



NOVEMBER 26, 2023 | THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

HOLY FAMILY PARISH

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ST. THERESA'S

312 Tazewell Ave.
Tazewell, VA 24651

ST. ELIZABETH'S

160 Merrick Lane
Pocahontas, VA 24635

ST. MARY'S

1122 Farmer Street
Richlands, VA 24641

ST. JOSEPH'S

1007 Independence Rd.
Grundy, VA 24614



*The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) states that we are to kneel after receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. While the GIRM does make exceptions for people with certain physical conditions, those who are physically able to kneel should. We don't kneel because of the priest and we don't kneel until we are done praying even though the distribution of communion continues. We kneel when the Blessed Sacrament is out of the tabernacle, is being distributed to the faithful, and we may return to a sitting position once the Blessed Sacrament is no longer out, **when the tabernacle door has been closed**, signaling the end of the Communion rite. Kneeling until the priest sits down is not necessary, but is permissible.*

Gospel Reflection: Matthew 25: 31-46

TODAY is the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. In 1925, by virtue of his encyclical letter, *Quas Primas*, Pope Pius XI designated that the last Sunday of November is the Solemnity of Christ, the King. This was done to impress upon us Christ's eternal authority over all creation. It was also in response to the growing secularism at that time. In other words, we must maintain and profess our love, loyalty, and allegiance to Jesus Christ—the King, above all other earthly, secular, and material kings and leaders. The Solemnity should inspire and encourage us to make Jesus the center and King of our lives.

In today's Gospel, Jesus as our true King presents Himself as our caring and merciful Judge. As His subjects, we will face Him on the last day. The basis of His judgment is very simple and very basic. It is how we react and respond to the demands of human needs. Thus, we will be judged not on the talents and skills we acquired. We will not be judged on the prestige and fortune we have earned. It is not about popularity and degrees we have gained. But it is how we extended help. It is how much we have cared and loved others.

The love, care and help that are being asked from us are about the most common and most essential needs of man: food, clothing, shelter, etc. They need not be expensive clothing, neither very sumptuous meals nor cozy shelter. What is asked from us is to attend to the needs of the poor and needy, to be sensitive to their situation and to do something for them. It is a challenge for us to be more charitable. We are asked to be extra loving and merciful.

The people mentioned in today's Gospel (the hungry, thirsty, strangers, unclothed and prisoners), are all random and ordinary people. They are the people whom we can meet every day. They are all around us. Thus, there is no need for us to seek them out. They need our help. They represent Christ; I hope we will see Christ in them. Let us remember that to help them is to help Christ, and to ignore and neglect them is also to ignore and neglect Christ. Christ is reminding us today, "What you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me".

How diligently have we fulfilled the works of mercy? They are our passports to heaven. Performing the works of mercy will merit us hear the final verdict of Christ the King, for us, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Amen.



Fr. Renier Supranes

Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples:

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit upon his glorious throne, and all the nations will be assembled before him.

And he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father.

Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?

When did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?

When did we see you ill or in prison, and visit you?'

And the king will say to them in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.'

Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you accursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, a stranger and you gave me no welcome, naked and you gave me no clothing, ill and in prison, and you did not care for me.'

Then they will answer and say, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?'

He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.'

And these will go off to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

PRIEST ADMINISTRATOR

Fr. Renier Supranes
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(276) 385-7312

OFFICE MANAGER/ BOOKKEEPER

Lydia St. Peter

OFFICE HOURS

Mon–Fri 9:30AM – 2:30PM

Please call the parish office to make arrangements for the **Sacraments of Baptism, Anointing of the Sick or Holy Matrimony** as well as funerals. **Reconciliation** is available from 30 minutes before a scheduled Mass.

MASS TIMES

SATURDAY

4PM – St. Joseph's

6PM – St. Mary's

SUNDAY

9AM – St. Elizabeth's

11:30AM – St. Theresa's

TUESDAY & FRIDAY

10AM – St. Theresa's

Cover image:

Jan & Hubert Van Eyck,
"*The Almighty*" panel—Ghent
altarpiece, 1432

Bible 101: A brief introduction to Wisdom literature

By Sister Anna Marie McGuan, simplycatholic.com

THE WISDOM literature of the Old Testament is an eclectic collection of proverbs, moral lessons, riddles, warnings, extended meditations, and philosophical inquiry and debate. It also includes hymns and even love poetry in the Song of Songs. The human authors of the Bible took an interest in more than just religious subjects, as anyone who reads the Bible can attest.

The Wisdom literature is a prime example of that broad outlook.

