

NOVEMBER 2025

San Damiano Chapel

NEWSLETTER

LET'S CELEBRATE THE SAINTS NEXT DOOR!

Well, it doesn't have to be exactly on November 9, but that is the feast of the dedication of Saint John Lateran – THE Cathedral of Rome, and the “mother and head of all the churches in the world! Our beloved late Papa Francesco, last year in November, issued or rather, established an annual commemoration of Saints, Blesseds, Venerables and Servants of God in local dioceses worldwide – beginning with this year's Jubilee!

“I want local Churches, starting from the 2025 Jubilee, to remember and honor these figures of holiness each year, the late Holy Father wrote”

In our community, Sister Thea, Earl Madary and others have maintained the memory of those extraordinary disciples of Christ who have witnessed the presence of the Risen LORD and continue to guide us here at Viterbo today.

“We are frequently tempted to think that holiness is only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs and to spend much time in prayer. That is not the case, Pope Francis wrote. “We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves.” (Rejoice and Be Glad)

“Rejoice and be glad” or “Gaudete et Exsultate”, its Latin title, underlines everyone's universal call to holiness. Released in 2018, this letter emphasized how sanctity manifests in everyday life through various examples, including married couples living their faith while being open to life, young people following Jesus with enthusiasm, and ordained and consecrated people who really impressed us with their everyday “holiness”.

Many of the Sisters come to mind as well as many people who used to “grace these chairs” at San Damiano. What about the teachers who inspired you...or the people of La Crosse who were an admiration for their beliefs and their solidarity with those who are marginalized? Examples abound. And some are still among us....

Who comes to mind for you? Let's celebrate them this November in a special way!

Brother Conrad, ofm

Chapel Schedule and Mass Opportunities:

Sunday Mass:

11:00 am
(San Damiano Chapel)

Monday:

Daily Mass at 11am
(St. Rose Convent)

Tuesday:

Daily Mass at 11
(St. Rose Convent)

Wednesday

Daily Mass at 11am
(St. Rose Convent)

Thursday:

Daily Mass at 11am
(St. Rose Convent)

Friday:

Daily Mass at 11am
(St. Rose Convent)

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Sundays at 10:30 am or available
by appointment -
contact Fr. Conrad or Fr. Michael



VITERBO
UNIVERSITY

Contact Information:

Fr. Conrad Targonski, OFM

University Chaplain

STBC 3 - 608.796.3804

catargonski@viterbo.edu

Fr. Michael Weldon, OFM

Assistant University Chaplain

608.796.3212

cmweldon@viterbo.edu

Emilio Alvarez

Director, Campus Ministry

STBC 2 - 608.796.3805

ebalvarez@viterbo.edu

Polly Pappadopoulos

Assistant Director of Liturgical
Worship, Ministries, and Chapel

Programs - STBC 4

608.386.8768

pnpappadopoulos@viterbo.edu

Kyle Trietley

Graduate Assistant

STBC 6 - 608.796.3213

kjtrietley@viterbo.edu

STBC - Sister Thea Bowman Center



10 SAINTLY QUOTES TO REFLECT ON THIS THANKSGIVING

SAINT TERESA OF CALCUTTA:

“The best way to show my gratitude is to accept everything, even my problems with joy”

POPE SAINT JOHN PAUL II

“Duc in altum!” (Put out into the deep). These words ring out for us today, and they invite us to remember the past with gratitude, to live the present with enthusiasm, and to look forward to the future with confidence.”

SAINT THERESE OF LISIEUX

“Jesus does not demand great actions from us, but simply surrender and gratitude.”

SAINT TERESA OF JESUS (AVILA)

“In all created things, discern the providence and wisdom of God, and in all things, give God thanks.”

BLESSED SOLANUS CASEY

“Thank God ahead of time.”

SAINT CLARE OF ASSISI

“We are to become vessels of God’s compassionate love for others”

SISTER THEA

“Remember who you are – and whose you are!”

