the forthcoming Saturday evening (Vigil) or Sunday Mass. In order to promote fair access to the Masses, we do not permit booking for later weekends in advance. If you wish to attend Mass every weekend then you must preregister every week.
- 2. To preregister, you must speak to a staff person as you cannot preregister by leaving a message. When speaking with a staff person, please provide your last name, your phone number and the exact number of people who will be attending Mass with you.
- 3. If you phone us during the designated preregistration days/times and we are at capacity, then you are guaranteed a seat at the following weekend Mass of your choice.
- 4. As I mentioned, it is strongly recommended that you preregister for a weekend Mass beforehand in order to guarantee seating. However, if you forget to preregister or do not decide until "the last minute" to go then please still come to Mass! To date we have not been filling to capacity so there will likely be room for you and your family even if you do not preregister.

BISHOP FABBRO

To: Priests, Deacons, Lay Ecclesial Ministers, and Parish Secretaries

I am asking the Episcopal Council to gather in the near future, but I am conscious of the fact that the dispensation from the Sunday obligation that I gave earlier this year expires on the First Sunday of Advent.

I am hereby extending the dispensation from the Sunday obligation, including the solemnities of the Nativity of the Lord and Mary, Mother of God, until Easter. It seems unlikely that our situation with respect to the COVID-19 pandemic will change in the near future. This extension of the dispensation will allow you to convey this to your parishioners immediately, and aid your pastoral planning.

This notice will also be published in the next COVID-19 update, following the meeting of the Episcopal Council.

Preregister in advance for any of the Weekend Masses listed below starting Tuesday, December 1.

December 5/6
December 12/13
December 19/20
January 2/3

Call on Tuesdays 9:00 am to 12 noon and Thursdays 9:00 to 4:00 pm (including the noon hour)

(You can preregister for any or all the above Weekend Masses with one phone call)



Let's Spread The Christmas Spirit!

Facebook is a tool that we use sometimes to inform you and sometimes to inspire you. For the Advent season, I was hoping to post some pictures from **you**, such as a favourite Nativity scene you put out every year, an advent wreath you use in your home, an ornament that has a lot of meaning with a few words about why you chose that ornament. There are two ways to get them to me, you can either upload them to me through Facebook messenger (I am Kathryn Heemskerk on Facebook) or you can e mail them to me at kheemskerk@dol.ca. The more the merrier!



Mighty Savior, help us not to turn our eyes away from those parts of the Advent and Christmas story that is scary or distasteful to us. Help us to face our sin and welcome the Christ who comes to forgive us. Amen.

--Christopher Klofft

Missals (\$4.00) are available after mass or call the office to pick up your copy on: Tuesdays 9 am-12 noon or Thursdays 9 am-4 pm

In the Context of "Black Lives Matter" These stories are about Saints who Experienced Racism and those who fought it.

Pope John Paul II called racism a plague, its manifestation "one of the most persistent and destructive evils [for any] nation." For the millions who experience racism, it can be encouraging to get to know saints who were also targets of abuse, disdain and even murder because of their race; ugly as some of these stories are, they remind you that you are not alone. For those of us who are trying to walk in solidarity with people of color, the stories of the saints invite us to work harder to fight against racism in the Church and in the world.

Servant of God Bartolomé de las Casas (1484-1566) was a Spaniard living in the West Indies and Mexico who worked for fifty years to end the enslavement of Native American peoples, advocating to the Spanish crown that they be permitted to rule themselves. Though he had been a slave owner himself (even as a priest), he was struck by the Christmas Eve sermon of Antonio de Montesinos, in which the good friar condemned the leading citizens of Santo Domingo for holding slaves. Las Casas said hearing Montesinos was a pivotal point in his life, setting him on a course which made him the first great advocate of the rights of native peoples in the New World. Initially, he supported the enslavement of Africans, but ultimately rejected all forms of slavery, saying: "I came to realize that Black slavery was as unjust as Indian slavery ... and I was not sure that my ignorance and good faith would secure me in the eyes of God." As a bishop in Mexico, he refused absolution to slave owners even on their deathbeds unless they freed all their slaves. Las Casas was despised by nearly everybody and much maligned for centuries after his death. He stands as a beautiful witness of gradual conversion and the power of honest self-reflection, a sinful man who became a decent man, then a hero, then a saint.

