

# SAINT PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

## NOVEMBER 22, 2020



Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me,

naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me.'

Matthew 24:34-36

104 WEST FIRST STREET • MANSFIELD, OHIO 44902  
419.524.2572 | MANSFIELDSTPETERS.ORG

### Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 5:00 P.M.  
Sunday: 7:30 A.M., 9:30 A.M., 11:30 A.M.  
Monday & Friday 5:30 P.M.  
Tuesday - Thursday 7:00 A.M.

### Spanish Mass:

*Resurrection Parish, Lexington*

All Masses are cancelled until further notice.

### Parish Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 9:00 A.M.- 2:00 P.M.  
Saturday and Sunday: Closed

### Pastoral Care Contacts:

Ms. Kristi Reindl 419.524.2572  
*Hospital & Follow-up  
Nursing Homes/Assisted Living &  
Prayer Pipeline*  
Deacon John Reef 419.529.3694  
*Shut-ins/Homebound*

### Sacrament of Baptism:

Please contact the Parish Center to begin plans for the baptism of your baby or child.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday: 3:00 - 4:30 P.M.  
Other times by appointment.

### Sacrament of Marriage:

Arrangements should always be made at the **Parish Center office at least eight months** in advance of the ceremony. A wedding date is confirmed after the initial meeting with a priest.

### Bulletin Deadline:

Friday, 12:00 noon. All requests must be submitted in writing or email and must receive prior approval.

### Parish Administrative Assistant:

Ms. Kristi Reindl 419.524.2572 ext.2122

### Pastoral Staff:

Fr. Gregory R. Hite, *Pastor*  
Fr. Kevin Moebius, *Parochial Vicar*  
Mr. Bill Johnson,  
*Director of Music & Liturgy*  
Ms. Lynne Lukach, *Pastoral Associate*  
Mrs. Elizabeth Wurm, *Director of  
Religious Ed. & Youth Minister*

### Deacon:

Mr. John Reef

### St. Peter's School:

Mr. Jonathan Cuttitta  
*High School, Jr. High School*  
Mrs. Ashley Rastorfer  
*Elementary School and Montessori*

### Business Manager:

Dr. Vincent Palombo

### Director of Marketing:

Mr. Jason Crundwell

A PARISH OF THE SAINT JUAN DIEGO DEANERY, DIOCESE OF TOLEDO

**MASS INTENTIONS**Monday, November 23 *34th Week in Ordinary Time*

5:00 pm Rosary

5:30 pm Marilyn Kurtzman

Tuesday, November 24 *Memorial of Saint Andrew Dung-Lac,  
Priest, and Companion*

7:00 am Michael Payton

Wednesday, November 25 *34th Week in Ordinary Time*

7:00 am Parish

Thursday, November 26 *34th Week in Ordinary Time,  
Thanksgiving*

7:00 am Mary (Diane) Rodriguez

Friday, November 27 *34th Week in Ordinary Time*

5:00 pm Rosary

5:30 pm Charles "Barney" Graham

Saturday, November 28 *Vigil of Advent*

5:00 pm Ida Joan Koehler

Sunday, November 29 *Advent*

7:30 am Parish

9:30 am Mary (Diane) Rodriguez

11:30 am Charles "Barney" Graham

**ST. PETER'S RESTART SMART COMMITTEE  
MESSAGE**

St. Peter's Restart Smart Committee would like to thank the community for their prayers as we continue to safely reopen campus. Opening those doors to students in the midst of a pandemic is an overwhelming effort that requires the support of the whole community. From purchasing PPE, developing new cleaning protocols and gathering supplies, investing in remote learning technology, reconfiguring classrooms, installing a new restroom, training faculty to teach remotely, opening buildings to provide for social distancing, and the myriad of sweeping changes we have made to create a safe learning environment for our children, St. Peter's has made unprecedented investments in our school. In keeping with the mission and ministry of our parish to answer the Gospel's call to model the teachings and evangelizing of Jesus, we ask our faith community to consider supporting our schools during this challenging time.

**Donations of any amount will help us ensure those doors stay open to students and to allow us to continue to heed Jesus' call in Matthew 28 to "teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you."**

**Christ the King**

Last Sunday was the last Sunday of Ordinary Time. The Church in her wisdom gave us the Gospel about the talents: Do we choose to use them or lose them? This week we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe – familiarly known as Christ the King. As we complete the Gospel of Matthew for Liturgical Cycle A, we are given the opportunity to extend our reflection on investing or burying our talents – and what this means for our eternal life – with today's Gospel from Matthew 25:31-46.

Jesus sets the stage clearly: *"When the Son of Man comes in his glory...he will separate the sheep from the goats."* We know what we are called to do in this life to be in that group that will hear Jesus say: *"Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."*

If there's any doubt how we are called to live, Jesus spells it out for the crowd gathered around him then – and for us two thousand years later. To live in the eternal peace and love of Christ, we are called to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, take care of the ill, and visit those in prison. We don't do any of this for the purpose of checking off boxes on our to-do list of eternal happiness or in order to work our way into heaven. We do this because each time we serve someone in need, we are serving Jesus. It is HIS face we see when we cheerfully distribute food or prepare for a warm clothing drive or send a note to anyone suffering or dedicate ourselves to any work of mercy. We cannot physically visit those in prison during the pandemic, but we can certainly pray for the incarcerated in a special way. (Thank you to our precious parishioners who always take time to ask me how our brothers at RiCI and ManCI are doing.)

