

Abiding Press

Abiding Presence Faith Community

**A PARISH OF THE REFORMED CATHOLIC CHURCH
AN INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
MAKING GOD'S LOVE KNOWN IN CENTRAL FLORIDA**

**November 2025 VOLUME 4 #12
5330 Poinsetta Ave, Winter Park, FL 32792
321-594-4922**

Office info@apfcwp.com

Vigil Mass is Celebrated at Saturday at 5:00 pm

***The Sanctuary Building of the First United Church of Christ
4605 Curry Ford Rd, Orlando, Florida 32812***

Social Media

Web Site: www.apfcwp.com

Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/abidingpresencewp.bsky.social>

Facebook: <https://shorturl.at/IY5ry>

YouTube - <https://shorturl.at/7anu5>

Clergy Serving the People of God

Pastor: Most Rev. William R. Cavins pastor@apfcwp.com

Rev. Mr. Christopher M. Larsen

Volunteer Staff Serving the Parish

Gene L. Thompson II - Technology TechSupport@apfcwp.onmicrosoft.com

Keegan Glover, LLM - LGBTQ+ Liaison

Dennis Last - JMB Crock Pot Ministry

Klaus Stodtmann - Bread Baking kstodtmann@apfcwp.onmicrosoft.com

Mass Intentions & Prayer Requests

Remembering Loved Ones in Prayer

If you would like to have someone remembered during Mass or added to our Prayer Lists, please email your request to the pastor.

Support Our Parish

We warmly invite you to support our parish community. Your generous donations are deeply appreciated and can be made at your convenience. Thank you for helping us continue our mission.

Mass Cards Available

Mass Cards are available and can be sent to loved ones as a thoughtful way to let them know they are being remembered in our prayers.

November 2025 – Abiding Presence Faith Community

Weekly & Recurring Ministries

Mondays: Breaking Open the Word – 7:00 PM via Zoom

Tuesdays: Rebecca's Pantry – 9:30 to 11:30 AM

Wednesdays: Joni's Treasures Thrift Shop – 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Saturdays: Divine Worship – Vigil Mass – 5:00 PM

Note: Mass on October 4 will be at 4:30 PM

Note: Formation Class is paused for October.

Special Dates & Intentions

November 1 (Saturday)

Divine Worship – Solemnity of All the Saints 10 AM Bishop's Residence

Intention: Repose of the Souls in Purgatory

Divine Worship – Vigil of the Feast of All Souls 5PM Church

Intention: Repose of the Souls in Purgatory

November 3 (Monday)

Breaking Open the Word – 7:00 PM via Zoom

November 4 (Tuesday)

Rebecca's Pantry – 9:30 to 11:30 AM

November 5 (Wednesday)

Joni's Treasures Thrift Shop – 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Formation Meeting for Priests – Invitation Only 6:30 PM

November 8 (Saturday)

Divine Worship – 32nd Sunday of the Christian Year

Intention: Zachary A Cavins on his 39th Birthday

November 10 (Monday)

Breaking Open the Word – 7:00 PM via Zoom

November 11 (Tuesday)

Rebecca's Pantry – 9:30 to 11:30 AM

Divine Worship – Veterans Day – Private Mass Bishop's Residence

Intention: All Veterans of the United States Armed Forces

November 12 (Wednesday)

Joni's Treasures Thrift Shop – 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Formation Meeting for Priests – Invitation Only 6:30 PM

November 15 (Saturday)

Divine Worship – Vigil of 33rd Sunday of the Christian Year

Intention: Repose of the Souls in Purgatory

November 17 (Monday)

Breaking Open the Word – 7:00 PM via Zoom

November 18 (Tuesday)

Rebecca's Pantry – 9:30 to 11:30 AM

November 19 (Wednesday)

Joni's Treasures Thrift Shop – 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

November 22 (Saturday)

Divine Worship – Vigil of The Solemnity of Christ the King

Intention: Repose of the Souls in Purgatory

November 24 (Monday)

Breaking Open the Word – 7:00 PM via Zoom

November 25 (Tuesday)

Rebecca's Pantry – 9:30 to 11:30 AM

Bishop Cavins' 19th Anniversary as a priest

November 26 (Wednesday)

Joni's Treasures Thrift Shop – 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

November 27 (Thursday)

Happy Thanksgiving

November 29 (Saturday)

Divine Worship – Vigil of First Sunday of Advent Year of Grace 2026

Intention: Repose of the Souls in Purgatory

*SCAP = Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest

Financial Update as of 9/29/2025

Total Income Year to Date: \$\$10970.58

Total Expenditures Year to Date: **\$11638.42**

Difference: **-\$667.84**

Balance available on hand: \$1429.36



Online Giving Made Easy

You can now make donations quickly and securely through our website!

For the most efficient processing, we recommend using **Zelle**. If you choose another payment method, please ensure your donation is sent **as if to an individual** to avoid delays.


All donations—regardless of platform—can be directed to:


 bkpg@apfcwp.com

Thank you for your continued generosity and support!

Know Your Rights: Red Cards Available

In these uncertain times, it's important for both U.S. citizens and immigrants to understand their rights. We are offering Red Cards, which outline what to do if Law Enforcement or ICE comes to your door.

