

# OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

He said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied to him, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."  
- Lk 23:42-43

## ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

SERVING ST. MARY'S/ MALTA, SACRED HEART/ DODSON, ST. FRANCIS /SACO

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2025

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Please check our website for additional information.

Weekly bulletins are posted in full color with several additions – check them out here: <https://www.saintmarysmalta.org/bulletins>

**Confession** – Friday's 9-10am, Saturday's 11-noon or contact Fr. Felix directly for an appointment.

**Adoration** – every Friday 9:00-10:00am immediately following daily Mass.

### MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday vigil – Malta 5:00pm    Sunday – Saco 8:30am, Malta 10:30am, Dodson 12:30pm

Daily Mass (Monday thru Friday) – Malta 8:30am

## **Homily by Fr. Felix:**

*The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe C: 2 Sam 5:1-3; Col 1:12-20; Lk 23:35-43*

Brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

Today we reach the final Sunday of the liturgical year, the great feast in which the Church proclaims boldly and joyfully: Jesus Christ is King of the Universe. Not merely king of our hearts, not only king of believers, but King of all that exists.

The readings today giving us not images of earthly triumph, royal palaces, or displays of divine force, Scripture leads us to three very unexpected scenes of kingship: David's anointing, Christ's cosmic majesty, and finally a crucified King hanging between two criminals. Today's liturgy helps us to see clearly what kind of King Jesus is, and what kind of disciples we are invited to become.

In the first reading, the tribes of Israel come to David at Hebron and say: "We are your bone and your flesh." They recognize in David one who is not distant from them, but one who shares their life, their struggles, their history. And they remind him: "It was you who led Israel out and brought it back." David's kingship begins not with domination, but with shepherding. God's words to him had been: "You shall shepherd my people, Israel." Before David is a king, he is a shepherd: one who guides, protects, defends, and lays down his life for the flock. This is the image of kingship that prepares us for Christ: not a ruler who lords it over others, but One who leads by self-giving love. It reminds us that true authority in God's eyes is always rooted in service.

If the first reading gives us a humble, earthly image of kingship, the second reading from Colossians lifts us into the heavens. St. Paul tells us that Jesus is the image of the invisible

God, the One through whom all things were created, the One in whom all things hold together.

Paul gives us an astonishing vision, Christ is not only king over Israel, king over humanity, He is the center and meaning of the entire cosmos. Every star that shines, every law of physics, every creature that breathes, all are held together by Him. Through him God was pleased to reconcile all things. The King of the universe exercises His kingship not by crushing His enemies, but by reconciling, healing, and restoring. His power is the power of mercy. His throne is a cross. His crown is made of thorns. The cosmic Christ is also the crucified Christ, the King and Savior.

In the Gospel, we see Jesus' kingship is revealed most clearly on Calvary. There, Jesus is mocked by saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if you are the King of the Jews, save yourself! They expect a king who saves himself. But Jesus is the king who saves others precisely by not saving Himself. The inscription above Him reads, this is the King of the Jews. And it is meant to humiliate Him. But in God's mysterious plan, it proclaims the deepest truth, here hangs the King of Love. Then we hear the voice of the good thief, Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom. And Jesus responds with royal authority, today you will be with me in Paradise.

This Feast invites us to examine who truly rules our lives. For some it is success, for others, comfort, for others, their own ego. We are all ruled by someone or something. To accept Christ as King means, letting Him reign us through mercy, service, sacrifice and self-preservation.

As we end this liturgical year and prepare for Advent, let us renew our allegiance to the kingship of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

This weekend marks the start of our **Annual Catholic Appeal**: “A Season of Hope, A Future of Faith.” As part of the Appeal, parishioners will receive materials in their homes inviting them to learn more and participate. The Appeal supports vital ministries across Eastern Montana: caring for our priests, strengthening the bishop’s ministries, and nurturing Catholic formation. Every gift—large or small—makes a difference. Please join us in prayer and participation.

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**Knights of Columbus Memorial Service** will be on Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> @ 5pm at St. Mary’s Church. All are welcome!

