

Dear Padre,

In the liturgy, how do a solemnity, a feast day, and a memorial differ?

Celebrations in the Church calendar are named according to their rank or importance. Solemnity is the highest rank. The next rank is feast, celebrating an event in the life of Christ, Mary, the apostles, martyrs, and a few other important saints.

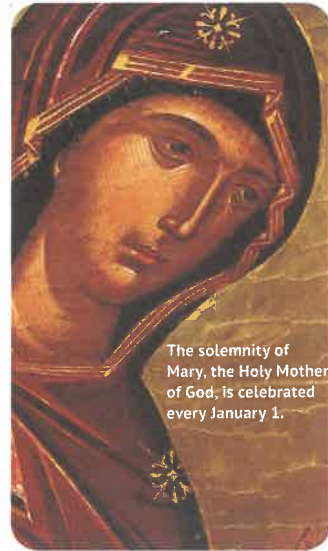
Solemnities are usually celebrated by the whole Church, but celebrations may be made solemnities for local churches. For instance, Our Lady of Guadalupe is a solemnity in Mexico and a feast in the United States.

A memorial commemorates the day a saint died. An obligatory memorial is celebrated by every church in a diocese or country. The memorial of Redemptorist St. John Neumann, for example, is obligatory in the United States because of his historical contribution to the American Church as the fourth bishop of Philadelphia. It's also obligatory in Redemptorist churches around the world.

Optional memorials are saints' days an individual priest can celebrate Monday through Saturday if he chooses. For example, Jesuit St. Robert Bellarmine's memorial is obligatory in Jesuit churches or in churches named for him, but it's optional everywhere else.

During Ordinary Time, solemnities that fall on Sunday are celebrated, but feasts and memorials that fall on Sunday are not. During Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter, some solemnities that fall on Sunday are transferred to a weekday because of the importance of these seasons. ●

Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective
Catholic Update explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions. Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.



The solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, is celebrated every January 1.

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSsR / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
November 27 Weekday Dn 1:1-6, 8-20 Lk 21:1-4	November 28 Weekday Dn 2:31-45 Lk 21:5-11	November 29 Weekday Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28 Lk 21:12-19	November 30 St. Andrew, Apostle Rom 10:9-18 Mt 4:18-22	December 1 Weekday Dn 7:2-14 Lk 21:29-33	December 2 Weekday Dn 7:15-27 Lk 21:34-36	December 3 First Sunday of Advent Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7 1 Cor 1:3-9 Mk 13:33-37



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

[Jesus] tells us that the good we do to one of our least brothers and sisters—whether hungry or thirsty, a stranger, in need, sick, or in prison—we do to him (see Matthew 25:37-40). In this way, the Lord gives us his “gift list” for the eternal wedding feast he will share with us in heaven.

