

Good Shepherd CLUSTER

Sunday, November 23, 2025

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Padre

November 23, 2025

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

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

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

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

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

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

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MONDAY

November 24
St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs
Dn 1:1–6, 8–20
Lk 21:1–4

TUESDAY

November 25
Weekday
Dn 2:31–45
Lk 21:5–11

WEDNESDAY

November 26
Weekday
Dn 5:1–6, 13–14, 16–17, 23–28
Lk 21:12–19

THURSDAY

November 27
Thanksgiving Day (US)
Sir 50:22–24
1 Cor 1:3–9
Lk 17:11–19

FRIDAY

November 28
Weekday
Dn 7:2–14
Lk 21:29–33

SATURDAY

November 29
Weekday
Dn 7:15–27
Lk 21:34–36

SUNDAY

November 30
First Sunday of Advent
Is 2:1–5
Rom 13:11–14
Mt 24:37–44

WELCOME TO THE GOOD SHEPHERD CLUSTER

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GOOD SHEPHERD
PARISH OFFICE HOURS:
MON.-THURS. 8 AM-4:30 PM
FRIDAY 8 AM-NOON

VISIT US ON OUR WEBSITE
www.goodshepherdcluster.com

MISSION STATEMENT

"As a Catholic faith community we strive to unite as a people of God whose life is centered in the Eucharist. We seek to live the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, called to be faithful stewards of God's gifts, growing in faith and attending to the spiritual and social needs of all."

November 27 Thanksgiving Day Mass

9 AM at Holy Family

Adoration Thursday, November 27, 9 pm-Midnight

Pastoral Office Closed Nov. 27 & 28.

GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF

Hours: Monday-Thursday 8 AM-4:30 PM

Friday 8 AM-Noon

Pastoral Office	641-394-2105
St. Joseph Community School	641-394-2865
St. John's School of Religion	641-394-2404
Pastor: Rev. Chris Podhajsky	641-394-2105
Principal: Michele Nehls	641-394-2865
Deacon: Victor DeSloover	563-429-2773
Cluster Business Manager: Becky Ptacek-Havlik	
Hispanic Minister: Gustavo Jimenez	
Interim Director Faith Formation: Tara Underwood	
Pastoral Assistant: Gladys Christoph	641-330-9223
Cluster Secretary: Marcia Howe	
Social Media: Chris Vital	
Custodian: Dave Roethler	
Music Director: Michelle Lau	641-229-6589
Adult Choir Director: Ann Bennett	641-394-5407
North Washington Choir: Sharon Heying	641-330-7714
Calvary Cemetery- Don Dixon	319-290-4991
St. Mary's, New Hampton- Mike Pickar	641-430-2446
St. Mary's, N. Washington- Jake Hackman	641-330-6841
St. Boniface- Dave Bonfig	641-394-4703

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULES

St. Boniface & Immaculate Conception Parish

Alternate Saturday 6 PM Mass

Holy Family Spanish Mass 1st & 3rd Sunday
11:30 AM

Saturday

4 PM Holy Family, New Hampton

6 PM St. Boniface, Nov. 29
December 13 & 27

6 PM Immaculate Conception, Nov. 22
December 6 & 20

Sunday

8 AM & 10 AM Holy Family, New Hampton

SPOTLIGHT ON: We wish to recognize and thank our Advertiser of the Week **Messersmith Promotions**. Please patronize our advertisers. Let them know you appreciate their support of the parish bulletin.

RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation from 3-3:30 p.m. Saturday in the Reconciliation Chapel at Holy Family, New Hampton. Reconciliation may be celebrated on request at St. Boniface, Ionia & Immaculate Conception, North Washington. Sunday Reconciliation from 7:15-7:45 a.m. in the Reconciliation Chapel at Holy Family, New Hampton.

Weekly Prayer & Faith Sharing & Ministry

1:30 PM-Rosary @ MercyOne Hospital Chapel on Tues.
2-4 PM Sharing Room, Pastoral Office on Wednesday
4 PM-Midnight-Holy Family-Adoration on Thursday
9-11 AM Sharing Room, Pastoral Office on Friday
9:30 AM-Coffee Talk after the 8:30 Mass in the Gathering Space
9 AM Bible Study, Pastoral Office on Saturday

Baptisms: Please contact Deacon Vic DeSloover @ 563-429-2773.

Marriage: Please contact the priest at least six months in advance.

Visiting the Sick or Anointing: If you would like a visit from Fr. Chris, please contact the Pastoral Office at 394-2105. The hospital and nursing homes do not notify us unless a family member requests.