 **Pick-Up:** Red Cards are available at Mass on the desk in the Narthex.

 **Request by Mail:** Send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Parish Office.

Limit: 5 cards per request

Please specify your preferred version:

English/English, Spanish/English and Haitian Creole / English

From the Bishop's Desk

Thanksgiving: A Celebration of Immigrant Gratitude

Thanksgiving, a uniquely American holiday, has long served as a symbol of gratitude, community, and shared abundance. For immigrants, it holds a deeper resonance, an opportunity to express thankfulness for new beginnings, safety, and the chance to contribute to a society that, despite its imperfections, offers hope and possibility. While its historical roots lie in the 17th-century encounter between Pilgrims and Native Americans, today Thanksgiving has evolved into a multicultural celebration that reflects the diverse tapestry of the United States.



For many immigrants, Thanksgiving is their first introduction to American traditions. The holiday's emphasis on gathering, food, and reflection mirrors customs from around the world, making it both familiar and welcoming. Families from Latin America, Asia, Africa, and Europe often blend their own culinary traditions with the classic turkey and stuffing, creating tables that reflect both heritage and adaptation. In this way, Thanksgiving becomes a living metaphor for the immigrant experience, honoring the past while embracing the present.

Gratitude is central to the immigrant journey. Leaving behind one's homeland often involves sacrifice, uncertainty, and courage. Immigrants may flee violence, poverty, or

persecution, or simply seek better opportunities for their children. In the face of these challenges, Thanksgiving offers a moment to pause and acknowledge the blessings found in a new land: a job, a home, education, freedom of worship, and the kindness of strangers. It is a time to give thanks not only for what has been gained, but also for the resilience that carried them through.

Moreover, Thanksgiving allows immigrants to participate in a shared national ritual, reinforcing a sense of belonging. It is a day when differences are set aside in favor of unity and gratitude. Churches, community centers, and schools often host interfaith or intercultural Thanksgiving events, where people of all backgrounds come together to serve meals, share stories, and build relationships. These gatherings affirm that immigrants are not outsiders, but integral members of the American story.

The holiday also invites reflection on justice and inclusion. While immigrants give thanks, many also remember those still struggling, families separated by borders, workers facing exploitation, or refugees denied entry. Thanksgiving becomes not only a celebration, but a call to action: to extend hospitality, advocate for humane policies, and ensure that the table of abundance is open to all.

In essence, Thanksgiving expresses the gratitude of immigrants by honoring their journeys, celebrating their contributions, and affirming their place in the American narrative. It is a day when the spirit of welcome triumphs over fear, and when the richness of diversity is embraced as a blessing. Through shared meals, prayers, and acts of kindness, immigrants transform Thanksgiving into a powerful testament to hope, resilience, and the enduring human desire to belong.

In Christ's Love,

+William

Pastor

Welcome Back

We wish to welcome Zachary Gavora back home from college. Zachary has earned a degree in engineering. He was baptized and confirmed by Bishop Cavins at Holy Angels Catholic Community in 2013.

Holy Synod Establishes Diocese of Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs

On **October 4, 2025**, during the closing session of the Holy Synod 2025 in Orlando, the Reformed Catholic Church formally established the **Diocese of Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs**, a new jurisdiction dedicated to inclusive ministry, justice, and spiritual renewal across the Southeastern United States.

Named in honor of **Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs**, whose feast day is celebrated on **September 15**, the diocese seeks to embody the compassion and courage of Mary, who stood in solidarity with the suffering and bore witness to God's love in the face of violence and injustice.

Rather than focusing on buildings or institutional power, the Diocese of Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs is committed to building relationships, welcoming immigrants, affirming LGBTQ+ persons, and nurturing communities of prayer, service, and prophetic witness. Its founding reflects the Church's mission to be present where people are most in need of hope and healing.

The Most Rev. William R. Cavins has been appointed as the first bishop of the diocese. Under his leadership, the diocese will continue expanding into states where the Reformed Catholic Church has not yet established a presence, including Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, North Carolina, and West Virginia.

This new diocese stands as a living testament to the Church's belief that holiness is found in solidarity, and that the Gospel calls us to be a Church of the martyrs, those who suffer, resist injustice, and love without condition.



A Sacred Symbol of Witness and Welcome: The Coat of Arms of the Diocese of Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs

The newly erected Diocese of Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs within the Reformed Catholic Church has unveiled its official coat of arms - a powerful visual proclamation of faith, justice, and remembrance rooted in the Southern witness of the Gospel.

The coat of arms is more than a symbol; it is a sacred tapestry of stories, virtues, and identities that define the mission of the diocese. At its heart is a shield divided into four quadrants, each representing a dimension of the Church's call to live and love in Christ's name:

Top Left (Blue Field): A golden crown surrounded by stars and topped with a cross evokes the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Heaven and Martyrs. It honors her maternal strength and her presence among those who suffer for justice and truth.

Top Right (Red Field): Crossed arrows symbolize martyrdom and sacrifice, commemorating those who have laid down their lives in the struggle for civil rights, Indigenous survival, LGBTQ+ dignity, and immigrant justice.