HOMILY, ST. PETER'S BASILICA, NOVEMBER 22, 2020



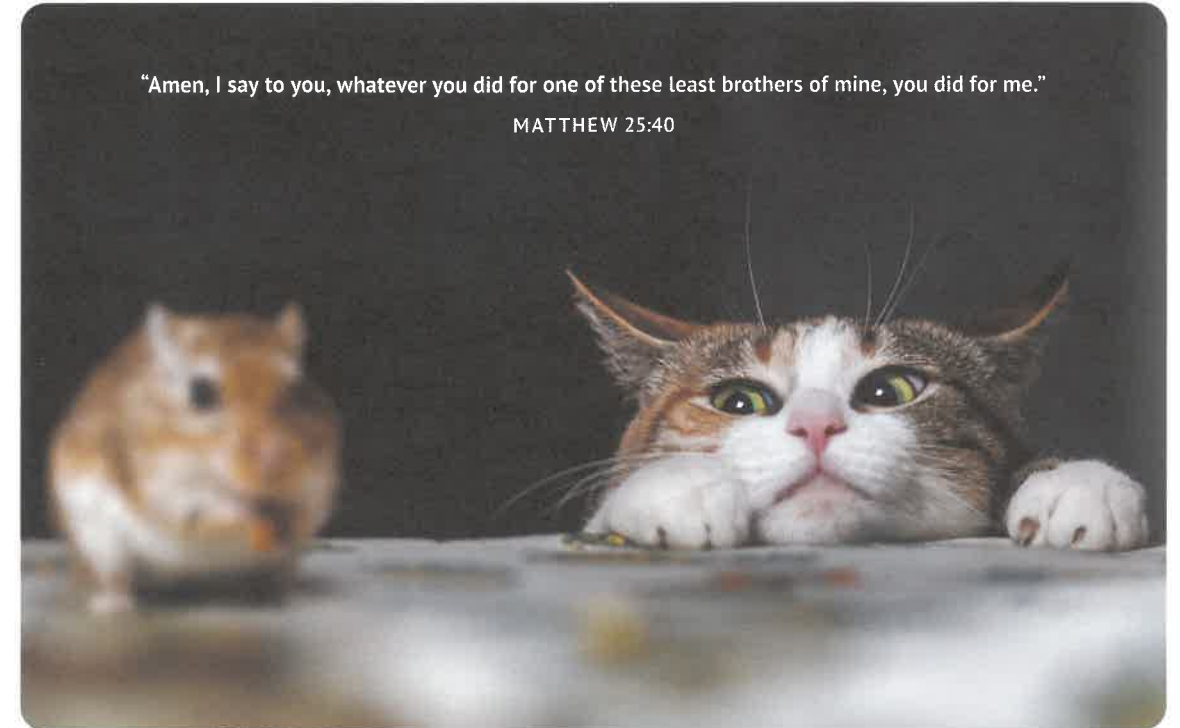
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Our Parish COMMUNITY

November 26, 2023

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (A)

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17 / 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28 / Matthew 25:31-46



"Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

MATTHEW 25:40

Pay Attention to Your Instincts

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Invite Marty into your home and the first thing he'll ask is whether or not you have any cats. Marty is allergic to cats, big time, even if they have been quarantined to another room. His eyes turn red. He sneezes. He begins to cough and wheeze like an old-time Model T. Cats are his nemesis. It is ironic that Marty has befriended a stray cat from his neighborhood. Though he never pets the kitty or allows him into his home, each day he feeds him and puts milk out for him on the deck outside his living room. And if the cat fails to come around, he worries about him.

There is something instinctive in us that moves us to care for the underdog, even if it's a cat. The Sunday Gospel this week suggests that the innate desire to care for the weakest among us is a Godly instinct. It's where we meet God, and we need to pay attention to it simply because it's how we come to a sense of God in our lives.

We all search for meaning, looking for it every day in the hidden corners of our lives and in the open daytimes of our busyness. Sometimes we find it, and sometimes we limp back home at the end of the day. More often than not it's when our day has been brushed with the color of caring for someone else that we feel good about that day. It's a Godly instinct that's not to be ignored. ●

Reflect

Has your instinct to care for the underdog ever not made sense to others?



St. Joseph Neier

Rev. Peter Blake, Pastor &

Rev. Eric Kunz, Senior Associate Pastor

November

25 & 26

2023

Confession Times:

Saturday 4:00pm – 4:40pm

Saturday Mass: 5:00pm

Sunday Mass: 10:30am

Weekday Masses: Monday – Wednesday – NO MASS

Office: 636.583.2806

Sarah's Cell: 314.808.0337

Website: stjosephneier.com

Email: parishoffice@stjosephneier.com

Thursday – Friday – 6:30am

Stewardship Alive by David Baranowski

Most of us struggle with prayer at some point in our life. Even our greatest saints struggled – St. Theresa of Lisieux, St. John of the Cross, St. Theresa of Avila and St. Catherine of Sienna – and they all became doctors of the Church! Struggling while trying to grow in virtue is a good thing because we typically learn and grow from it, and in the case of prayer, we recognize the importance of trying to live a God-centered life. St. Theresa of Avila said, “Prayer is to the soul what oxygen is to the body.”

