

# *The Master's Message*

## *The Newsletter of the Church of the Master*

### *November, 2024*

*Virtual Adult Bible Study*  
*Wednesday, 7:00 PM*  
*Saturday, 12:00*

*2783 Lafayette Avenue*  
*Bronx, N.Y. 10465*  
*718-597-6298*

*Sunday Worship*  
*Sunday 11:00 am*

*[cotm47@verizon.net](mailto:cotm47@verizon.net)*

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*Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden, Pastor*

## **BE THANKFUL**

***Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?***

***Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.***

***Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times you grow.***

***Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.***

***Be thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons.***

***Be thankful when you're tired and weary, because it means you've made a difference.***

***It's easy to be thankful for the good things. A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who are also thankful for the setbacks.***

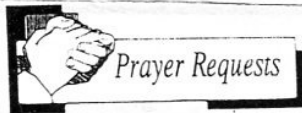
***Find a way to be thankful for your troubles, and they can become your blessings.***



## \*SPECIAL DATES\*

- All Saints' Day, November 1<sup>st</sup>
- Daylight-Saving Time ends, November 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Veterans Day, November 11<sup>th</sup>
- Christ the King Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>
- Thanksgiving, November 28<sup>th</sup>

## \*News From the Pews\*



Continue praying for:  
Ellen McCullough,  
Allen Ford, Carole Mahon,  
Loretta Byrd, John Bruno,  
Alice & Alex Rivera

Everyone is invited to join our virtual "**Hour of Prayer Power**" every Friday at 7:00 PM.  
The conference call-in number is 605-475-4860,  
code: 371231#

Our **Online Bible Study** meets  
Wednesday at 7:00 PM and Saturday at 12:00.  
Contact Ron Rivera (917-716-8273)  
for information on joining



## The whole pie

How easy it is to miss the point of living. ... It is too easy to become an algebra pie with [one slice for each part — work, family, school, recreation — and] only one slice for God. God is the whole pie!

Perhaps God's presence among us is brighter and more extravagant than we have imagined. Perhaps the very idea of life is to experience and discover God in it. Maybe we are meant to journey not only *toward* God or even *for* God, but *with* God.

—Sue Monk Kidd, *God's Joyful Surprise*



## \*CHURCH CHUCKLES\*

A grouchy old man walks into the local church and proclaims to the administrative assistant, "Look, here, you fool woman, I'm here to join this church."

The woman is shocked, sure she misheard. "Excuse me, sir?"

"Listen up, you fool woman. I am here to join this church."

The secretary stands up and declares she will not be spoken to that way. She goes into the pastor's office to explain the situation, and they both come out to the reception area together. The pastor addresses the man. "What seems to be the problem, sir? You can't talk to my staff like that. Who do you think you are?"

"I didn't think there would be a problem," the man said belligerently. "I just won \$200 million in the lottery, and this fool woman is trying to give me a hard time about joining this church. I'm just trying to find a good place to get rid of some of this money."

"Well," said the pastor, "As soon as I escort this fool woman off of the property, you and I will sit down and get you all settled here at your new church."

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One day, Satan challenged God to a baseball game. "You don't have a chance," answered God. "I have Mickey Mantle, Joe DiMaggio, Lou Gehrig, and all the greats."

"Well, that may be true," boasted Satan, "but I have all the umpires."

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## CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Attend a National PRAYER & FASTING  
Conference this Friday at 7:00 P.M.  
Sign-up fee includes meals. "



## A Veterans Day prayer

God of all nations, you are our Strength and Shield. We give you thanks today for the devotion and courage of all those who have offered military service for this country ...

We ask today that you would lift up by your Spirit those who are now at war; encourage and heal those in hospitals or mending their wounds at home; guard those in any need or trouble; hold safely in your hands all military families and bring the returning troops to joyful reunion and tranquil life at home. Give to us, your people, grateful hearts and a united will to honor these men and women and hold them always in our love and our prayers until your world is perfected in peace and all wars cease. Through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

—Rev. Dr. Jennifer Phillip

# November

## Kindness matters

World Kindness Week (November 13-19) is a perfect time to write a note of thanks, run an errand for someone or pay for a stranger's coffee. And showing kindness can make you feel great, too.