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The **Religious Education** students are participating in the **Malta Chamber Parade of Lights**- Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. They would like to invite all families to join in the fun, and walk alongside the float ringing Christmas bells, as we remind our community to keep Christ in Christmas. (Floats line up at Rivers Bend at 4:30, the parade starts at 5pm. Bells are provided.) Contact Macie Hould for more information (406) 465-8180

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Please support our **Sock & Underwear Drive for Malta Food Bank**. New items in their original package can be left in the basket in the vestibule of the church during the month of November. Items will be delivered the week following Thanksgiving.

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PCCW will host their annual **Christmas Cheer Party**, immediately following Mass on December 7<sup>th</sup>, in the church basement. Each PCCW Band is asked to bring at least 4 dozen homemade cookies or treats. They will assemble cookie trays and deliver them to parishioners in need of a little Christmas Cheer. All ladies are encouraged to attend and share in this fellowship.

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Did you know? There is an excellent **Catholic Funeral Planning Guide** on our website

[www.saintmarysmalta.org/ministries](http://www.saintmarysmalta.org/ministries)

*The documents include information on: steps before death, at the time of death, and after death. The Order of Catholic Funeral Rites explained and an easy “fill in the blank” area to share with loved ones.*

**Week of November 16, 2025 Donations: Malta \$3456.19, Saco \$610, Dodson \$251**

### Attention: NEW and CURRENT LECTORS & MONEY COUNTERS

**LECTORS:** We will be having a training for new Lectors and a refresher course for current Lectors on Tues the 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in the upstairs of the church.

**MONEY COUNTERS:** We will have trainings on Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> after mass at 11:30 &/or Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5pm

**Anyone interested in joining these ministries  
please attend the trainings.**

Any questions for **LECTORS**- call Dianne Salsbery 654-4675 or Mary LaFond 390-0762.  
Any questions for **MONEY COUNTING**- call Joy DePuydt 654-4777

### **Prayer Requests**

*If you have a prayer request, please contact **Dianne Salsbery at 406-654-4675**. Names will be listed in the bulletin for a minimum of 30 days.*

**Please pray for** –The family of Skyla Sisco, Debbie and Joe Nicholson, Leona Kienenberger, the families of Staci French, the family of Norma Wyse, Carletta Benson, Joe Simanton, Judy Henry, Lorena James, Adalyn McCollom, Ramona Kienenberger, Gloria Combs, Corky LaBrie, John Shevlin, Kristi Shettel Peterson, Dianne Salsbery, Bob Kaluza, Tammy Peterson and those from our area serving in the military.

**For the repose of the souls of** – Skyla Sisco, Staci French, Shirley Eklund, Alvina Doucette, Derek Davis, KJ Wilke, Jim Robinson, David Williamson, Lee Stevens and all souls in need and pray also for their families that they find comfort and peace.

If you would like to have another Priest perform a service (funeral, wedding, baptism, ect.) in our Parish, please contact Fr. Felix so he may grant his permission.

**Mass Intentions** - to schedule an intention,  
 please fill out an envelope at the back of the church.  
 Each intention is \$10.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Saturday 11.22.25   | For birthday of Linda Hould<br>r/b Houlds   |
| Sunday 11.23.25<br>10:30 Malta<br>8:30am Saco<br>12:30 Dodson | - For the faithful in our Parish<br>- For my Friends r/b Lana Fortin<br>- For Darell Olsen & Delilue Nicholson r/b Cummings |
| Monday 11.24.25   | For the marginalized r/b Lana Fortin  |
| Tuesday 11.25.25  | For the anniversary of Jack Lind's death r/b Penny Lind   |
| Wednesday 11.26.25  | Repose of the soul of Diann Hanson r/b The Howells  |
| Thursday 11.27.25   | For the Birthday of Del Lind r/b Penny Lind   |
| Friday 11.28.25   | For my family r/b Lana Fortin   |
| Saturday 11.29.25   | Michael Fred & Nancy Ereaux Family r/b Cummings   |
| Sunday 11.30.25   | For Walker, Pittman & Sibley Family r/b Indigo Walker   |

**Readings for the week of November 23, 2025**

**Sunday:** 2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5 (see 1)/Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43