Bottom Left (Gold Field): A white rose stands for purity, peace, and the beauty of lives lived in love. It reflects the Marian spirit of compassion and the sanctity of those often overlooked.

Bottom Right (White Field): A flaming heart bound by chains represents the pain and perseverance of the oppressed. It speaks to the enduring faith of enslaved peoples, the incarcerated, and all who resist injustice with love.

Above the shield rests a red and white bishop's mitre, signifying episcopal leadership rooted in martyrdom and mercy. Flanking the shield are two figures: a Native American woman, representing the Indigenous peoples of the South and their sacred witness, and a Spanish Dominican friar, holding a palm frond in honor of missionary martyrs and the Church's historic presence in the region.



Beneath them flows a single scroll bearing the diocesan motto: “Live and Love in Christ’s Name.”

This call to action encapsulates the diocese’s mission to be a refuge for the wounded, a voice for the voiceless, and a community of radical compassion.

“The coat of arms tells our story,” said Bishop William R. Cavins, founding bishop of the diocese. “It’s a visual theology of who we are: a Church that remembers its martyrs, walks with the marginalized, and proclaims the Gospel with courage and tenderness.”

The Diocese of Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs serves the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, and the Territory of Puerto Rico. It is committed to inclusive liturgy, prophetic preaching, sacramental justice, and the formation of diverse leaders who embody the Church’s mission of healing and transformation.

Abiding Presence Faith Community to serve as the Pro-Cathedral of the Diocese of Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs

In a profound affirmation of the Reformed Catholic Church’s mission and values, the Most Rev. William R. Cavins has designated **Abiding Presence Faith Community** in Orlando, Florida as the **Pro-Cathedral** of the **Diocese of Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs**. This designation reflects a Church rooted not in monumental architecture, but in inclusive relationships, radical hospitality, and Gospel-centered mission.

Traditionally, a cathedral is the official seat of a bishop, marked by the presence of the *cathedra*, or bishop’s chair. A **pro-cathedral** serves this role *temporarily*, often until a permanent cathedral is established. In the Reformed Catholic Church, however, the emphasis is not on constructing grand edifices, but on cultivating communities where all are welcomed, affirmed, and empowered to live out the Gospel.

Abiding Presence Faith Community has long embodied this vision. Known for its inclusive worship, compassionate outreach, and prophetic witness, it has become a spiritual home for many who have felt marginalized or excluded elsewhere. Under Bishop Cavins’ leadership, the community has hosted important events, including the Holy Synod of 2025, the ordination of new deacons, priests, and bishops, and the Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Immigrant Justice.

By naming Abiding Presence as the pro-cathedral, Bishop Cavins affirms that sacred space is not defined by architecture, but by the relationships formed within it. The Church's mission is not to build walls, but to open doors, to create spaces where people of every background, identity, and story can encounter the living Christ in one another.

As the Diocese of Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs expands into new regions, including Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, North Carolina, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, and West Virginia, Abiding Presence will serve as a spiritual anchor. It will continue to be a center of hospitality, discernment, and mission, guiding the diocese in its work of justice, reconciliation, and radical welcome.

In naming a pro-cathedral, the Reformed Catholic Church reimagines what it means to be Church, not as a static institution, but as a dynamic community of faith, ever growing in love and service. Abiding Presence Faith Community stands as a living witness to that vision.

Are you looking to become more involved in our parish?

We have a variety of opportunities for you to contribute and make a difference throughout the week. Here's how you can get involved:

- **Saturdays:** Join us in a range of roles including readers, technical support, musicians, singers, altar servers, and Eucharistic Ministers. Your participation enriches our worship experience.
- **Mondays and Tuesdays:** Help us with our Crock Pot Classes. If you're interested in presenting, please reach out to Dennis Last for more information.
- **Tuesdays:** Volunteer at Rebecca's Pantry in the morning. Your assistance can make a significant impact on those in need.
- **Wednesdays:** Contribute to our Thrift Shop. We need enthusiastic helpers to support this valuable outreach.
- **LGBTQ+:** Contact Keegan Glover for information.
- **Ongoing:** We are also establishing a new ministry for Special Ministers to the Sick. This role is a wonderful opportunity to provide comfort and support to those who are ill.
- **Immigration:** We are seeking individuals who would be willing to **accompany** immigrants to court or other appearances.

So much to choose from! Reflect on how you might be called to serve and make a difference. What is God inviting you to do?

If you are interested in any of these opportunities or have questions, please contact [appropriate contact person/office] for more details. We look forward to your involvement and contributions to our parish community!

Prayer for Vocations

Gracious God, we give thanks for your call to both women and men to serve in Christ's Kingdom as priests, deacons, and consecrated persons. We ask that you send your Holy Spirit to inspire and guide others to respond with generosity and courage to your call. May our community of faith nurture and support vocations rooted in sacrificial love, especially among our youth and young adults. Through our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A Prayer for Those in Formation

Almighty God, we lift up all those in formation, preparing to serve with hearts full of faith and dedication. Grant them wisdom, strength, and discernment as they grow in their journey. Guide their minds, strengthen their spirits, and fill them with your love. May they always walk in humility and grace, ready to serve others and follow the path you have set before them. We ask this in Your holy name. Amen.

