

OUR LADY OF THE LAKE

203 VAUGHN RD., BRANSON, MO | 417.334.2928 | OFFICE@OLLBRANSON.COM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2025



OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST,
KING OF THE UNIVERSE

“Amen, I say to you,
today you will be with me in Paradise.” - Lk 23:43



Christ the King

Events

SATURDAY Nov. 22

2nd Collection ~The Bishop's Collection
for Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri

Sacrament of Reconciliation

3:00 - 4:30pm - Confessional

SUNDAY Nov. 23

2nd Collection ~The Bishop's Collection
for Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri

Coffee & Christ

9:15 - 10:15am - Faith Formation Room

MONDAY Nov. 24

No events today

TUESDAY Nov. 25

OCIA

6:30-8:00pm - Heritage Room

WEDNESDAY Nov. 26

Stitchers

Will NOT meet this week

Music Practice

3:45 - 5:15pm - In the music room

Katherine Lopez Morales Funeral

4:00 - 5:00pm

Luncheon Following

PSR

5:30pm - Thanksgiving Bread Mass

No food or class

THURSDAY Nov. 27

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Happy
THANKSGIVING

FRIDAY Nov. 28

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Spanish Charismatic Group

6:00 - 9:00pm - Faith Formation Room

SATURDAY Nov. 29

No morning events

Page 2

Mass Times

SATURDAY

5:00pm

7:00pm (Spanish)

SUNDAY

8:00am

10:30am

MONDAY

9:00am

TUESDAY

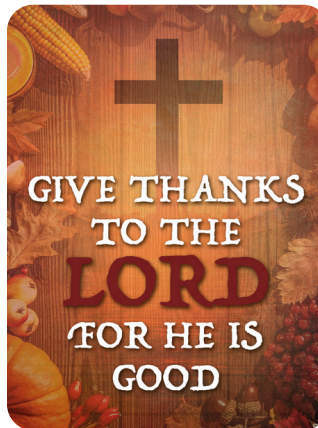
9:00am

WEDNESDAY

5:30pm

THURSDAY

9:00am



Adoration

TUESDAY

No Adoration
Will Resume Jan. 13th

THURSDAY

No Adoration
Will Resume Jan. 15th

Important Links

[Click Here For PARISH CALENDAR](#)

[Click Here For MASS INTENTIONS](#)

[Click Here For FLOWER INTENTIONS](#)

Flower Intentions available for November & December

Mass Intentions

Sat.	11/22	5:00pm	Leanne Castillo +
Sat.	11/22	7:00pm	Taney County Parish Family (Living)
Sun.	11/23	8:00am	Souls in Purgatory +
Sun.	11/23	10:30am	Rex Malson +
Mon.	11/24	9:00am	Friends of Suzi Martin (Living & Deceased) +
Tue.	11/25	9:00am	Deceased Members of Percy Family +
Wed.	11/26	5:30pm	Eugene & Zeta Leonard + (Wedding Anniversary Deceased)
Thu.	11/27	9:00am	Mary Nguyen +



[Click Here to Make a Prayer Request](#)

[Click Here to Donate Online](#)

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[Click Here to Contact Parish Staff](#)

WORSHIP WITH US



[Click here](#) for Mass Times & Sacrament of Reconciliation

CLICK HERE FOR

DAILY MASS READINGS



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



BLESSED
THANKSGIVING
TO YOU AND YOURS!