**Monday:** Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Lk 21:1-4

**Tuesday:** Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61/Lk 21:5-11

**Wednesday:** Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67/Lk 21:12-19

**Thursday:** Dn 6:12-28/Dn 3:68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74/Lk 21:20-28

**Friday:** Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81/Lk 21:29-33

**Saturday:** Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87/Lk 21:34-36

**Next Sunday:** Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

**Finance Council members include:**

**Deb Sjostrom** 406-654-1451, [sjostrom@itstriangle.com](mailto:sjostrom@itstriangle.com).

**Lance Hould** 406-539-5772, [lanceh\\_99@hotmail.com](mailto:lanceh_99@hotmail.com)

**Mike Ereaux** 406-658-2613 (H), 406-654-7803 (C),  
[7mfe7195@itstriangle.com](mailto:7mfe7195@itstriangle.com)

**Scott King** 406-654-7302, [sbking1959@gmail.com](mailto:sbking1959@gmail.com)

**Heathyr Knowles** 805-264-7350, [hjknowles@msn.com](mailto:hjknowles@msn.com)

**Shyla Sunford** 406-399-1484, [shylasunford@gmail.com](mailto:shylasunford@gmail.com)  
 (Saco)

**Bonnie Lankford** 406-390-2276, [Bonnie4339@hotmail.com](mailto:Bonnie4339@hotmail.com)  
 (Dodson)

*Meetings are generally the 3rd Thursday of the month. If interested in serving please contact a member of the finance council.*

**Parish Council members include:**

**Alora Snider**— 399-1675, [alora\\_lynn\\_09@hotmail.com](mailto:alora_lynn_09@hotmail.com)

**Shawn Bleth**— 654-7303, [shawn.bleth@gmail.com](mailto:shawn.bleth@gmail.com)

**Nancy Ereaux**—658-2613

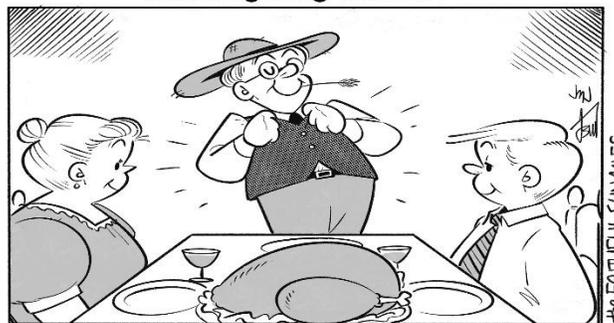
**Jeff Van Heel**—406-266-1133

**Joy DePuydt**—674-5560, [joyful@itstriangle.com](mailto:joyful@itstriangle.com) (Saco)

**Leona Kienenberger**—383-4459,

[leona\\_kienenberger@yahoo.com](mailto:leona_kienenberger@yahoo.com) (Dodson)

**"What did the farmer wear to Thanksgiving dinner?"**



**"A har-vest."**



Thanksgiving is a great day to praise God for His generosity towards each and every one of us. Happy Thanksgiving!

BLP

# Weekly Prayer

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## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

"And the LORD said to you,  
"You shall shepherd my people Israel  
and shall be commander of Israel.'" (2 Sm 5:2)

### Psalm:

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord. (Ps 122)

### Second Reading:

For in him all the fullness was pleased to dwell,  
and through him to reconcile all things for him,  
making peace by the blood of his cross  
through him, whether those on earth or those  
in heaven. (Col 1:19-20)

### Gospel:

He replied to him,  
"Amen, I say to you,  
today you will be with me in Paradise." (Lk 23:43)

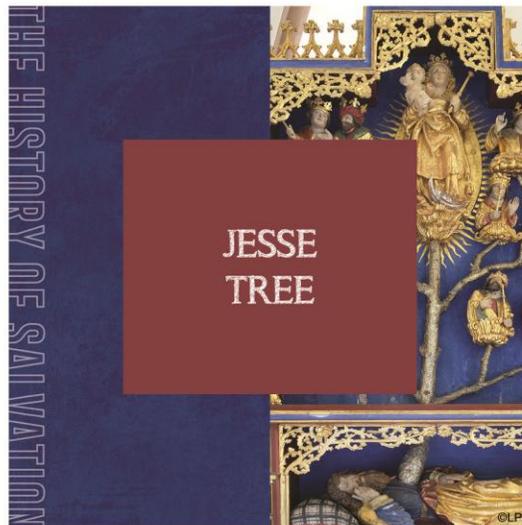
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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Our king wears a crown of thorns, not a crown of gold. His glory is not in riches but in suffering. His law is written in his own blood, shed for the love of us. Do we understand the gift that it is, to be subject to such a king?