Deacon Alex Bitterman, Deacon Ken Gladding, and Deacon Kody Hall, OPR, each serving in the Diocese of St. John XXIII, are currently engaged in priestly formation. They are joined in this next stage of preparation by Deacon Mark Schmidt of the Diocese of Saints Joseph and George.

What Does It Mean to Be Grateful?

Gratitude is more than a polite “thank you” or a fleeting feeling of appreciation, it is a profound spiritual and emotional posture that recognizes the goodness in life, even amid struggles. To be grateful is to live with awareness of the gifts we receive daily: the kindness of others, the beauty of creation, the breath in our lungs, and the presence of grace. It is a way of seeing the world not through scarcity, but through abundance.

At its core, gratitude is relational. It acknowledges that we are not self-sufficient, that much of what sustains us comes from beyond ourselves, whether from God, community, nature, or history. In this way, gratitude fosters humility. It reminds us that we are part of a larger story, dependent on others and called to respond with generosity and care.

Gratitude also transforms how we experience life. It shifts our focus from what is missing to what is present. In times of hardship, gratitude does not deny pain but helps us find meaning within it. It allows us to see moments of grace even in grief, and to recognize the resilience that emerges from suffering. This is why many spiritual traditions, including Christianity, emphasize gratitude as a practice, not just a feeling. It is something we cultivate through prayer, reflection, and intentional action.

In Scripture, gratitude is often linked to justice and mercy. The Psalms overflow with thanksgiving, not only for personal blessings but for God's steadfast love and deliverance of the oppressed. Jesus himself gives thanks before feeding the multitudes, before breaking bread at the Last Supper, and even in moments of sorrow. Gratitude, then, is not passive, it is active. It moves us to share what we have, to honor the dignity of others, and to live with compassion.

To be grateful is also to be present. It means noticing the small wonders: a child's laughter, a shared meal, a sunrise. It means slowing down enough to receive life as gift, not as entitlement. In a culture that often encourages comparison, consumption, and complaint, gratitude is a radical act. It resists cynicism and cultivates joy.

In the Reformed Catholic tradition, gratitude is woven into liturgy, community, and mission. It is expressed in prayers of thanksgiving, in acts of service, and in the Eucharist itself, whose name means "thanksgiving." To live Eucharistically is to live gratefully, offering our lives in response to the love we have received.

Ultimately, to be grateful is to recognize that we are loved, sustained, and called to love in return. It is a way of being that opens the heart, deepens relationships, and draws us closer to the divine. Gratitude is not just a virtue, it is a way of life.

New Saints of the Reformed Catholic Church: Witnesses of Justice, Mercy, and Love

The Holy Synod of the Reformed Catholic Church has joyfully recognized five new figures whose lives radiated holiness, courage, and compassion. These newly canonized and beatified individuals: St. Vincent Capodanno, St. Fr. Robert Arpin, St. Sylvia Rivera, St. Gilbert Baker, and Blessed of God, Matthew Shepard, Martyr, embody the Church's commitment to a Gospel that uplifts the marginalized, heals the wounded, and proclaims the dignity of every human being.

St. Vincent Capodanno, a Maryknoll missionary and U.S. Navy chaplain, is remembered for his fearless ministry among U.S. Marines during the Vietnam War. Known as the "Grunt

Padre,” he ran into danger to anoint the dying and comfort the wounded, ultimately giving his life on the battlefield in 1967. His canonization affirms the sanctity of pastoral presence in the midst of violence and the call to serve with selfless love. Capodanno’s witness reminds the Church that holiness is found not only in monasteries but also in muddy fields and war-torn places, wherever compassion dares to go.

St. Fr. Robert Arpin was a priest, author, and advocate for LGBTQ+ inclusion and those affected by HIV/AIDS. His book *Wonderfully, Fearfully Made* offered a theological vision of human dignity rooted in God’s love. Fr. Arpin’s ministry was marked by tenderness, courage, and a refusal to abandon those the Church too often ignored. His canonization honors a life poured out in service to the excluded and affirms that the Spirit speaks through those who challenge the Church to be more just, more loving, and more faithful to Christ’s radical welcome.

St. Sylvia Rivera, a transgender Latina activist and co-founder of the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR), is canonized as a prophet of liberation. A veteran of the Stonewall uprising, Rivera fought tirelessly for the rights of trans and homeless people, often at great personal cost. Her canonization is a bold affirmation that the cry for justice is holy, and that the Church must stand with those who are pushed to the margins. Sylvia’s life was a living parable of the Beatitudes—blessed are the poor, the persecuted, the peacemakers.

St. Gilbert Baker, the artist and activist who designed the rainbow flag, is canonized as a saint of beauty and belonging. His creation became a global symbol of LGBTQ+ pride and hope. Baker’s life was a testament to the power of art to inspire, unify, and proclaim dignity. His canonization celebrates the sacredness of creativity and the role of artists in shaping a more inclusive and joyful world.