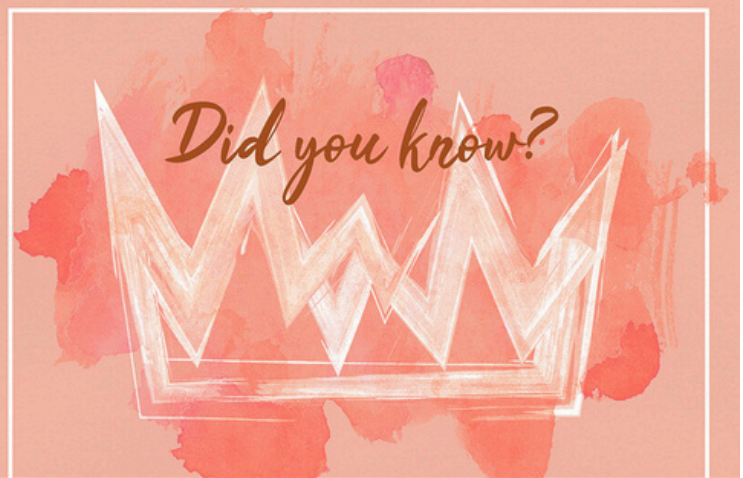
**Collection through
Nov. 16, 2025**

Envelopes:		\$25,625.66
Plate:		\$15,015.38
Green Envelopes:		\$15,901.60
Total:		\$66,542.64

*"Let us remember our
dearly-departed
family and friends:
May they rest in the
peace of Christ. And,
let us pray for lasting
peace in our war-torn
world, through the
intercession of Christ
the King. (Nov. 23)"*

Bishop Edward M. Rice

November
PRAYER INTENTION 



The Feast of Christ the King was instituted in 1925 to address growing attitudes of secularism and atheism and to proclaim Christ's kingship forever. The day also marks the final Sunday on the Church's Liturgical Calendar.

©LPI

It's an exciting time in OCIA as our seekers will be advancing from the pre-Catechumenate to the Catechumenate.

During the weekend of November 29th & 30th
(1st weekend of Advent)
We, as the Parish community, will celebrate with them through

**The Rite of Entrance
(for the unbaptized over 7 years of age)
&**

**The Rite of Welcome
(for those who have already been Baptized Christian)**

Our Catechumenates and Candidates have been studying and meeting once each week since September and some since June.

They are ready to go on to the next phase of catechesis to learn about the Sacraments and other Church teachings - and YOU can help!

*In the Gathering space there will be a basket of cards
with the names of each of our seekers.*

*The OCIA Team invites you to take at least one card and pray for this person
throughout this year to Pentecost.*

If you see your person (or people) at Mass or other Church events, welcome them and let them know you are praying for them.

*Thank you! The OCIA Team Leaders,
Steve Harter, Mario Lombardi, Stephanie Miller, Wendie Lapham and Lorry Davis*



Coffee and Christ Sundays

9:15am to 10:15am
Faith Formation Room

‘The Lamb of God,’
‘The Bread of Life,’

‘The Body and the Blood of Christ’...
These are phrases we know from the Mass.



But do we understand what they mean in the greater and deeper context of Scripture and Church teaching? We'll discover firsthand how Christ's Body and Blood are an integral and wondrous part of God's plan for our salvation.



Acclaimed author and teacher Dr. Brant Pitre digs down to the biblical roots of the Eucharist, through its foreshadowing in the miraculous events of the Old Testament, the Gospels, and Apostolic teaching.



Nov. 23

Episode 6 - Miracles of Jesus: Water, Wine, Loaves, and Fishes

"Throughout his public ministry, Jesus displayed divine power in the many miracles he performed. Dr. Pitre uncovers a deeper meaning to many of those miracles including the water, wine, loaves and fishes-and how they enlighten our understanding of the Eucharist.

Coffee & Christ will not be meeting on Sunday, Nov. 30th
We will resume on Sunday, Dec. 7th



Women's Welcome Retreat
Our Lady of the Lake in Branson, MO
March 7th & 8th 2026

The experience is personal, inspirational, and fulfilling.

Welcome is a two-day renewal weekend unlike any you have attended. Parishioners share with one another ways they have found meaning, hope, peace, and love in their lives through Christ.