DOROTHY DAY

“Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life; it turns what we have into enough and more”

POPE FRANCIS

“Let us not forget to give thanks..if we are bearers of gratitude, then the world itself will become better – even if only a little bit – and that is enough to transmit a bit of hope”

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

“Praise and bless my Lord, and thank Him with all humility”

All Saints Day will be observed with
Mass at St. Rose Convent
10:00 am

Thanksgiving Day Mass

November 27

10:00 am



Veterans Day Program

Tuesday, November 11

11:00 am

San Damiano Chapel

Featured Speaker – Dr. Silvana Richardson
Professor, School of Nursing
Presentation of Veteran Advocacy Award



Dining in the Kingdom of God

Michael Weldon, OFM

November is the month of Harvest feasting. From Canadian to US Thanksgiving, to the great Feast of Christ the King, we get a new snapshot of Kingdom etiquette. I watched a local squirrel attack a pumpkin outside of Brophy Commons the other day. I did not know squirrels liked pumpkins. This one did. And he didn't care that I was watching him feast. One of the November Lukan gospels that often slips through the cracks in this season is from 31st. Ordinary Tuesday. (Luke 14:15-24.) The story begins at a tense meal at the house of a Pharisee. So, someone tries to lighten it up a bit with a beatitude, "Blessed is anyone who dines... (eats bread) in the kingdom of God!" Jesus tells a story, the point of which is, in effect, that there will be surprises in the kingdom of God.

A recent letter to a local "Miss Manners" column laments that a lack of RSVP's, is a growing problem in the catering industry. More and more often, hosts do not receive firm indications whether guests plan to attend their parties, even if "R.S.V.P." is clearly printed on the invitation. This could mean either one of two things. First it could mean that rudeness is a growing trend in our society. Or ignorance....as I would prefer to believe. People no longer understand what the term means. Assuming the best, and that the decline in R.S.V.P.'s can be attributed to ignorance and not rudeness, let me clarify this for the record.

"RSVP" from the French expression "répondez s'il vous plaît", meaning literally "Respond if you Please." If R.S.V.P. is written on an invitation, it means the invited guest must tell the host whether or not they plan to attend the party. The guests in the Gospel story have accepted the invitation. At the last minute... It does not mean to respond only if you're coming, and it does not mean respond only if you're not coming (the expression "regrets only" is reserved for that instance). It means the host needs a definite head count for the planned event, and needs it by the date specified on the invitation.

t.

It is inconsiderate to not RSVP. (I like the sound of it as a verb.) An incomplete list of respondents can cause headaches for a host including food quantities, minimum guarantees for catering halls, uncertainty over the number of party favors and musicians, among other things. In Luke's story it insults the graciousness of the Master of the Feas



The banquet of the reign of God follows a different economy. The first is the guest list. Diverse and eclectic. Why would anyone say no? Rudeness. Preoccupation. Plain foolishness! You are missing the party! Can one's excuses be more important than being part of celebration? What about the offense this must be to the Master of the Feast?

