



# CATHEDRAL of SAINT PETER

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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## Understanding Confession: *A Sacrament of Great Compassion and Grace*

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus tells the parable of the prodigal son. The son leaves his father in search of a more self-serving life. He spends his time squandering his blessings and having what can likely be considered “worldly fun,” only to feel empty and downcast. In his search for self-satisfaction, he is left unfulfilled. So he runs back to his father, ashamed of what he’s done. And his father welcomes him with great joy!



This parable is much more than a story. It speaks to the heart of the human experience in many ways. God is waiting for us to turn back to Him. He knows that sin does not fulfill us, and He wants to bring us back into

union with Him. So, in an act of sheer grace, Jesus Christ instituted the Sacrament of Penance. There, He is waiting for us to come to Him.

“The Sacrament of Penance is designed to relieve the penitent of sin, particularly grave sin,” Fr. Godfrey says. “It restores communion with Christ and the Christian community, removing what divides us and making us more evidently members of Christ’s holy Body.”

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is one of forgiveness and grace, offering each one of us an opportunity to experience Christ’s love and life in a radical way. Yet, all too often, we hesitate to partake in the sacrament.

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## The “*Thanksgiving Spirit*” Doesn’t Have to End at Thanksgiving

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Since 1863, Americans have annually set aside the fourth or fifth Thursday of November to give thanks to God for a bountiful harvest. The holiday became a matter of federal law in 1941, as President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a joint congressional resolution to observe Thanksgiving Day on the fourth Thursday of November. Even as our society has become less agrarian, families continue to gather each November to give thanks to God for each other, and for the many blessings they have received throughout the year.

Most people associate this “spirit of Thanksgiving” with the fall holiday and its many recognizable symbols — brisk weather, cornucopias, family gatherings, and plenty of delicious food. But giving thanks to God in gratitude for the gifts we have received isn’t an attitude we should save for this annual holiday alone. When we live lives of stewardship — sharing of our time, talents and treasure in thanks to God and at the service of others — we can sustain life in the Thanksgiving spirit throughout the year.

The Church teaches that this daily response of gratitude is an important element of living the life of a Christian disciple. As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* states, “Indeed, in the work of salvation, Christ

sets creation free from sin and death to consecrate it anew and make it return to the Father, for his glory. The thanksgiving of the members of the Body participates in that of their Head” (*CCC*, 2637).

And how can we express this spirit of thanks? We can serve others, living the virtue of charity by reaching out to our brothers and sisters in need through acts of kindness. We can give back to God from our “first fruits,” sharing of our treasure in thanksgiving and recognition of the need to return a portion of our gifts to God and His work. We can utilize our unique talents to make our parish and local communities better places. And, as the *Catechism* also points out, we can even express thanks through prayerfully offering up our daily activities to God — “Every event and need can become an offering of thanksgiving” (*CCC*, 2638).

This Thanksgiving, take a moment to think of ways that you can live in the “spirit of Thanksgiving” on the fourth Thursday of November, and every other day throughout the year. Living the stewardship way of life may not always involve a precisely carved turkey, decorations or a family viewing of *It’s a Wonderful Life* — but it will provide lifelong fulfillment and joy rooted in an attitude of perpetual thanksgiving.

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*A Letter from Our Cathedral Rector*

# Christ the King, the Perfect Example of Stewardship

Dear Parishioners,

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

With the liturgical year ending soon and Advent and Christmas close behind, the Solemnity of Christ the King on Nov. 26 follows. This feast holds a special place within the heart of the Catholic Church and shows us what true stewardship is all about.

The Solemnity of Christ the King, observed on the last Sunday of the liturgical year, invites us to reflect on Christ's universal kingship and reign over all creation. In a world often focused on power, control, and self-centeredness, this feast presents a countercultural message. It reminds us that Christ's kingship is marked by self-sacrifice, humility, and service. Our Lord's throne is not one of worldly grandeur but of the Cross, where He gave His life for our salvation.

This feast is a powerful reminder of the core values of Catholic stewardship. Stewardship means recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God — our time, talents, resources, and even our very lives. Just as Christ, the King, entrusted His life for our sake, we are called to be faithful stewards of the gifts He has bestowed upon us. We are caretakers of His creation, called to use our resources wisely, generously, and in ways that bring about His kingdom on Earth.

Christ's kingship and stewardship are deeply intertwined. By recognizing His authority over our lives, we acknowledge that our role as stewards is to use our gifts in accordance with His will. This means serving others, working for justice, promoting human dignity, and caring



for the Earth and its resources. Our actions as faithful stewards should reflect the self-giving love that Christ displayed during His earthly life.