PRAYERS for the SICK: We ask the Lord Jesus to bless all those in sickness, in weakness & in pain. Please join us in prayer for: Mary Jean Martin, Gary Grube, Lynn Bailey, Kevin Meissen, Bud & Patty Mowatt, Ardis Larsen, High risk pregnancy, Judy Taylor, Elizabeth Gomez Vasquez, Rhonda Dreckman, June Rosonke, Norbert, Alice & Tom Rasing, Louise Conry, Edna Shinstine, Terry Lynn Rausch, Michele K, Bill Sinnwell, Joyce Lowe, Beatrice Miller, Patty Forkenbrock, all special intentions & cancer patients.

PRAYER NETWORK: For a prayer request, please call the parish office during the business day @ 394-2105 or after hours to Jan Gorman @ 641-229-6072, or Carol Schmitz @ 394-6072.

Please note: **Due to the length of our prayer list, we will list the special intentions for prayer for two weeks.** If you wish names to remain longer, please call the parish office 394-2105 & we will be glad to leave the names in for as long as needed. Thank you for your understanding.

Military active duty- SGT. Trevor J. Burgart, SGT Adam J. Burgart, Dylan Usher, Kaleb Macon, SGT. Andrew Kasuboski, SFC. Michael Messersmith, Adam Tieskotter, Michael Nosbisch, Staff Sgt. Nathan Schulz, Nichole Caldararo, Dustin Boeding, Paul Langreck

REST IN PEACE: Please remember those in your prayers who recently died:

CLUSTER NEWS

ST. BONIFACE FESTIVAL FUNDRAISING

UPDATE: We are grateful to share that \$6585 has been collected so far. Thank you to everyone who has contributed so generously. The Guild Board

COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION: Join us on Sunday, November 23, 1:30 p.m. at Holy Family for Communal Reconciliation. Several priests will be available.

THANKSGIVING DAY MASS: Thursday, November 27, 9 a.m. at Holy Family Parish. All are welcome to attend.

GIVING TREE TAGS: Are available on the tree in the Gathering Space. Please have your gifts return to the tree **by December 7th with the tag attached to the package.** Volunteers are needed to help sort gifts at Trinity Lutheran Church on Tuesday, December 9th @ 9 a.m. and delivery will be December 13th at 8 a.m. Many volunteers will be needed on this day also. If you have any questions, please contact the Pastoral Office at 394-2105.

HOLY FAMILY INTENTION CARDS: There are intentions cards found at the back of the Church and at the Pastoral Office for any Holy Family parishioners who chooses to complete one. Please return to Becky by December 31, 2025. Thank you.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS: The New Hampton Knights of Columbus will be having an Exemplification for bringing in new members to our order on Sunday, November 23 rd after the 10:00am Mass. If you wish to join the New Hampton Knights of Columbus, please contact Rich Grote at 641-330-2448

WELCOME NEWLY BAPTIZED: Lincoln John Rash son of Braxton & Madison Rash. Lincoln was baptized by Deacon Vic DeSloover last weekend at Holy Family. Congratulations and may God continue to bless your family.

COLLECTIVE MASS HOLY FAMILY NOV. 23 AT 10 AM: Ila Mihm, Jim & Joyce Cavanaugh, Melvin & Phyllis Patrie, Norman Heit, Ben & Mary Ryan, Lavern Tilkes, Glenda Holthaus, Peggy Lester, Deceased members of the Jim Havlik family.



Religious Education

Teacher: Good Shepherd Cluster, New Hampton, is looking for a person to fill our role of Religious Education Teacher. This role can be part-time or full-time. We are

flexible. The part-time role will be responsible for preparing 9th and 10th grade students for Confirmation at St John School of Religion. This person will also be responsible for maintaining their teaching space and tracking registrations and fees. The full-time role will include the part-time role responsibilities and assist with teaching religion to elementary and middle school students at St. Joseph Community School. Weekends are required as needed for preparation of the sacrament(s). This person should be proficient with technology and the internet, be organized and able to meet deadlines. It is preferred that this person hold some theological education or related field. However, this is not required if you are the right person for this role. Please contact Fr. Chris Podhajsky at 641-394-2105 or c.podhajsky@dbqarch.org

Pastoral Assistant - Good Shepherd Cluster, New Hampton, is seeking a part-time Pastoral Assistant.

This person must be a Catholic in good standing with the Church. This person will be responsible for initiating and administering programs and activities intended for faith formation (primarily adults), coordinating local involvement in larger events (Women's conference, Men's conference, World Day of Prayer, etc), and assisting in the planning of liturgical celebrations for major feasts.