Blessed of God, Matthew Shepard, is honored as a martyr. His brutal murder in 1998 became a rallying cry for justice and compassion. Though not canonized as a saint, his beatification recognizes the sanctity of his suffering and the transformative impact of his witness. Matthew’s life and death continue to call the Church to repentance, solidarity, and the defense of human dignity against hatred.

Together, these five holy lives expand the Church’s understanding of sanctity. They remind us that saints are not perfect people, but those who reflect God’s love in their time and place, often at great cost. Their canonization and beatification are not only acts of remembrance but prophetic declarations: that the Reformed Catholic Church stands with the poor, the queer, the wounded, the brave, and the bold.

May their memory be eternal, and may their example inspire us to live with courage, compassion, and unwavering hope.

St. Charles Borromeo: A Voice for Reform, Compassion, and Courage

St. Charles Borromeo (1538–1584), a cardinal and archbishop of Milan, was a central figure in the Catholic Reformation. His legacy speaks powerfully to the Reformed Catholic Church today, especially in our commitment to justice, pastoral care, and ecclesial renewal. Borromeo's life was marked by deep integrity, tireless reform, and a profound love for the people he served — qualities that remain essential for our mission.

As a leader during the turbulent aftermath of the Council of Trent, Borromeo worked to implement its reforms with clarity and compassion. He believed that the Church must be both faithful to tradition and responsive to the needs of the people. For Reformed Catholics, this resonates deeply. We, too, seek to honor the richness of our heritage while embracing the Spirit's call to renewal, inclusion, and justice. Borromeo reminds us that reform is not rebellion — it is fidelity to Christ's vision for a Church that heals, teaches, and liberates.

Borromeo's pastoral heart was evident in his care for the poor, his defense of the dignity of the laity, and his insistence on the moral and spiritual formation of clergy. He founded seminaries, visited parishes personally, and lived simply despite his high office. In a time when the Church was often distant from the people, he chose proximity. For Reformed Catholics, this is a call to servant leadership, bishops, priests, and deacons who walk with the people, listen deeply, and embody the Gospel in daily life.

During the plague in Milan, Borromeo stayed behind to minister to the sick, organize relief efforts, and celebrate Mass in the streets. He risked his life to be present to those who suffered. In this, he becomes a model of pastoral courage, a reminder that holiness is not found in comfort, but in solidarity. For our Church, which often stands with the marginalized and wounded, Borromeo's example affirms that true ministry is incarnational, sacrificial, and rooted in love.

Borromeo also teaches us the importance of spiritual discipline. He was a man of prayer, fasting, and contemplation, believing that reform must begin in the heart. His life challenges us to cultivate inner renewal alongside structural change. As Reformed Catholics, we are called not only to reshape institutions but to deepen our relationship with God through prayer, Scripture, and sacramental life.

Finally, Borromeo's legacy is one of hope. He believed that the Church could be holy, compassionate, and just, even in times of crisis. His reforms laid the groundwork for centuries of renewal. Today, he speaks to us as a saint of transformation, urging us to be bold, faithful, and loving in our pursuit of a Church that reflects the heart of Christ.

St. Charles Borromeo, reformer and shepherd, pray for us as we continue the work of renewal in our time.

Christ the King in an Inclusive World: Reclaiming the Reign of Love

The Solemnity of Christ the King, celebrated on the final Sunday of the Christian Year, is a feast of paradox. It proclaims the reign of a crucified Savior, a King crowned with thorns, whose throne is a cross and whose kingdom is not of this world. For many, the language of kingship evokes hierarchy, dominance, and exclusion. Yet for Reformed Catholics committed to justice, inclusion, and the radical love of Christ, this solemnity offers a profound opportunity to reimagine power, authority, and belonging through the lens of the Gospel.

Instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI in response to rising nationalism and secularism, the feast of Christ the King was meant to assert the sovereignty of Christ over all human institutions. Today, in a world still fractured by injustice, division, and abuse of power, the feast remains deeply relevant, but only if we understand Christ's kingship not as imperial control, but as divine compassion.

In an inclusive Church, Christ the King is not a ruler who dominates, but a shepherd who gathers. His reign is not enforced by violence or fear, but by mercy and truth. He does not sit above the people, but walks among them, feeding the hungry, healing the broken, and welcoming the outcast. His authority is rooted in service, and his power is revealed in vulnerability. This is the King who washes feet, who forgives enemies, who dies for love.

To celebrate Christ the King in an inclusive world is to reject all forms of domination that distort the Gospel. It is to say no to racism, patriarchy, homophobia, and economic injustice. It is to proclaim that Christ reigns wherever dignity is restored, wherever peace is made, wherever love triumphs over hate. His kingdom is not confined to church buildings or doctrinal boundaries, it is present wherever the Spirit moves, wherever people live in communion and compassion.

The readings for the feast often speak of judgment, but not in the way we might expect. In Matthew 25, Christ the King separates the sheep from the goats, not based on belief or

ritual, but on how they treated “the least of these.” The criteria for entrance into the kingdom are acts of mercy: feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, visiting the imprisoned. This is a radical redefinition of kingship. It tells us that Christ reigns not through exclusion, but through solidarity.