One of the best gifts we can give someone is to teach them how to pray. Here are some tips, insights, and observations that may help you.

Persistence – a daily commitment to prayer is key to growing in friendship with the Holy Trinity, saints and angels. If we don’t talk, and more importantly listen, to God every day how else will we know how He wants us to use our gifts? Persistence doesn’t mean that we will wear God and He will give in, but rather through persistence we may eventually hear what God is saying to us. Also, persistence means praying even when you don’t feel like doing it.

Silence – prayers are best done in silence when we can commit our heart, mind and soul to God. It’s important to create both exterior and interior silence. Exterior silence means creating a space free of noise and distraction wherever you pray. Interior silence means turning off all those thoughts and ideas that are bouncing around inside your head. Interior silence is usually harder to maintain than exterior silence. Try these tools to help develop and maintain interior silence. Start your prayer time with the “**Breathing Prayer**” to help settle yourself and put yourself in God’s presence. It goes like this – breathe in God’s love, breathe out any anxiety, breathe in God’s love, breathe out any anger, breathe in God’s love, breathe out any despair, breathe in God’s love, breathe out any envy, breathe in God’s love, breathe out any hurriedness... and so on. Breathe out those things that are distracting you from getting started. Next, all of us get distracted and our minds wander during prayer. When this happens have a mantra or phrase that will bring you back to God’s presence. Keep repeating it until you are back on track. My phrase is “Jesus, I trust in You.”

Please pray for those who are sick in our parish and families:

Betty Bean
Shirley Beckman
Valerie Broeker
Anna Marie Brueggemann
Chris Elbert
Cynthia Faust
Linda Frick
Zachery Goosage
Benny Hammer
Andrew Hellebusch
Marcia Herbst
Brandon Huels
Olivia Jasper
Rick Just

Get
Well
Soon

Ashley Koelling
Marcus Lowe
Vincent Mueller
Jean Oldavi
Ashley Shelton
Marcia Shollenberger
Courtney Smith
Special Intention 1
Special Intention 2
Erica Sterling
George West
Sr. Georgiann Wildhaber, SSND
Sheri Zambruski



I had a special prayer request come in for:
Juliette, Casper, Manuel, Aidan, Elias & Nicholas.

Please pray for those serving our country:

Adam Amato

Jamie
Brueggemann
Murphy

Andy Davis

Taylor Donner

Emily Guenther

Caleb Logsdon

Michael Miller

Michael Murphy

Reese Pellin

Sam Smith

Owen Struckhoff

Luke Stuesse

Emma Wildhaber



Memorial Angels
are available to remember a lost loved one during the Christmas Season. These Angels are displayed on our Angel Trees in the front of Church. Envelopes are available to fill out in the vestibule by the bulletins. Please return by December 10th.

Please contact Jeanne Dierking with any questions: 636.744.4607 Suggested donation of \$5

Jesus, Mary & Joseph (JMJ)
Your Catholic Resource Store

♥ ♥ ♥

JMJ would like to invite you to stop by and visit.

We have new Advent/Christmas items available for your loved ones this year. Remember keep Christ in Christmas!

JMJ is a non-profit, all volunteer organization dedicated to promoting the Catholic faith and enriching the spiritual lives of our customers.

— — —

Wednesday - Friday: 10am - 4pm
Saturday: 10am - 2pm
121 W. MAIN ST.
WASHINGTON, MO
636-239-2471

Gifts are due next weekend! Thank you for your generosity!!

The Giving Tree
This year we are collecting gifts for Foster kids in the Franklin County area. Tags are available this weekend, with the deadline for having them returned by *December 3rd*. All gifts need to be returned unwrapped with the tag attached. No gift cards can be accepted. Any questions, call or text Erica Sterling @ 636.584.4297

Stewardship Alive by David Baranowski Cont...

