



THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
November 5, 2023

Monday, November 6

No Scheduled Mass

Tuesday, November 7

12:00pm (SE) - Deceased Members of the Denton & Stapleton Families by the Denton Family
Preceded by Holy Hour at 11:00am

Wednesday, November 8

12:00pm (SPJ) - Deceased Members of the Remancus & Perkett Families by Margaret Smith

Thursday, November 9

The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

5:00pm (SPJ) - Msgr Stephen Wojciechowski by the Estate

Friday, November 10

St Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church

8:30am (SPN) - Zulmira Marmelo by Anonymous
Followed by Holy Hour

Saturday, November 11

4:30pm (SE) - James Dawson by Nancy Dawson

Sunday, November 12

8:30am (SPN) - Pro Populo

9:45 am (SPJ) - *Holy Rosary*

10:30am (SPJ) - Special Intention for Rose Mary Rogers by John O'Hara

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown

(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro

(SJ) = St. Joseph, Essex

(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

Readings for the Week of November 6

Monday: Rom 11:29-36/Ps 69:30-31, 33-34, 36-37/Lk 14:12-14

Tuesday: Rom 12:5-16b/Ps 131:1-3/Lk 14:15-24

Wednesday: Rom 13:8-10/Ps 112:1-2, 4-5, 9/Lk 14:25-33

Thursday: Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12/Pi 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9
1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17/Jn 2:13-22

Friday: Rom 15:14-21/Ps 98:1-4/Lk 16:1-8

Saturday: Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27/Ps 145:2-5, 10-11/Lk 16:9-15

Next Sunday: Wis 6:12-16/Ps 63:2-8/1 Thes 4:13-18/Mt 25:1-13



U.S. SISTERS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Give thanks that there are resources to educate us about the evils of modern day slavery (human trafficking). Take advantage - the sources and raise your awareness of the plight of persons being bought and sold. **Alliance to End Human Trafficking** - Founded and Supported by US Catholic Sisters 7575 Grand River Ave.1-1009, Brighton, MI 48114 | See **Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking** for more information.

Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth — Attendance: 26
Envelopes: \$483.25; Plate: \$105.00
Total: \$588.25

Saint Philip Neri — Attendance: 43
Envelopes: \$255.00; Plate: \$44.00
Total: \$299.00

World Mission Sunday: \$5.00
All Saints Day: \$15.00; All Souls Day: \$5.00

St Philip of Jesus — Attendance: 50
Envelopes: \$580.00; Plate: \$173.00
Fuel: \$50.00
Total: \$803.00

All Saints Day: \$20.00; All Souls Day: \$60.00

ADVENT WORKSHOP
December 2nd, Willsboro

Join us for a day of reflection on the **Call to Discipleship** led by Marika Donders. We will gather on **December 2nd Saturday** marking the first weekend of Advent at **10.00am in Willsboro parish hall** for coffee, prayer and introductions and listen to a presentation on **Discipleship** in three stories in the gospel of St. Mark, followed by sharing our own stories. After lunch, at 1pm (*bring your own lunch and drinks will be provided*) we will gather in the Church for a Holy Hour based on the Woman at the Well in the gospel of Saith John. The day will conclude by 2pm. If you can't make the whole day, come for part. Please **mark your calendar** and attend this workshop for the renewal of our own journey of discipleship.



OBTAINING PLENARY OR PARTIAL INDULGENCES FOR THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY

The Church dedicates the month of November to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. By going to a cemetery between November 1st to 8th, you can obtain a Plenary Indulgence by praying for any soul in Purgatory with your own prayers and adding, "Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen." Though we celebrated All Soul's Day on 2nd November, one can still visit a cemetery and the church where you recite an Our Father and the Creed to obtain a Plenary Indulgence for a soul in Purgatory. Additional requirements are that you go to confession and receive communion 20 days before or after, be in a state of grace and detached from sin and pray for the pope's intentions. Let us try to release as many souls from Purgatory as we can, as they will in turn pray for us and our intentions. Thank you.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

11/05 Class #8 How do I get there?

(The Power and Purpose of the Sacraments)

11/12 Class #9 When did my journey begin?

(Baptism, Your Initiation into God's Family)

Please keep in mind...all parishioners are invited to attend any (or all) of the classes.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...



