

The Master's Message

The Newsletter of the Church of the Master

November, 2023

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

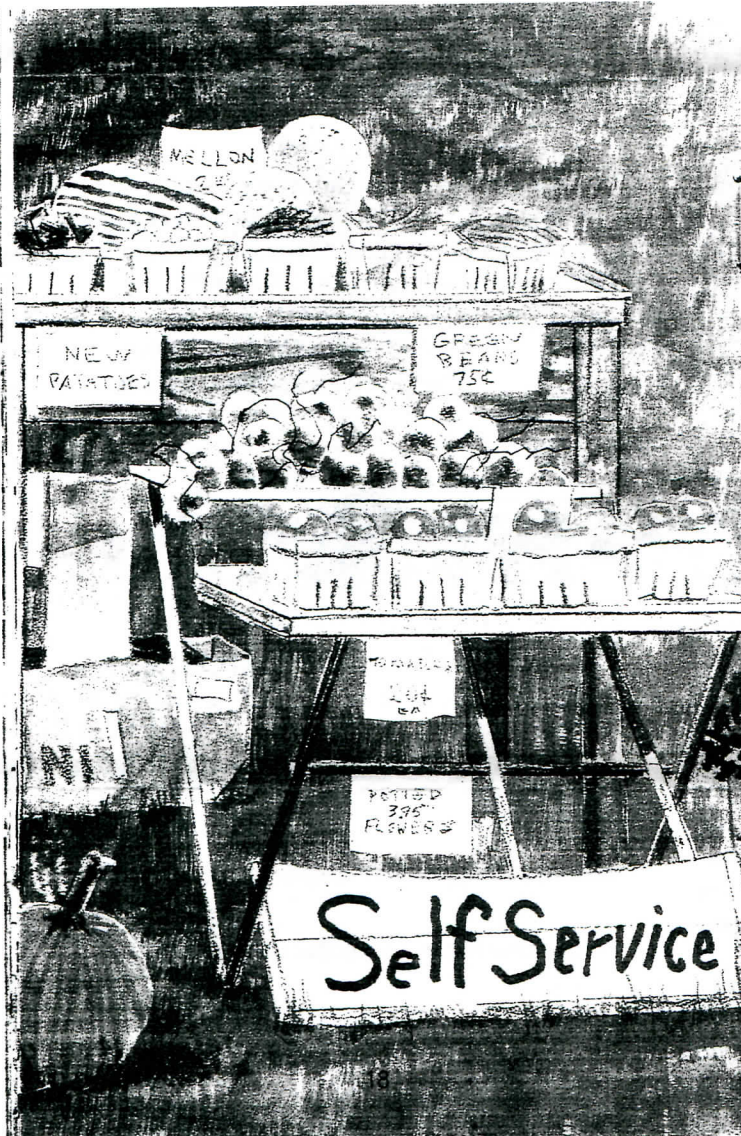
2783 Lafayette Avenue
Bronx, N.Y. 10465
718-597-6298

Sunday Worship
Sunday 11:00 am

cotm47@verizon.net

WWW.COTMBRONX.ORG

Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden, Pastor

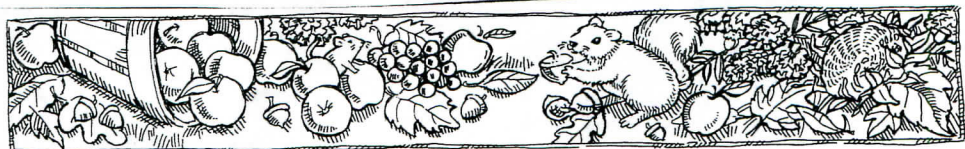
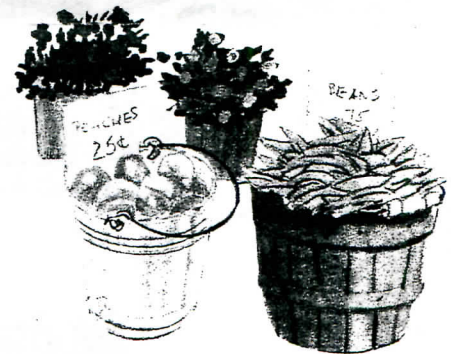


The Riches of His Grace

Abundant in mercy and bountiful love,
God gave us what we did not deserve;
The greatest gift in all the world –
His Son, Who came to serve.
No longer enslaved in Satan's chains,
We're no longer children of wrath,
For God raised us up with Christ's saving work
That leads us to a heavenly path.
The power of His grace upon sinners like us
Reveals what God can do
And what a difference it makes in a person's life
To have their heart renewed.
Secured by Christ we now live life anew,
Running the victor's race,
And how thankful we are to God above
For the riches of His grace.