Today on this Solemnity of Christ the King we are given an opportunity to fall to our knees before our King. All who are able to attend are encouraged to spend time before the Blessed Sacrament today (Sunday). These hours of Adoration provide the gift of time and silence to worship and praise God, to enter into deep prayer, to open ourselves to discerning the ways we are being called to use our time, talent, and treasure to serve others. Adoration will begin after 11:30 Mass and will end with 5:00 Evening Prayer and Benediction with our dear friend Father Andrew Wellmann presiding. (As always, facial covering is required and we observe distancing protocols.)

What if every parish household who is able, every staff and faculty member who is able, every school family who is able came for even one hour to kneel before our Lord?

Your sister in Christ,  
*Lynne Lukach*

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES OF ST. PETER'S PARISH**

**By mailing in your offering envelopes, OR**

**By visiting the website at [www.mansfieldstpeters.org](http://www.mansfieldstpeters.org), to learn about opportunities for electronic giving.**

**We greatly appreciate your generosity and support during these difficult days!**

**THANK YOU!**

Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish during this pandemic. Every sacrificial gift is accepted in the Lord's eyes.

**Please remember to include our parish in your estate planning.**

**RESTRICTIONS ON TAKING COMMUNION TO THE SICK**

Due to the continuing pandemic, OhioHealth Mansfield is still restricting patient visits for Holy Communion. If you have a family member who is in their home and would like a visit from a priest or deacon, please contact Kristi at [Reindl.kristi@myspartans.org](mailto:Reindl.kristi@myspartans.org) or 419.524.2572 ext.2122 with their name, address and phone number.

**PSR CLASSES**

PSR classes have now begun! If you have a student who is in preschool through the eighth grade. To register please contact Elizabeth Wurm at [wurm.elizabeth@myspartans.org](mailto:wurm.elizabeth@myspartans.org) for class sign up today!

Registrations are also now being accepted for First Eucharist and Confirmation!

**MANSFIELD AREA CATHOLIC CEMETERIES COMMITTEE**

The Mansfield Area Catholic Cemeteries Committee would like to remind parishioners that grave spaces are available in both the Mansfield Catholic Cemetery and the Prince of Peace Cemetery. The price for grave spaces are reduced during the month of November from the normal price of \$500 to \$450. For more information about purchasing grave spaces please contact David Barber, Chair of the Committee at the St. Peter's Parish Office 419.524.2572, x 8003.

**SAINT PETER'S PARISH MASK POLICY**

Richland County is now under a **"Red Level"** for the COVID-19 Virus, but the State of Ohio is still under mandatory mask wearing orders.

We respectfully ask that all who come to worship with us **WEAR A MASK OR FACIAL COVERING, USE HAND SANITIZER, AND RESPECT SOCIAL DISTANCING OF 6 FEET.**

**Dispensation to attend Sunday Mass, Holy Days of Obligations, remains in place for the foreseeable future until we are notified otherwise.**

Those who are at high risk, especially the elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions, are strongly advised to refrain from Mass attendance out of concern for their own well-being and out of Christian charity for others.

Thank you for your consideration. Please pray for all during this time of pandemic! Mary, Help of the Sick, Pray for us!

**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE SERVING IN THE US MILITARY**

Do you know someone serving in the US Military or someone who gave their life for our country while serving in the armed forces? These people can be honored by submitting their names to St. Peter's. They will then be placed on bulletin board by the cry room at the main entrance to St. Peter's. These people will then be remembered by many parishioners prayers. What a great gift to be given to these serving our country.

**For all of the current important information about St. Peters Parish operations during these troubled times, please visit our website at:**

**[MANSFIELDSPETERS.ORG](http://MANSFIELDSPETERS.ORG)**

**There you will also find devotional materials for use at home for you and your family.**

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH



Bill Ruhl, Jeannie Burkhalter, Aaron Blank, Cindy Lassen, Dina Riley, Eliana Nelson, MaKaya Butler, Sharon Valdry, Maria Loschinkohl, John Ziegler, Marlene Ziegler, Dorothy Trinter, JoAnn Marbaugh, Gwen Yockey, Mel Switzer, Louise Steggall, Tammy Dudley, Keith Combs, Mady Ziegler, Elaine Johnson, Cindy Jasnek Cartier, Jeannine Klotz, Tom Powell, Chief Master Sergeant Joseph Basting, Peggy Basting Taylor, Kathy Carcione, Carol Pittenger, Jill McMillen, Catherine R. Liston, Alan Gallaway, Marty Moritz, Joe Mollica, Beverly Strauser, Larry Strauser, Bob Strauser, Christi Strauser, Jennifer Strauser, Dennis Caldwell, Mark Hawkins, Barb Jefferies, Lucille Thompson, Myrna Bohr, Patrick and Judy Boyer, John Doty., Ardis Steggall, David Donley, Elsie Person, Jacob Randall.

Names will only be listed for 4 weeks. If you wish to have additional time, contact the Parish Center at 419.524.2572.

## IN GOD'S ARMS...

Kathleen Jo Erdenberger

Patrick O'Brien

Dr. David Fleming



**ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD.**

## PARISH AND SCHOOL MINISTRIES

Did you know that there are many ways in which you can become more involved at St. Peter's? We are always looking for volunteers for the various ministries provided by both the parish and school. The complete list can be found on our website at [mansfieldstpeters.org](http://mansfieldstpeters.org) or by contacting the Parish Center office at 419.524.2572.