The Solemnity of Christ the King is an important day in the Catholic Church because it brings our focus back to the heart of our faith. It reminds us that Christ's reign extends beyond the confines of time and space, touching every aspect of our existence. This feast challenges us to evaluate our lives in light of His kingship and to ask ourselves whether our choices and actions align with His teachings.

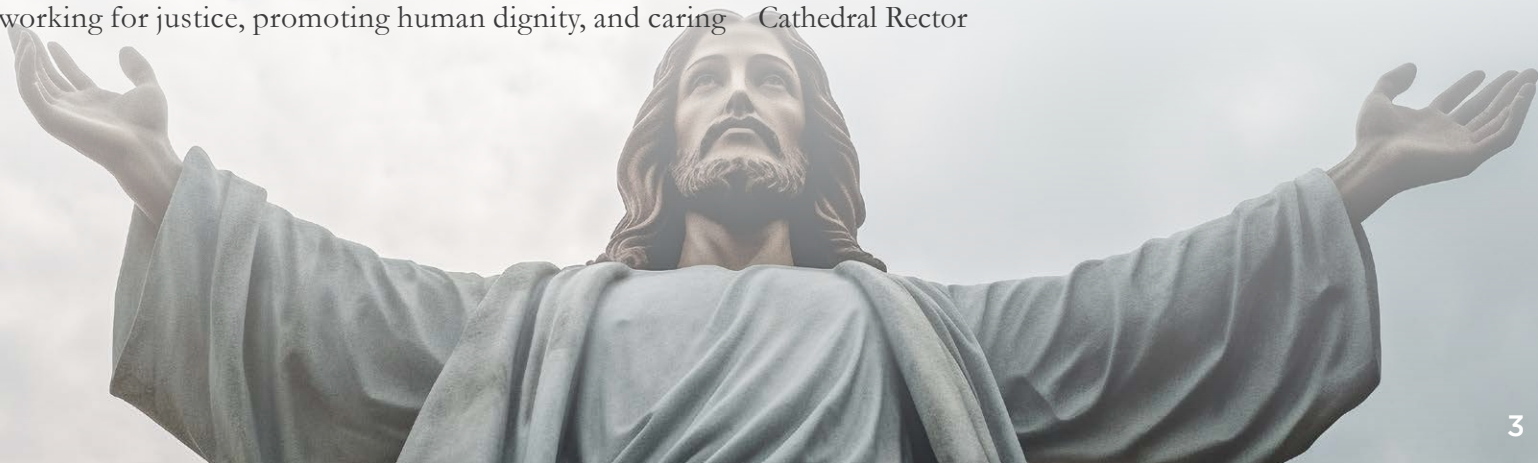
As we approach this solemn feast, let us take the opportunity to recommit ourselves to Christ and the principles of stewardship. May we strive to be faithful stewards of His grace, using our gifts to build a more just, compassionate, and harmonious world. Let us remember that Christ, the King, calls us not to a life of privilege but to a life of service, solidarity, and sacrificial love.

I invite you to join in celebrating the Solemnity of Christ the King with hearts full of gratitude and reverence. Through our worship and reflection, may we be renewed in our dedication to Christ's reign and to the active stewardship and discipleship He calls us to embrace.

Peace,

*Fr Godfrey OSB*

Very Rev. Godfrey Mullen, OSB  
Cathedral Rector



# Master Sergeant Deacon Wayne Weiler Retires A VETERAN'S



*While in the Air Force, Deacon Wayne Weiler grew in self-confidence and in virtue. By the time Deacon Wayne retired, he held the rank of Master Sergeant*



*This Veterans' Day is a great opportunity for us all to honor the veterans in our lives and parish. All are encouraged to go to Mass, pray for our veterans and thank God for their service.*

Veterans' Day, Nov. 11, is an important time to honor the men and women who served our country with great courage and sacrifice. Originally called Armistice Day, the day commemorated the cease-fire between the Allied Forces and Germany toward the end of WWI. The armistice halted fighting on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918.

Now, Veterans' Day is celebrated nationally with parades, concerts, and family gatherings. The Cathedral will acknowledge and pray for the veterans of our parish during Mass.

Our very own Deacon Wayne Weiler served 22 years in the Air Force in administration and information management. His role was to support the panoply of units that he was assigned to by providing solid information to decision-makers in the unit that would affect the direction of their mission.

"I got to see a breadth of experiences and participated in a lot of different missions," Deacon Wayne says. "This was the best part of my job — I had a lot of opportunities to interact with all sorts of Airmen on a wide variety of missions."

Initially, Deacon Wayne was drawn to the service because of the values that he had grown up with — the values of respecting authority, serving others, and loving one's country.