SCAN TO REGISTER



OR GO TO:
OLLBRANSON.COM/WOMENS-WELCOME-RETREAT





Join Father J. on a Pilgrimage to Fatima & Lourdes with Barcelona September 20 - 30, 2026

[Click here for more information or to sign up.](#)

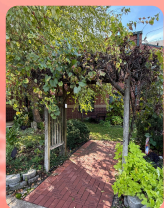


Memorial Bricks

Looking for a
gift for that
hard to buy
for person!



Paver bricks are available
to remember loved ones,
signify special celebrations and
commemorate the celebration of life!



Meditation Garden



Memorial Flag Pole



SCAN TO ORDER



or

GO ONLINE

[ollbranson.com/
memorial-bricks](http://ollbranson.com/memorial-bricks)

or

CALL the parish office
417-334-2928

SAVE THE DATE



Our Lady of the Lake

Tuesday, Dec. 9th
10:00am & 6:30pm

Wednesday, Dec. 10th
10:00am & 6:30pm

We will begin with the Rosary,
followed by Tony guiding us through a
musical mission of Advent



NOVEMBER PSR CALENDAR



SPECIAL EVENT

Thanksgiving Bread
Mass Vigil

November 26th at 5:30 Mass

Bring bread that you baked or bought to share it with others.

The bread will be blessed and then each family at Mass can go and pick a bread they want to take home for their Thanksgiving Meal.

The only rule is that you don't pick the same bread you brought. If you don't bring a bread, that's ok. We always have more than enough to share with all those attending Mass. God truly multiplies the gifts that we share

SAINTS OF THE MONTH



ST MARTIN DE PORRES

WAS A PERUVIAN FRIAR NOTED FOR HIS KINDNESS, HIS NURSING OF THE SICK, HIS OBEDIENCE, AND HIS CHARITY. HE IS THE PATRON SAINT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, RACIAL HARMONY, AND MIXED-RACE PEOPLE.

SAINT CECILIA

ONE OF THE MOST FAMOUS VIRGIN MARTYRS OF THE EARLY CHURCH AND THE PATRON SAINT OF MUSIC AND MUSICIANS.



Wednesday PSR K-12th

Nov. 26 - 5:30pm

Thanksgiving Bread Mass No Class

SERVICE PROJECT Options Baby Bottles

Baby bottles were sent home Nov. 12th
Please return them by Dec. 10th



- YOU can help provide life-affirming pregnancy support services to families in need.
- Fill it with spare change, cash, or a check.
- All of your generous gifts go directly to Options Pregnancy Clinic, allowing them to reach many local families. Pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, parenting education, STI testing/treatment and more are offered at no cost to clients.

Merry Christmas

DECEMBER PSR CALENDAR



Wednesday PSR K-12th

Dec. 3 - 5:30-7:00pm

Mass/Adoration
Food/Class

Dec. 10 - 5:30-7:00pm

Mass
Food/Class

Dec. 17 - 5:30-7:00pm

Mass
Food/Class

Dec 24th

Christmas Eve
No Class

Dec 31st

New Year's Eve
No Class



SAINT OF THE MONTH



SAINT JUAN DIEGO

was born in 1474 as Cuauhtlatotzin, a native to Mexico.

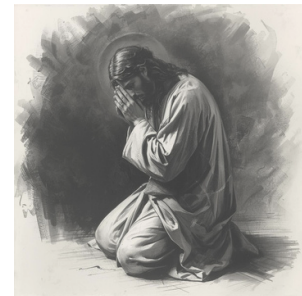
He became the first Roman Catholic indigenous saint from the Americas.