The Spirit of Truth and Love Catholic Prayer Group

The Spirit of Truth and Love Catholic prayer group holds prayer meetings every Tuesday Evening at 7:30 pm electronically on Zoom until face to face meetings become possible at To join the virtual meeting, please contact John or Barra at johnbarra@sympatico.ca for

information. Thank you and May God Bless. John G Gots 519 583-0277

Holy Rosary Saturday Prayer Group

The Holy Rosary Prayer Group will hold a Special Rosary/Chaplet prayer meeting in Honor of the FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING this coming Sunday, November 22, 2020 at 7:30 pm via ZOOM. The ZOOM will be sent out via email before the weekend. For information please contact Christian O'Malley ecmc8 119@yahoo.com. The Special Chaplet or Holy Rosary to Christ the King highly encouraged to pray together online from the invitation of the Eucharist Adoration Canada Defense against pandemics: Prayer, Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration and Consecration.

We encourage families, individuals, priests, deacons and members of communities of consecrated life, to join the prayers in union with that of their bishop in making or renewing your consecrations to Mary and in consecrating the whole word Mary, Mother of the church.

Please check out the following sites for your information:

1)Eucharistic Adoration Canada https://eucharisticadorationcanada.com/

2] Online Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration 7/24 hours

Vocations "Come and See" Virtual Weekends

Due to the Pandemic, this year's Come and See will be a virtual experience. This online retreat is planned for three separate Saturdays and each has an individual topic and theme.

Nov 14th from 7 p.m. -10 p.m. (Discernment)

Nov 21st from 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (Priesthood)

Nov 28th from 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. (Seminary)

This retreat is for single, Catholic men 17 years of age and older, that are in good health and psychological maturity, and are considering a call to priestly life and service. If you know any men that are interested in discerning a priestly vocation or open to attend the Come and See please have them email vocations@dol.ca. There is a poster with additional details to help you advertise the event on your parish websites at this link.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL UPDATE

SIMCOE/WATERFORD/ DELHI

During the past month, in the Simcoe/Waterford/Delhi area, we gave a three day supply of groceries and \$3275.00 in food store gift cards, from our Pantries, to 78 families, having a total of 228 adults and children. The dedicated staff at the Soup Kitchen, which has been open since October 1^{st,} for the fall & winter season, are providing full course meals, to an average of 89 persons a day, three times each week. Because of the pandemic, these meals must be take-out only, which makes for extra work and expense.

We have been fortunate to receive several donations from corporations, schools, and a service club recently. Ontario Power Corporation has assisted us with funds for our 2020 COVID-19 Food Relief Efforts {Soup Kitchen Take-Out Meal Program} and for Festive Season Initiatives in Simcoe. Royal LePage Brown Reality in Simcoe , Brant/Haldimand/Norfolk School Board Teachers, belonging to 'The Treeline Band' , Essex Furukawa Magnet Wire Canada in Simcoe, Norfolk Family Eye Care, St. Frances Cabrini School in Delhi, Our Lady of Fatima School in Courtland , Holy Trinity High School and the Simcoe Sunrise Rotary Club, all made donations of cash, &/or essentials & /or food. A large number of individuals from our parishes and the community at large also came forward with financial help, to assist us in our mission to care for our neighbours in need.

If there are Parishioners who would like to make a donation, they can do so by cheque, to St Vincent de Paul and **mailing** it to: St Vincent de Paul St. Mary's Conference 211 Union Street, Simcoe, ON. N3Y2B3 or leave it in the regular collection plate, clearly marked for St Vincent de Paul Simcoe/Waterford /Delhi

St Vincent De Paul has a new telephone number, {Toll Free} 1-855-561-4184, and you then follow the prompts, to the area to which you wish to leave a message. This phone is monitored at least twice weekly. Our Email address is ssvpstmarysconference@gmail.com.

Please visit https://m.facebook.com/SSVPDelhiSimcoeWaterford/ and keep up to date on what we are doing in our mission to assist our brothers and sisters in need.

Again, thank you for your kindness and please pray for our members and for those we serve.



Looking Forward WEEK 1 OF ADVENT: Giving Hope

Hope is so much more than how we approach the things we want or the things we need, or even the things we think we need.

The virtue of hope is a response to our desire for happiness, which God has placed in our hearts.

Hope keeps us close to God and turns our focus toward the kingdom of heaven rather than the things of this earth only.

Hope fuels a healthy attitude and sustains us we face times of abandonment. In so many ways, hope opens our hearts to what is holy and keeps us from selfishness.

Hope leads to true, eternal happiness, which flows from charity.