The most important temple is the temple of a person's soul because God dwells within each one of us. In the most secret center of our being is that sacred sanctuary where we meet God. Saint Teresa of Avila called it the Presence Chamber, the most central and interior dwelling place within us. In addition to the temple of the soul, there are many sacred places throughout the world. There are shrines, churches, basilicas, grottos, cathedrals, and other holy places that are set aside for the sole purpose of worship of God. They are to be a Heaven on earth, a place where we join with the Seraphim, Cherubim, and Thrones in their angelic praises of the Most Holy Trinity. In the city of Rome, there are four major basilicas. The first three are Saint Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, the Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls, and the Basilica of Saint Mary Major. The fourth is the Archbasilica Cathedral of the Most Holy Savior and of Saints John the Baptist and John the Evangelist in the Lateran, also called Saint John Lateran, or the Lateran Basilica for short. Of the four major basilicas, the oldest and most important is Saint John Lateran, the dedication of which is remembered today. Though the pope now lives next to Saint Peter's Basilica, Saint John Lateran is the official cathedral of Rome. That means Saint John Lateran is not only the mother church of the Archdiocese of Rome, but also the mother church of the entire world. St. John Lateran was the home of the popes—the center of the Catholic world for many years. Twenty-eight popes are buried there. The **feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica (Nov. 9th)** is a happy occasion for the Church because it reminds us of our beginnings, our unity. It stands as a monument to God and all that God does through the Church.

With Love and Prayers....  **Fr. J.T.**

"SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS" WHEN DEALING WITH THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE

Are you dreading the holidays, knowing that everything has changed and that happy memories from past years can't be recreated?

Join us for a "Surviving the Holidays" seminar especially for people who are grieving. More than just practical tips, GriefShare Surviving the Holidays is a community of people who know what it's like to walk through the holidays in grief. You will find connection and comfort in knowing you're not alone this season.

Please join us on Monday November 6th from 10:00 a.m.- Noon (St. Peter's Church, Emmaus Room, 114 Cornelia St, Plattsburgh)

Registration is required.

You can register online at GriefShare.org,

by email to Starr@stalexanders.org

or by calling Starr at 518-825-0697



NATIONAL VOCATION WEEK NOV 5-11



"The way Jesus shows you is not easy. Rather, it is like a path winding up a mountain. Do not lose heart! The steeper the road, the faster it rises towards ever wider horizons." (St. John Paul II). Jesus did say, "My yoke is easy; my burden is light." As we celebrate National Vocation Week, November 5-11, the Church takes this opportunity to reflect on the call to holiness given to us at the time of our Baptism. We believe, as Catholics, that God has a plan for our lives! He calls some to marriage, some to the priesthood, others to the consecrated life or to live as generous single people. As we live our own vocations faithfully, let us encourage and teach our young people how to discern God's call. Let us pray for the children, grandchildren, students and friends to be open if God calls them to priesthood or consecrated life.

As we live our own vocations faithfully, let us encourage and teach our young people how to discern God's call. Let us pray for the children, grandchildren, students and friends to be open if God calls them to priesthood or consecrated life.

HOLY CROSS PARISH HARVEST DINNER

Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings!

Dine-in and Take-out available.

Sunday, November 5, from noon to 4 p.m.

Parish Center (4917 South Catherine Street, **Plattsburgh**)

Price is \$15 per person.

More information: 518-563-0730

FABULOUS FALL CRAFT FAIR

Get a head start on your Christmas shopping!

Saturday, November 11, 2023

Sacred Heart Parish Center

8 Hall Street, Chazy, NY

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Great craft festival with a variety of craft vendors. Hot lunches, baked items, silent auction. For more info contact Sharon Nephew 518-578-2666. Handicapped Accessible and Free Admission

ST. ALEXANDER'S HARVEST DINNER

Sunday, November 12, 2023

11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

\$14 each

1 Church St., Morrisonville NY

TAKE OUT ONLY

Available at Door, Raffle Tickets, Basket Raffle and Bake Shop...Delivery within 10 miles is available.

Things to Ponder....

**Better a good conscience without wisdom...
...than wisdom without a good conscience!**

Don't forget to patronize and thank our advertisers!