## PRISON MINISTRY CORNER



On July 14 of this year our federal government restarted the practice of capital punishment following a 17-year hiatus from federal executions. Over these past four months the Department of Justice has executed seven people, more than doubling the total number of federal executions in the 57 years prior, with three more scheduled yet this year. See the excellent website Catholic Mobilizing Network for the upcoming virtual prayer vigils before each of these executions or contact Lynne at the Parish Center for more information. Fortunately, we have had no executions in the State of Ohio since 2018.

## PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The parish offices will be closed Wednesday, November 25 through Friday November 27, and will reopen on Monday, November 30.

## TV MASS SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

You may know that we are broadcasting our Sunday Mass on WMFD TV in Mansfield, as well as on our Facebook, YouTube and Parish Web pages. While there is no cost associated with the internet transmissions, the cost of broadcasting on television is \$135.00 per half hour.

Many parishioners and area businesses have stepped up to underwrite the cost of these broadcasts. In these uncertain days that need may continue for quite some time to come.

If you or your business would like to underwrite a TV Mass, please contact Jason Crundwell or Bill Johnson at the Parish Center at 419.524.2572 ext. 2125 or ext. 2113 for more information.

## SCHOOL MASSES

Our students will be attending Mass every other week during this school year. Because of the need for social distancing only students and teachers will attend. **At this time we cannot accommodate additional people in the High School auditorium.** Please keep all students and teachers in your prayer during this challenging school year.



**RECYCLING—NEXT DATE: DECEMBER 11, 2020**

**WE STILL SELL GARBAGE BAGS FROM THE YELLOW BAG PEOPLE IN THE PARISH CENTER.**

## FOOD COLLECTION: December 12 & 13

### SUNDAY OFFERING



Year to Date  
October 31, 2020

#### Sunday and Holy Day Collections

Sunday Collection & Holy Day Collection:	\$272,792
Total Budgeted Sunday Collection To Date:	\$284,000
<b>Sunday Collection Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(\$11,208)</b>

#### School Collection

Total School Collection To Date:	\$33,330
Total Budgeted School Collection To Date:	\$48,000
<b>School Collection Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>(\$14,670)</b>



## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



### DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & ADVANCEMENT

St. Peter's Parish & School is seeking to fill a new position in our Development Office. The Director of Development & Advancement provides leadership, planning and management of the Advancement Office and is responsible for designing, implementing and maintaining a comprehensive institutional advancement program. Minimum qualifications include a bachelor's degree in a related field or equivalent experience with a minimum of five years experience in fundraising, event planning, donor relations and alumni relations. Outstanding knowledge of fundraising data software and database management software is required. Practicing Catholic preferred. Please send cover letter, resume, salary requirements and references to Vincent Palombo, Business Manager at [palombo.vincent@myspartans.org](mailto:palombo.vincent@myspartans.org).

*All candidates must also complete the Diocese of Toledo VIRTUS training and pass FBI/BCI background check.*

### SUBSTITUTE SECRETARY AND CLASSROOM SUBSTITUTE

St. Peter's Elementary is in need of substitute teachers and substitute secretaries for the 20-21 school year. Must have Bachelor's degree, substitute/teaching license, and have BCI, FBI checks completed as well as VIRTUS requirements. Send resumes to [rastorfer.ashley@myspartans.org](mailto:rastorfer.ashley@myspartans.org). The secretary subs do not need a degree/license...they just need FBI, BCI, and VIRTUS. Thanks!

*All candidates must also complete the Diocese of Toledo VIRTUS training and pass FBI/BCI background check.*

## ANNUAL ALL SOULS MASS

At our annual **All Soul's Mass** last Sunday we remembered the lives of 105 loved ones of many people in our parish. The Mass was a meaningful celebration for those who attended. The Candles and Crosses with your loved ones name are available for pick up in the Parish Center as well as extra programs beginning November 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

### SPECIAL THANK YOU

I would like to thank Bill Johnson and the Schola Choir, the Bereavement Team, especially Sheryl Weber who acted as coordinator, the lector, the Knights of Columbus who were the ushers, John Thrasher and Jon Ralph for making all the wooden crosses, Liturgy volunteers who labeled the candles, Fran Leitenberger who is the keeper of our All Souls' Book and Scroll, and especially all those who attended the Mass to pray together and support one another.

*Kristi Reindl, Parish Administrative Assistant*

## ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL UPDATE

The 2020 Annual Catholic Appeal Campaign is underway with a campaign goal of \$3 million. We can assure the continued existence of many important programs that help tens of thousands in our Diocese each year; education of our seminary students, care of the sick and needy are among them. We ask you once again for your help; we have to work together. Please respond generously when you are asked to make your pledge. Thank you for your attention and thank you for being my parish family. For more information, visit the Diocesan website at [Toledodiocese.org/ACA](http://Toledodiocese.org/ACA). Your pledge may be sent to: Annual Catholic Appeal, Diocese of Toledo, 1933 Spielbusch Avenue, Toledo, Ohio, 43604.