Hope leads to love, and we receive love in the most beautiful way at the end of Advent when we meet the Baby Jesus in the manger. –Sarah Reinhard

Please preregister for our **Feast Day Masses**, (Christmas, Holy Family and New Year) which are listed below, by phoning our parish office at 519-582-1312 or 519-426-0887.

Here are the times you may phone the office:

Tuesday, December 15 9:00 am to 12:00 noon Thursday, December 17 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday, December 21 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Tuesday, December 22 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Thursday, December 24, (Christmas Eve)

Nativity of the Lord

St. Mary 5:00 pm & 9:00 pm

Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs 5:00 pm & 9:00 pm

St. Bernard 7:00 pm St. Cecilia 7:00 pm Friday, December 25, (Christmas Day)

Nativity of the Lord

St. Mary 8:00 am & 12:00 noon

Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs 8:00 am & 12 noon

St. Bernard 10:00 am St. Cecilia 10:00 am



Saturday, December 26
Feast of the Holy Family
St. Mary 5:00 pm
Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs 5:00 pm

Sunday, December 27

Feast of the Holy Family

St. Bernard 9:00 am

St. Cecilia 9:00 am

St. Mary 11:00 am

Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs 11:00 am



Thursday, December 31, (New Year's Eve) Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God St. Mary 5:00 pm Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs 5:00 pm Friday, January 1, (New Year's Day)

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

St. Bernard 9:00 am

St. Cecilia 9:00 am

St. Mary 11:00 am

Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs 11:00 am

(You can preregister for any or all feast days in one phone call to be guaranteed entrance and a seat.

If you do not preregister you may not be able to attend.)



Port Dover/ Walsh St. Vincent de Paul - GIVING TREE

The St. Vincent de Paul will once again be providing Christmas "Baskets" to local families who need a little extra Christmas cheer this year. Due to the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic and public health regulations, the process will be a little bit different this year. We are unable to collect canned goods and gifts at the back of the church this year, but will be collecting gift cards or cash donations. We would really appreciate your support in purchasing gift cards to Walmart, Giant

Tiger or Superstore, or providing a monetary donation. If you would like a tax receipt for your donation of \$20 or more, please place your donation in an envelope with your name and address enclosed.

All donations can be dropped in the St. Vincent de Paul box at the back of the church any of the following 3 weekends: November 28/29; December 5/6 and 12/13. Our St. Vincent de Paul helps people from all over Norfolk County and last year we distributed approximately 40 Christmas baskets thanks to your generous contributions. We look forward to your generosity again this year. Thank you in advance for your thoughtfulness and have a Merry Christmas.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux Parish

As you may be aware, due to Covid-19 the church will not be collecting for the giving trees this year. However, the need is still very great, and possibly even more so this year. We are still working with the Salvation Army in Simcoe to ensure all families have something for Christmas and have come up with some suggestions should you and your families wish to contribute. We suggest gift cards and monetary donations which the staff at the Salvation Army can use to purchase for the families.

The Salvation Army is open to accepting donations at their main office 184 Colborne St N, Simcoe. If you'd rather, I am also accepting gift cards and monetary donations at my home in Waterford, which I will take to Simcoe.

Please call or text me at 519-771-1893 should you want to donate and I will arrange a no-contact porch drop. Cheques can be made out to the Salvation Army. Or if you just have any questions!

Let's all work together to ensure everyone has a safe, healthy and wonderful Christmas! Thank you & God Bless!

Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs Delhi Toy and Food Drive

The Delhi Toy and Food drive will not be collecting toys or groceries this year because of COVID 19. We are instead asking for gift cards, cheques or monetary donations.

Donations may be made by: 1. Monetary or gift card donations can be dropped in the St. Vincent de Paul box at the back of the church any of the following 3 weekends: November 28/29; and December 5/6 and 12/13

- 2. Dropping in the mail slot at the rectory on Adams Ave.
- 3. Dropping off your donations to Coldwell office on James St. Delhi.
- 4. E-transfer to Delhi toy and food drive gramps1836@gmail.com
- 5. We also have Donation boxes at several businesses in town.

The deadline is Wednesday December 9th. Thank you and bless you.

St. Mary

Christmas baskets will be done differently this year as there will be no food or toy collections due to COVID 19. Instead we will have for 3 weekends: November 28/29; December 5/6 and 12/13 where the St. Vincent de Paul donation boxes will be at the back of the church to accept monetary donations for this much needed and worthy cause. Thank you for generosity and continued support.

Seeking pictures

If a family wishes to submit a photo from the Sacramental celebration (Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation, or Marriage) we are always looking for submissions for the Facebook page, please email Kathryn at kheemskerk@dol.ca.