**THIRTY-SECOND
SUNDAY
OF ORDINARY TIME
November 12, 2023**

Monday, November 13

No Scheduled Mass

Tuesday, November 14

8:30am (SPN) - Dean DeCapria by Anonymous

Wednesday, November 15

12:00pm (SPJ) - Richard Smith by Margaret Smith

Thursday, November 16

5:00pm (SPJ) - Richard Smith by Margaret Smith

Friday, November 17

St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious

8:30am (SE) - Patricia Wells by Yvonne Lesperance

Followed by Holy Hour

Saturday, November 18

4:30pm (SE) - Pro Populo

Sunday, November 19

8:30am (SPN) - Jerry Geiling Sr. By Aileen Martin

9:45 am (SPJ) - *Holy Rosary*

10:30am (SPJ) - Special Intention for Rose Mary Rogers

by John O'Hara

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown

(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro

(SJ) = St. Joseph, Essex

(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

Readings for the Week of November 13

Monday: Wis 1:1-7/Ps 139:1-10/Lk 17:1-6

Tuesday: Wis 2:23—3:9/Ps 34:2-3, 16-19/Lk 17:7-10

Wednesday: Wis 6:1-11/Ps 82:3-4, 6-7/Lk 17:11-19

Thursday: Wis 7:22b—8:1/Ps 119:89-91, 130, 135, 175
Lk 17:20-25

Friday: Wis 13:1-9/Ps 19:2-5/Lk 17:26-37

Saturday: Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9/Ps 105:2-3, 36-37, 42-43
Lk 18:1-8

Next Sunday: Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31/Ps 128:1-5/1 Thes 5:1-6
Mt 25:14-30

JOIN FR. CHRIS LOOBY

AN ADVENTURE TO SPAIN & MOROCCO

Join Father Looby on a journey to Spain and Morocco April 6-19, 2024! This unforgettable trip will take you to the heart of Madrid, the historic cities of Córdoba and Seville, and the stunning Alhambra. Experience the passion and rhythm of Flamenco in Jerez de la Frontera and explore the vibrant blue streets of Chefchaouen. Journey through the spiritual centers of Fes and Rabat, and visit the Mausoleum of Mohammed V. In Marrakech, immerse yourself in the bustling markets and architecture, and enjoy a "Choice on Tour" experience. The trip will end with a visit to the iconic Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca. Pricing starts at \$4,949 per person for a double and \$5,849 per person for single occupancy. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime adventure! For more information contact Mary McIntosh at Watertown AAA at 315-558-6372.

Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth— Attendance: 35

Envelopes: \$547.25; Plate: \$73.00

Fuel: \$75.00

Total: \$695.25

All Saints Day: \$237.25; All Souls Day: \$85.25

Saint Philip Neri— Attendance: 37

Envelopes: \$239.00; Plate: \$51.00

Fuel: \$75.00

Total: \$365.00

All Saints Day: \$103.00; All Souls Day: \$30.00

St Philip of Jesus— Attendance: 47

Envelopes: \$995.00; Plate: \$170.00

Fuel: \$630.00

Total: \$1,795.00

All Saints Day: \$156.00; All Souls Day: \$135.00

Campaign for Human Development: \$50.00

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

The second collection next weekend is to benefit the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. The funds are used to fight poverty in America and defend human dignity. Thanking you in advance for your anticipated generosity.

ADVENT WORKSHOP

December 2nd, Willsboro

Join us for a day of reflection on the **Call to Discipleship** led by Marika Donders. We will gather on **December 2nd Saturday** marking the first weekend of Advent at **10.00am in Willsboro parish hall** for coffee, prayer and introductions and listen to a presentation on **Discipleship** in three stories in the gospel of St. Mark, followed by sharing our own stories. After lunch, at 1pm (*bring your own lunch and drinks will be provided*) we will gather in the Church for a Holy Hour based on the Woman at the Well in the gospel of Saint John. The day will conclude by 2pm. If you can't make the whole day, come for part. Please **mark your calendar** and attend this workshop for the renewal of our own journey of discipleship.



CONFIRMATION CLASS

11/12 Class #9 When did my journey begin?

(Baptism, Your Initiation into God's Family)

11/19 No Class

11/26 Class #10 Why tell my sins to a Priest?

(The Healing Power of Confession)

Please keep in mind...all parishioners are invited to attend any (or all) of the classes.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT CORNER

Did You Know...mental health is just as important as physical health. Be sure to check in with the kids in your life. Ask them how they are feeling or if they have experienced any emotional problems or mental health concerns and encourage them to talk to you or another Safe Adult, if needed, to seek help and support. For more information, contact the Safe Environment Office at (315) 393-2920.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...



Saint Elizabeth of Hungary

(Nov.17th) and her future husband, Louis IV, were raised together and formed a deep personal and spiritual bond. Though the marriage was arranged, they put their minds, hearts, and wills into what would soon become their future together. About two years after their marriage, when Elizabeth was sixteen, Franciscan friars arrived at the castle to care for the spiritual needs of the royal court. The holy Friar Conrad of Marburg became Elizabeth's spiritual director.