For Reformed Catholics, this feast is also a call to mission. If Christ is King, then we are citizens of a kingdom that transcends borders and ideologies. We are called to embody his reign in our communities, through inclusive worship, prophetic witness, and sacramental justice. We are called to build a Church where all are welcome, where leadership is shared, and where the poor and marginalized are at the center.

Christ the King also invites us to hope. In a world weary with violence and despair, we proclaim that love has the final word. The crucified King is risen, and his reign is one of peace. This hope is not passive, it is active. It compels us to work for transformation, to live as if the kingdom is already among us, because it is.

In reclaiming the Solemnity of Christ the King for an inclusive Church, we do not abandon tradition, we fulfill it. We return to the heart of the Gospel, where power is redefined by love, and where every person is seen as beloved. Christ’s reign is not distant or oppressive, it is close at hand, ever with us, and always unfolding.

So let us celebrate this feast not with triumphalism, but with humility. Let us proclaim Christ the King, not of empires, but of hearts; not of exclusion, but of embrace. And let us live as citizens of his kingdom, where justice and mercy kiss, and all are welcome at the table.

Prepare Your Heart: A Journey Through Advent with Bishop William Cavins

As the season of Advent approaches, we are invited once again to slow down, reflect, and make room for Christ in our lives. In a world that rushes toward Christmas with noise and distraction, Advent offers a sacred pause, a time to listen, to hope, and to prepare. This year, we encourage you to deepen your spiritual journey with one of Bishop William Cavins’ inspiring Advent devotionals, available on Amazon.

One especially meaningful choice is: **Journeying Through Advent with Mary and Joseph: Five Minutes a Day with God.**

This beautifully written devotional offers a daily reflection that draws us into the heart of the Advent story through the eyes of Mary and Joseph. With just five minutes a day, Bishop

Cavins helps us enter into the quiet courage of Mary's "yes," the steadfast faith of Joseph, and the unfolding mystery of God's love made flesh.

Each day includes:

- A Scripture passage to center your heart
- A reflection that connects the biblical story to your life
- A prayer to guide your day
- A gentle invitation to live Advent with intention and grace

Whether you are new to daily devotionals or looking for something simple yet profound, this book is a perfect companion. It's ideal for individuals, families, or small groups seeking to keep Advent as a season of spiritual preparation rather than just holiday busyness.

Also available from Bishop Cavins:

- **Come, O Come, Emmanuel: Preparing for the Return of Christ** – A powerful reflection on the Second Coming and the hope of Advent.
- **Making Room at the Inn: An Advent Journey** – Available in both English and Spanish, this devotional focuses on hospitality, justice, and the call to welcome Christ in the stranger.

All three books reflect Bishop Cavins' pastoral heart and commitment to inclusive, justice-centered spirituality. They are accessible, prayerful, and rooted in the Reformed Catholic tradition's emphasis on grace, dignity, and community.

You can find these titles on Amazon by searching "*William Cavins Advent*." Consider purchasing one for yourself, a friend, or your faith community. Let this Advent be a time of renewal, reflection, and readiness.

Let us journey together, with Mary and Joseph, with one another, and with Christ who comes to dwell among us.

Family Faith Activities
Courtesy of LTP's At Home with the Word 2025.

November 2, 2025

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day)

Questions

- ◆ Today is All Souls' Day, or the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, when we remember and pray for our beloved dead. What does the Book of Wisdom tell us about God's relationship to those who have died?
- ◆ The psalm today offers us great comfort. What parts of Psalm 23 mean the most to you? Why?
- ◆ Jesus promises that he will never reject any person who comes to him, and that each of us will be raised up on the last day. In him we have eternal life! What does this promise mean to you? If you know someone who died in the light of faith, does this promise mean even more to you? Why or why not?

Activities

- ◆ Think about people who have died that you would like to pray for. Take out pictures or find pictures on the internet or in magazines. Make a display and place a candle near it. Pray together for these people this week.
- ◆ This week, learn the beautiful prayer we pray for the dead. "Eternal rest, grant unto him/her/ them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him/her/them. May s/he/they rest in peace. Amen. May his/her/their soul(s) and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen."
- ◆ Visit the website of the Latino Center at the Smithsonian, where you can learn more about how this day is celebrated in Mexico, and create your own traditional Día de los Muertos altar.

November 9, 2025

Thirty-second Sunday of the Christian Year

Questions and Activities not provided.

November 16, 2025

Thirty-Third Sunday of the Christian Year

Questions

- ◆ At a time when your child is feeling hurt, physically or mentally, ask, "Where do you think healing comes from?" The child may describe a physical process or the kindness of other people. This week's reading from the prophet Malachi promises "the sun of justice

with its healing rays.” We are all wounded in some ways, and justice can help us heal.

◆ This week’s psalm commands, “Let the rivers clap their hands and the hills ring out their joy.” Ask, “How can a river clap or hills ring out? What do you think the psalmist means?” Try to imagine what it would look or sound like if rivers clapped and hills rang out.