While in the Air Force, he grew in self-confidence and in virtue.

"Being an Airman gave me several opportunities that helped me recognize that I have something to offer," Deacon Wayne says. "It opened my eyes to the fact that I had gifts that I could share for the betterment of others. It taught me that I could create further opportunities for myself that would help me grow.

"Serving instilled in me a sense of responsibility, commitment, and care for others," he adds. "It also led me closer to God. Throughout my career, I relied heavily on my faith, especially when there were difficult decisions to be made. I was blessed by the military chaplains who were a great source of guidance and spiritual direction."

Daily Mass and his devotion to St. Christopher, the

# reflects on Time and Service with Air Force DAY TRIBUTE

patron saint of travelers, provided Deacon Wayne with a firm foundation for his life and work. It was even during his time in the service when he first felt the call to the diaconate.

By the time he had retired, he held the rank of Master Sergeant. Now a veteran, Veterans' Day has many special meanings to Deacon Wayne.

"Veterans' Day is a matter of paying tribute to those who made that commitment to serve something beyond themselves," Deacon Wayne says. "It is a time when veterans can enjoy talking about the camaraderie that they experienced and remembering the people they served with."

"My unit was invited to a Veterans' Day parade in St. Louis, which was an amazing experience," he adds. "I was honored to witness the wonderful outpouring of support and gratitude."

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## Understanding Confession continued from front cover

We avoid it out of fear or shame — Fr. Godfrey assures us all that we ought not to feel this way.

"While I understand the shame in confessing a particularly ugly sin, no one should expect to be rebuked or criticized when walking into the confessional," Fr. Godfrey says. "The confessor's main role is to be a physician of souls, offering a penance that works as a salve against the sin, not to sit as judge assessing a sentence."

What's more, for those who have been away from the sacrament for years and may be nervous that they forget how to go to Confession, Fr. Godfrey says, "Welcome back!" There is a card in the confessional that walks you through the sacrament, along with the Act of Contrition for you to pray at the end. Confession ought not to be intimidating — rather, it is a sacrament whose graces freely flow to all who partake.

For his part, Fr. Godfrey says he has been humbled to receive the sacrament, and his service to the Church as a confessor has added depth to that humility.

"Serving the Church as a confessor is a daily call to humility and compassion," he says. "People confess with authentic sorrow, sometimes shame. Standing with them in that moment, looking as they are for forgiveness, is a privileged place to be sure. I am also humbled by the faith I encounter in the confessional."

As Pope St. John Paul II once said, "Confession is an act of honesty and courage — an act of entrusting ourselves, beyond sin, to the mercy of a loving God."

We hope you will make time for the Sacrament of Penance!

*Please note the regular Reconciliation schedule on the back cover. Please join us!*

# All Souls Day:

## *A Reflection of Stewardship and Remembrance*

In the tapestry of Catholic tradition, few days hold the same depth of significance as All Souls Day, observed on Nov. 2. This solemn occasion, rooted in both faith and compassion, offers Catholics a unique opportunity to intertwine their beliefs in stewardship and remembrance, creating a powerful link between the living and the departed.

All Souls Day is a day of profound reflection and prayer for the souls of the departed who are believed to be undergoing purification before entering the eternal embrace of heaven. This belief rests on the concept of Purgatory – a state of cleansing and transformation where souls are purified of the temporal punishment due to sin. As Catholics, this doctrine emphasizes the enduring connection between the living and the deceased. By offering prayers, Masses, and acts of devotion on this day, Catholics hope to assist the souls in Purgatory on their journey towards heavenly glory.

Catholic stewardship is founded on the principles of giving of our time, talent, and treasure back to God and the parish in gratitude for the gifts God has given us. It extends not only to the Earth and its resources but also to the spiritual realm and the souls of those who have passed away. All Souls Day embodies the essence of stewardship by underscoring the responsibility Catholics have towards their fellow human beings, even beyond the threshold of death. Stewardship, in this context, signifies an active commitment to caring for the spiritual well-being of others. By praying for the souls of the departed, Catholics are fulfilling their stewardship duty by interceding. This act of compassion and selflessness exemplifies the core values of stewardship and resonates deeply with the Catholic teachings of love, charity, and empathy.