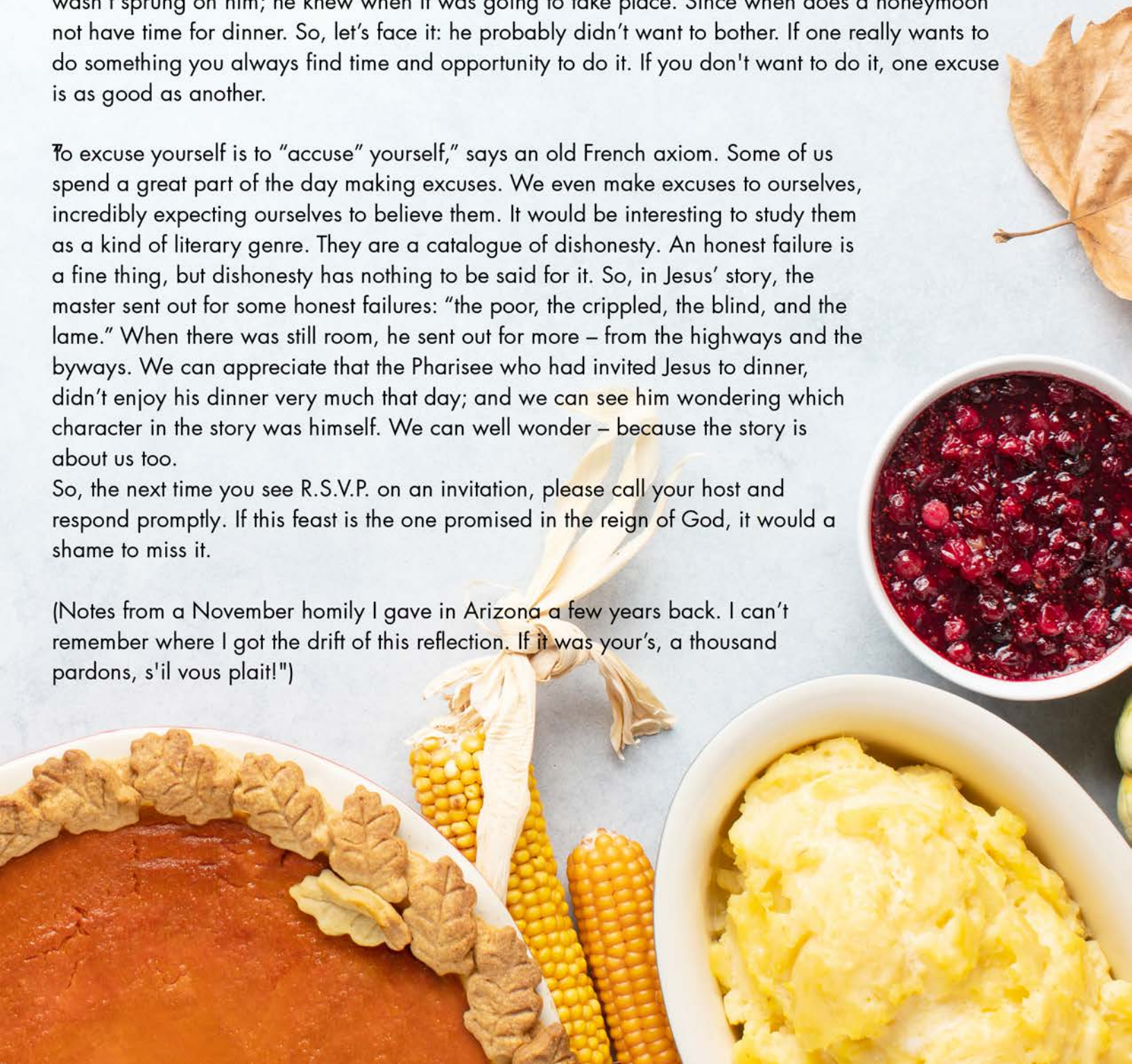
In the story, people began to make excuses for not coming to the party. They are not the most convincing excuses in the world. It's not easy to see why that first one was in such a hurry to check out his new field, since he surely checked it out before he bought it. The second one had bought head of cattle. Most ancient landowners had only one or two, so this was like saying 'I must take my donkey out for a run.'

The third one said he was just married and therefore couldn't come. Wink wink...His marriage wasn't sprung on him; he knew when it was going to take place. Since when does a honeymoon not have time for dinner. So, let's face it: he probably didn't want to bother. If one really wants to do something you always find time and opportunity to do it. If you don't want to do it, one excuse is as good as another.

To excuse yourself is to "accuse" yourself," says an old French axiom. Some of us spend a great part of the day making excuses. We even make excuses to ourselves, incredibly expecting ourselves to believe them. It would be interesting to study them as a kind of literary genre. They are a catalogue of dishonesty. An honest failure is a fine thing, but dishonesty has nothing to be said for it. So, in Jesus' story, the master sent out for some honest failures: "the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame." When there was still room, he sent out for more – from the highways and the byways. We can appreciate that the Pharisee who had invited Jesus to dinner, didn't enjoy his dinner very much that day; and we can see him wondering which character in the story was himself. We can well wonder – because the story is about us too.

So, the next time you see R.S.V.P. on an invitation, please call your host and respond promptly. If this feast is the one promised in the reign of God, it would be a shame to miss it.

(Notes from a November homily I gave in Arizona a few years back. I can't remember where I got the drift of this reflection. If it was your's, a thousand pardons, s'il vous plait!")