SPECIAL EVENT

Communal

Penance Service

Sunday, Dec. 14th - 3pm



SERVICE PROJECT

Christmas Cards for the Homebound



MENU

12/3 - Mac and Cheese

12/10 - BBQ Chicken Sliders

12/17 - Waffles and Ice Cream



OLL Games

Join us on December 4th
OLL Game Day
1:00pm Faith Formation Room

OLL Train - The Gobblers
BIG Winner is Kevin -229
Ed -256 Joe -281
Lil' Winner is Judy E -340



OLL Train - 3 Ladies and a Dude!
BIG Winner is Pam -288
Julie J -289 Anne Marie -335
Lil' Winner Curtis -445

Swoop -Dan & the Gals
BIG Winner is Dan -254
Sharon A -337 Jeanne -340
Sharon S -381 Sharon P -413
Lil' Winner is Rosemarie -471



Mahjong
Judy O -75 Sharron -50
Joyce -25 Caleb -0



There will be NO OLL Games on Thanksgiving, November 27th
Enjoy visiting with Family and Friends as you celebrate
the Lord's many blessings!
OLL Games will resume on Thursday, December 4th at 1:00pm
Come check it out and join in the fun!
Everyone is invited!



ANNUAL PARISH 10-DAY EVENT

Our Lady's Advent Mission

OUR LADY of GUADALUPE

Patron Saint of the Americas
Feast Day: December 12th

Our Lady of Guadalupe is the name of the apparition of the Virgin Mary that took place in 1531, at the foot of Mt. Tepeyac in Mexico City.

She appeared to the Indian Juan Diego four times, the last being on December 12th of that same year.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Holy Day of Obligation
Monday, December 8th

Our Lady of the Lake Branson Masses	Noon & 7:00 pm Bilingual
Our Lady of the Ozarks Forsyth Mass	9:00 am
Our Lady of the Cove Kimberling City Mass	9:00 am

The official statement of the doctrine reads, "The blessed Virgin Mary to have been, from the first instant of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, in view of the merits of Christ Jesus the Savior of Mankind, preserved free from all stain of original sin."
(Pope Pius IX, Ineffabilis Deus, December 1854)

Essentially, the Immaculate Conception is the belief that Mary was protected from original sin, that Mary did not have a sin nature and was, in fact, sinless.

Novena

Daily Rosary
at 6:30 pm
in the Church
Unless otherwise indicated

Dinner will follow
each Rosary in the
Gathering Space

Novena Date	Rosary Led & Dinner Provided by:
Wed - Dec 3rd	Hispanic Ministries
Thurs - 4th	Music Ministry - Rosary Hispanic Ministries - Dinner
Fri - Dec 5th	Hispanic Ministries
Sat - Dec 6th	Rosary & Dinner at 8:00 pm Hispanic Ministries
Sun - Dec 7th	Hispanic Ministries
Mon - Dec 8th	Holy Day of Obligation Masses at Noon & 7:00 pm Bilingual Rosary & Dinner at 8:00 pm Led by Staff
Tues - Dec 9th	Advent Mission - Tony and Lynn Melendez 10:00 am & 6:30 pm
Wed - Dec 10th	Advent Mission - Tony and Lynn Melendez 10:00 am & 6:30 pm
Thurs - Dec 11th	Hispanic Ministries

Vigil in Honor of Our Lady

Thursday, December 11th

6:30 pm	Hispanic Ministries
7:00pm	Dinner Provided by Comunidad Hispana
8:00 to 9:30 pm	Holy Hour with Fr J
9:30 to 10:30pm & 11:15pm to 12:15am	Mariachi Performs with Mañanitas

Festival in Honor of Our Lady

Friday, December 12th

5:30 pm	Mass - Bilingual
6:30 to 9:00 pm	Festival In Honor of Our Lady Dance Groups: Aztec and Matlachines dances Folk dances Chinelos dance



Join in the fun! Enjoy the Food!

Hey Deacon!

By Deacon Dan Vaughn

Don't panic when asked to lead others in prayer.

For many people being asked to lead others in prayer can feel intimidating. Whether it's at a family gathering (Thanksgiving holiday), a church service, or a community event, the sudden responsibility of speaking to God on behalf of others often stirs nerves. Yet the truth is, prayer is not about polished words or perfect delivery. It's about sincerity, humility, and connection. Here are some ideas to help you stay calm and embrace the moment.