## Observances for the week of November 23, 2025

- Sunday:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe  
**Monday:** St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs  
**Tuesday:** St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr  
**Thursday:** Thanksgiving Day  
**Next Sunday:** 1st Sunday of Advent



## Devotions, Explained!

The Jesse Tree is an Advent practice which recounts the history of salvation by tracing the lineage of Christ — the foretold "shoot from the stump of Jesse" who will bring peace and unity to the people of God (Isaiah 11:1).

## Jesus is King

Dear Jesus,  
I see the kingdom you love,  
the one full of the broken and forgotten.  
I see the crown you wear —  
thorns out of love for me.  
I pick you as my King.  
Mold my heart to be a worthy  
member of your kingdom.  
Amen.

# Worship & Meditation

## Readings for the week of November 23, 2025

### Sunday:

2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5 (see 1)/  
Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43

### Monday:

Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/  
Lk 21:1-4

### Tuesday:

Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61/  
Lk 21:5-11

### Wednesday:

Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62, 63,  
64, 65, 66, 67/Lk 21:12-19

### Thursday:

Dn 6:12-28/Dn 3:68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73,  
74/Lk 21:20-28

### Friday:

Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81/  
Lk 21:29-33

### Saturday:

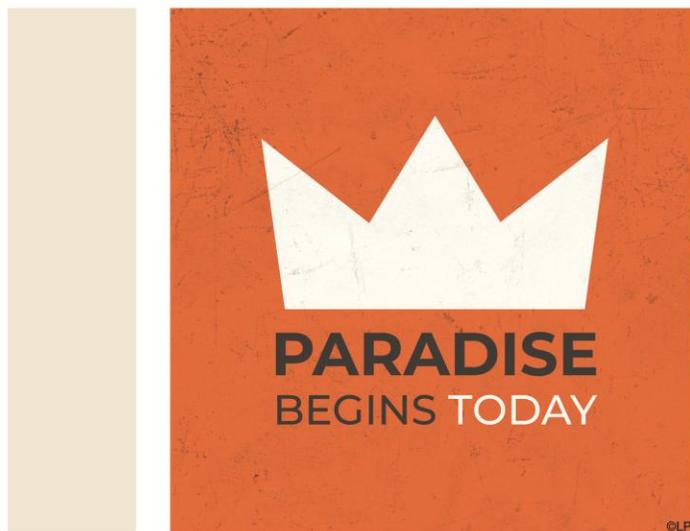
Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87/  
Lk 21:34-36

### Next Sunday:

Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/  
Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44



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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Not long ago, I was called to a hospital to anoint a woman in her early 80s. She was dying, and visibly in pain. But what struck me most wasn't her suffering — it was the atmosphere in the room. She had eight children and 30 foster kids, and many of them were gathered around her. You'd expect sorrow, fear, maybe even despair. But the room was filled with something else entirely — a quiet strength, a kind of sweetness. It was as if she was suffering not just with them, but for them. And they, in love, were suffering for her. The pain was real. But so was the peace. I didn't want to run. I felt as if I was in a little paradise, beeping machines and all.

I think of that moment when I hear today's Gospel. Jesus, hanging on the cross, doesn't look like a king. But one of the crucified, dying men beside him sees through the suffering and says, "**Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom**" (Luke 23:42). That word — *remember* — literally means to make someone a member again. He's asking to be joined to Christ, to become part of his Body. And Jesus says, "**Today you will be with me in paradise.**"

He doesn't say, "I'll take your suffering away." He says, "**You will be with me.**"

That's the strange power of Christ the King. He doesn't rule by avoiding suffering. He reigns by entering into it, and transforming it with love.