Our parish goal is \$55,000.00 so far we are at \$44,748.10, with pledges from 347 households or 81.36%. Thank you for your support of our diocesan ministries and the help you provide to our seminarians and deacons who are in formation to serve our parish's future. Through your generosity, 4 men were ordained to the priesthood on June 27, 2020, and we **Welcome Fr. Kevin Moebius** to our parish. **Your pledge** to the Annual Catholic Appeal helped to make this possible!

**Remember, we have a Seminarian in Training, Hayden Eighinger**, studying at the Athenaeum of Ohio (Mt. St. Mary's of the West) who depends on your support to continue his formation as he continues in his studies for the priesthood. In his name, and for the ministries that serve our parish, I am making a last time appeal to you for your generous and faithful support. We are still within reach of our goal with only \$11,121.90 to go!

Thank you for your consideration,  
*Father Hite, Pastor*





# Introducing FORMED®



All are invited to our next parish-wide Formed event:

**Date: Saturday, December 5**

**Time: After 5:00 P.M. Mass**

**Location: Video in church/hospitality in school cafeteria**

**Topic: The Bible and the Virgin Mary: A Biblical introduction to Mary**

The excellent FORMED series *The Bible and the Virgin Mary* examines the role of Mary in the history of salvation. What we believe about Mary is founded on what we believe about Christ, and what our faith teaches about Mary in turn illuminates our faith in Christ. Join us for the 30-minute video "A Biblical Introduction to Mary" followed by discussion. (All safety and distancing protocols are observed.)



Are you finding "spiritual food" to feed your soul on the Formed platform? Please let us know if you need help finding something you're looking for, call the Parish Center and ask for Angie Dillon, Bill Johnson, or Lynne Lukach.

Here are some programs fellow parishioners have recommended:

- FORMED Daily—Your morning dose of truth, beauty and goodness
- Father Michael McGivney: An American Blessed—documentary on the life of the founder of the Knights of Columbus
- The Virtue of Patience Amidst Chaos
- Any of the excellent *Lectio* series

Thanks to a generous donor, the Diocese of Toledo is offering FORMED free to every parish! FORMED offers outstanding Catholic content through thousands of videos, audio, books, faith enrichment series, children's programming and more! We encourage all our parishioners to take advantage of this amazing resource.

**It's easy to begin: Go to [formed.org](https://formed.org). Click on Sign Up. Click "I belong to a Parish or Organization." Type "St. Peter's..." and a list will instantly appear. Be sure to choose our parish - listed as St. Peter's Catholic Church, 104 West First Street, Mansfield.... Then type your name and email address and you're done.** There are no passwords or codes. Enjoy looking over the range of materials. Watch the bulletin and the announcement screen before Mass for special programs, including plans to gather at the parish, view a video together, and have discussion and hospitality (observing distancing guidelines). More to come!

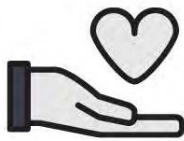


In November, we will give alms for the intention of holy vocations. More information will be shared in the bulletin and social media. You can also visit [ReconnectToledo.org/November](https://ReconnectToledo.org/November).

## **HOW TO PARTICIPATE**

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### **Week of Sunday, November 22**



#### **Give Alms**

Make a donation to the Annual Catholic Appeal. Donations are essential for the education of seminarians and permanent deacons.



#### **Pray**

Print (or cut out from your bulletin) the diaconate formation poster. Pray for the men who are in formation for the diaconate and all deacons of the Diocese of Toledo.

#### *Prayer for Permanent Deacons*

Holy God, Saint Vincent served You as a permanent deacon and gave his whole life and soul to You, even to the point of becoming a martyr. I lift up to You the deacons of the Church and all those who are being called by God to become deacons. Guide them as they discern how to serve the Body of Christ. Prevent the attractions of the world and the busyness of secular jobs from interfering with their vocations. Teach them to grow in humility. Help their families learn from their examples and support their diaconates with trust and joy. Saint Vincent, pray for us. Amen.



#### **Watch**

Go to [reconnecttoledo.org/november](https://reconnecttoledo.org/november) to watch a series of videos about the permanent diaconate.

*Reconnect*  
navigating Catholic life through a pandemic

## GIVING TREE 2020



St. Peter's has a long history of supporting our Community families with love and generosity through providing Christmas gifts through our annual Giving Tree program. Planning for this event has been in progress for months with our partner agencies with respect to safety and challenges of Covid-19. Although there will be changes to the overall Giving Tree operations, we remain committed offering an opportunity to serve families in our community. Please look for upcoming bulletin announcements for information of how our program will implement changes soon. Thank you in advance for your ongoing support to the families!

## PRESENCE FOR CHRISTMAS 2020 | ST. JOAN OF ARC

Particularly in this long season marked by *distance*, there are no presents that surpass the gift of *presence*. Plan on joining us now for Presence for Christmas, a multi-week ADVENTure into the heart of Christ's Mass involving inspiring speakers, uplifting worship, and confession on Wednesdays, beginning at 6:30p, at St. Joan of Arc Church, Toledo. Our themes this year correspond to the first three Joyful Mysteries: 12/2 "Personal Presence" (Peter Herbeck/ Renewal Ministries) 12/9 "Family Presence" (Stephanie Schlueter/ Mass Impact) 12/16 "Kingdom Come" (Dan DeMatte/ Damascus)

Presence for Christmas is sponsored by Mass Impact. Contact: [Alive@MassImpact.us](mailto:Alive@MassImpact.us) or 814-449-8808. FREE TICKETS are available right now: [PresenceForChristmas.com](https://www.PresenceForChristmas.com). Commit to four weeks of talking and praying with family/friends in your home using the free Live IT Gathering Guide: [ILoveMyFamily.us](https://www.ILoveMyFamily.us).