Sharon Fuqua

I find joy in the way
of Your decrees more
than in all riches.
Psalm 119:14



SPECIAL DATES*

- All Saints' Day, November 1st
- Daylight-Saving Time ends, November 5th
- Veterans Day, November 11th
- Thanksgiving Day, November 23rd
- Christ the King Sunday, November 26th

News From the Pews



Continue praying for:
Ellen McCullough (broken femur),
Allen Ford, Carole Mahon,
Loretta Byrd, 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

CHURCH CHUCKLES

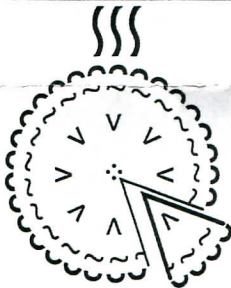
How does Moses make his coffee? *Hebrews it!*
Need an ark? *I Noah guy*
Why couldn't Jonah trust the ocean? *Because he knew there was something fishy about it.*
What kind of person was Boaz before he got married?
Ruthless!
Where is the first tennis match mentioned in the Bible? *When Joseph served in Pharaoh's court.*
Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible? *Samson, he brought the house down.*
At what time of day was Adam created? *A little before Eve.*
Who was the greatest babysitter mentioned in the Bible? *David. He rocked Goliath to sleep.*
Did Eve ever have a date with Adam? *No, just an apple.*

A pastor giving a children's sermon on vestments asked "Why do you think I wear this collar?" One kid answered, "Because it kills ticks and fleas up to 30 days!"

THIS WEEK'S SERMON
The Gospel according to Luck



"Time to Thank, Time to Share"



Thanksgiving is a time to share. A roasted turkey stuffed with care, potatoes, yams and buttered rolls are passed around in festive bowls. But first we thank our God above and share with others his great love. The dish served last is always best — a slice of pie for every guest.

—MaryAnn Sundby

Autumn wardrobe

The leaves fall, the wind blows and the farm country slowly changes from the summer cottons into its winter wools.

—Henry Beston

• "No one has ever become poor from giving."

—Anne Frank

Mutts

Giving Thanks

I awoke this morning with devout thanksgiving for my friends, the old and the new.

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

11-26 mutts.com



November 2023 Newsletter Article

In All Things Give Thanks

November brings us into the Season of Thanksgiving. But, given recent worldwide events, some may ask what is there lately to be thankful for? The Bible is abundantly clear about giving thanks, saying, "In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (I Thessalonians 5:18). In other words, the Apostle Paul's admonitions to the faith community at Thessalonica (modern day Greece) to give thanks is still speaking to believers in the Church today. Paul encourages the Thessalonians to not only give thanks in the good times, but at all times and in all circumstances. We should give thanks to God in Christ Jesus (because it is His will) in everything. We should thank the Lord Jesus in good times, in bad times, and especially in sad times.

We may not think that it is possible to give thanks in the face of so much unprecedented chaos and confusion in our body politic, given the unjust war Russian has unleashed upon the people of Ukraine, and given the inconsolable grief and mourning brought on by the heinous terrorist attacks Hamas has afflicted upon innocent civilians in Israel by killing hundreds of young people attending a peace concert, babies, elderly, and Israeli soldiers because of its hatred for the Jewish people; and taking over 150 Israelis and Americans as hostages! Let us unite in prayer for the healing, protection and peace of Ukraine and Israel!

But it is precisely in times like these we must find it in our hearts to give thanks to the Lord. Let us thank Him for keeping his covenant people Israel over thousands of years and delivering them time and time again from Egyptian bondage, Babylonian captivity, to the land flowing with milk and honey that God promised to the biblical patriots Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and to their descendants—the generations of God covenant people, from the horrors of the holocaust, to a time of guarded peace, to the present day where the nation of Israel still stands in spite of all her trials and turmoil, and enemies determined to destroy Israel. We should give thanks that God continues to preserve Israel and Israel continues to persevere by the grace of God!

Let us give thanks because over a year since Russia invaded the country and people of Ukraine in an unprovoked and unjust war to destroy the people of Ukraine and subsume its land, the Ukrainian people are still standing and fighting for their country's independence and freedom. Let us give thanks because our nation, the United States of America—the greatest democracy and country on earth—notwithstanding her errors of the past—is standing by Ukraine and Israel and supporting them in their struggles for freedom against oppression and wars!

Let us give thanks for our veterans who fought for our freedom in service to our country and armed forces. Let us give thanks because knowing Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior gives us a peace that surpasses all understanding. In the midst of wars and rumors of wars, turmoil and turbulence in the world and our vitriolic politics, we can still be at peace in Christ

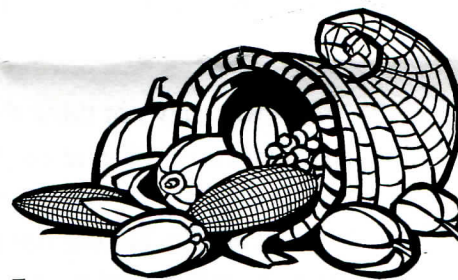
Jesus! Let us give thanks not only for the blessings of the Season, but for each and every day the Lord has given us. Let us give thanks for the Lord healing our diseases, for rescuing our souls from the pit, for wiping all tears from our eyes, for giving us our daily bread, for blessing us with jobs, families, homes, retirement income, for freedom to worship our God without interference by the State or government, for keeping us through the power of the Holy Spirit, and for providing everything we need and many of our wants. Let us give thanks because God will take care of us.