What are you suffering right now in your life? Likely you want it to stop. But if we are willing to suffer with him — paradise begins even today.

— *Father John Muir*

## ( PRACTICING ) CATHOLIC

**Mini Reflection:** It's taken me a few hundred read-throughs of this Gospel passage to finally understand a painful truth: I am Gestas, "the bad thief." I am as close to Jesus as he was, and I ask for all the wrong things.

### **The King Who Hangs Beside Us**

We love to hate the bad thief.

Ancient Christian tradition has called him by the name "Gestas." In contrast to Dismas, "the good thief" who recognized and repented of his own sins, Gestas goes down bitter and swinging. With his last breaths he taunts Jesus, poking fun at the absurdity of a deity who allows himself to be crucified by mortals. "Are you not the Christ?" he sneers.

But his final words betray an undercurrent of desperation. Of terror. In the end, Gestas just wants Jesus to save him.

It's taken me a few hundred read-throughs of this Gospel passage to finally understand a painful truth: I am Gestas. I hang from my own cross — we all do, in this life. But I'm lucky enough that my cross is right beside Jesus, because the sacraments bring him as close to me as he was to Gestas — closer, even. How unfathomable is the mercy of God.

And yet, I am not grateful. I don't rejoice at my proximity to my Lord, to the flesh and blood that have bought my salvation. I don't do what I should do, and what Dismas does. I don't say, "Wherever you are King, please, let me be your subject. Wherever you are going, please, take me with you."

"Are you not the Christ?" I say instead. And what I mean is exactly what Gestas meant: "Get me down. Take this cross away. I don't want it. I can't take it."

What a tragedy it would be, if all Christ had to offer us was an easier life.

None of this looks like anyone thought it would. The long-foretold Messiah, whose majesty and might would eradicate violence and establish peace. The guy who was going to make everything okay again. The King of the Jews. And here he hangs: bleeding and dying and doing what looks like nothing. Staring at Gestas. Staring at me. Staring at you.

What will you say to him?

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

## **Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained**

### **Question:**

What is Eucharistic Adoration?

### **Answer:**

The practice of Eucharistic Adoration is a centuries old ritual and falls within a broader category of devotions and rituals that are associated with the Sacrament of the Eucharist. In a particular way, Eucharistic Adoration is an extension of the worship and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament that occurs in every Mass.

In a long-standing practice, a period of Eucharistic Adoration often ends with "benediction," the blessing of the faith with the Blessed Sacrament.

Several parishes throughout the United States have introduced the practice of perpetual Eucharistic Adoration, while other communities have the custom of shorter periods of Eucharistic Adoration. Care should always be taken that these periods of adoration respect the instructions outlined in *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass*, the liturgical book that gives the instructions for the proper celebration of Eucharistic Adoration.

Although adoration of the Blessed Sacrament can never take the place of Eucharistic Communion, many Catholics find great comfort and consolation in their prayers before the Eucharist enshrined in the tabernacle or when it is exposed in the monstrance (both are equally valid, as the Christ is not more present in one than in the other). But when we consider our eucharistic devotions, it is always important to remember the fundamental connection these acts of devotion have the celebration of the Eucharist in the Mass and reception of Christ in Communion.

The rulers sneered at Jesus and said, "He saved others, let him save himself if he is the chosen one, the Christ of God." Even the soldiers jeered at him. As they approached to offer him wine they called out, "If you are King of the Jews, save yourself." - Lk 23:35-37

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

## Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

### First Reading:

The people of Israel recognized that David was a natural leader, and with the Lord's blessing anointed him king of Israel. What do you think makes someone a good leader?

### Second Reading:

Paul offers to the Colossians a beautiful piece of poetry reflecting on how Jesus reconciled all things in heaven and on earth. Can you share a time when you were reconciled with a family member or friend?