The reason for this length and breadth of interest is that wisdom comes to us in many forms. There is, of course, the wisdom

that we learn from God himself through revelation. There is also wisdom to be gained from human experience and reflection. For example, the question “What is it to be just?” or “What does the just man do?” can be answered from a religious perspective or from a more secular bent. The answers may be different, but they are not contradictory.

The Wisdom literature exposes us to both types of reflection, especially in the books of Proverbs and Sirach. Some of the proverbs or sayings could be considered truisms, but they do contain ageless, sage advice, along with a lot of common sense. For example, “Where words are many, sin is not wanting; but those who restrain their lips do well.” (Prv 10:19), or: “Unjust anger can never be justified; anger pulls a person to utter ruin.” (Sir 1:22).

BOOK OF JOB

Besides giving sound advice, the biblical authors were not afraid to ask hard questions. In fact, they challenged inadequate understandings of wisdom and insufficient answers to questions about the meaning of suffering, diminishment and death. This, for example, is clearly the case

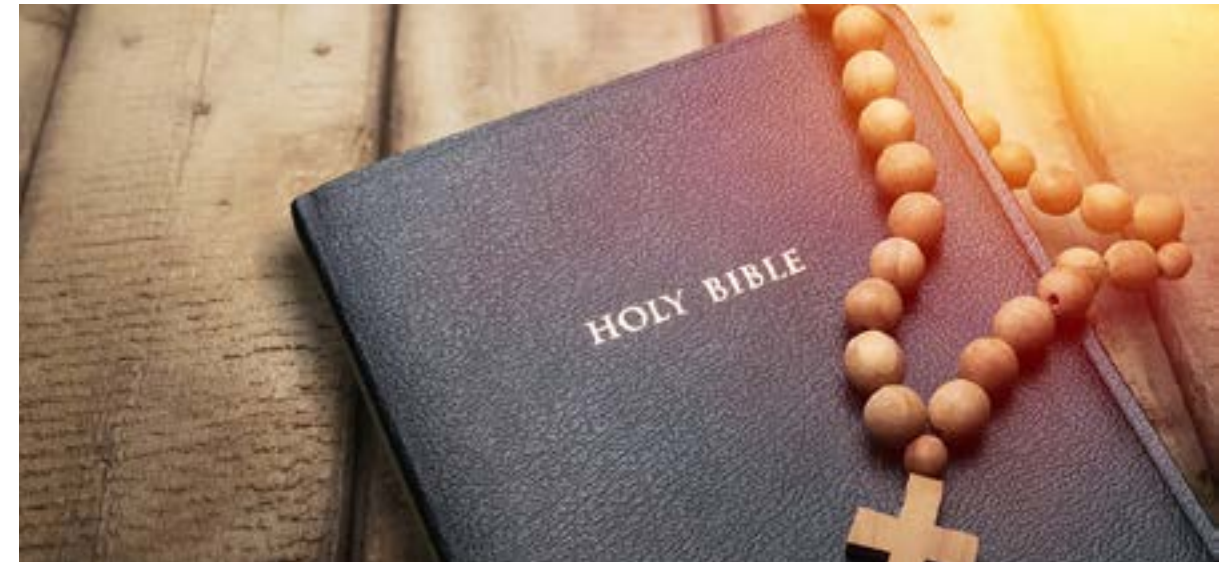
in the book of Job. The question behind the book of Job is the enigma of the just man who suffers.

The answers given by Job’s friends, namely, that he is being punished for his sins or that there is some hidden

thing he has done to displease God, are proved inadequate again and again as Job verbally spars with his interlocutors. The poetry of this book is powerful; according to some authors, it is by far the most skillful and elevated poetry in the Bible.

The final chapters are quite surprising because God answers Job, in a certain sense, but does not allow Job’s human intelligence to have dominance over the mystery of suffering. The poetry of God’s speech is breathtaking; his descriptions of the crocodile (Leviathan) and the hippopotamus (Behemoth) are fascinating. His descent into the conversation takes the form of a whirlwind, and that is what the poetry feels like.

“At the center of the book is a prayer for wisdom, which expresses the deep longing of each human heart for God, a longing that never goes away.”



ECCLESIASTES

The book of Qoheleth, or Ecclesiastes, also does not shy away from critiquing canned answers to difficult questions. In this book, the “preacher” informs the readers that he has examined the world and “All things are vanity!” He proclaims in the first chapter: “What has been, that will be; what has been done, that will be done. Nothing is new under the sun!” (Eccl 1:9).