◆ Ask your child, “Have you ever had to endure a long wait? What’s the longest, hardest wait you can remember? Perhaps you thought you didn’t have the patience, but somehow you did.” It can seem like the world is full of dangers, such as wars and crime. Jesus says if you can endure patiently and wait for his return, “not a hair on your head will be destroyed.”

Activities

◆ With older and younger children, look up “healing,” “health,” “wholeness,” and “holiness” in a dictionary or on the internet. Discuss how these words and concepts are related and what the “healing rays” of the “sun of justice” might mean.

◆ Join your child in pretending to be a river, using the whole body. How will it move and flow? Then try being a hill or mountain. Make a movement prayer in which the river claps and the hill rings out, perhaps singing a familiar song or setting the lines of the psalm to music.

◆ Make a list of the child’s current fears. It could include personal ones, like darkness or nightmares. This is a good time to surface amorphous fears of things the child has gleaned from the media, such as wars, crime, and accidents. Remind the child that if she stands firm and waits patiently, not a hair of her head will be harmed

November 23, 2025

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Questions

◆ Ask your child, “What do you picture when you think of a king? What does he look like? How does he act? Does he have a scepter? A crown? Does he give orders? Are there bad kings as well as good?” Talk about any countries currently ruled by kings.

◆ This Sunday is the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Ask your child, “What kind of king would Jesus be?” Help your child recall the stories he has heard about Jesus, such as asking children to come to him, healing a blind man, or accepting water from the Samaritan woman. Then ask, “What kind of a king would such a person be?”

◆ In this week’s second reading, it says that Jesus is “the image of the invisible God.” Point out to your child that you’ve talked about images of God, such as rock, whirlwind, fire, and sheltering wing. Ask, “How do you imagine Jesus? What does he look like? What is he

doing as you picture him?”

Activities

- ◆ Consult an art book or the internet to see some of the many ways artists have pictured Jesus. See how different they are. Does any one of the images correspond to the way you imagine Jesus? Which one do you like best?
- ◆ Using a globe, map, or the internet, locate Jesus’ country of origin in the Middle East. People from this area generally have dark skin and hair. Using any art materials available, help your child make a drawing or painting of Jesus, perhaps doing something from one of the Gospel accounts.
- ◆ Read or paraphrase this Sunday’s Gospel about Jesus and the two thieves. Make a script from the dialogue in the text, adding stage directions. With a group of children, act out the skit. There are roles for Jesus, two thieves, and any number of people watching, some of whom have lines.

November 30, 2025

First Sunday of Advent

Questions

- ◆ Isaiah speaks of whole communities streaming in eagerness to the Lord’s mountain. They are filled with inspiration, eager to find out about God’s ways. What portions of this poetic passage speak to you personally? What portions seem most inspiring for us as a community of faith? Why? What is your reaction to the radical promise of peace of which Isaiah speaks?
- ◆ This passage from the Letter to the Romans is one of the most optimistic Paul will write. He is confident that salvation is at hand, and he exhorts the community to stand ready. Think about the contrasting images Paul uses (day and night, lightness and darkness). To what is he calling the community in Rome, and to what does he call you today?
- ◆ Jesus uses the story of Noah to affirm to the people that God is still acting, and that the Lord’s coming is real. Have you ever procrastinated? What do you tend to put off for another day? What does it mean to you to be ready for the arrival of the Son of Man?

Activities

- ◆ Mountain climbers know that traveling a trail can be arduous at times and glorious at others. Think about your spiritual journey. At what times in your life did the climb seem particularly steep or long? At what times did it seem filled with breathtaking vistas? Write in your journal about your climb up the “Lord’s mountain.”
- ◆ As Advent commences, we are reminded that God’s plan is unfolding in the person of Jesus. God’s plan is for a radical experience of peace — one that comes to us through the Prince of Peace. As you read or watch the news, notice places in the world where

humankind has not yet beat “swords into plowshares.” Spend a few minutes each day praying that God’s peace will come to the conflict in that location, whether close or far from your home.

◆ Jesus teaches the importance of staying awake and attentive. He asks us to be ready for him. Think about the ways in which you are energized getting ready for a special event or occasion. What is one small thing you could do each day to ready yourself for the Lord? Notice if procrastination is part of your spiritual life. Choose one small practice that supports being attentive, such as spending a few moments at the start of the day in silence, driving without the radio on, or reading a special prayer before sleep.

Notable November Saints

November is a month rich with the witness of saints whose lives continue to inspire the Reformed Catholic Church. These holy men and women remind us that sanctity is not confined to the past, it is a living call to justice, compassion, and deep communion with God. As we journey through this month, we are invited to reflect on their lives and ask how their witness can shape our own.

November 1 – All Saints Day

A solemn celebration of all the saints, known and unknown, who have lived lives of holiness. It reminds us that sainthood is not reserved for the famous but is the calling of every Christian.

November 3 – St. Martin de Porres

A Dominican lay brother from Peru, known for his humility, healing ministry, and care for the poor and sick. He is a model of racial justice, compassion, and deep Eucharistic devotion.