The first thing to remember is that prayer is simply talking to God. It doesn't require eloquence or memorized lines. When asked to lead, you are not performing for the group; you are guiding them into a shared conversation with the divine. As Catholics, remember that we are "Eucharistic People." It is in our DNA to give acknowledgment and thanksgiving to God. A heartfelt prayer, even if brief, is far more meaningful than a long, rehearsed speech.

If asked to lead a blessing prayer before a meal, it's okay to fall back on the traditional prayer we learned as a child. It is simple yet profound: "Bless us, O Lord, and these Thy gifts, which we are about to receive from Thy bounty, through Christ our Lord. Amen." This prayer is short enough for daily use but rich in meaning. It acknowledges God as the source of all gifts and invokes Christ's name, reminding us that even the smallest act of eating can be united to Him.

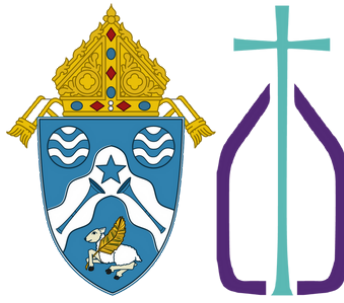
While traditional prayers are always appropriate, you may also add spontaneous words of thanksgiving. For example, you might thank God for specific blessings: the harvest, the hands that prepared the meal, or the joy of family unity. Including intentions for those in need—such as the poor, the sick, or those absent from the table—extends the prayer beyond the immediate circle and reflects the Catholic call to solidarity.

When I am asked to lead a pre-meal prayer, I thank our Heavenly Father for his many blessings and the gift of his Son. Blessings for the food before us, the hands that prepared it, and the love that surrounds us. I ask that we be mindful of the poor and those who will go without food this day. I then conclude by saying; "And we pray; Bless us O Lord, and these thy gifts..."

When leading a blessing, clarity and reverence are key. Begin by inviting everyone to quiet themselves and make the Sign of the Cross. Speak slowly and prayerfully, allowing the words to resonate. If children are present, encourage them to join in the traditional prayer, fostering a sense of participation and teaching them the rhythm of Catholic life.

Praying before meals in the Catholic tradition is a simple yet powerful act of gratitude and faith. Whether using the familiar "Bless us, O Lord" or offering heartfelt words of thanksgiving, the leader of the blessing helps transform the table into a place of grace. In doing so, the meal becomes not only nourishment for the body but also a reminder of God's constant care and love.

The beauty of prayer lies not in perfection but in authenticity. When the opportunity comes, embrace it as an honor, not a burden, and let your prayer be a reflection of your trust in God.



THE BISHOP'S COLLECTION

for Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri
NOVEMBER 22-23, 2025



The Bishop's Collection is the annual appeal for Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri. Each year, this collection takes place in commemoration of World Day of the Poor.

Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri (CCSOMO) is dedicated to supporting vulnerable populations across all 39 counties of the Diocese of Springfield–Cape Girardeau.

Our five essential programs focus on helping individuals and families achieve long-term success and self-sufficiency, ultimately fostering stronger, more resilient communities.

During this weekend of Bishop's Collection, we ask that you prayerfully consider a donation to support ALL of the programs and ALL of the clients served by CCSOMO. One-time and monthly donation options are available.

YOUR IMPACT AS A MONTHLY DONOR

\$50

could provide
healthcare navigation
for our veterans.

\$100

could provide housing
case management for
vulnerable, low-income
families.

\$150

could provide
transportation for our
LifeHouse babies to get to
healthcare appointments.



Join the St. Rose Philippine Duchesne Monthly Giving Society and receive a lapel pin, a dedicated newsletter, and inclusion in prayer intentions at monthly Mass at St. Anne's Chapel in Springfield.