A Home for the Holidays 2nd Annual Gala

Saturday, December 13th
Radisson Hotel Ballroom
5:30pm - 11:00pm

Please join us for an
evening full of cheer,
compassion & community!

This fabulous event will
feature a cocktail reception,
dinner, auctions, dancing &
lots of fun surprises!



www.karunahousing.org

A HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS GALA
BENEFITING KARUNA HOUSE

KARUNA HOUSE IS THRILLED TO ANNOUNCE THE PURCHASE OF OUR FIRST BUILDING ON COPELAND AVENUE. WE WILL ADD EIGHT NEW HOUSING UNITS BY YEAR'S END, MORE THAN A YEAR AHEAD OF SCHEDULE! KARUNA INC. PROVIDES SAFE, SUSTAINABLE HOUSING AND 24-HOUR PEER-BASED SUPPORT, HELPING RESIDENTS FIND A "LIFE WORTH LIVING." WE OFFER STABILITY, WARMTH, AND HOPE FOR THOSE FACING HOMELESSNESS, HEALTH RISKS, AND LIFE ON THE STREETS.

JOIN US FOR THE 2ND ANNUAL "A HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS" GALA AS WE CELEBRATE THIS MILESTONE AND RAISE SUPPORT FOR OUR MISSION.

EVENT DETAILS
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025
5:30 - 11:00 PM
RADISSON HOTEL BALLROOM, LA CROSSE

ENJOY A FUN EVENING WITH A COCKTAIL RECEPTION, FORMAL DINNER, AUCTIONS, DANCING, AND MORE!

WAYS TO HELP

- DONATE AUCTION ITEMS (GIFT BASKETS, TICKETS, GETAWAYS, EXPERIENCES)
- SPONSOR THE EVENT
- PURCHASE TICKETS AND ATTEND

VISIT KARUNAHOUSING.ORG/GALA OR CALL KRISTINE AT 612-803-3684 TO DONATE OR SPONSOR. LET'S CREATE A HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT MOST THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

SAINT CECILIA - THE PATRONESS OF MUSICIANS

"SHE SANG IN HER HEART TO THE LORD'"

HER FEAST DAY IS CELEBRATED ON NOVEMBER 22ND. SHE IS ONE OF SEVEN WOMEN
COMMEMORATED BY NAME IN THE CANON OF THE MASS.



CECILIAS

(ALMOND AND CHOCOLATE CONFECTIONS)

INGREDIENTS

1 CUP GROUND ALMONDS

1/4 CUP SUGAR

1 EGG WHITE

2 TSP KIRSCH (CHERRY BRANDY)

2 TBSP COCOA

FONDANT ICING, TINTED GREEN

2 TSP MELTED DARK CHOCOLATE

SLIVERED ALMONDS FOR DECORATION.

DIRECTIONS

MAKE THE PASTE: MIX THE GROUND ALMONDS AND SUGAR. ADD 1 TEASPOON OF KIRSCH
AND ENOUGH EGG WHITE TO CREATE A SMOOTH PASTE.

SHAPE THE CONFECTIONS: DIVIDE THE PASTE INTO TWO PORTIONS. ROLL ONE PORTION
INTO SMALL BALLS. ADD COCOA TO THE OTHER HALF AND SHAPE IT INTO OLIVE-SIZED
PIECES.

GLAZE: TINT SOME FONDANT ICING GREEN AND FLAVOR IT WITH THE REMAINING KIRSCH.
DIP THE PLAIN ALMOND BALLS INTO THE GREEN FONDANT. ADD THE MELTED CHOCOLATE
TO ANOTHER PORTION OF FONDANT AND DIP THE COCOA-FLAVORED "OLIVES" INTO IT.

DECORATE AND DRY: TOP EACH PIECE WITH A SLIVER OF ALMOND AND ALLOW THEM TO
DRY BEFORE SERVING.