Gratitude – one of the easiest and best ways to start your daily communication with God is thanking Him for all the gifts He has given you. Start from the second you wake up and continue until your head hits the pillow at night. “Thank you God for another day, thank you for my wife, thank you for a home to live in, thank you for our children (and name them), thank you for breakfast, thank you for my car, thank you for a job to go to, thank you for light traffic this morning... and so on. Be specific and continue throughout the day. You will soon discover that you are praying all day long and it will become second nature, just like talking with your family, friends and co-workers. When you recognize all the gifts you have been given, it’s easy to be grateful. You start to see daily miracles and God’s active presence in your life.

Make it Personal – talk to God about what is on your heart simply and plainly. Use your own words and not written prayers that may be too general in nature. Get straight to the point and avoid fluffy words. When we use too many words or use puffy language we don’t always take responsibility for our actions or it may seem like what we did or didn’t do really isn’t so bad. Also, try to personalize your prayer by being specific to God the Father, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit.

Read Scripture Daily – God responds to our prayers many ways, through other people, through nature, and especially through Scripture. Read Scripture every day as part of your daily prayer. Scripture is the living Word of God. Depending on the circumstances in your life, a Scripture reading you have heard many times before may now be saying something different to you on this day. A common reaction from people that read Scripture daily is “that describes my situation exactly.”

Finally, when you pray, start with the end in mind – eternal life with the Holy Trinity in Heaven. Changing the tone of our prayers from “what can you do for me today God?” to “what can I do for you today Lord?” will change the trajectory of your life and those around you.

Message from Sarah...

For those who were here, or at St. Clare last weekend, David’s ending message mirrors Deacon TJ Wild’s homily perfectly. What can you do for the Lord today? It doesn’t have to be a HUGE GRAND gesture. Any act of kindness makes God happy.

Advent begins next weekend. I hope David’s message about prayer helps to strengthen your prayer life this advent season. God hears you, even if you are praying silently in your mind. Just remember that God has a plan for you. You may not always agree with how things turn out, but there is a reason for everything that happens... happy times, tragic times, depressed times... these times can strengthen your relationship with God, if you allow it. Also remember, everything you do has a choice and only you can make choices for yourself. Be sure to choose wisely because each choice you make effects your future in a positive or negative way. God wants good things for you, but you have to choose good to have good things happen.

Thank you For your Generosity & Support

November 6 - 12

General Fund Donations

Regular Offering Envelopes: (66) \$ 3,599.00
 Regular Offering Loose: \$ 38.00
 Online Giving*: (13) \$ 596.11
 Total: \$ 4,233.11

Restricted Funds Donations

Catholic Education: (1*) \$ 49.20
 Christmas Flowers: (27) \$ 521.00
 Electric: (1*) \$ 47.95
 Retired Religious: (1) \$ 20.00

*Online Giving/With Transaction Fees Removed
 (Number of Contributors)

November



November 2023

"General Funds Collections"

November 5 \$5,236.42
 November 12 \$4,165.54
 November 19 \$4,233.11
 November 26 \$ TBD



Weekly Schedule

THIS WEEKEND

NEXT WEEK

SAT
25
NOV

5:00PM MASS

MASS INTENTION
 PARISH FAMILY OF
 ST. JOSEPH

LECTOR
 THERESA STRAATMANN
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
 JIM NOELKER
 VI SCHROEDER
 JO NOELKER

SUN
26
NOV

10:30AM MASS

MASS INTENTION
 VINCENT
 SCHMUKE, JR.