## STEUBENVILLE YOUTH CONFERENCE

We are now taking reservations for the Steubenville Youth Conference, June 11- 13th. Students who will be incoming freshman to outgoing seniors for the 2021-2022 school year are eligible to attend. Registration forms are available in the parish office and by contacting Elizabeth Wurm at [wurm.elizabeth@myspartans.org](mailto:wurm.elizabeth@myspartans.org). All those wishing to attend MUST preregister no later than December 13th. We hope you can join us!

## EVERY SATURDAY AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD



**Saturdays give us time** to do things we don't have time for during the week. Saturdays are also a great chance to spend time in prayer such as the Rosary. A gathering of "pray-ers" takes place every Saturday morning at 10:30 A.M. in front of Planned Parenthood. Prayers are so necessary in the effort to end abortion. Your prayers will aid in that cause. Please join us.





**SAINT JUAN DIEGO DEANERY ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES**

**Thursday, December 3, 6:30 P.M. @St. Joseph, Galion**

**Sunday, December 6, 1:00 P.M. @ St. Mary of the Snows, Mansfield:**

Confessions for all Religious Education students and their parents and siblings.  
Tri-Parish Penance Service for St. Mary of the Snows, Mansfield, Resurrection,  
Lexington & St. Peter's, Mansfield

**Wednesday, December 9, 7:00 P.M. @ St. Joseph, Crestline:**

Penance Service for Sacred Heart of Jesus, Bethlehem and St. Joseph, Crestline.

**Wednesday, December 9, 4:00 P.M.—8:00 P.M. @St. Francis Xavier, Willard:**

Not an Advent Penance Service, but extended Confession hours.

**Thursday, December 10, 6:30 P.M. @Holy Trinity, Bucyrus**

**Friday, December 11, 10:00 A.M.—12:00 P.M. @ St. Francis Xavier, Willard:**

Not an Advent Penance Services, but extended Confession hours.

**Wednesday, December 16, 10:00 A.M.—2:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M.—8:00 P.M**

**@St. Bernard, New Washington:**

Not an Advent Penance Service, but extended Confession hours.

# Leading the FLOCK

BY BISHOP DANIEL E. THOMAS



## “Fratelli tutti”

With these very first words of his third and newest Encyclical Letter, signed by Pope Francis in Assisi and published on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the vigil of the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, the Holy Father quotes his namesake in an address to all his brothers and sisters, proposing to them “a way of life marked by the flavor of the Gospel.” In the introduction, the Pope mentions how he has taken his inspiration from the saint of fraternal love, simplicity and joy; how the issues of human fraternity and social friendship have always been a concern of his; and how, in this Encyclical, he has sought to bring together reflections he has spoken of repeatedly and in other contexts, situating them in a broader context of reflection.

This Encyclical represents a summation of the underlying vision that the Holy Father has proclaimed throughout his papacy: “It is my desire that, in this our time, by acknowledging the dignity of each human person, we can contribute to the rebirth of a universal aspiration to fraternity. Brotherhood between all men and women” (n. 8).

In the current worldwide situation in which we find ourselves, strained by the effects of a pandemic, and the resulting polarization,

isolation and division, it is not hard to see why Pope Francis strives to offer a message of concord instead of discord, turning to the Gospel Parable in which Jesus tells of a man assaulted by thieves and lying injured on the wayside. He writes: “The parable eloquently presents the basic decision we need to make in order to rebuild our wounded world. In the face of so much pain and suffering, our only course is to imitate the Good Samaritan. Any other decision would make us either one of the robbers or one of those who walked by without showing compassion for the sufferings of the man on the roadside. The parable shows us how a community can be rebuilt by men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject the creation of a society of exclusion, and act instead as neighbours, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen for the sake of the common good. At the same time it warns us about the attitude of those who think only of themselves and fail to shoulder the inevitable responsibilities of life as it is” (n. 67).

It is Pope Francis’ conviction that the practice of social friendship, whether it be between nations, peoples or individuals, is one where each person knows and maintains his or her identity, but is also able to know and respect the

identity of others and work toward “coming up with shared goals that transcend their differences and can thus engage in a common endeavor” (n. 157). Further, the way forward to a new political future based on fraternity and social friendship begins with “moving beyond ourselves” which requires dialogue: “Authentic social dialogue involves the ability to respect the other’s point of view and to admit that it may include legitimate convictions and concerns” (n. 203). And it is religion which can play such a significant role in helping the dialogue of social friendship which leads to a greater sense of fraternity in our political world. Touching as he has before on topics of import in the realm of the Church’s social teaching, Pope Francis highlights that the religions of the world are called to the service of fraternity.

In receiving this new Encyclical Archbishop Jose Gomez, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, wrote: “In analyzing conditions in the world today, the Holy Father provides us with a powerful and urgent vision for the moral renewal of politics and political and economic institutions from the local level to the global level, calling us to build a common future that truly serves the good of the human person. For the Church, the Pope is challenging us to overcome the individualism in our culture and to serve our neighbors in love, seeing Jesus Christ in every person, and seeking a society of justice and mercy, compassion and mutual concern.”