Through him, she learned about the saintly life of Saint Francis who probed the highest heights of holiness, even being pierced with the stigmata at the end of his life by a Seraphim, the highest of the choirs of angels, earning him the revered title "the Seraphic Father." Stories of Saint Francis, the influence of the friars, and her own devotional life drew her deeper into the mysteries of faith. One story relates that one time, while praying in the castle chapel, she took off her royal crown, placed it before the Crucifix, and then lay prostrate before her Lord in prayer. When her mother-in-law saw this, she chastised Elizabeth, telling her such a gesture was beneath her dignity. Elizabeth responded, "How can I, a wretched creature, continue to wear a crown of earthly dignity, when I see my King Jesus Christ crowned with thorns?" Elizabeth's heart was inflamed with a desire for charity and justice. If she saw an injustice, she quickly sought to remedy it. She loved to go down to the villagers, especially the poor, and bring them food, clothing, and whatever else they needed. She distributed these goods personally, in the company of her maids. This humility and generosity won her the love and respect of the peasant class, despite the ongoing ridicule of the nobility. She was given all the privileges and wealth this world had to offer her at a very young age, yet in her heart, none of that compared to the privilege of serving her Lord, especially as he was present to her in the sick and poor. She chose the better part and will forever rejoice with her God in Heaven. St. Elizabeth, pray for us.

With Love and Prayers....  **Fr. J.T.**

ANNUAL BISHOP'S FUND UPDATE

Elizabethtown: 95% of its goal (\$4,903)

Westport: 62% of its goal (\$4,749)

Willsboro: 135% of its goal (\$11,590)

On behalf of our dear Bishop, Thank you for all who have contributed to this year's appeal and those of you are still praying about your support, please feel free to make use of the envelopes placed at the entry ways of the Church in every parish. Thank you.

Things to Ponder.....

Focus on people's positives!

From Bishop Terry R. LaValley...

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." (1 Peter 4:10)



As Catholic Christians, we know that all that we are and all that we have are gifts from God. The gifts we have received are varied and unique. No gift or talent is insignificant. God gives us these gifts as an opportunity to help one another grow in our faith and strengthen our relationship with Him and one another. God calls us to accept His gifts with gratitude; to develop and nurture His gifts responsibly; to share His gifts with generosity and have a willingness to accept His call without counting the cost.

This Stewardship Sunday, I encourage parishioners all across the diocese to speak with your pastor about those ministries in your parish in which your gifts and talents can enrich the vitality and life of your parish. Please also take a moment to personally invite your family and friends to return to Mass and encourage others to share in your parish ministries. The longevity and vibrancy of our parishes is enriched by every member of the parish putting their gifts and talents to work and brings others and ourselves closer to God.

I am thankful to the many women, men and children who serve in our parishes in a wide variety of ministries throughout the year. May God continue to bless the work of your hands and hearts.

May His blessing be upon you and your family.

Faithfully yours in Christ,
Most Reverend Terry R. LaValley
Bishop of Ogdensburg

ST. ALEXANDER'S HARVEST DINNER

Sunday, November 12, 2023

11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

\$14 each

1 Church St., Morrisonville NY

TAKE OUT ONLY

Available at Door, Raffle Tickets, Basket Raffle and Bake Shop...Delivery within 10 miles is available.

THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION

Readings: Wis 6:12-16/1 Thes 4:13-18 or 4:13-14/Mt 25:1-13

I used to think of the wise virgins with extra oil as being selfish. Isn't sharing of our wealth a good thing? Yet if the lamp symbolizes faith, then the oils symbolize those things that feed our faith: living the virtues, good deeds, right worship. These are not things that you can buy from a dealer or give to someone else. These are things that we must integrate into our lives over a lifetime of practicing and deepening our faith. A life of faith in Christ is not something superficial that we can simply put on for a celebration, it is rather a long-term relationship with Jesus, allowing him into our lives daily, so that we may enter into the feast.

(From the Diocesan Office of Evangelization)

Don't forget to patronize and thank our advertisers!





THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
November 19, 2023

Monday, November 20

12:00pm (SPJ) - Joanne Betters by Nancy Belzile

Tuesday, November 21

The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30am (SE) - Msgr. Stephen Wojciechowski by the Estate

Followed by Holy Hour

Wednesday, November 22

St Cecelia, Virgin & Martyr

12:00pm (SPJ) - Mary Brown & Husband by the Estate

Thursday, November 23 – Thanksgiving Day

9:00am (SPN) - Theresa Quinn by Anonymous

Friday, November 24

No Scheduled Mass

Saturday, November 25

4:30pm (SE) - James Dawson by Nancy Dawson

Sunday, November 26

8:30am (SPN) - Pro Populo

9:45 am (SPJ) - *Holy Rosary*

10:30am (SPJ) - Michael Allen Watkins

by John & Sue Carver

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown

(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro

(SJ) = St. Joseph, Essex

(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

Readings for the Week of November 20

Monday: 1Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63

Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158/Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday: 2 Mc 6:18-31/Ps 3:2-7/Lk 19:1-10