There are many ways to honor and pray for the deceased in our parish community and our own families. Attending Mass on All Souls Day is one of the most powerful ways to honor the deceased. Offerings of prayer are customary



on All Souls Day. These prayers are not only for the souls of specific individuals but also for all the faithful departed. The Catholic tradition of lighting candles serves as a symbol of hope and remembrance, attached to our prayers. Visiting the graves of loved ones, cleaning tombstones, and leaving flowers are poignant ways to connect with the departed. It serves as a reminder that life is fleeting and encourages the living to cherish their time and relationships. Performing acts of charity in memory of the deceased is another meaningful way to honor them. Donating to a cause they cared about or volunteering in their name reflects the Catholic spirit of selflessness and compassion. And families can come together to share stories, memories, and prayers for their departed loved ones. This fosters a sense of unity and ensures that the memories of those who have passed away remain alive in the hearts of the living.

All Souls Day bridges the gap between the living and the departed, weaving together the threads of Catholic faith, stewardship, and remembrance. By dedicating time to prayer, reflection, and acts of compassion on this day, Catholics honor the souls in Purgatory, demonstrating their commitment to the principles of stewardship and their unshakable belief in the eternal connection that transcends death. In this way, All Souls Day becomes a powerful reminder that Catholic stewardship encompasses not only the tangible world but also the realm of souls – a testament to the depth and richness of Catholic tradition.

# St. Charles Borromeo:

## *An Example of Living Completely for the Lord*

When St. Charles Borromeo died at the age of 46, he had accomplished more than most clergy twice his age. St. Charles is credited with the continuation and completion of the Council of Trent in 1562, extensive reformation within the Archdiocese of Milan and beyond, and the creation of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine — the forerunner of the modern Religious Education system. St. Charles possessed a fierce love for the Church, especially for the people under his spiritual care — the Archdiocese of Milan.

He was born in 1538 to the powerful noble family Borromeo. But rather than live the life of a noble, St. Charles chose instead to serve the Church.

As a young man, St. Charles received the clerical tonsure — a hairstyle where the top of the head is shaved, common among religious orders — and studied at a Benedictine abbey near his hometown of Arona, Italy. His uncle, Cardinal Giovanni Angelo de' Medici, was elected Pope in 1559, and took the name Pius IV. Shortly after

becoming pope, Pius IV appointed St. Charles to serve as secretary of state, as well as cardinal and administrator of the Archdiocese of Milan. At the time, St. Charles was still a layperson. While serving in these positions, he encouraged the pope to reconvene the Council of Trent, an ecumenical gathering during which Church leaders corrected various abuses and sought to more clearly define elements of Catholic doctrine.

In 1563, St. Charles was ordained to the priesthood during a secret ordination ceremony. Following the death of his older brother, Count Federico Borromeo, St. Charles' family had urged him to marry and carry on the Borromeo name. However, St. Charles felt that God was calling him to serve the Church, and continued to fulfill his vocation.

Shortly after becoming a priest, St. Charles was appointed by Pope Pius IV as Archbishop of Milan. Historians say the people of Milan rejoiced under St. Charles' leadership and spiritual guidance — he was the first bishop in 80 years to actually live in Milan and minister to its people himself.

*continued on back cover*

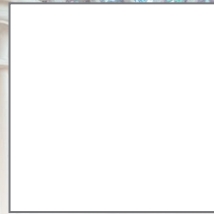
*One important aspect of stewardship — of involvement in parish life and our community — is understanding our own personal vocation. One saint especially embodies this key aspect of stewardship. St. Charles was a model priest, and many priests and clergy-in-training look to his life as an example of how to live completely for the Lord. Let us look to his example as we serve our own faith family and community.*





# CATHEDRAL of SAINT PETER

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## St. Charles Borromeo *continued from page 7*

Under his rule, Milan became a model diocese that was revered throughout the Catholic world.

Due to his great intellect, St. Charles was often called away from Milan to help the pope in various ways. However, despite his busy life, St. Charles continued to push reformation among clergy and sought to continually improve the ministry of the Church. He often encouraged clergy to spend time educating and spiritually renewing themselves. During a homily at a diocesan synod, St. Charles addressed the priests saying, “Are you in charge of a parish? If so, do not neglect the parish of your own soul, do not give yourself to others so completely that you have nothing left for yourself. You have to be mindful of your people without becoming forgetful of yourself.”

St. Charles was a true servant of the people. As the

plague of 1576 ravaged much of Milan, he remained with his people, serving the sick and dying in hospitals throughout the archdiocese.

St. Charles Borromeo died Nov. 3, 1584. He was canonized in 1610, and his feast day is celebrated each year on Nov. 4.



### MASS TIMES

*Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m. | Sunday: 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5:00 p.m.*

*Weekdays: Monday-Friday 6:45 a.m., Thursday School Mass 8:15 a.m.*

### SACRAMENT OF PENANCE (CONFESSIONS)

*Monday through Friday: 7:15 a.m., Thursday: 6-7:00 p.m., Saturday: 3-3:45 p.m.*