

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

LUKE 23:42

The Hero King

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Some 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?

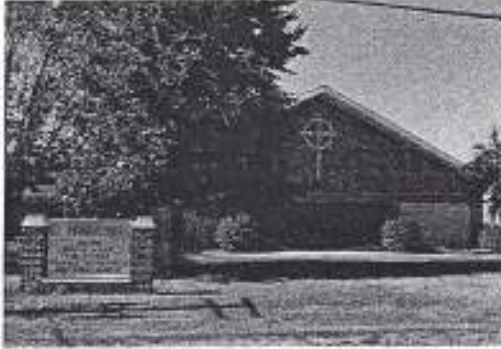
ST. BARBARA PARISH

302 Chestnut Street
Dalzell IL 61320

Phone 815-894-2006

Email: StBarbaraParish2@outlook.com

Website: www.bureaucatholic.org



St. Thomas More Site

302 Chestnut Street
Dalzell IL



Holy Trinity Site

Parish Office

212 S Main Street
PO BOX 159
Cherry IL

Adoration Room at STM Site

Open Daily from 9 am-6 pm

Confession Info

Saturday morning, alternating
between STM Site & HT Site
in the Confessional between
10:30 am-11:15am

Church Office Info

Pastor: Father Thaddeus Tran

Pastoral Assistant: Melissa Pasillas

Office Hours at HT: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am-1pm

Emergency Number: 779-248-2164

Email: Melissahtc@outlook.com



CCD Classes

Sunday, November 23rd – 6th-8th grade class(10:00am-11:30am)

Sunday, November 30th - NO CLASS

St. Barbara Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of November 24, 2025

Monday	11/24			† No Mass
Tuesday	11/25	9:00 am	STM Site	† Lois (Castello) Glasser
Wednesday	11/26	5:30 pm	HT Site	† Wes & Rita Hoscheid
Thursday	11/27	9:00 am	HT Site/Thanksgiving Mass	† Bob & Betty Ruskusky
Friday	11/28	9:00 am	STM Site	† No Mass

St. Barbara Mass Intentions for the weekend of November 29-30, 2025

Saturday	11/29	4:00 pm	ST. Thomas More Site	† Tony Panizzi
Sunday	11/30	9:00 am	Holy Trinity Site	† For the Parishioners

JESUS, THE TRUE KING OF OUR HEART

Today is the celebration of the solemnity of Christ, King of the Universe. This gospel is a reminder for us all that our lives are not random. We are not aimlessly walking but Jesus is guiding us as our King. However, His kingdom is not an earthly one, as indicated in His reply to the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate, when He was asked "Are you a king?"

The readings reveal that the fullness of Jesus' kingdom will be revealed only at the End of Time. Yet, Jesus acknowledges that His kingdom is present now: "You say I am a king. For this, I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Jesus longs for His voice to be heard. His voice does resound universally throughout the world inscribed forever in the inspired words of the New Testament, and passed on throughout the ages by the proclamation of the Church.

But even more wonderfully, the "voice of Jesus" resounds personally within the hearts of believers. Through the sending of the Holy Spirit, we become His temple -- "born again through water and the Spirit" (Jn 3:5). Now the voice of Jesus the Good Shepherd arises also in our own hearts, "Whoever enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens it for him, and the sheep hear his voice as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out" (Jn 10:2-3).

The One True King is Jesus Christ. Hence, knowing that there are still so many parts of our own life that we haven't yet allowed Jesus to be the King of, today each of us is encouraged to examine our heart, to find the places where we want to be, where we have tried to be the king of our own heart or allowed the idols of this world to become that for us. And then, take Jesus' hand and allow Him to lead us to fullness.

(Excerpted from igniteyouth.com)

Inclement Weather Information

It is that time of the year to be sure you are signed up to the Flocknote texting service installed on your cell phone; so that you may be properly informed in case Masses and/or church activities are cancelled. Please be cautious when coming to church in inclement weather, we care about your safety. Flocknote sign up tip: once your cell number is entered, you will receive a text informing you that your number was added to the group. There is no need to reply or be sure not to text Stop as this will inactivate your number. Contact the office with any questions.

Christmas Flowers

We will start early this year to take Christmas flower donations to be sure we get our orders on time to the flower shop. Please donate \$20 for each of the deceased Family members that you would like to donate Christmas flowers in remembrance of. If you just want to donate money to the Christmas flower fund, any amount will be greatly appreciated. Names will be listed in the bulletin. Flower envelopes are available in back of the churches.

Latest Offering's

November 16th Weekend

St. Barbara Parish

Total Collections:

\$2,003.00



Next Confessions

Confession will be
Sat. November 29th

STM site in the
Confessional

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	Weekday	Thanksgiving Day (US)	Weekday	Weekday	First Sunday of Advent
Dn 1:1–6, 8–20	Dn 2:31–45	Dn 5:1–6, 13–14, 16–17, 23–28	Sir 50:22–24	Dn 7:2–14	Dn 7:15–27	Is 2:1–5
Lk 21:1–4	Lk 21:5–11	Lk 21:12–19	1 Cor 1:3–9	Lk 21:29–33	Lk 21:34–36	Rom 13:11–14
			Lk 17:11–19			Mt 24:37–44



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