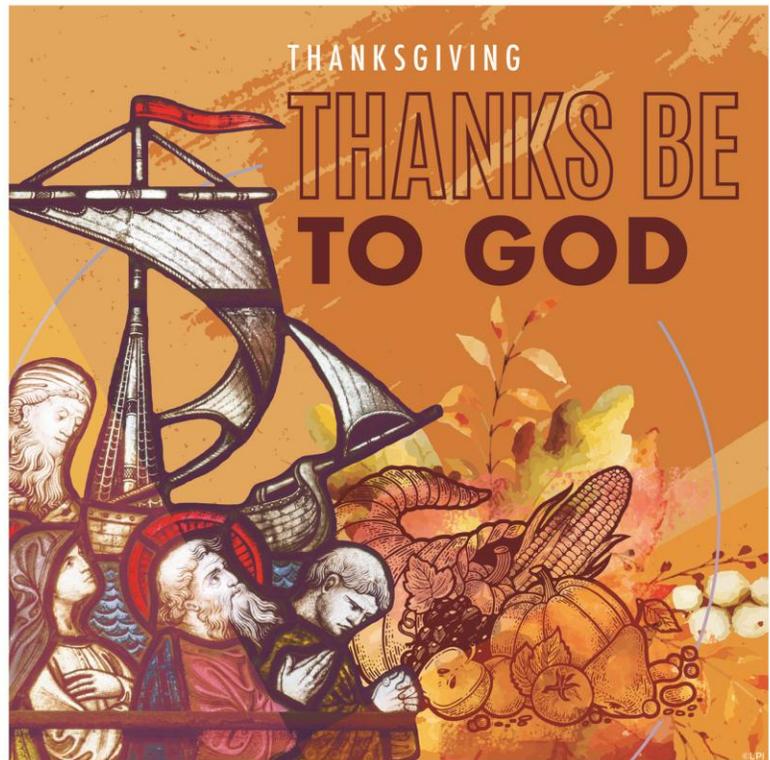
### Gospel:

Jesus assured the repentant criminal crucified next to him that he would be with him in paradise. Who might you offer words of comfort to this week?



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## Prayer

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to forgive my sins, too.

## Mission for the Week

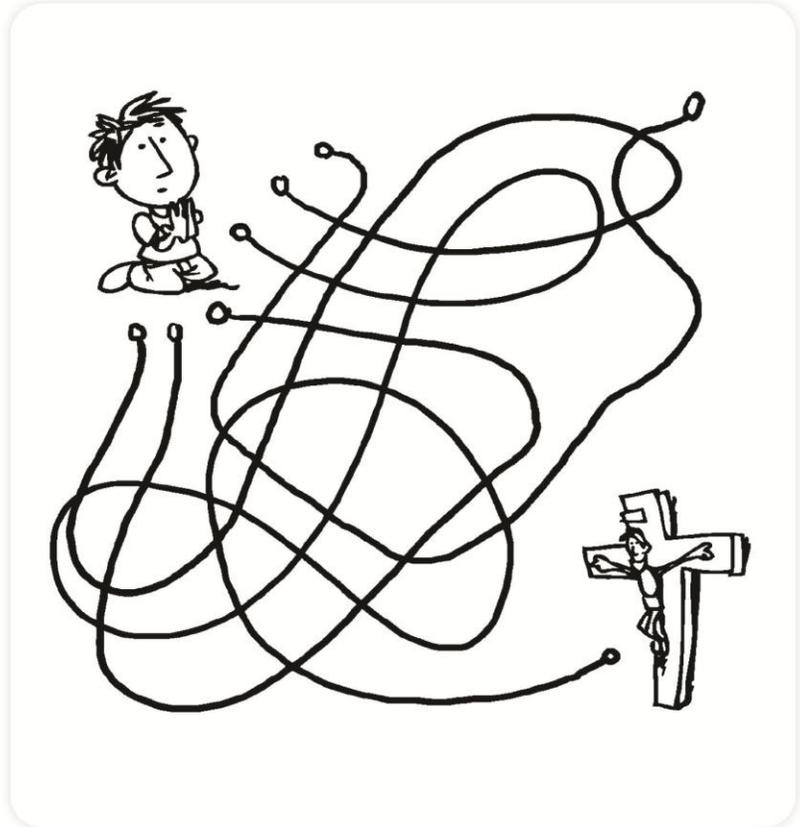
Jesus forgave the people who killed him. He expects you to forgive people who hurt you, too. Think of one person with whom you have been angry. Ask God to help you forgive that person, because Jesus forgives you.