As we receive this new Encyclical, we affirm that among Catholics, among other Christians and

those of other religions, “the effort to seek God with a sincere heart, provided it is never sullied by ideological or self-serving aims, helps us to recognize one another as travelling companions, truly brothers and sisters” (n. 274). And we understand more deeply that “The Church has a public role over and above her charitable and educational activities. She works for the advancement of humanity and of universal fraternity. She does not claim to compete with earthly powers, but to offer herself as a family among families, this is the Church, open to bearing witness in today’s world, open to faith, hope and love for the Lord and for those whom he loves with a preferential love. A home with open doors. The Church is a home with open doors, because she is a mother” (n. 276).

In releasing this new Encyclical, the Holy See concluded: “Faced with those injured by the shadows of a closed world and still lying by the roadside, we are invited by Pope Francis to make our own the world’s desire for fraternity, starting with the recognition that we are all ‘*Fratelli tutti*,’ brothers and sisters all.” May this be the starting point for us all.

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The Pope’s Encyclical Letter *Fratelli tutti* (On Fraternity and Social Friendship) may be found at [bit.ly/fraternity2020](https://bit.ly/fraternity2020).



Most Rev. Daniel E. Thomas  
Bishop of Toledo  
October 9, 2020

**ENCYCLICAL LETTER**  
**FRATELLI TUTTI**  
**OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS**  
**ON FRATERNITY AND SOCIAL FRIENDSHIP**

62. Yet this call to love could be misunderstood. Saint Paul, recognizing the temptation of the earliest Christian communities to form closed and isolated groups, urged his disciples to abound in love “for one another and for all” (1 Thess 3:12). In the Johannine community, fellow Christians were to be welcomed, “even though they are strangers to you” (3 Jn 5). In this context, we can better understand the significance of the parable of the Good Samaritan: love does not care if a brother or sister in need comes from one place or another. For “love shatters the chains that keep us isolated and separate; in their place, it builds bridges. Love enables us to create one great family, where all of us can feel at home... Love exudes compassion and dignity”.<sup>[56]</sup>

*Abandoned on the wayside*

63. Jesus tells the story of a man assaulted by thieves and lying injured on the wayside. Several persons passed him by, but failed to stop. These were people holding important social positions, yet lacking in real concern for the common good. They would not waste a couple of minutes caring for the injured man, or even in calling for help. Only one person stopped, approached the man and cared for him personally, even spending his own money to provide for his needs. He also gave him something that in our frenetic world we cling to tightly: he gave him his time. Certainly, he had his own plans for that day, his own needs, commitments and desires. Yet he was able to put all that aside when confronted with someone in need. Without even knowing the injured man, he saw him as deserving of his time and attention.

64. Which of these persons do you identify with? This question, blunt as it is, is direct and incisive. Which of these characters do you resemble? We need to acknowledge that we are constantly tempted to ignore others, especially the weak. Let us admit that, for all the progress we have made, we are still “illiterate” when it comes to accompanying, caring for and supporting the most frail and vulnerable members of our developed societies. We have become accustomed to looking the other way, passing by, ignoring situations until they affect us directly.

65. Someone is assaulted on our streets, and many hurry off as if they did not notice. People hit someone with their car and then flee the scene. Their only desire is to avoid problems; it does not matter that, through their fault, another person could die. All these are signs of an approach to life that is spreading in various and subtle ways. What is more, caught up as we are with our own needs, the sight of a person who is suffering disturbs us. It makes us uneasy, since we have no time to waste on other people’s problems. These are symptoms of an unhealthy society. A society that seeks prosperity but turns its back on suffering.

66. May we not sink to such depths! Let us look to the example of the Good Samaritan. Jesus’ parable summons us to rediscover our vocation as citizens of our respective nations and of the entire world, builders of a new social bond. This summons is ever new, yet it is grounded in a fundamental law of our being: we are called to direct society to the pursuit of the common good and, with this purpose in mind, to persevere in consolidating its political and social order, its fabric of relations, its human goals. By his actions, the Good Samaritan showed that “the existence of each and every individual is deeply tied to that of others: life is not simply time that passes; life is a time for interactions”.<sup>[57]</sup>

67. The parable eloquently presents the basic decision we need to make in order to rebuild our wounded world. In the face of so much pain and suffering, our only course is to imitate the Good Samaritan. Any other decision would make us either one of the robbers or one of those who walked by without showing compassion for the sufferings of the man on the roadside. The parable shows us how a community can be rebuilt by men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject the creation of a society of exclusion, and act instead as neighbours, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen for the sake of the common good. At the same time, it warns us about the attitude of those who think only of themselves and fail to shoulder the inevitable responsibilities of life as it is.

68. The parable clearly does not indulge in abstract moralizing, nor is its message merely social and ethical. It speaks to us of an essential and often forgotten aspect of our common humanity: we were created for a fulfilment that can only be found in love. We cannot be indifferent to suffering; we cannot allow anyone to go through life as an outcast. Instead, we should feel indignant, challenged to emerge from our comfortable isolation and to be changed by our contact with human suffering. That is the meaning of dignity.