### Back-story

**WORLD KINDNESS WEEK** began when several humanitarian groups came together on November 13, 1997, to promote kindness in society. Volunteering is a great way to get involved. The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation offers these ideas:

- Send an uplifting text to a family member or friend, or give them a call to catch up.
- Treat someone—a friend, a stranger or even yourself—to a cup of coffee.
- Be a friendly driver: Let that other driver merge into traffic with a wave and a smile.





Some people drink deeply from  
the well of knowledge.  
Some just rinse and spit.



## Covered by prayer

As a battle raged around them, soldiers huddled in a trench during the Vietnam War. Their commander had ordered them to stay put, but one soldier noticed a buddy lying wounded in an open area, crying for help. The soldier in the trench kept checking the time. Suddenly, he dashed for his injured friend, bringing him back to safety.

When the commander asked his daring young soldier why he'd risked his life this way, the soldier said his mom had promised to pray for him at the same time every day. Because he knew he was covered in prayer, he had the courage to save his friend.

—Ellen Banks Elwell, *The Christian Mom's Idea Book*

- "Thankfulness is a soil in which pride does not easily grow."

—Michael Ramsey

## Hundred-dollar word

During his lifetime, English poet and novelist Rudyard Kipling achieved both fame and fortune. One day a newspaper reporter approached him and said, "Mr. Kipling, somebody calculated that the money you make from your writings amounts to more than \$100 per word."

The reporter pulled a \$100 bill out of his pocket, gave it to Kipling and said, "Here, now give me one of your hundred-dollar words."

Kipling looked at the money, pocketed it and said, "Thanks!"

In our newsletters, we are sharing our financial reports with our readers so everyone is aware of our situation. Our latest report for September was not available for this issue. However, after paying our insurance, assessment, water bill and a few other major bills, we are deep into a negative balance.

We're trying to cut corners as much as possible but we need the help of our members, former members and friends. As a member, if you miss a week or two, please make up your weekly donations for those weeks. You may not be here for those weeks, but our expenses don't skip a week.

Again, we thank our generous former members and friends who send us a donation, whether it's on a regular basis, occasionally during the year or during the holiday season. We really appreciate the donations, as well as hearing from you.

One way we're trying to save some money is with sending this newsletter. If you receive our monthly newsletter by mail, we would appreciate it if you would let us know if you want to continue to receive it. If we do not hear from you, December will be your last issue. Our postage keeps going up and a donation toward it will help us to continue sending it.

Our prayer is that we can continue to keep in touch with everyone and that will only be with your help.



This Newsletter article is a reprint from November 2021.\* But its message is still relevant today in November 2024. In this Season of Thanksgiving, I pray you will reflect on where the Lord Jesus has brought us from. While you read and meditate on the article give thanks notwithstanding this chaotic, vitriolic, and unprecedented post-pandemic election season we are currently experiencing! Despite the current state of our body-politic, let us not lose sight of how God has blessed us, kept us, and will continue to keep us regardless of the outcome of the Presidential election! Most importantly, let us hold fast to our faith (read—let us not allow our Christian faith to become our political affiliation), and hold fast to the love of God in Christ Jesus and love for our sisters and brothers in Christ! Happy Thanksgiving!

### *Nothing to be Thankful for...or So It Seems\**

November usually brings thoughts of Harvest time, changing scenic foliage and falling leaves, fragrant cinnamon and spice acorns that immediately bring our thoughts to fall and the Season of Thanksgiving. But more than a few people I have talked to recently find it hard to celebrate Thanksgiving and wonder how they or we can be thankful in the face of so much tragedy, loss, distrust of our leaders, and unprecedented vitriol in our body politic in the past two years. In short, it seems that some people have lost their joy and are hard pressed to give thanks because they fear the next new variant of the dreaded Covid-19 virus will rear its ugly head and take us deeper into this deadly pandemic. Some wonder if we will ever get back to normal, whatever that means today!

It seems to me that we have a choice to make. We can allow the negativity of the Covid-19 pandemic to steal our joy and shake our faith. Or, we can adapt by the grace of God and find peace and joy in the midst of this pandemic because we know that troubles don't last always when we put them all in Jesus' hands! I am reminded of a saying of Elder Don, our Vice-President of Consistory, "Jesus, you fix it!"