SERVING OTHERS NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE CATHOLIC, BUT BECAUSE WE ARE

Maternal and Family Programs

- LifeHouse Crisis MaternityHome
- LifeHouse Aftercare Program
- Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies

Veteran Services

- SupportiveServices for Veteran Families

Housing Services

- HomelessnessPrevention Referrals

Construction Services

- Home Repair and Improvement

Developmental Disabilities Services Coordination

WAYS TO GIVE TO BISHOP'S COLLECTION



Envelope in
The Mirror.



Scan the QR code with
your phone to make a
donation online.



At Mass on
November 22-23.



Online at
ccsomo.org.



A WORD FROM BISHOP RICE

“The poor can be witnesses to a strong and steadfast hope... They cannot rely on the security of power and possessions; their hope must necessarily be sought elsewhere.” —Pope Leo XIV, 9th World Day of the Poor, Nov. 16, 2025.

During this Jubilee Year of Hope, we are reminded that the poor reveal to us the truth of the Gospel. As Pilgrims of Hope, we draw strength from Christ—the source of all hope—and are called to “Go and Do Likewise.”

Pope Francis reminds us that the greatest poverty is not knowing God. The poor often have a deep openness to faith; we must not fail to offer them His friendship, blessing, and care.

At Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, we serve as the hands of hope and love—helping homeless families, pregnant mothers, veterans, and individuals with developmental disabilities. In 2024, we assisted over 3,000 people across southern Missouri.

As one Church, East to West, let us bear witness to hope, love, and mercy. Please support Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri.

Be a Pilgrim of Hope: GO AND DO LIKEWISE

Want more information? Contact Suzanne Cronkhite, Chief Advancement Officer, at scronkhite@ccsomo.org.

Happy Thanksgiving

"What is a dentist's favorite hymn?"



"Crown Him with many crowns!"



The feast of "Christ the King" was instituted in 1925, a reminder that Jesus is our Lord and Savior.

©LPI

"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!

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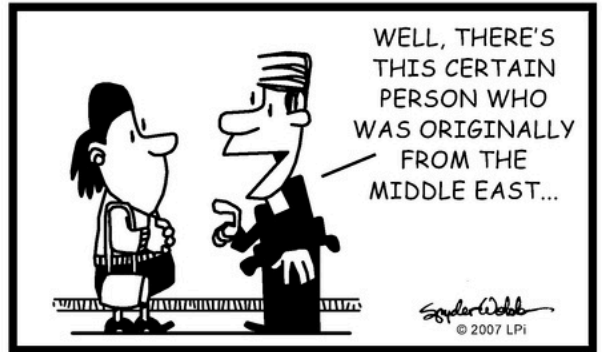
CATHOLIC TRIVIA

Question: What's the difference between a disciple and an apostle?

Answer: Disciples are "called," and apostles are "sent."

©LPI

CHRIST THE KING



CHRIST THE KING





Happy Thanksgiving

Dear Lord,
I thank You for the gift of life, the breath I breathe, and the strength You give me each day. Thank You for family, friends, and the people who enrich my journey. Even in times of difficulty, Your blessings are countless and unending. Teach me to recognize and appreciate every small grace that comes from You. May my heart remain ever grateful, and may I never take for granted the love and mercy You pour out on me daily. Amen.

Psalm 118:1

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.” Lord, I thank You for Your unending goodness in my life. Amen.



THE LORD'S TABLE IS SET...

& YOU'RE INVITED

This guide lays out monthly themes & practical suggestions for families to build lasting habits within their family & anchor their lives by placing God at the center.

NOVEMBER

SAINT CENTERPIECE FOR TABLE

As a family - pick a Saint to learn about and display on your kitchen table

PRAY TOGETHER BEFORE MEALS

Say the mealtime blessing before eating

EAT TOGETHER AS A FAMILY

Once a week - have a meal together

DECEMBER

ADVENT WREATH

Advent begins 11/30 - Make / Display an Advent Wreath in your home

ATTEND MASS AS A FAMILY

Attend Mass every Sunday & Holy days this month

ATTEND RECONCILIATION

As a family - attend an area Reconciliation service during Advent

SAVE THE DATE: Diocesan Eucharistic Congress 2026



SCAN HERE to learn more!