Children's Corner

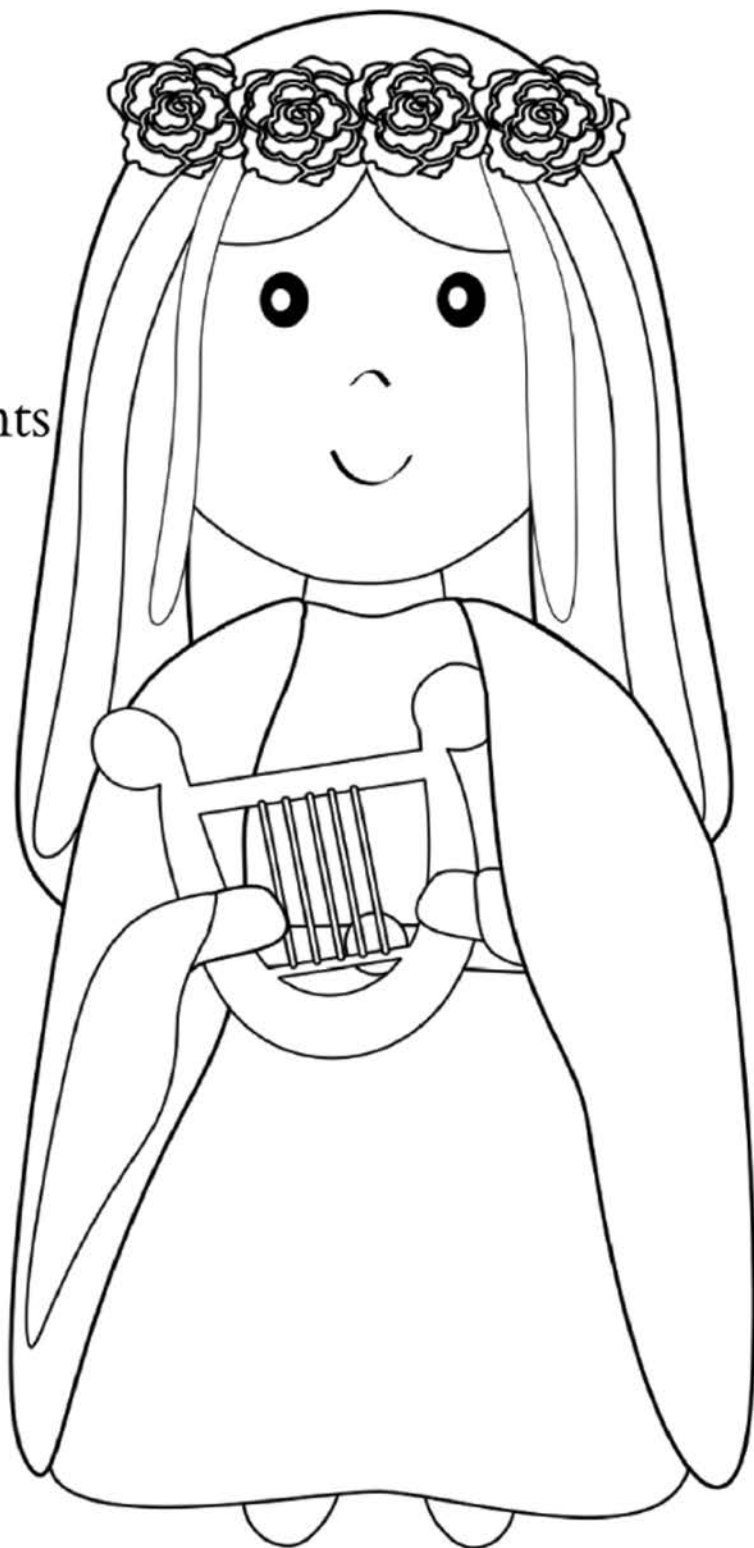
SAINT CECILIA

Who was St. Cecilia?

Cecilia was born during the second century to a wealthy family. Despite being Christian, her parents had her marry a pagan. Cecilia converted her husband, and they were both arrested for refusing to worship false gods. Cecilia was praising God when she was martyred.

Feast Day: November 22

Patron Saint: musicians, poets, hymns



Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls)

Feast Day – November 2nd

From the very beginning, the Church has prayed for people who have died. Saint Augustine once said, “If we didn’t care about the dead, we wouldn’t pray for them.”

A long time ago, a holy abbot named Saint Odilo in France said that November 2 should be a special day to pray for all souls who have died. This day became known as *All Souls’ Day*, and soon the whole Church began to keep it.

