

Dear Padre,

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

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
November 24	November 25	November 26	November 27	November 28	November 29	November 30
St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs	Weekday	Weekday	Thanksgiving Day (US)	Weekday	Weekday	First Sunday of Advent
Dn 1:1-6, 8-20	Dn 2:31-45	Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28	Sir 50:22-24	Dn 7:2-14	Dn 7:15-27	Is 2:1-5
Lk 21:1-4	Lk 21:5-11	Lk 21:12-19	1 Cor 1:3-9	Lk 21:29-33	Lk 21:34-36	Rom 13:11-14
			Lk 17:11-19			Mt 24:37-44



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Listen to [Christ's] offer of love and become his one family: in the One Christ, we are one. This is the path to follow together, among ourselves but also with our sister Christian churches, with those who follow other religious paths, with those who are searching for God, with all women and men of good will, in order to build a new world where peace reigns!

HOMILY, MAY 18, 2025

St. Agnes • St. Boniface • St. John the Evangelist

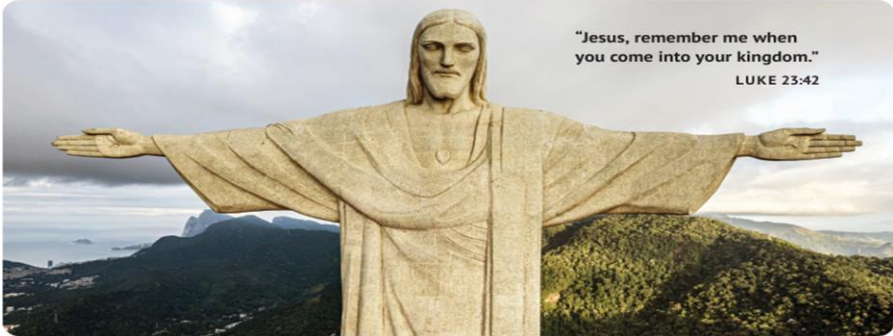
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The Hero King

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?

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (C) Nov 23, 2025

Today as a Church, we conclude our liturgical year and celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. The Gospel we proclaim shows the great mystery of our faith: In the moment of his crucifixion, Jesus is shown to be King and Savior of all.

Luke's Gospel has been loaded with surprises: the poor are rich, sinners find salvation, the Kingdom of God is found in our midst. Here we see the greatest surprise of all. We are confronted with the crucified Jesus, whom faith tells us is King and Savior of all. The irony is that the inscription placed on the cross, perhaps in mockery, contains the profoundest of truth. As the leader's jeer, the thief crucified by his side recognizes Jesus as Messiah and King and finds salvation.

Jesus is King, but not the kind of king we might have imagined or expected. His kingship was hidden from many of his contemporaries, but those who had the eyes of faith were able to see. As modern disciples of Jesus, we, too, struggle at times to recognize Jesus as King. Today's Gospel invites us to make our own judgment. With eyes of faith, we, too, recognize that Jesus, the crucified One, is indeed King and Savior of all.

Eternal Rest Grant unto him O'Lord.

We remember *Fr. Joesph Pampara* who recently passed away. May the hope of resurrection bring peace to him. (Uncle to Fr Mike. You can watch is funeral on You Tube by searching his name)

Mass Schedule & Intentions For the week of November 24, 2025

Mon.	Nov.	24	7:00 AM	SJ	No Mass
Tues.	Nov.	25	7:00 AM	SJ	Wally Allison †
Wed.	Nov.	26	5:30 PM	SA	Cathy Weaver †
Thurs.	Nov.	27	9:00 AM	SJ	All Souls
Fri.	Nov.	28	8:30 AM	SJ	No Mass
Sun.	Nov.	30	8:00 AM	SJ	Charlene Walz †
Sun.	Nov.	30	9:30 AM	SA	Kelley Whitaker
Sun.	Nov.	30	11:00 AM	SB	People of the Parish

Saint Francis Anthony Fasani (1681-1742) Feast Day November 27

“Fortify yourself with the shield of holy virtues so that you can walk as Mary did and attain the blessings awaiting you in Paradise.”



Donnie Welch Nov 25th
Mark Phelps Nov 27th
Carry Schacher Nov 30th
Karson Welch Nov 30th

Ministry Schedule

Date: Nov 30	St Agnes	St Boniface	St John's
Time	Sunday 9:30 AM	Sunday 11:00 AM	Sunday 8:00 AM
Hospitality	Sue D. & Pam L.	Steve & Kristen B.	Rex & Kristie W.
Lector	Pam L.	Rod B.	Jenny J.
Server		Amelia P. & Katie P.	Cotter J. & Wyatt D.
EMHC	Sue D. & Pam L.	Mike P. & John R.	Steve & Cindy F.
Communion to shut ins or Music		Mike P.	Music: Toby K.

St. Agnes

Our Gifts to God & Church
November 16, 2025
Total Collection: \$189.00

Diocesan Appeal
Dollar Goal the
GOAL is MET!!!

Thrift Store
Open Nov 28 9AM to 4PM
CCD Oct Nov 26 No Class
Elementary 3:40 PM
High School 7:30 PM Meal

St. Boniface

Our Gifts to God & Church
November 16, 2025
Total Collection: \$1278.00

Diocesan Appeal
Dollar Goal \$3650 of \$7452 with
10 of 17 Donors
CCD Wed. Nov 26th No Class
PreK to 2nd 4 PM
Supper 6:10
Class 6:30 to 7:30 PM
Christmas Toy Drive Drop off
concealed new toys at church from
Dec. 1 to Dec 14 to be given to the
Callaway Hospital

St. John's

Our Gifts to God & Church
November 16, 2025
Total Collection: \$1945.75

Diocesan Appeal
Dollar Goal \$2200 of \$5179
with 6 of 15 Donors
CCD Wed, Nov 26 No Class
PreK to 5th 3:40 PM
6th -12th Supper 6:30
Class Begins 7:00 PM

Mass of Thanksgiving
Nov 27 at 9 AM



Council of Catholic Women Baby Drive

IN HONOR OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Please help us collect items for the Women's Resource Center by placing your items in the play pen in the Church Hall by December 8th.

Item Suggestions:

- Newborn & 0-3 month clothes
- Adult Hygiene Items
- Baby Bath Towels
- Pacifiers
- Diapers sizes 4, 5, 6
- Baby Hygiene Items
- Baby Bottles
- Brush and comb sets
- Pullups
- Baby Socks