Wednesday: 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Ps 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15/Lk 19:11-28

Thursday: 1 Mc 2:15-29/Ps 50:1-2, 5-6, 14-15/Lk 19:41-44

Friday: 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/1 Chr 29:10-12/Lk 19:45-48

Saturday: 1 Mc 6:1-13/Ps 9:2-4, 6, 16, 19/Lk 20:27-40

Next Sunday: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/Ps 23:1-3, 5-6

1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-46

JOIN FR. CHRIS LOOBY

AN ADVENTURE TO SPAIN & MOROCCO

Join Father Looby on a journey to Spain and Morocco April 6-19, 2024! This unforgettable trip will take you to the heart of Madrid, the historic cities of Córdoba and Seville, and the stunning Alhambra. Experience the passion and rhythm of Flamenco in Jerez de la Frontera and explore the vibrant blue streets of Chefchaouen. Journey through the spiritual centers of Fes and Rabat, and visit the Mausoleum of Mohammed V. In Marrakech, immerse yourself in the bustling markets and architecture, and enjoy a "Choice on Tour" experience. The trip will end with a visit to the iconic Hassan II Mosque in Casablanca. Pricing starts at \$4,949 per person for a double and \$5,849 per person for single occupancy. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime adventure! For more information contact Mary McIntosh at Watertown AAA at 315-558-6372.

Last Weekend's Collection

Saint Elizabeth – Attendance: 28

Envelopes: \$337.25; Plate: \$30.00

Fuel: \$95.00

Total: \$462.25

Saint Philip Neri – Attendance: 38

Envelopes: \$618.00; Plate: \$40.00

Fuel: \$16.00; Christmas Flowers: \$20.00

Total: \$694.00

St Philip of Jesus – Attendance: 66

Envelopes: \$1,540.00; Plate: \$229.00

Fuel: \$160.00; Christmas Flowers: \$20.00

Total: \$1,949.00

ADVENT WORKSHOP

December 2nd, Willsboro

Join us for a day of reflection on the **Call to Discipleship** led by Marika Donders. We will gather on **December 2nd Saturday** marking the first weekend of Advent at **10.00am in Willsboro parish hall** for coffee, prayer and introductions and listen to a presentation on **Discipleship** in three stories in the gospel of St. Mark, followed by sharing our own stories. After lunch, at 1pm (*bring your own lunch and drinks will be provided*) we will gather in the Church for a Holy Hour based on the Woman at the Well in the gospel of Saint John. The day will conclude by 2pm. If you can't make the whole day, come for part. Please **mark your calendar** and attend this workshop for the renewal of our own journey of discipleship.



CONFIRMATION CLASS

11/19 No Class

11/26 Class #10 Why tell my sins to a Priest?

(The Healing Power of Confession)

Please keep in mind...all parishioners are invited to attend any (or all) of the classes.

7 STEPS TO BRING PEOPLE BACK TO CHURCH

1. First and foremost is prayer, penance, fasting, and sacrifice. Nothing happens without the grace of God. Everything is God's grace. We have to pray, it's the greatest thing we can do if we want to help bring people back to the Lord. We need to pray, and we need to offer petition and intercessory prayer specifically, of course, in the presence of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament after we receive our Lord in Holy Communion. But, also, we need then enter bodily into that prayer, through sacrifice, through fasting. Our Lord encourages this throughout the ages of the Church, and we found this to be tremendously efficacious. So, to enter into our prayer, offer something up, turn off Facebook, turn off the internet, fast from some sort of food or pleasure or convenience in your life and do it for the souls who have fallen away from the Lord. So, the first and foremost thing—in fact, nothing else that I say is worth anything—unless we are first and foremost becoming all the more united with our Lord and allowing His prayer to become our prayer, to be His prayer. (To be continued)



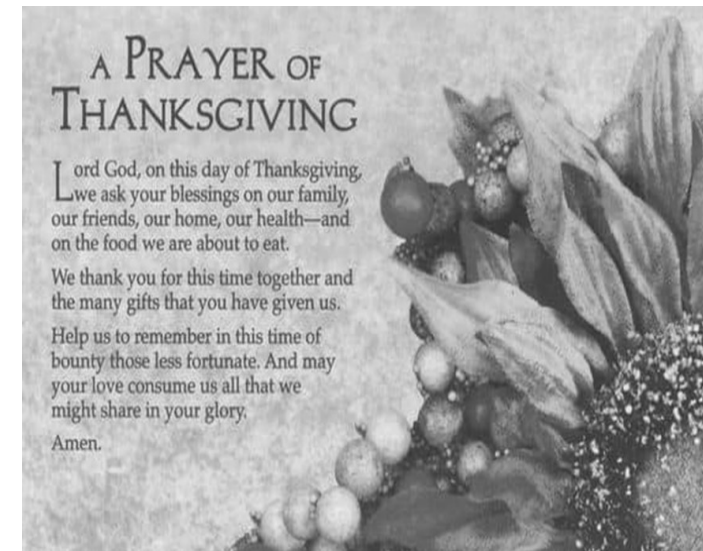
FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK...