**ENCYCLICAL LETTER - continued from page 12***A story constantly retold*

69. The parable is clear and straightforward, yet it also evokes the interior struggle that each of us experiences as we gradually come to know ourselves through our relationships with our brothers and sisters. Sooner or later, we will all encounter a person who is suffering. Today there are more and more of them. The decision to include or exclude those lying wounded along the roadside can serve as a criterion for judging every economic, political, social and religious project. Each day we have to decide whether to be Good Samaritans or indifferent bystanders. And if we extend our gaze to the history of our own lives and that of the entire world, all of us are, or have been, like each of the characters in the parable. All of us have in ourselves something of the wounded man, something of the robber, something of the passers-by, and something of the Good Samaritan.

70. It is remarkable how the various characters in the story change, once confronted by the painful sight of the poor man on the roadside. The distinctions between Judean and Samaritan, priest and merchant, fade into insignificance. Now there are only two kinds of people: those who care for someone who is hurting and those who pass by; those who bend down to help and those who look the other way and hurry off. Here, all our distinctions, labels and masks fall away: it is the moment of truth. Will we bend down to touch and heal the wounds of others? Will we bend down and help another to get up? This is today's challenge, and we should not be afraid to face it. In moments of crisis, decisions become urgent. It could be said that, here and now, anyone who is neither a robber nor a passer-by is either injured himself or bearing an injured person on his shoulders.

71. The story of the Good Samaritan is constantly being repeated. We can see this clearly as social and political inertia is turning many parts of our world into a desolate byway, even as domestic and international disputes and the robbing of opportunities are leaving great numbers of the marginalized stranded on the roadside. In his parable, Jesus does not offer alternatives; he does not ask what might have happened had the injured man or the one who helped him yielded to anger or a thirst for revenge. Jesus trusts in the best of the human spirit; with this parable, he encourages us to persevere in love, to restore dignity to the suffering and to build a society worthy of the name.

*The characters of the story*

72. The parable begins with the robbers. Jesus chose to start when the robbery has already taken place, lest we dwell on the crime itself or the thieves who committed it. Yet we know them well. We have seen, descending on our world, the dark shadows of neglect and violence in the service of petty interests of power, gain and division. The real question is this: will we abandon the injured man and run to take refuge from the violence, or will we pursue the thieves? Will the wounded man end up being the justification for our irreconcilable divisions, our cruel indifference, our intestine conflicts?

73. The parable then asks us to take a closer look at the passers-by. The nervous indifference that makes them pass to the other side of the road – whether innocently or not, whether the result of disdain or mere distraction – makes the priest and the Levite a sad reflection of the growing gulf between ourselves and the world around us. There are many ways to pass by at a safe distance: we can retreat inwards, ignore others, or be indifferent to their plight. Or simply look elsewhere, as in some countries, or certain sectors of them, where contempt is shown for the poor and their culture, and one looks the other way, as if a development plan imported from without could edge them out. This is how some justify their indifference: the poor, whose pleas for help might touch their hearts, simply do not exist. The poor are beyond the scope of their interest.

74. One detail about the passers-by does stand out: they were religious, devoted to the worship of God: a priest and a Levite. This detail should not be overlooked. It shows that belief in God and the worship of God are not enough to ensure that we are actually living in a way pleasing to God. A believer may be untrue to everything that his faith demands of him, and yet think he is close to God and better than others. The guarantee of an authentic openness to God, on the other hand, is a way of practising the faith that helps open our hearts to our brothers and sisters. Saint John Chrysostom expressed this pointedly when he challenged his Christian hearers: "Do you wish to honour the body of the Saviour? Do not despise it when it is naked. Do not honour it in church with silk vestments while outside it is naked and numb with cold".<sup>[58]</sup> Paradoxically, those who claim to be unbelievers can sometimes put God's will into practice better than believers.

75. "Robbers" usually find secret allies in those who "pass by and look the other way". There is a certain interplay between those who manipulate and cheat society, and those who, while claiming to be detached and impartial critics, live off that system and its benefits. There is a sad hypocrisy when the impunity of crime, the use of institutions for personal or corporate gain, and other evils apparently impossible to eradicate, are accompanied by a relentless criticism of everything, a constant sowing of suspicion that results in distrust and confusion. The complaint that "everything is broken" is answered by the claim that "it can't be fixed", or "what can I do?" This feeds into disillusionment and despair, and hardly encourages a spirit of solidarity and generosity. Plunging people into despair closes a perfectly perverse circle: such is the agenda of the invisible dictatorship of hidden interests that have gained mastery over both resources and the possibility of thinking and expressing opinions.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. PETER'S SCHOOL

This week our students spent time learning about the origins and traditions surrounding Thanksgiving. Our talented first-graders created turkeys on pieces of cardboard using paints. Each week, our elementary students participate in four "specials" classes – art, music, gym, computer, and Spanish.

In order to provide the safest learning environment for our students, we have made some minor adjustments to our holiday schedule. As has been consistently stated, our goal is to provide our students with as much in-person learning as possible during the pandemic. However, we still will transition to remote learning for one week after Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks.

By providing a week of remote learning after both the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, both faculty and students will be able to monitor for COVID-19 symptoms and minimize the chance for on-campus spread. We will continue to monitor the situation and adjust our plans as necessary.



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## THE SHEPHERD KING

The job of shepherd and the job of king couldn't be more different from each other. Shepherds are on the lowest rung of society, kings are at the top. But God says, through the prophet Ezekiel that the Messiah will lead in a way very different from earthly authorities who lord it over their people and cause harm with their poor leadership.