DIocese of SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU

Visit WWW.DIOSCG.ORG/DIOCESAN-EUCHARISTIC-CONGRESS or scan the QR CODE for more resources, including suggestions for the Year of Spiritual Preparation, updates to the Congress and to help promote the Congress!



What is Manna?

Manna is the official app of the National Eucharistic Congress— a growing hub of Eucharistic formation, prayer, and mission.

In the quiet of Ordinary Time, Fall is a great time to set aside space for spiritual growth. The National Eucharistic Congress invites you into our work of Eucharistic revival: it's the perfect time to go deeper — in prayer, in formation, in mission.

Whether you're looking to renew your prayer life, grow in understanding of the Eucharist, lead others, or simply stay connected to the Congress movement — Manna is built for you.

It's not just a video library. It's a spiritual ecosystem — right at your fingertips.

[Click here for complete details](#)

Intimacy, Mission & Miracles:

The Life of **ADVENTURE** in the

Holy Spirit

Advent Retreat with
Fr. Patrick Gonyeau C.P.P.S.

Join us for a Spirit-filled weekend and experience a spiritual journey that will leave you feeling renewed and strengthened!

Friday, December 5: 4:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Saturday, December 6: 9:00 am - 8:15 pm

Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
844 South Gregg Rd, Nixa, Missouri

Experience transformation and healing of your soul through
Inspirational Talks, Holy Mass, Adoration, Healing Service
Whether you can come both days or just one, come... You WILL be blessed!!!

www.strengtheningandhealing.org

\$25 or \$40/couple, Lunch & Dinner provided

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Shelly: 417-838-2730 or Jan: 417-763-1579



Fr. Patrick Gonyeau is a dynamic priest with the Missionaries of the Precious Blood and serves extensively with Encounter Ministries, teaching and ministering at events internationally. His greatest desire is to know and love The Blessed Trinity with his whole being and to help others do so as well.



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*

Weekly Prayer

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)

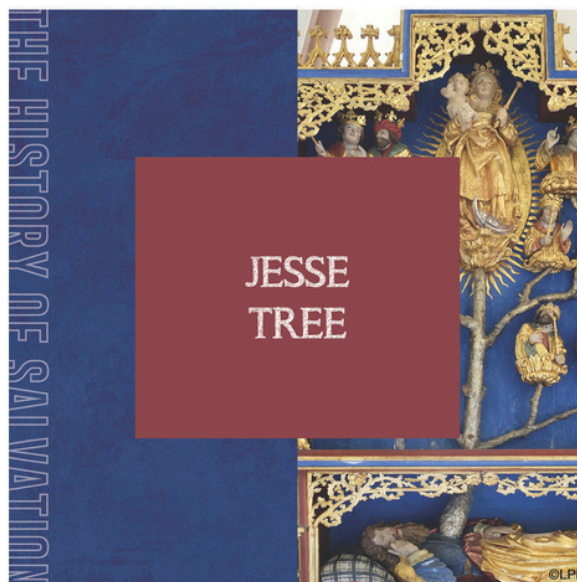
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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