When needed, this person will also meet with families to assist in planning funerals for loved ones. This person will also be involved in ordering liturgical materials for the Cluster. This person should be proficient with technology and the internet, be organized and able to meet deadlines. It is preferred that this person have 2 years of experience in parish-based ministry. However, this is not required if you are the right person for this role. If interested in this position, please contact Fr. Chris Podhajsky at 641-394-2105 or email at dbq141@dbqarch.org.

November 16, 2025		Budget Report		
Parish	Holy Family	Immaculate Conception	St Boniface	
Yearly Collection Needed *	\$627,787.00	\$48,667.00	\$42,091.00	
Yearly Collection Needed to 11.16.2025	\$241,456.60	\$18,718.00	\$16,188.80	
Needed Weekly Amount	\$12,072.83	\$935.90	\$809.44	
Received Last Week	\$13,072.82	\$155.00	\$545.00	
Year to Date Recd to 11.16.2025	\$209,642.14	\$7,182.00	\$9,925.00	
Difference	-\$31,814.46	-\$11,536.00	-\$6,263.80	
Offertory	\$814.00		\$123.55	
Hispanic Mass Offertory	\$250.00			

*This is the amount determined to balance each respective church's budget. This includes only the adult budget envelopes and not a reflection of the actual income statement.

Blood Donors Give Hope

when it's needed most

NEW HAMPTON COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25
12:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Community Center | 112 E. Spring St. | New Hampton

call: 800.287.4903 | visit: lifeservebloodcenter.org | text: lifeserve to 999.777

 **WALK INS WELCOME**

Ecumenical Concert

Sunday, December 7

1:30 PM

New Hampton Methodist Church.

All are welcome to a wonderful
afternoon of music from our area
church choirs.

SAVE THE DATE!!

Archdiocesan Women's Conference

Beauty in Christ

Saturday, January 31, 2026



Mark your calendars for this virtual event designed to gather women in your parish/cluster for a morning of friendship, faith, and formation!

More information coming soon!

AREA NEWS & EVENTS

Cookies for Cancer: November cookie of the month is peanut butter chocolate chip 15/\$10. Or you may purchase gift certificates \$5.00 and up!!! Contact Rose Ann Schwickerath 641-557-8530. Thanks for your support.

Blood Donors Give Hope when it's needed most!!! New Hampton Community Blood Drive, Tues., Nov, 25, New Hampton Community Center from 12:00 PM-5:30 PM. To make an appointment call LifeServe Blood Center @ 800-287-4903 or visit lifeservebloodcenter.org. Walk ins welcome.

NEED HELP WITH YOUR HEATING BILL? The 2025-2026 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season. Applications for elderly (60 & older) and/or disabled may be completed starting October 1, 2025. All other households may complete an application November 1, 2025 to April 30, 2026. Please the New Hampton location number is 563-379-8761.

Serve with a Smile at MercyOne

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord...”

— *Colossians 3:23*

MercyOne is seeking volunteers to serve as greeters, offering warmth and kindness to patients, visitors, and staff. This is a beautiful way to live out Christ's love through a simple act of hospitality. Volunteers can choose to work once or twice a month and the shift is from 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday. If you would like more information, please contact Jennifer Monteith, 641-394-1626 or email MONTEITL@mercyhealth.com.

ST. JOSEPH COMMUNITY SCHOOL'S ANNUAL FUND BREAKDOWN



Lighting the path for a higher purpose.

YOUR GENEROSITY LIGHTS THE WAY

At St. Joseph Community School, we are committed to forming children academically, spiritually, and morally. Your support of our Annual Fund directly impacts every student by sustaining the programs, people, and resources that make St. Joe's a vibrant, faith-filled place to learn and grow.

WHERE YOUR GIFT GOES



Technology & Innovation Classroom devices, science lab materials, and coding/design tools for 21st-century skills.

Competitive salaries and benefits to attract and retain high-quality, faith-filled educators. Our teachers are deeply committed to St. Joseph Community School because they believe in our mission—to create a nurturing, faith-filled educational environment where **every** child can thrive.

Curriculum & Enrichment Updated math, reading, and social studies materials, arts programs, and field experiences.

The **Purple Cord Service Project** was created to encourage and recognize students their 8th grade year for service to our church, community, and school throughout their time at St. Joseph School. Those students that accomplish the service hours will be awarded purple recognition cords at 8th grade graduation as well as a monetary scholarship upon high school graduation.