Father Andrew Dũng-Lạc alone is named on this feast (November 24th), not because his sufferings were more depraved than those of his co-martyrs, but because they were so similar. Andrew's name is a touchstone

for the entire group. Father Andrew was born to pagan parents but fell under the holy influence of a lay catechist, was baptized, became a catechist himself, entered seminary, and was ordained a diocesan priest. He was a model parish priest in every respect, and thus an ideal target once a new wave of persecution broke out. When he was first imprisoned, his parishioners raised enough money to ransom him. But about four years later, he was arrested again, tortured, and beheaded, along with another priest. The persecution of the Church in Vietnam was outstanding for its ferocity and brutality. Asian cultures seem to excel at devising ever more brutal forms of inflicting physical and psychological pain on persecuted classes. Victims had their skin ripped off, were carefully sliced in pieces, were confined in cages hung in public squares like big cats, were compelled to trample on crucifixes, were separated from spouses and family, and often had the words "false religion" marked on their faces. Vietnam's communist government sent not a single representative to the canonization Mass for today's martyrs in 1988, but thousands of Vietnamese Catholic people attended nonetheless, mostly from Vietnamese diaspora communities. Today Vietnam has over two thousand parishes and almost three thousand priests. Its population is about eight percent Catholic. The faith survived, even thrived, due to the exemplary witness of so many staunch disciples who did not bend to the powerful gusts that blew against them. Today's victims bowed their heads to receive only two things—the waters of Baptism and the sword. May their witness be an inspiration to persevere in our faith in times of trials.

With Love and Prayers....  **Fr. J.T.**



A REFLECTION FOR THANKSGIVING DAY

Several years ago, a man was walking by one of the many skyscrapers in New York City when he happened to see a blind teenage boy sitting on the steps with a cup in his hands and a homemade sign in front of him. The sign simply read, I'm blind. Please help. The man took out a few coins from his pocket and dropped them into the cup, which he notices had only a few coins. He then took the sign, turned it around and wrote something on it. He put the sign back so that everyone walking by would see the new words. Soon the boy's cup began to fill up as a lot more people started giving money to him. Later that afternoon the man who had changed the sign came back to see how things were going. The boy recognized his footsteps and cologne asked, "Are you the one who changed my sign this morning? What did you write?" The man said, "I only wrote the truth. I said what you said but in a different way. I wrote: Today is a beautiful day—but I can't see it." Both signs told everyone that the boy was blind. But the first sign simply said that he was blind. The second sign told everyone that they were so blessed to be able to see. Is it really surprising that the second sign was more effective? **The moral of the story is this:** Be thankful for what you have. Be creative; be innovative. Think differently and positively. When life gives you a hundred reasons to cry, come up with a thousand reasons to smile. Face your past without regrets and handle your present situations with confidence. Prepare for the future with faith and let go of your fears. Remember, one of the most beautiful things you can see in this life is another human being smiling with joy. And what's even more beautiful is knowing that you are the one who gave them that smile! **Happy Thanksgiving to all!**

THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION

Readings: Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31/1 Thes 5:1-6 Mt 25:14-30 or 25:14-15, 19-21

Are you prepared for the return of the Master? What talents have we been entrusted with? Have we used our gifts, or have we buried them or stored them on the shelf unopened and unused? Have we worked to increase our talents by using and sharing them? Our gospel today indicates that there may be some risk involved trying to increase our talents. We may fail or be rejected, but our gifts are not given to be buried in the sand. Our first reading shows us how we increase our talents: having obtained the raw materials of wool and flax, the good wife works with them, spins them into cloth and shares her wares with the poor and needy. In the Church, we have been given the gift of faith, and through prayer and study and sharing we can increase our faith, so as to let our faith overflow to those we meet. Let us use our talents and stay alert that we may be ready for the Lord's return and will hear those words: "Well done my good and faithful servant... come share your Master's joy." (From the Diocesan Office of Evangelization)



Don't forget to patronize and thank our advertisers!