## Sharing the Gospel

When the soldiers hurt Jesus, they were only doing their job. They did not understand that they were killing God's Son. Jesus saw into the hearts of those soldiers, and he forgave them. A man next to Jesus on the cross had done terrible things. He knew he deserved to die on a cross, and he was truly sorry. This criminal believed that Jesus was God's Son. Jesus saw into that criminal's heart, and Jesus forgave him, too.

Now color the picture! →

Find the path that leads to Jesus.



—AN INTRODUCTION FROM BISHOP FLEMING—



Greetings in Christ: At the annual meeting of the Catholic Bishops of the United States, my brother bishops and I issued a special statement on immigration in our country. I invite you to prayerfully read this statement. It is not about politics; it is about the sanctity and dignity of human life. Each and every human being is a beloved child of God, created in God's image.

In His love, peace and joy,

  
Most Rev. Jeffrey M. Fleming  
Bishop of Great Falls-Billings



STATEMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE  
OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS ON IMMIGRATION

*From the Plenary Assembly in Baltimore - November 12, 2025*

As pastors, we the bishops of the United States are bound to our people by ties of communion and compassion in Our Lord Jesus Christ. We are disturbed when we see among our people a climate of fear and anxiety around questions of profiling and immigration enforcement. We are saddened by the state of contemporary debate and the vilification of immigrants. We are concerned about the conditions in detention centers and the lack of access to pastoral care. We lament that some immigrants in the United States have arbitrarily lost their legal status. We are troubled by threats against the sanctity of houses of worship and the special nature of hospitals and schools. We are grieved when we meet parents who fear being detained when taking their children to school and when we try to console family members who have already been separated from their loved ones.

Despite obstacles and prejudices, generations of immigrants have made enormous contributions to the well-being of our nation. We as Catholic bishops love our country and pray for its peace and prosperity. For this very reason, we feel compelled now in this environment to raise our voices in defense of God-given human dignity.

Catholic teaching exhorts nations to recognize the fundamental dignity of all persons, including immigrants. We bishops advocate for a meaningful reform of our nation's immigration laws and procedures. Human dignity and national security are not in conflict. Both are possible if people of good will work together.

We recognize that nations have a responsibility to regulate their borders and establish a just and orderly immigration system for the sake of the common good. Without such processes, immigrants face the risk of trafficking and other forms of exploitation. Safe and legal pathways serve as an antidote to such risks. The Church's teaching rests on the foundational concern for the human person, as created in the image and

likeness of God (*Genesis 1:27*). As pastors, we look to Sacred Scripture and the example of the Lord Himself, where we find the wisdom of God's compassion. The priority of the Lord, as the Prophets remind us, is for those who are most vulnerable: the widow, the orphan, the poor, and the stranger (*Zechariah 7:10*). In the Lord Jesus, we see the One who became poor for our sake (*2 Corinthians 8:9*), we see the Good Samaritan who lifts us from the dust (*Luke 10:30-37*), and we see the One who is found in the least of these (*Matthew 25*). The Church's concern for neighbor and our concern here for immigrants is a response to the Lord's command to love as He has loved us (*John 13:34*).

To our immigrant brothers and sisters, we stand with you in your suffering, since, when one member suffers, all suffer (*cf. 1 Corinthians 12:26*). You are not alone!

We note with gratitude that so many of our clergy, consecrated religious, and lay faithful already accompany and assist immigrants in meeting their basic human needs. We urge all people of good will to continue and expand such efforts.

We oppose the indiscriminate mass deportation of people. We pray for an end to dehumanizing rhetoric and violence, whether directed at immigrants or at law enforcement. We pray that the Lord may guide the leaders of our nation, and we are grateful for past and present opportunities to dialogue with public and elected officials. In this dialogue, we will continue to advocate for meaningful immigration reform.

*As disciples of the Lord, we remain  
men and women of hope, and hope does not disappoint!  
(*cf. Romans 5:5*)*

*May the mantle of Our Lady of Guadalupe enfold us all  
in her maternal and loving care and draw us ever closer  
to the heart of Christ.*