Finally, let us give thanks in everything, for it is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you and me! Happy Veterans Day and Happy Thanksgiving Day!

Shalom to you now,

Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden

Rev. Dr. Melva J. Hayden, Pastor
Church of the Master Reformed Church



thanksgiving

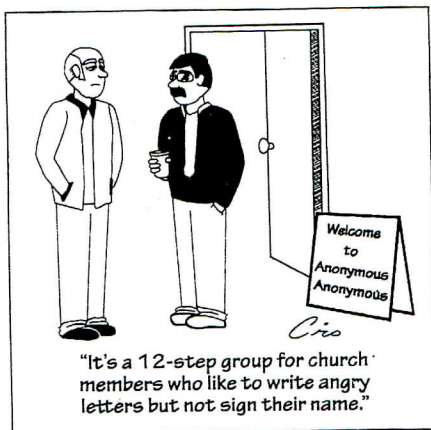
Counting blessings

Numbered lists grab our attention. In the checkout aisle or on the internet, we gravitate toward headings such as "10 ways to lose weight by summer!" or "3 simple steps to acing that test!"

Ancient Jewish sages urged people to count out and speak at least 100 statements of gratitude each day. What would happen if we intentionally listed 100 blessings daily? What if the first blessing we counted was simply the day itself? "Thank you, God, for this brand new day!" "Bless my use of this day, Lord, that I might glorify you."

Scripture encourages such awareness and promises an additional blessing in return: "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12, NIV).

—Heidi Mann



A Child's Blessing

I look around the world
and see
the blessings
you have given me.
The earth below
and sky above
are filled with wonders
of your love.



The crops that grow,
the birds that sing,
the water, sunshine
— everything!
For all these blessings,
Lord, we say
"Thank you" now
and everyday!

• "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."

—Henry Ford

• "An optimist is a person who starts a new diet on Thanksgiving Day."

—Irv Kupcinet

Special November Dates

Nov. 10th – National Vanilla Cupcake Day
Nov. 12th - National French Dip Day
Nov. 14th - National Pickle Day
Nov. 17th – National Homemade Bread Day
Nov. 18th – Apple Cider Day
Nov. 23rd – National Espresso Day
Nov. 25th – National Parfait Day
Nov. 25th – National French Toast Day
Bonus Day - Nov. 29th – Throw Out Your Leftovers Day!

Everyday saints

Everyday things, relationships with other people, daily work, love of our family – all these may breed saints.

Jesus of Nazareth taught us to live every hour of the day as saints. Every hour of the day is useful and may lead to divine inspiration, the will of the Father, the prayer of contemplation – holiness. Every hour of the day is holy. What matters is to live it as Jesus taught us.

And for this, one does not have to shut oneself in a monastery or fix strange and inhumane [regimens] for one's life. It is enough to accept the realities of life. Work is one of these realities; motherhood, the rearing of children, family life with all its obligations are others.

—Carlo Carretto, *Letters From the Desert*

Secret of life

A father used to say to his children when they were young: —When you all reach the age of 12 I will tell you the secret of life. One day when the oldest turned 12, he anxiously asked his father what was the secret of life. The father replied that he was going to tell him, but that he should not reveal it to his brothers.

—The secret of life is this: The cow does not give milk. "What are you saying?" Asked the boy incredulously. —As you hear it, son: The cow does not give milk, you have to milk it. You have to get up at 4 in the morning, go to the field, walk through the corral full of manure, tie the tail, hobble the legs of the cow, sit on the stool, place the bucket and do the work yourself.

That is the secret of life, the cow does not give milk. You milk her or you don't get milk. There is this generation that thinks that cows GIVE milk. That things are automatic and free: their mentality is that if "I wish, I ask..... I obtain." "They have been accustomed to get whatever they want the easy way...But no, life is not a matter of wishing, asking and obtaining. The things that one receives are the effort of what one does. Happiness is the result of effort. Lack of effort creates frustration."

So, share with your children from a young age the secret of life, so they don't grow up with the mentality that the government, their parents, or their cute little faces is going to give them everything they need in life.

Remember ☞☞

"Cows don't give milk; you have to work for it."

~Author Unknown



Thank you, veterans!

On Veterans Day, we honor men and women who've served and sacrificed in one of America's armed services.

On November 11, 1918, America and her allies signed a truce with German leaders, ending World War I. In 1919, President Wilson decided the United States should remember with gratitude the end of that war and honor military members by marking Armistice Day, or "truce" day. In 1954, Congress changed the name to Veterans Day, honoring veterans of every era.

Veterans Day highlights our country's quest for peace, justice and freedom throughout the world. Followers of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, pray for unity among all nations and for the day when "nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore" (Isaiah 2:4, NIV).