**OUR LORD JESUS
CHRIST
KING OF THE UNIVERSE**

November 26, 2023

Monday, November 27

12:00pm (SPJ) - Mary Brown & Husband by the Estate

Tuesday, November 28

8:30am (SE) - The William & Ellen Keenan Family
by the Estate

Followed by Holy Hour

Wednesday, November 29

No Scheduled Mass

Thursday, November 30 – St. Andrew, Apostle

12:00pm (SPJ) - Msgr. Stephen Wojciechowski
by the Estate

Friday, December 1 – First Friday

12:00pm (SPN) - All the Faithful Departed
by Anonymous

Saturday, December 2 – First Saturday

9:00am (SPJ) - *Communion Service*

Followed by First Saturday devotions (third month)

4:30pm (SE) - Pro Populo

Sunday, December 3

8:30am (SPN) - Herbert K & Mary Dowdle Clark Families
by Nancy Montville

9:45 am (SPJ) - *Holy Rosary*

10:30am (SPJ) - Deceased Members of the Sayward
Family by Carolyn, Jane & Nick

(SE) = St. Elizabeth, Elizabethtown

(SPJ) = St. Philip of Jesus, Willsboro

(SJ) = St. Joseph, Essex

(SPN) = St. Philip Neri, Westport

Readings for the Week of November 27

Monday: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52-56/Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday: Dn 3:31-45/Dn 3:57-61/Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62-67

Lk 21:12-19

Thursday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8-11/Mt 4:18-22

Friday: Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75-81/Lk 21:29-33

Saturday: Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82-87/Lk 21:34-36

Next Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33-37

THE FIFTH FATIMA REQUEST

MAKE THE FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS

Next Saturday (Dec 2) will be the 3rd of the series of 5 First Saturday devotions which will be held in Willsboro at St. Philip of Jesus Church.

“Look at my Heart, surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce me at every moment by their blasphemies and in gratitude. You at least try to console me and announce that I promise to assist at the hour of death, with all the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, shall go to confession, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me.”

Last Weekend’s Collection

Saint Elizabeth – Attendance: 26

Envelopes: \$517.25; Plate: \$213.00

Fuel: \$150.00

Total: \$880.25

Campaign for Human Development: \$117.00

Saint Philip Neri – Attendance: 36

Envelopes: \$1,455.00; Plate: \$75.00

Fuel: \$20.00

Total: \$1,550.00

Campaign for Human Development: \$75.00

St Philip of Jesus – Attendance: 37

Envelopes: \$270.00; Plate: \$193.00

Fuel: \$10.00

Total: \$473.00

Campaign for Human Development: \$137.00

**ADVENT WORKSHOP—NEXT SATURDAY
December 2nd, Willsboro**

Join us for a day of reflection on the **Call to Discipleship** led by Marika Donders. We will gather on **December 2nd Saturday** marking the first weekend of Advent at **10.00am in Willsboro parish hall** for coffee, prayer and introductions and listen to a presentation on **Discipleship** in three stories in the gospel of St. Mark, followed by sharing our own stories. After lunch, at 1pm (*bring your own lunch and drinks will be provided*) we will gather in the Church for a Holy Hour based on the Woman at the Well in the gospel of Saint John. The day will conclude by 2pm. If you can’t make the whole day, come for part. Please **mark your calendar** and attend this workshop for the renewal of our own journey of discipleship.

7 STEPS TO BRING PEOPLE BACK TO CHURCH

2. Apologetics. We have to equip ourselves. We need to know our faith. The greatest way that we will be able to bring people back to the faith after prayer is being a resource ourselves for others. So, there’s people sometimes who love the Church, but they don’t really understand the Church. They just want people to belong to what they belong to. No, we need to be convicted, to know why we are Catholic and why we believe in 2000 years of faith tradition. So, we ourselves need to equip ourselves with the truth. We need to study the Catechism, we need to study our Scriptures, we need to study the tenets of our faith. We need to study the things that most people ask about Catholicism and have really good, quick, and short answers to bring them back to the faith. We need to know our faith so when people ask us questions, we are ready to defend our faith and not just to defend something that we belong to and that we like, but something that we actually truly know and are a part of. And if there is something you are not sure regarding matters of faith approach your pastor or any priests that you are comfortable with asking. **(To be Continued...)**

CONFIRMATION CLASS

12/03 Class #10 Why tell my sins to a Priest?
(The Healing Power of Confession)

12/10 Class #11 How does God help when it hurts?
(Anointing of the Sick & Redemptive Suffering)

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK...