November 4 – St. Charles Borromeo

A cardinal and reformer during the Counter-Reformation, he worked tirelessly to implement the Council of Trent’s reforms. He is remembered for his pastoral care, education of clergy, and dedication to Church renewal.

November 11 – St. Martin of Tours

A Roman soldier turned bishop, famous for cutting his cloak in half to share with a beggar. He exemplifies charity, humility, and the transformation of life through faith.

November 13 – St. Frances Xavier Cabrini

The first American citizen to be canonized, she founded schools, hospitals, and orphanages for immigrants. She is a patron of immigrants and a model of tireless service and trust in God.

November 14 – St. Joseph Pignatelli

A Jesuit priest who helped restore the Society of Jesus after its suppression. He is honored for his perseverance, leadership, and commitment to education and spiritual renewal.

November 16 – St. Margaret of Scotland

A queen known for her piety, charity, and reform of the Church in Scotland. She is a model of integrating faith with public service and family life.

November 17 – St. Elizabeth of Hungary

A princess who gave up wealth to serve the poor and sick. She is a model of generosity, humility, and living the Gospel through acts of mercy.

November 22 – St. Cecilia

A Roman martyr and patron of musicians, she sang to God even as she faced death. Her life inspires courage, devotion, and the sanctification of the arts.

November 23 – St. Clement I –

One of the earliest popes and Church Fathers, known for his letter to the Corinthians promoting unity and order. He is a model of apostolic leadership and fidelity to tradition.

November 25 – St. Catherine of Alexandria

A scholar and martyr who defended the faith against pagan philosophers. She is a patron of students and philosophers, and a model of intellectual courage and witness.

November 30 – St. Andrew the Apostle - The brother of Peter and one of the first disciples called by Jesus. He is a model of missionary zeal and humble discipleship, known for bringing others to Christ.

These saints are not distant icons — they are companions on our journey. Their lives challenge us to live with courage, compassion, and conviction. As we celebrate their feast days, may we be renewed in our own call to holiness and mission.

Which of these saints speaks most to your heart? Share your reflections on our Facebook page and join the conversation.

Harvest of Gratitude: Nourishing Body and Spirit.

Appetizer: Cranberry Brie Bites

Ingredients:

- 1 sheet puff pastry, thawed
- 1/2 cup whole berry cranberry sauce
- 1 wheel of Brie cheese
- Fresh rosemary (optional)
- 1 egg, beaten (for egg wash)
-

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375°F.
2. Cut puff pastry into 24 squares and place into mini muffin tins.
3. Cut Brie into small cubes and place one cube in each pastry cup.
4. Top with 1 tsp cranberry sauce and a small sprig of rosemary.
5. Brush edges with egg wash.
6. Bake for 15–18 minutes until golden and bubbly. Serve warm.

Soup: Butternut Squash and Apple Soup

Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 butternut squash, peeled and cubed
- 2 apples, peeled and chopped
- 4 cups vegetable broth
- 1/2 tsp ground nutmeg
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Optional: cream or coconut milk for richness

Directions:

1. In a large pot, sauté onion and garlic in olive oil until soft.
2. Add squash and apples; cook for 5 minutes.
3. Pour in broth, bring to a boil, then simmer for 20–25 minutes until tender.
4. Blend until smooth. Add nutmeg, salt, and pepper.
5. Stir in cream or coconut milk if desired. Serve warm.

Salad: Roasted Beet and Goat Cheese Salad

Ingredients:

- 3 medium beets, roasted and sliced
- 4 cups mixed greens
- 1/3 cup crumbled goat cheese
- 1/4 cup chopped walnuts
- 2 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

1. Toss greens with olive oil, balsamic vinegar, salt, and pepper.
2. Top with sliced beets, goat cheese, and walnuts.
3. Serve chilled or at room temperature.

Entrée (Crockpot): Apple Cider Pulled Pork

Ingredients:

- 3–4 lb pork shoulder
- 2 cups apple cider
- 1 onion, sliced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp thyme
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

1. Place onion and garlic in bottom of crockpot.
2. Rub pork with salt, pepper, mustard, and thyme.
3. Place pork on top of onions and pour apple cider over.
4. Cook on low for 8 hours or high for 4–5 hours.
5. Shred pork with two forks and mix with juices. Serve on rolls or with sides.

Side Dish: Maple Glazed Carrots

Ingredients:

- 1 lb carrots, peeled and sliced

- 2 tbsp butter
- 2 tbsp maple syrup
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- Salt to taste

Directions:

1. Steam or boil carrots until tender.
2. In a skillet, melt butter and stir in maple syrup and cinnamon.
3. Add carrots and toss to coat. Cook for 2–3 minutes until glazed.
4. Sprinkle with salt and serve warm.

Dessert: Apple Pear Crisp

Ingredients:

- 3 apples, peeled and sliced
- 2 pears, peeled and sliced
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup rolled oats
- 1/3 cup flour
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 1/4 cup butter, melted

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°F.
2. Place apples and pears in a greased baking dish.
3. Mix oats, flour, sugar, cinnamon, and melted butter.
4. Sprinkle topping over fruit.
5. Bake for 35–40 minutes until golden and bubbly. Serve warm with whipped cream or ice cream.