This sounds rather nihilistic. At times the author seems quite despondent, yet he also writes things like this: “Just as you do not know how the life breath enters the human frame in the mother’s womb, So you do not know the work of God, who is working in everything. In the morning sow your seed, and at evening do not let your hand be idle: For you do not know which of the two will be successful, or whether both alike will turn out well” (Eccl 11:5-6). There is a certain humility requisite for the wise man. It is not in our power to know all things, but we do have to decide what to do with the time we have.

PRAYER BOOK OF ANCIENT ISRAEL

The book of Psalms is sometimes called the prayer book of ancient Israel. It is also the prayer book of Jews and Christians today. The psalms are written in poetry, and, like other books, the poems often have a parallel structure. This means that the verses are written in two or three lines, and the second and third lines are in relation to the first by interacting with its meaning. This can be through synonym, antithesis, the completion of an idea, etc. The lines within the poem can play together in lots of different ways. It can be fun to try and find the parallel meanings as one reads the psalm.

The book of Wisdom, though not included in the Hebrew Bible, also belongs to the Wisdom literature and is an extended meditation on wisdom, law and the just man. At the center of the book is a prayer for wisdom, which expresses the deep longing of each human heart for God, a longing that never goes away.

mass intentions

Date	Intention
11/25 SATURDAY	
4PM	Mary Patricia Baxter ☩
6PM	Mary Deiro ☩
11/26 SUNDAY	
9AM	
11:30AM	

stewardship of treasure

Donations Received as of November 19 (Week 21)		
CHURCH	ATTENDANCE	OFFERINGS
St. Joseph's	14	\$577
St. Elizabeth's	24	\$645
St. Mary's	13	\$944
St. Theresa's	60	\$1,167
Total	111	\$3,333
Outside Donations		\$800
Year to Date Received		\$66,676
Goal		\$59,367
Ahead/Behind Goal		+ \$7,309

OUTSIDE DONATIONS—THANK YOU!!
St. Michal, Glen Allen, VA: \$800

please pray for

Louise Serreno*
Gerry Hankins
Clarence Moore
Lexi Cox
Sarah Wall
Tammy Bennett
Margaret Wasilewski
Nick Ulate
Frannie & Rayburn Minton
Sue Bailey
Christian Lambert
Shane Neal
Pete Belcher
Lucas Boyd
Ralph Heldreth
Chris Jessie
Leo Brown
Carolina Ferrare
Junior Aiken
Jeanne Hash
Lara Marshall
Carol & Jim Shumate
Andrew Satmary
Christian Marshall
Alice Godin
Bryan Gunter
Michael Beavers
Natalie Dodge
Roger Empson
Dreama Ritter
Chris Lambert
Mary Muncy
Cindy Lambert
Helen Petro

Clinard Coleman
Joan Harrison
Joe & Yvonne Blevins
Kyle Brown
Sarah Walters
Amelia Proffit
Maurice Law
Dennis & Frances Savage
Nancy Jo Testerman
Josh Cornwell
John Shumate
Doug Vance
Russ Hatfield
Connie Pace
Jody Hamilton
Jeanne Ameli
Annette Pike
Everett Neese
Sharon Mullady
Veronica Ross
Skip Reynolds
Danny McNamara
Louie Negroni
Mary Gobble
Karen Hart
The Dalton family
Allen & Melody James
Betty Tabor
Joseph Romeo
Denise Campbell
Flaudean Bolling
Joelle Bolling
Sara Griffith
Chuck Blevins

council members

PARISH COUNCIL:
Tonya Hylton, Frannie Minton, Ralph Shawver, Barbara Jones, Donna Lambert, Maria Farris, Zach Hash

FINANCE COUNCIL:
Kathy & Bob Buchanan, Randy Bolling, Doug Vance, Anne Danko, Jim Talbert, Jackie Shawver, Lydia St. Peter

parish news & events

Special Masses in December

Friday, December 1:

6PM Adoration & Penitential service at St. Theresa's

Friday, December 8:
(Immaculate Conception)

10AM Tazewel
6PM Richlands

Saturday December 23:

4PM Grundy
6PM Richlands

Sunday, December 24:

11:30AM Tazewell
3PM Pocahontas
6PM Tazewell

Monday, December 25:

9AM Grundy
11AM Richlands

December 30/31 weekend is normal schedule.

January 1 (Mary, Mother of God) schedule to be determined.

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!
Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come!"
-Mk 11:9,10

birthdays & anniversaries:

NOVEMBER 26: Tim Crouse, Judy Gardner | **27:** Ophelia Santos

29: Sue Ellen Presley, Amanda Shrader | **30:** Baine & Toni Tester (anniversary)

DECEMBER 2: Jim Talbert



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