The Church teaches that sometimes people need to be made pure before they can be with God in Heaven. This is called *purgatory*. Our prayers, sacrifices, and love can help those souls get to Heaven faster.

On All Souls’ Day, Catholics often go to cemeteries, pray for loved ones who have died, and place flowers or candles on graves. In some countries, like Mexico, the day is celebrated with great love and joy, remembering family members who have gone before us.

Reflection:

When we pray for the dead, we show our love for them. Even though they are no longer with us on earth, prayer unites us together in God’s presence.



Prayer for All Souls Day

Dear God,
today we pray for all the souls who have died.
Please forgive their sins and bring them quickly to Heaven.
We especially pray for our family, friends, and all those who
have no one to pray for them. May they rest in peace with
You forever. Jesus, we trust in Your mercy. Mary, our
Mother, pray for them. Amen.

November 30 is the first Sunday of Advent, marking
the beginning of the New Liturgical Year.

2025 2026 LITURGICAL CALENDAR

ADVENT

November

11/30 First Sunday of Advent

December

12/1 St. Andrew, Apostle
12/7 Second Sunday of Advent
12/8 Immaculate Conception*
12/14 Third Sunday of Advent
12/21 Fourth Sunday of Advent
12/22 St. Thomas, Apostle
12/25 Nativity of the Lord
12/26 St. Stephen, Deacon & Martyr
12/27 St. John, Apostle & Evangelist
12/28 The Holy Family*
12/29 The Holy Innocents

January

1/1 The Holy Name of Our Lord
1/1 The Blessed Virgin Mary*
1/6 Epiphany of the Lord
1/11 Baptism of the Lord*
1/19 Confession of St. Peter
1/26 Conversion of St. Paul

February

2/2 Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)
2/15 Transfiguration Sunday
2/18 Ash Wednesday
2/22 First Sunday in Lent
2/24 St. Matthias, Apostle

March

3/1 Second Sunday in Lent
3/8 Third Sunday in Lent
3/15 Fourth Sunday in Lent
3/19 St. Joseph
3/22 Fifth Sunday in Lent
3/25 Annunciation of the Lord
3/29 Palm Sunday (Passion Sunday)

April

4/2 Maundy Thursday
4/3 Good Friday
4/4 Holy Saturday
4/5 Resurrection of the Lord
4/6 Easter Monday
4/25 St. Mark the Evangelist

CHRISTMASTIDE

EPIPHANY

ORDINARY TIME

LENT

HOLY WEEK

EASTER

EASTER

ORDINARY TIME

May

5/1 St. Phillip & St. James, Apostles
5/14 Ascension of the Lord
5/24 Day of Pentecost
5/31 Trinity Sunday

June

6/1 Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth
6/7 Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ*
6/11 St. Barnabas, Apostle
6/12 Most Sacred Heart of Jesus*
6/24 Nativity of St. John the Baptist
6/29 St. Peter & St. Paul, Apostles

July

7/22 St. Mary Magdalene
7/25 St. James, Apostle

August

8/6 Transfiguration of the Lord*
8/15 Assumption of St. Mary
8/24 St. Bartholomew, Apostle

