

**"Jesus, remember me when  
you come into your kingdom."**

LUKE 23:42

## The Hero King

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**S**ome think of a myth as something once presumed to be true but discovered to be false. For example, we say it's a myth that Christopher Columbus discovered America. There is, however, another quite different meaning to "myth," as in a story that helps us understand life and how to negotiate it. Such myths are often centered around heroes who overcome great odds for the sake of the greater good. *Star Wars* and Luke Skywalker is one such myth. *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy and Frodo Baggins is another. These are myths capturing the need for courage and commitment to the good at the hero's own expense. We often find ourselves wishing we could be like these heroes.

The biblical story of the Hebrew people can be thought of as such a myth, culminating in the story of Jesus. It differs from those other myths in that this story is not fiction. It is a saga that helps us understand and negotiate life as we live it. It culminates with the sacrificial death of the one we call King of the Universe. This King is a servant-king, one who gives his life for us so that we might live. Despite being urged by religious leaders and soldiers and the thief on the cross to save himself, he resists. Saving himself is not what he is about. Jesus is the King whose true myth we tell whenever we come together. ●

**Editor's note:** This is Fr. Joseph Juknialis' final reflection for *Our Parish Community* bulletins. The new liturgical cycle begins next Sunday, November 30, 2025, and we will welcome three new reflection authors: Miguel Dulick, Ann M. Garrido, and Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR, the president and publisher of Liguori Publications. We thank Fr. Joe for his three years of insightful reflections and wish him well.

### Reflect

**What does servant-leadership mean to me in my job, my community, my home?**

**St. Joseph Catholic Church,**  
221 N Sycamore Street, Nortonville KS 66060      [www.stjosephsnortonville.com](http://www.stjosephsnortonville.com)

**St. Mary's Immaculate Conception Catholic Church**  
905 Broadway, P.O. Box 176, Valley Falls KS 66088

**Corpus Christi Catholic Church, 18760 Rogers Road, Atchison KS 66002**  
Dec. 2022

**Parishes Office:** 221 N Sycamore Street  
Nortonville, Kansas 66060  
**Secretary:** Therese Maderak  
**Office hours:** M, W, F 8:30a.m.-12:30p.m.  
**Phone:** 913-886-2030  
**E-mail:** [sj.ic.cc.parishoffice@gmail.com](mailto:sj.ic.cc.parishoffice@gmail.com)  
**Pastor:** Fr. William Dun-Dery  
**E-mail:** [wdun-dery@archkck.org](mailto:wdun-dery@archkck.org)

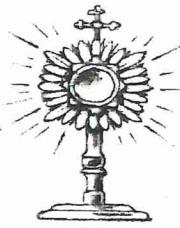
**Sacraments**  
**Reconciliation** Saturday & Sunday 30 min before Mass, Wednesdays 6-7pm St. Joseph  
**Marriage** Six-month notice required  
**Anointing** 18 months if annulments needed  
**Baptism** Please let us know of any hospital admissions  
For Baptismal dates call the office; one Baptismal Class required

#### Mass Schedule and Intentions

Sat.	Nov 22	5:00 pm	Corpus Christi
	† John and Vera Lane		
Sat.	Nov 22	7:00pm	St. Joseph
	† Gene and Darlene Sittenauer		
Sun.	Nov 23	8:00am	St. Joseph
	Mass for the People		
Sun.	Nov 23	10:00am	St. Mary's
	† Mary Wroblewski		
Mon.	Nov 24	No Mass	
Tue.	Nov 25	8:00am	St. Mary's
	† Bernard and Rita Darveaux		
Wed.	Nov 26	6:00pm	St. Mary's
	Mass for the People		
Thu.	Nov 27	8:00am	St. Joseph
	Larry and Jeannie Pollard wedding anniversary		
Fri.	Nov 28	8:00am	St. Joseph
	† Bob Schneider		
Sat.	Nov 29	5:00 pm	Corpus Christi
	† Vince Aspinwall		
Sat.	Nov 29	7:00 pm	St. Joseph
	† Mark Wilson		
Sun.	Nov 30	8:00 am	St. Joseph
	Mass for the People		
Sun.	Nov 30	10:00 am	St. Mary's
	† Dec. Members of the Knights of Columbus		

#### Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions

St. Joseph  
Wednesdays, 6-7pm  
Corpus Christi  
3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of month, 4-4:45pm  
St. Mary's  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of month, 11am- 12pm



**Bulletin Deadline:** Noon Tuesday

**Parish Office Hours This Week:** Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 8:30am-12:30pm.

#### Thanksgiving Mass Schedule

Wednesday, November 26: St. Mary's, 6:00pm  
Thursday, November 27: St. Joseph, 8:00am

#### Spring in the Desert- Infertility Support Group:

Infertility is an extremely isolating cross that can pose a significant test of faith for Catholics. Springs in the Desert Small Groups are a place for couples to grieve infertility and pregnancy loss, acknowledge their pain and suffering, and encounter others who understand and are on the journey with them. Please join us on First Saturdays (every other month) at St. Pius X in Mission, KS, for 8:15 am Mass and small group follow-up. The next scheduled event is December 6, 2025. For more information, please email [dyadon23@gmail.com](mailto:dyadon23@gmail.com) or [mrsjenzans@gmail.com](mailto:mrsjenzans@gmail.com)

#### Advent Silent Retreat: Dawn of the Messiah

Christ's Peace House of Prayer  
22131 Meagher Road - Easton, KS 66020  
Friday, December 5th at 5:30pm- Sunday, December 7th at 4:30pm

Prepare your heart for Christ's coming with a silent Advent retreat based on Edward Sri's Dawn of the Messiah. We will prayerfully explore the Old Testament prophecies fulfilled in Jesus and reflect on God's faithful promises. Through Scripture and quiet contemplation, we will consider how Advent invites us to await the Messiah with hope and how Christ's coming renews our faith. Join us for a time of silence and reflection as we open our hearts to the mystery and grace of Christ's birth. Cabins/Courtyard Rooms: \$180 Single/\$270 Couple or Single Guest Rooms: \$110 (Meals Included). To attend, fill out the Individual Retreat Form at [ChristPeace.com](http://ChristPeace.com) or call 913.773.8255

**Advent/Christmas schedule flyers** are available in the back of all the churches.



# Dear Padre,

## Why is a US secular holiday like Thanksgiving on the Church's liturgical calendar?

Since November 1969, the Proper Calendar offers a Thanksgiving Day Mass for US dioceses. While it also includes Independence Day, no suggestion is made for other civic holidays (Memorial Day, Labor Day, etc.). Instead, the *Roman Missal* provides "Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions" that are suited to these observances (*Ordo* #5, *GIRM* 368-378).

In the United States, November is associated with giving thanks to God. In 1623—three years after the Pilgrims sailed to this land on the *Mayflower*—a severe drought threatened their crops. Consequently, a day of prayer was observed, an abundant rain saved the harvest, and a Day of Thanksgiving was established. In 1863, President Lincoln issued a proclamation for "Thanksgiving and Praise to Our Beneficent Father" on the last Thursday of November (later moved to the fourth Thursday).

However, thanking God isn't just a one-day event; it's meant to be a perennial practice. Recall the lesson of the ten lepers healed by Jesus, only one of whom returned to thank him. (See Luke 17:11-19.) People who don't take their blessings for granted return thanks to God in prayer. Therefore, offer brief prayers of gratitude to God throughout the day, every day, for such gifts as your health and faith, the freedoms allowed in this country, "thy daily bread," and the Eucharist—a word that means "thanksgiving."

"Become what you pray"—a grateful disciple of our Lord! ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
November 24	November 25	November 26	November 27	November 28	November 29	November 30
St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs	Weekday Dn 2:31-45 Lk 21:5-11	Weekday Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28 Lk 21:12-19	Thanksgiving Day (US) Sir 50:22-24 1 Cor 1:3-9 Lk 17:11-19	Weekday Dn 7:2-14 Lk 21:29-33	Weekday Dn 7:15-27 Lk 21:34-36	First Sunday of Advent Is 2:1-5 Rom 13:11-14 Mt 24:37-44
Dn 1:1-6, 8-20 Lk 21:1-4						



### A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

*Listen to [Christ's] offer of love and become his one family: in the One Christ, we are one. This is the path to follow together, among ourselves but also with our sister Christian churches, with those who follow other religious paths, with those who are searching for God, with all women and men of good will, in order to build a new world where peace reigns!*

HOMILY, MAY 18, 2025