LECTOR
 JEN KISSINGER
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
 CHRISTY BAKER
 JEFF BAKER
 CHRIS BLOCK

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

SATURDAY

- 4:15PM - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - UNION
- 5:00PM - ST. JOSEPH - NEIER

SUNDAY

- 7:00AM - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - UNION
- 8:30AM - ST. CLARE - ST. CLAIR
- 10:00AM - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION - UNION
- 10:30AM - ST. JOSEPH - NEIER

THURS
30
NOV

6:30AM MASS

MASS INTENTION
 ARTHUR, VIRGINIA, DENNIS &
 KAREN VOSS

FRI
1
DEC

6:30AM MASS

MASS INTENTION
 MARGE HANKINS

SAT
2
DEC

5:00PM MASS

MASS INTENTION
 PARISH FAMILY OF
 ST. JOSEPH

LECTOR
 VI SCHROEDER
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
 JEN KISSINGER
 CATHIE GRUS
 JEANNE DIERKING

SUN
3
DEC

10:30AM MASS

MASS INTENTION
 TOM ADAMS, SR.

LECTOR
 MICHELLE YOUNG
EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
 PATTI GREIFE
 TIM FETH
 DENISE FETH

UPCOMING EVENTS

November

- **Monday, November 27th**
 - Sarah off at noon
- **Tuesday, November 28th**
 - Dinner Auction Meeting – 7pm – Parish Hall
- **Wednesday, November 29th**
 - PSR – 6:30pm – 7:45pm – Parish Hall
- **Thursday, November 30th**
 - Quilters will return in January

December

- **Sunday, December 3rd**
 - Ladies Sodality Meeting – 9am – Parish Hall
- **Wednesday, December 6th**
 - Forever Young Club – 1:00pm – ?? – Quilter's Room
 - PSR – 6:30pm – 7:45pm – Parish Hall
- **Thursday, December 7th**
 - Eucharistic Adoration – 7am – 12:50pm – w/ Benediction after – Church
 - 4H – 7pm – Parish Hall

please join us



*Eucharistic
Adoration*

Let's give thanks to Our Lord

Thursday, December 7th

6:30am Mass
Adoration following
Perpetual Help Devotions
until 12:50pm
With Benediction After

Daughters of Isabella News

First Saturday Mass & Rosary

Saturday, December 1st, 8am

Rosary prayed @ 7:30am

Immaculate Conception Church

*We hope many of you
can attend!*

**Union Knights of
Columbus**



November

Sunday, November 26th

BB Gun Shoot • 1:00pm – Hall
Fun for the whole family!!

December

Monday, December 4th

Board Meeting • 7:30pm – Lounge

Sunday, December 10th

Breakfast

7:30am – 11:30am • All you can eat
Adults \$12 • Children (6-12) \$6
Children under 6 FREE

Council Christmas Party

Doors open @ 4pm • Eat @ 5pm
Every family is asked to bring a covered
dish. Santa plans to make an
appearance.

Breakfast with Santa

at Immaculate Conception
Marian Center • Union, MO

DEC 10th
7:30 AM - 10:00 AM

Free event Courtesy of Western Catholic Union (WCU)
Free Donuts & Gift from Santa for all children parishioners of IC & St. Joseph Neier.
Raffle Prize for Adults



Christmas Mass Schedule

**SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 24TH**
Immaculate Conception
4pm
St. Clare
6pm
St. Joseph Neier
8pm

**MONDAY,
DECEMBER 25TH**
Immaculate Conception
7am
St. Clare
8am
St. Joseph Neier
9am



*Ladies
Sodality
Meeting*

**Sunday,
Dec 3rd**



Husbands are welcome,
and encouraged,
to come and visit
during our meeting.



St. Ann's
DONUTS with
MR. & MRS. CLAUS

SUNDAY
December 3
10 AM - 12 PM

upper hall of St. Ann Parish Center
7851 HIGHWAY YY, WASHINGTON, MO 63090



**DONUTS &
REFRESHMENTS
PROVIDED**



photos & activities
available

JESUS
is the
REASON
for the
SEASON

4 Weeks
Until His
Birthday



Join us!
Next
Forever Young
Day is

**December
6th
@ 1pm**

Always
the **FIRST**
Wednesday
of the month

**Forever
Young Club**

**Play Games
Tell Stories
Build
Friendships**