September

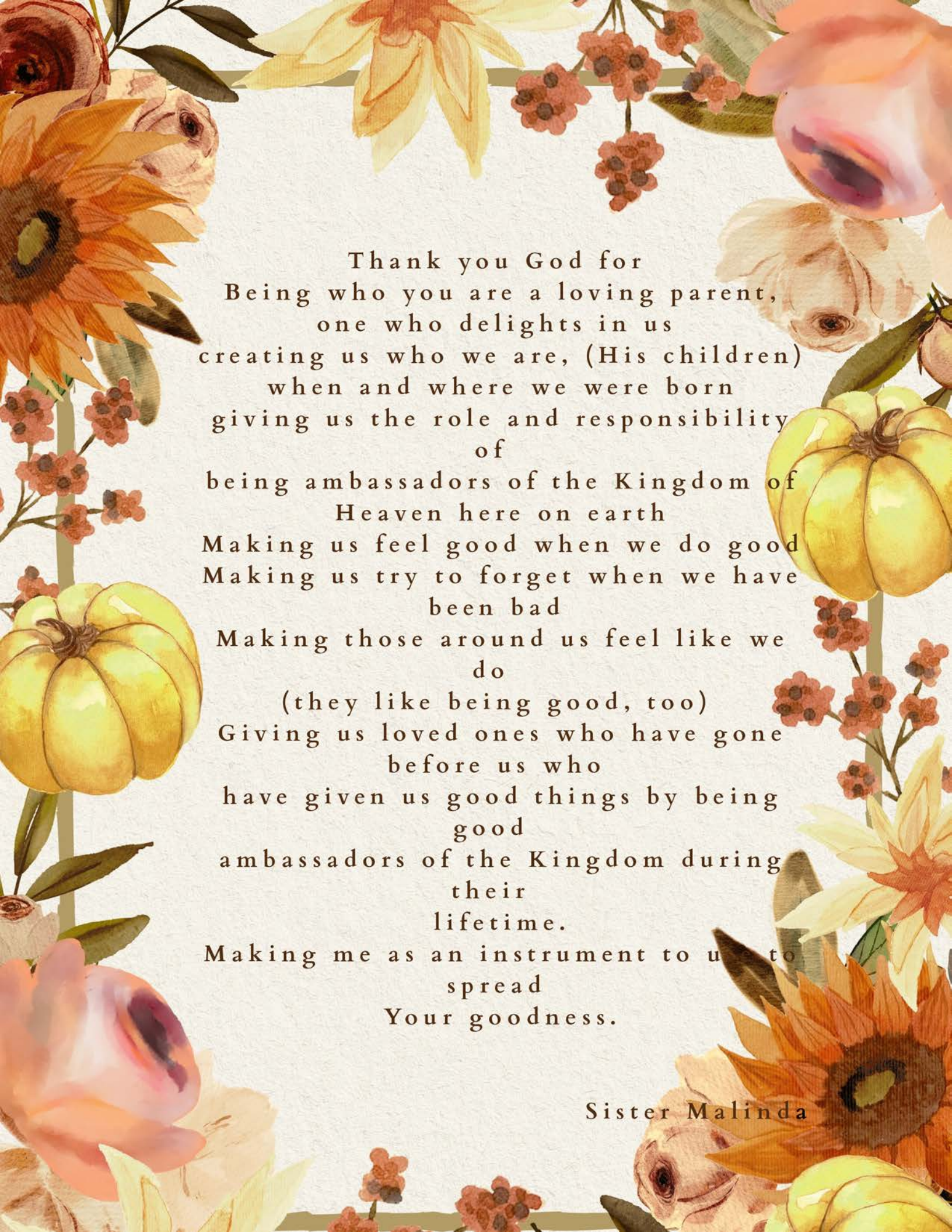
9/8 Nativity of St. Mary*
9/14 Holy Cross
9/21 St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist
9/29 St. Michael and All Angels (Michaelmas)

October

10/19 St. Luke, Evangelist
10/23 St. James of Jerusalem
10/28 St. Simon & St. Jude, Apostles
10/31 All Hallows Eve (Vigil of All Saints)

November

11/1 All Saints Day
11/2 All Souls Day (All Faithful Departed)*
11/22 Christ the King Sunday



Thank you God for
Being who you are a loving parent,
one who delights in us
creating us who we are, (His children)
when and where we were born
giving us the role and responsibility
of
being ambassadors of the Kingdom of
Heaven here on earth
Making us feel good when we do good
Making us try to forget when we have
been bad
Making those around us feel like we
do
(they like being good, too)
Giving us loved ones who have gone
before us who
have given us good things by being
good
ambassadors of the Kingdom during
their
lifetime.
Making me as an instrument to use to
spread
Your goodness.

Sister Malinda



The Bible, Some Untold Stories
Jesus, Like Us in All Things
Jesus, Growing in Wisdom,
Age and Grace
Jesus, One of Us

This book by Sister Malinda Gerke is now available in
at a cost of \$20.00 a copy.

You can get your own copy - contact Polly.
Be prepared to pay (preferably in cash) when you pick up your
book.

If you have pre-ordered, you can pick up your copy from Polly.



Save the Date!