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

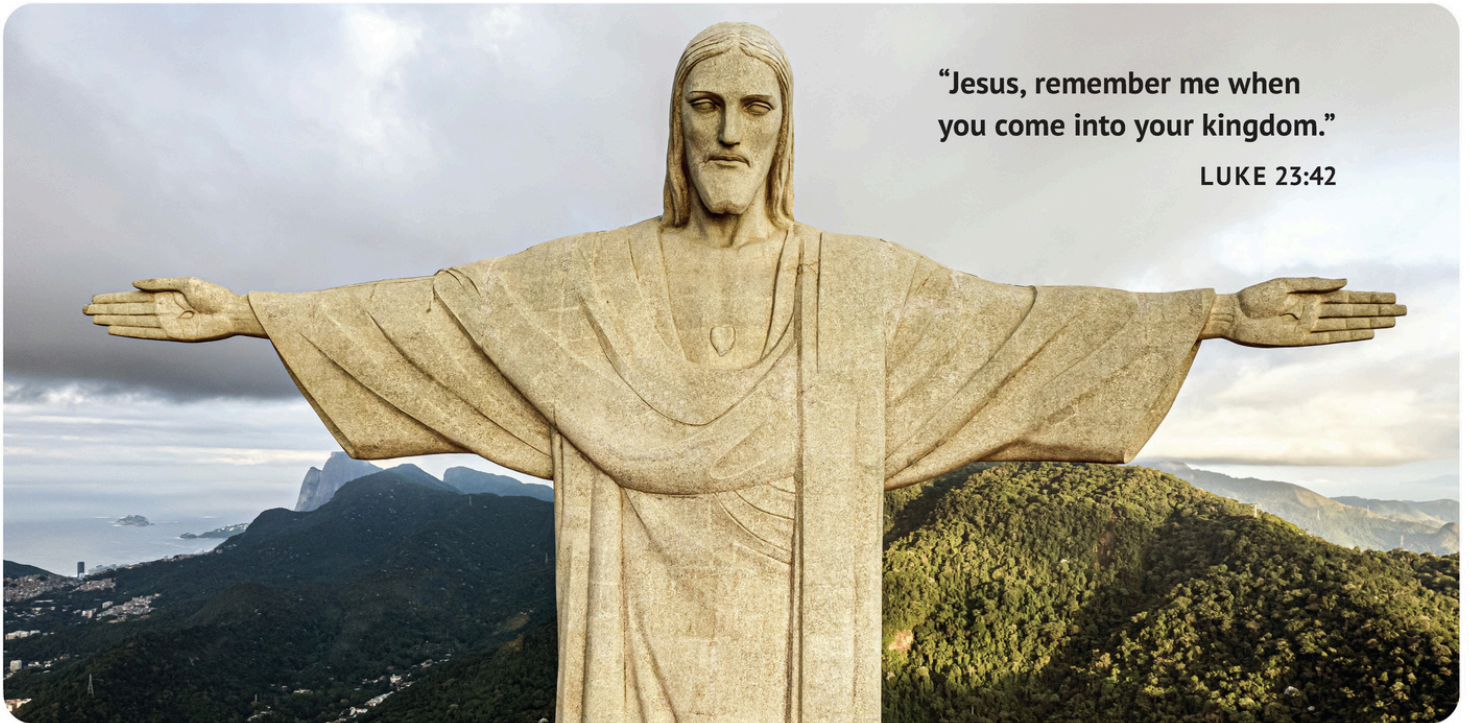


Devotions, *Explained!*

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.



“Jesus, remember me when
you come into your kingdom.”

LUKE 23:42

The Hero King

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.

Reflect

What does servant-leadership mean to me in my job, my community, my home?

(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.

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MASS SCHEDULE

WEEKEND

Saturday 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm (Spanish)
Sunday 8:00 am & 10:30 am (Live-Streamed)

WEEKDAY

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday 9:00 am
Wednesday 5:30 pm
1st Friday 10:00 am

Holy Day of Obligation

Noon and 7pm (Bilingual)

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays from 3:00 - 4:30 pm
or by Appointment (417-334-2928)

ADORATION

Tuesday 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

1st Wednesday of the month. After Mass -

Adoration, Exposition, and Benediction until 7:30pm

Thursday 9:30 am - 7:00 pm

- We will not have the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for the week before, the week of, and the week after a holiday.
- All Adorers, please sign in when you come to pray before the Blessed Sacrament.
- Please get in touch with the office if you need a door code or are having trouble with your own.

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