This weekend is the last Sunday in Ordinary Time which always is dedicated to the very highest understanding of the nature, role, and purpose of Jesus of Nazareth. The feast of “**Christ the King**” was first established in 1925, and Pope Saint Paul VI expanded its name to “King of the Universe” in 1969. Jesus is not just a King of Hearts. He is more than a Universal Coach, Teacher, or Consoler of mankind. By “King of the Universe” the Church is communicating Jesus’ metaphysical scale, that God encompasses all of reality, not just man’s reality. We say in the Nicene Creed that God created all things visible and invisible. So, Jesus is King over all the planets, stars, black holes, quasars, and exploding suns in the blackest corners of remote space. He is King over the earth and all its waterfalls, rainforests, mountain peaks, desert plains, and dark sea floors. He lords over all creation because He is its source. Saint Thomas Aquinas taught correctly when he wrote that God is not the most perfect being inside of creation but “Being” itself. God is reality, not just the most impressive being inhabiting the reality bubble. Jesus wants to reign in every sphere of our lives, at home, on the factory floor, in the yard, at the office, over drinks, on the sports field, in the car, at meals, on the phone, and on and on. His field of action has no borders. From one perspective, this is a challenging, and limiting, spirituality. Such an intrusive, all-encompassing God can make life feel like a cage, where self-expression is constrained by His rules. The world is richer and more alive when our life is an all-inclusive vocation. Jesus reigns and we are His subjects. “We” means our souls, minds, consciences, goals, loves, work, desires, disappointments, and all that makes up our lives. We should be glad to be subject to such a benevolent Monarch. May Christ the King, reign our hearts and families.

With Love and Prayers....  Fr. J.T.

2023 Christmas Join Us!

Pray



Just as the angels spread the good news of Our Savior’s birth that fateful night, we can spread the glad tidings of His love and mercy to our community, and offer reparation to Him for the sins of our society.

We will pray the Rosary in the Parish Hall
After Mass ~ Monday, December 4
After Mass ~ Wednesday, December 13
Followed by coffee/snack

THOUGHTS ON EVANGELIZATION

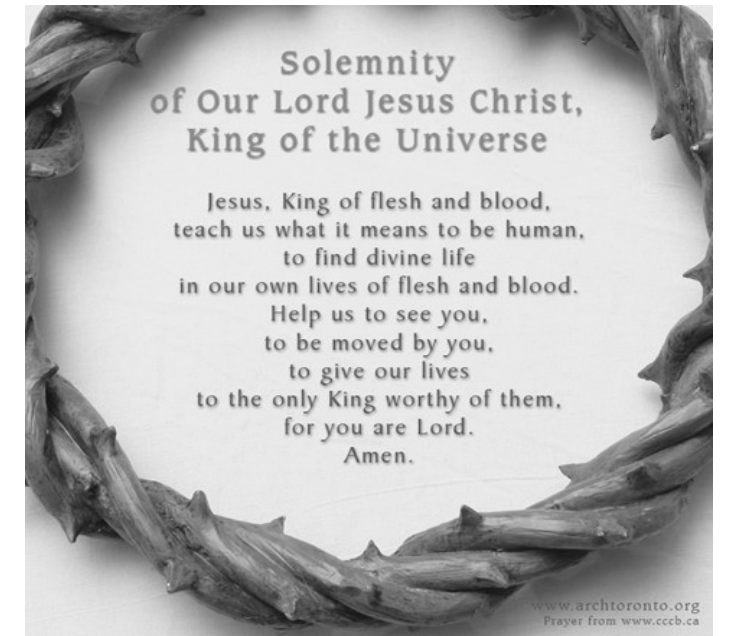
Readings: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-46

Today we celebrate Christ the King, but he is unlike ordinary, earthly kings. He is a shepherd to his flock - the Good Shepherd, who carries the lost sheep home on his shoulders. This is the King we follow and as his disciples we are called do the same. The gospel asks us what we have done for the least among us in imitation of our Shepherd-King and in service to him. As he has loved us, so we are called to love those whom he loves, the least of our brothers and sisters. On this last Sunday of the liturgical year, and as we look forward to Thanksgiving Thursday, let us be grateful for the love of our King and Shepherd and share that love with all around us. (From the Diocesan Office of Evangelization)

REMINDERS:

...Starting this Thursday, all weekday Masses in every church will be at NOON until notified. The Adoration and Holy Hour will always precede the Mass on a given day.

...Starting next weekend, we solemnly begin the season of ADVENT which leads to our celebration on Christmas on 25th. Please help yourself with the “Magnificat” and “Word Among us” at the back of the Church for your spiritual reflection and preparation.



NEW ~ PARISH OFFICIAL FACEBOOK PAGE



Catholic Community of
Westport, Elizabethtown,
Willsboro and Essex
~ Like and Follow ~