"A PEBBLE THROWN INTO THE RIVER CAUSES TINY WAVES TO STIR THE WATERS. YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS THAT PEBBLE—RIPPLING OUT TO SHAPE YOUNG HEARTS AND MINDS. NO GIFT IS TOO SMALL YOUR GIFT IS OUR HOPE."



Purple Cord
SERVICE PROJECT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

What are our parents saying?

"We're so grateful for you all and everything you do for the kids. Our kids love coming to school and we're so grateful to have had such wonderful experiences with all of the teachers. We appreciate you!"

— A Parent from St. Joseph Community School

**THANK YOU FOR BELIEVING IN OUR MISSION
YOUR GIFT SUPPORTS TODAY'S STUDENTS AND STRENGTHENS TOMORROW'S
LEADERS. TOGETHER, WE CARRY ON THE LEGACY OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION—ONE
CHILD, ONE CLASSROOM, ONE FAITHFUL STEP AT A TIME.**

Donate Today!



**JOIN US IN OUR MISSION
PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER MAKING A
ONE-TIME GIFT OR BECOMING A MONTHLY DONOR.**

Donate Online

1

OPTION ONE: ONE TIME DONOR

Benefits of a single contribution made at any time during the year...

- **Immediate Impact:** Your gift is put to work right away to meet current needs—such as classroom materials, facility improvements, or tuition assistance.
- **Flexibility:** You choose when and how much to give, based on your budget or specific campaign appeals.
- **Great for Special Occasions:** Ideal for memorials, birthdays, end-of-year donations, or company matches.

2

OPTION TWO: MONTHLY RECURRING

Benefits of a monthly contribution automatically deducted from your account or card.

- **Sustained Support:** Provides a predictable income stream that helps us plan more effectively and maintain consistent programming.
- **Budget-Friendly:** Smaller, manageable amounts spread over time—easy on your wallet, but powerful in impact.
- **Convenient & Automatic:** Set it once and know you're supporting our mission all year long.
- **Greater Long-Term Impact:** Recurring donors often give more over time than they would through one-time gifts.



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Pastoral Office 641-394-2105

GOOD SHEPHERD MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY-NOVEMBER 22, 2025

4 PM-Holy Family-Andrea Burgart

6 PM-Immaculate Conception-For the People of the Cluster

SUN., NOV. 23, 2025 Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe

8 AM-Holy Family-Norbert Burgart & Richard Holschlag

10 AM-Holy Family-Collective

1:30 PM-Communal Reconciliation @ Holy Family

MONDAY-NOVEMBER 24, 2025

Bulletin News Due at Noon-Send to clustergs@gmail.com

TUESDAY-NOVEMBER 25, 2025

5:15 PM-St. Boniface-Vivian Sczygelski

WEDNESDAY-NOVEMBER 26, 2025

3 PM-NH Rehab-Bob Koenigsfeld

THURSDAY-NOVEMBER 27, 2025

9 AM-Holy Family-Francis "Frank" & Theresa Martin

FRIDAY-NOVEMBER 28, 2025

No Mass-Pastoral Office Closed

SATURDAY-NOVEMBER 29, 2025

4 PM-Holy Family-Mike Carlin

6 PM-St. Boniface-Leonard, Florentine & Paul Huegel

SUNDAY-NOV. 30, 2025-1st Sunday of Advent

8 AM-Holy Family-Francis & Jean Lowe & Gerry Mishak

10 AM-Holy Family-For the People of the Cluster

Thanksgiving Top Ten List

You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. 2 Corinthians 9:11



F Q G J Y U B H J I I S I C K
 F I F Z U X B D R O T K N O W
 V F K P X L P F Y N T S D L S
 Q A O P G Z Z X E Z E N E D U
 A F K O J Y A R Y R Y G N Y Q
 C X F L D A A L I P O E V O B
 E Q R H I P I O Y L I H C K E
 C A U U E M X U F R C L N R N
 V Q L S A A Y Z F L L D J I J
 O N U F X R L Z B G O C I L B
 C O F L T N V T F I T M J C C
 H V T N D N B U H H H W E Y O
 W K U S E T E A C H E R S L S
 X O Z J D E Q I Z W S Y U H L
 C N G Y A O X V G Q Y H S K R

JESUS	FAMILY	TEACHERS	HEALTH	FOOD
PARENTS	FRIENDS	COUNTRY	CLOTHES	HOUSE

Good News!

November 23, 2025

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

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

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

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

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

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

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THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Father all-powerful, Your gifts of love are countless and Your goodness infinite. On Thanksgiving Day we come before You with gratitude for Your kindness: open our hearts to concern for our fellow men and women, so that we may share Your gifts in loving service.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.