Weekday Mass is celebrated on WEDNESDAYS only in our 4 Churches.

Wednesday November 25, 2020

9:00 am at St. Cecilia

Lillian Van Dam, Antonio Masella, Pat O'Connor

9:00 am at St. Bernard

Rita Van Berlo, Anna & Marian Talarowski, Adam Litwin

11:00 am at Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs

Robert McElhone, Jose Faria & Maria Julia Ribeiro, Velma Schooley

11:00 am at St. Mary

Deacon Frank Chowhan, John Relva, Nicolau Moniz

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn at all of our churches for all parishioners & their Families



Wednesday December 2, 2020

9:00 am at St. Cecilia

Tony Masella, Helen Azzopardi, Bruno & Victor Manuel

9:00 am St. Bernard

Mary Theresa Rosehart, Stafania Biaty, Steve Sabo

Exposition follows Mass to 10:00 am

11:00 am at Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs

Maria & Jose Leal, Mary Theresa Rosehart, Frank Dertinger



1st Week of Advent

11:00 am St. Mary

Deacon Frank Chowhan, Juoquina Conceicao, Andrew Rothfischer

Exposition follows Mass to 12:00 noon

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn at all of our churches for all parishioners & their Families



Notice Regarding Mass Intentions

When contacting our office regarding Mass Intentions, please indicate if the Intention is for a living or for a deceased person. Intentions for a living person can be indicated by stating "For the Special Intentions of (person's name here)." Mass Intentions can also include a particular intention appropriate to the Eucharist celebration, such as in Thanksgiving, Respect for Life, Vocations, and World Peace.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK of November 23

Monday: Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5; Ps 24:1bc-4ab, 5-6; Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday: Rv 14:14-19; Ps 96:10-13; Lk 21:5-11 Wednesday: Rv 15:1-4; Ps 98:1-3ab, 7-9; Lk 21:12-19

Thursday: Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 21:20-28 Friday: Rv 20:1-4, 11 — 21:2; Ps 84:3-6a, 8a; Lk 21:29-33

Saturday: Rv 22:1-7; Ps 95:1-7ab; Lk 21:34-36

Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7; Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Mk 13:33-37

THE SHEPHERD KING

The job of shepherd and the job of king couldn't be more different from each other. Shepherds are on the lowest rung of society, kings are at the top. But God says, through the prophet Ezekiel; that the Messiah will lead in a way very different from earthly authorities who lord it over their people and cause harm with their poor leadership.

Our King takes on the job himself. Christ, like a shepherd, will give rest, seek out the lost; bring back the strayed and scattered ones. He will heal the wounded and bind up the injured. He does not delegate, but will "shepherd them rightly." We have a king who cares for us and who is not afraid to "judge between one sheep and another" (Ezekiel 34:17).

START WITH GRATITUDE

Gratitude is the inward feeling of kindness received. Thankfulness is the natural impulse to express that feeling.

Thanksgiving is the following of that impulse.

-Henry Van Dyke

READINGS FOR THE WEEK of November 30

Monday: Rom 10:9-18; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 4:18-22

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10; Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17; Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a; Ps 23:1-6; Mt 15:29-37

Thursday: Is 26:1-6; Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a; Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Is 29:17-24; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26; Ps 147:1-6; Mt 9:35 — 10:1, 5a, 6-8 Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11; Ps 85:9-14; 2 Pt 3:8-14; Mk 1:1-8

MARK'S JESUS

Mark's Gospel is the shortest and tersest of all four. The discourses of Jesus tend to be terser as well. Mark's portrayal of Jesus has none of the poetry of the Sermon on the Mount or the Sermon on the Plain as in Matthew or Luke, nor the extensive, reflective "I Am" discourses as in John. Mark's Jesus "cuts to the chase," we would say today. This is reflected quite well in today's passage.

It is no accident that the dialogue of Jesus at this point in the Gospel according to Mark—the concluding words about the end of the world—immediately before his passion, is riddled with exclamation points and an overall sense of urgency.

We would do well to re-tool our own way of living this Advent, for we live in a world urgently in need of hearing the message of Jesus proclaimed. It's time for us to "wake up!" and get out into the world to do it.

UNWRINKLED

To keep the heart unwrinkled, to be hopeful, kindly, cheerful, and reverent—that is the triumph over old age.

—Thomas Bailey Aldrich

LIKE A CHILD

One who aspires to the grace of God must be pure, with a heart as innocent as a child's.

-St. Nicholas