Believers on Christ Jesus can hold fast to our faith and our joy because we trust that Jesus will keep and deliver us from all problems and troubles that come our way. Knowing and trusting in Jesus does not mean that believers will never experience problems or troubles. But knowing Jesus gives believers not only an assurance of pardon of our sins, but a blessed assurance that come what may, Jesus will never leave us nor forsake us.

I refuse to allow this pandemic-weary world and society to steal my joy—my "*Jesus joy*"! This joy that I have, the world did not give it to me. And, the world cannot take it away from me. The joy of knowing and believing on Jesus helps me to give thanks in good times and especially in bad and challenging times.

This is my list of blessings God has showered upon me in the midst of the pandemic; blessings I am so thankful to receive. I am thankful for the blessing of not losing my job or salary during the pandemic. I am thankful for the blessing to be able to work from my home and to be able to pay my tithes and offerings, mortgage and bills. I am thankful for the blessing of being

able to continue to hold our Church Services virtually or remotely. I am thankful for the blessing of not losing a single member—although several members did contract Covid—the Lord blessed them all to recover—without needing to be placed on ventilators! I am thankful for the blessing of re-entering our Church sanctuary for in-person worship services! I am truly thankful for the blessing (through the use of technology and social media (using the things of the world to be a blessing to the Lord and our church) and ability to livestream our Worship Services which has allowed persons from as far away as California and Arizona to join remotely to worship with us. I am thankful for all the officers and members of our Church of the Master Church family—though few in number—worked together faithfully in Teams to comply with the Covid health requirements and kept our members and visitors safe! I am thankful for the blessing of a robust and blessed Zoom Bible Study with more attendees than we'd ever had prior to Covid attending in-person Bible Study in the sanctuary! I am thankful for the blessing of faith and a faithful congregation given all the adversities the past two years have brought our way, and yet we are still here on the corner of Lafayette and Swinton Avenues!

This Season of Thanksgiving, I urge all readers of this article to take some time, not only in the month of November but each and every day, to give thanks to God Almighty for the countless blessings He has showered upon you—especially during this unprecedented pandemic era when seemingly it is so difficult to try and find reasons to be thankful. And by all means, hold fast to your confession, your hope, your joy and your faith in Jesus!

Let us prayerfully reflect on the questions and statements the Apostle Paul declares in his letter to the Church in Rome,

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come. Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”  
(Romans 8:35-39).

Happy Thanksgiving! I remain gratefully yours in the service of the Lord!

Shalom to you now,

*Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden*

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## My thankful heart

Making the stuffing for Thanksgiving dinner helps restore my heart to gratefulness. First I cut bread into cubes to dry out. Has it really been a year since I thanked God for the simple things of life? Dear God, thank you for my daily bread. Next I boil giblets for the tasty broth. When did I last express thanks for my body — even the oft-forgotten parts? Thank you, God, for creating and sustaining me.

Then I dice onions and celery, adding them to the mixture. That reminds me to thank God for abundant harvests. Finally I measure raisins, nuts, sage and salt into the stuffing, as scents fill the air. Lord, help me not grow weary of the interesting "spices" that fill my life.

As the stuffing goes into the oven, warm air wafting into the kitchen, I remember to thank God for providing my home. Here relatives and friends gather, often an odd combination. Yet when we bow our heads in thankfulness, we're an unbeatable mix.

—MaryAnn Sundby



## St. Benedict's Rule

When St. Benedict wrote guidelines for Christian living more than 1,300 years ago, he focused on gratitude.

The first rule is simply this:  
Live this life  
and do whatever is done  
in a spirit of Thanksgiving.

Abandon attempts to achieve security;  
they are futile.

Give up the search for wealth;  
it is demeaning.

Quit the search for salvation;  
it is selfish.

And come to comfortable rest  
in the certainty that those who  
participate in this life  
with an attitude of Thanksgiving  
will receive its full promise.



Brighten your dinner table with these festive candle holders.

### What you need:

- An adult's help
- Miniature pumpkins (palm size)
- Tea light candles
- Pencil
- Sharp knife
- Spoon

### What you do:

1. Place a candle on top of each miniature pumpkin and trace around the candle's base.
2. Have an adult cut around the circle.
3. Scoop out the pulp and seeds.
4. Place a candle inside. Keep scooping, if necessary, so the candle sits inside the pumpkin nicely.
5. Decorate your dinner table with the pumpkins. Have an adult light the candles for you.