St. Francis Choir will perform at
Rotary Lights
December 6 - 7:30 pm
in the Ice Castle.
Please join us!



Children's Choir for Christmas

We will gather a Children's Choir to sing on Christmas Day
11:00 am mass.

Please let Polly know if you are interested!

For November Bad Hair Days

Michael Weldon, OFM

I have a dear friend who hails from strong and noble Mexican American roots. He feels close to the "la raza" of his culture by growing his straight hair long and down his back. Everyone in our Phoenix parish knew him by his hair. He (or sometimes his kids) braids it or just brushes it behind him so it blows in the wind. He never seemed self-conscious about it. Until his wife reminds him its time to chop it off. For about the last decade now, he's been following a simple pattern. He grows his hair out for several years, cuts it off, and donates it to an organization that provides wigs free of charge to adults and children who have lost their hair in cancer treatments. He makes fun of himself. "It's a very small thing, a little dab of charity in an ever more heartless world." It doesn't cost him anything, he is known to say. You can't go anywhere in town where someone doesn't recognize him from his hairstyle. But he still hopes it brings a welcome comfort to a cancer survivor facing a difficult diagnosis or a neighbor with a bad hair day.

Pardon me for waxing eloquent on friends and family. I also have three cosmetologists and a barber among my siblings and their kids. The gospel of Luke (12:7) for late in the Ordinary time of Lectionary readings has a brief reference to their noble professions. "Even the hairs of your head have all been counted." Do not be "afeced!" (My spelling) your life is worth more than hair clippings and cheap sparrows. I thought about Eddy's hair while pondering the odd thing Jesus does in Luke's Gospel injunction. He says a lot of frightful November things and then tells us not to be afraid. Come on! His brash and countercultural commands to disciples scare me, but draw me to him as well. There is a mystical bridge that connects hair cutters to their clippings—"the deeply extravagant and personal love of God," noted Cameron Bell's recent October 17th reflection for one of my favorite publications.

Give Us This Day (<https://digitalgiveusthisday.org/Digital>)

This God of Cosmic details never misses a hair follicle. Everything counts. Everyone. Every little clipping. That's some soothing ointment when the day is chilly and the hair won't stay in place.

TRIUMPH *of the* HEART

THE PASSION OF ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE

RESERVE
YOUR
TICKETS
TODAY!

Campus Ministry Exclusive Movie Screening

Viterbo University

November 13, 2025

Nursing Building Room 196

Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Movie Screening at 6 p.m.

Cost - Free! (A free will offering will be available.)

**To RSVP for Dinner and Tickets please follow the QR Code
or email Emilio at ebalvarez@viterbo.edu.**



Rivoli Theatre
CIVICS AND CINEMA
PRESENTS:

COME HERE, BROTHER WOLF: A VETERANS PILGRIMAGE



Join us on Tuesday, November 11th for a special Veteran's Day edition of our Civics and Cinema series featuring the documentary *Come Here, Brother Wolf: A Veterans Pilgrimage* produced by Dustin Luecke & Martha Boehm in association with ProAmo Creative. The screening will be followed by a discussion led by the filmmakers as well as Sam Scinta and Rick Kyte from Viterbo.

Doors open at 5pm and film will start at 5:30pm. The cost is \$5 each and all proceeds from this showing will be donated to support local veterans programs.

**Follow QR
Code for
Tickets**



About the film: Military veterans have all answered the call to serve. Now, some are hearing the call to confront the wounds of sacrifice through spiritual healing. This documentary invites you to join the journey with one group of veterans, led by Viterbo's Fr. Conrad Targonski, learning ways to make peace with the "wolf" within by following the footsteps of Ss. Francis and Claire through their beloved Italian homeland.



***Pray a Rosary with
Campus Ministry***



***Every Tuesday at 8:30 a.m
In San Damian Chapel***

A Prayer for Thanksgiving

*Lord, we thank you
for the goodness of our people
and for the spirit of justice that fills this nation.
We thank you for the beauty and fullness of the
land and the challenge of the cities.
We thank you for our work and our rest,
for one another, and for our homes.
We thank you, Lord:
accept our thanksgiving on this day.
We pray and give thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