Our King takes on the job himself. Christ, like a shepherd, will give rest, seek out the lost, and bring back the strayed and scattered ones. He will heal the wounded and bind up the injured. He does not delegate, but will "shepherd them rightly." We have a king who cares for us and who is not afraid to "judge between one sheep and another" (Ezekiel 34:17).

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## BLESSED MIGUEL AGUSTÍN PRO (1891-1927)

Graham Greene's classic *The Power and the Glory* immortalized Mexico's persecuted Church of the 1920s. But photographs of Father Pro—arms outstretched to image Christ Crucified, kneeling in prayer before the firing squad, crumpled dead on the ground—vividly, visually remind us that not long ago, not far away, the faith we take for granted cost everything! Born to a mining family, Miguel became a Jesuit and was sent to study Catholic labor movements in Belgium in preparation for evangelizing Mexico's workers. But he returned to find a Mexico determined to annihilate Catholicism, and, like priests before him during Roman persecutions, England's Reformation, and in China today, ministered secretly to an "underground Church" until apprehended and sentenced to the firing squad. In his final moments, Father Pro blessed his executioners, forgave his enemies, and shouted: "Viva el Cristo Rey!—Long Live Christ the King!"—his defiant, dying proclamation of ultimate, transcendent loyalty. Father Pro's martyrdom reinvigorated that beleaguered Church, whose countless faithful, never again afraid, would throng John Paul II when he visited Pro's beloved Mexico fifty-two years later.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — I will rescue my scattered sheep (Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17).

**Psalms** — The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want (Psalm 23).

**Second Reading** — As in Adam all die, so too in Christ all shall be brought to life (1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28).

**Gospel** — Whatever you did to the least ones, you did to me (Matthew 25:31-46).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday:** Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5; Ps 24:1bc-4ab, 5-6; Lk 21:1-4

**Tuesday:** Rv 14:14-19; Ps 96:10-13; Lk 21:5-11

**Wednesday:** Rv 15:1-4; Ps 98:1-3ab, 7-9; Lk 21:12-19

**Thursday:** Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 21:20-28

**Friday:** Rv 20:1-4, 11 — 21:2; Ps 84:3-6a, 8a; Lk 21:29-33

**Saturday:** Rv 22:1-7; Ps 95:1-7ab; Lk 21:34-36

**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



**AS WE APPROACH THE  
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

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## Parish Giving Tree - Collection dates Dec. 5/6th and Dec.12/13th

Due to the challenges of Covid-19 and to maintain safety for all, we have changed the operation of this year's Giving Tree. Instead of our Christmas Giving Tree with ornaments and traditional gifts, we will be collecting Gift Cards for the families we serve.

The groups included for the giving tree will be:

- Salvation Army
- St. Peter's parishioners and families
- St. Vincent de Paul clients
- Angel Tree – children of prisoners, these will not be gift cards, but rather donations for gifts.

The ways to participate in the giving tree this year:

- Purchase a gift card. The gift cards will be distributed to recipients from the giving tree. Gift cards can be:
  - Placed in one of 2 large wrapped boxes that will be located at the front of the Church. Mailed to or dropped off at the parish center, with a note that it is for the Giving Tree.
- Give a monetary gift. The total received will be used to purchase gift cards for the remaining Giving Tree recipients. A monetary gift can be provided by:
  - Placing cash or check in an envelope marked "Giving Tree" in the Wrapped boxes at the front of the church. Make the check payable to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul - in memo write "Giving Tree".
  - Mailing a check to (or dropping off at) the parish center, with a note that it is for the Giving Tree.
  - Please see the information on the reverse side of this sheet for Angel Tree donations for children of incarcerated individuals.

For the families receiving gift cards. If there are more gift cards than recipients, the St. Vincent de Paul Ministry will give more than one gift card per recipient, depending on need.

Gift card guidelines:

- Any amount is fine. We will combine gift cards as needed to make gifts as even as possible.
- Please write the dollar amount on either the gift card or envelope, and do not use a Gift box/bag or wrapping paper.

Gift cards can be for any store, but some suggestions are: Walmart, Target, Meijer. grocery stores, thrift stores, fast-food, or restaurants.

**Please assure donations made on or before the Dec. 13th deadline as they will be distributed the next day!** Thank you for your continued support to brighten Christmas for families in our





## **Virtual Project Angel Tree for**

### **Children of Incarcerated Individuals**

There is no contact necessary. Angel Tags are provided virtually for all congregants to sponsor. Prison Fellowship verifies participation and delivers the sponsored gift.

1. Virtual tags will be made available via online platform, and the church/organization provides access to congregants.
2. Individuals will pay online to sponsor each gift package, and Prison Fellowship will send sponsored gifts directly to Angel Tree kids. Each gift package will include a gift card, a personal message from the parent, an age-appropriate Gospel presentation, and an opportunity to request a Bible.
3. If requested, caregiver contact information will be provided postseason to church/organization for continued ministry opportunities.
4. Use the link below to connect with our assigned children, choose which child or children you want to Support. The donation for each child is \$22 and must be made online at the Angel Tree website.
5. The link: <https://vat.angeltreetool.org/98e3f1b1-6e48-4b8e-bfad-bcb1e341afc4>
6. Our parish Access Code: 8LVJT



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