
31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NOVEMBER 3, 2024



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First Reading

Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Moses teaches the people to love and worship God alone.

Second Reading

Hebrews 7:23-28

Jesus intercedes for us as our eternal high priest.

Gospel Reading

Mark 12:28b-34

Jesus is questioned by a scribe about the greatest commandment.

Focus: God's love is the foundation of his law.

The two greatest commandments of which Jesus speaks are rooted in love: The first is to love God; the second is to love others. Both stem from the outpouring of God's pure goodness. If we love God fully and faithfully, and love others as he loves, we cooperate in our own well-being and come closer to his kingdom.

Liturgy of the Word:

In the first reading, Moses instructs the people to love God and keep his commands. In the second reading, the eternal priesthood of Jesus is contrasted with the earthly Levitical priesthood. In the Gospel, Jesus speaks of the greatest commandments as the command to love God and the command to love your neighbor as yourself.

MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: Joseph, Mary & Robert Casertano,
Carmela Giorella and Scott Simpson

10 a.m.: Olga Burt, Nika & Deala Vulaj,
Joan Vigilante and Montserrat Vidal

MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT

The food facet of Christian Services

Christian Services is a multifaceted gem of an outreach ministry that radiates hope and compassion – and food plays a role in several of its undertakings.

"I grew up on the receiving end of a food pantry," says Pam Vogt, the church's liaison with the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley. She also choreographs the annual dance of the holiday baskets and organizes repasts for grieving families after a Funeral Mass at St. Paul's.

"Our church was instrumental in providing for us for an extended period of time while my dad had trouble finding work. I have a place for the poor in my heart."

Her upbringing has also taught her how to stretch a dollar – and she is frugal with the church's money.

Twice a month, she and a colleague put in a Food Bank order – typically around 900 pounds worth – searching its inventory repeatedly for the free or inexpensive meats, vegetables and pantry items that pop up throughout the day. The pair are then part of the team that picks up the orders, brings them back to St. Paul's, unloads, unpacks and puts it all away.

Then at this time of year, team effort really sparkles when holiday baskets – and the task of ensuring that all 75 have the same items – take center stage. As donations are sorted and counted, Pam assigns volunteer shoppers specific items to purchase (for which they are reimbursed). Then the turkey trot begins as Thanksgiving nears and prices tend to drop.

"Hannaford might limit each shopper to two turkeys. But that's two for me, my husband, my sister, my friend and anyone else who might join in," she says. "And there are three Hannafords in the area ... and we can do it all again the next day."

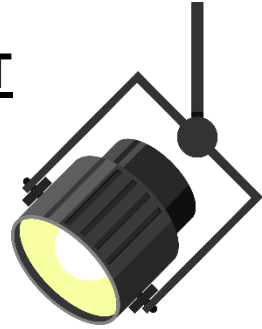
With items all accounted for, the boxes are then methodically filled assembly-line fashion the Sunday before Thanksgiving and distributed the following Monday, which gives the turkeys time to defrost.

After feasting with their families, the volunteers get ready to do it all again for Christmas – with hams.

Lastly, Pam coordinates the repasts, which some parishioners request after their loved one's funeral. She'll reach out to see who on the team is available to prepare a dish and keep track of what will be supplied so that a well-rounded buffet is the result. Volunteers help set up, serve and clean up.

"It's about being a good host," says Pam. "But none of this could happen without volunteers, to whom I am eternally grateful."

For more information, contact Pam at pamv.1@outlook.com or 845-741-8111.



CARMELITE APPEAL

The theme of this year's **Carmelite Appeal** is "Carmel Teaches the Church to Pray," and Fr. Paul Richmond, O.Carm., a/k/a Fr. Pablo, will be here to preach the weekend of **November 16-17**.

Your support buoys Carmelite friars in their work locally and around the world, which is bookended with assisting in the formation of new priests as well as with the care of those who are elderly and in poor health.

CELEBRATING OUR VETERANS

Appreciation Lunch

The Senior Citizens Advisory Board invites all local Veterans to a **Veterans Appreciation Luncheon** at noon on **November 14** at the Maybrook Senior Center, Maybrook. Guests will be served a Thanksgiving-type meal with all the trimmings!

Please call 845-260-4475 and ask for Mary to make your reservations. Seating is limited so walk-ins cannot be accommodated.

Pasta Dinner

The Town of Wallkill Police Youth Coalition and the Wallkill East Rotary Club are hosting the first annual **Tom Nosworthy Veterans Pasta Dinner** at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, **November 19** at the Town of Wallkill Community Center. (Tom Nosworthy was a Navy veteran, former Town of Wallkill supervisor and town historian who died in September.)

Dinner includes pasta, salad, bread and beverages and is free to veterans and one guest each.

Reservations are required and can be made by calling Sal at 914-391-5099.

IN THE LOOP



Last weekend's Bake Sale raised **\$1,459** for the **Prayer Blanket Ministry**. That's one sweet total! But the icing on the cake is that for the first time in a long time JOANN Fabric and Crafts offered crowd-drawing sales. Coordinator Rebecca Suchy spent three hours in the store last Sunday afternoon and left with armloads of fleece for blankets at pre-pandemic prices!



Mark your calendars:

The next **Game Night** will take place at 7 on Friday evening, **November 22**. Don't forget your snacks and a favorite game to play.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Regular Sunday Collection

October 20-27 – \$ 5,537.04

Envelopes: \$ 2,566.00 – Online: \$ 2,971.04

THANK YOU!

LAST WEEKEND'S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m. – 100

10 a.m. – 130

'CONCLAVE' CONVERSATION

There will be a round-table discussion of the movie "**Conclave**," based on the 2016 novel by Robert Harris, after the 10 a.m. Mass on **November 10**. See the movie and then come share your thoughts!

It would be helpful for participants to sign up, which can be done in the hall after Mass..

LET'S TALK TURKEY

Signup for the **Senior Thanksgiving Dinner**, which begins at 6 p.m. on **Saturday, November 23**, continues this weekend after each Mass.

A traditional Thanksgiving meal will be served to registered parishioners, who are able to bring one guest each. The guest ticket is \$10.

Seating is limited, so sign up after Mass as soon as possible. Guest payment is due at that time, too.

AND MORE TURKEY

Donations for Holiday Baskets should be dropped off by this **Friday, November 8**. Needed are:

TURKEYS - ROASTING CHICKENS - HAMS
STUFFING - CANNED YAMS
INSTANT MASHED POTATOES
CANNED PEAS - CORN - GREEN BEANS
GRAVY MIX - JARS OF GRAVY
CRANBERRY SAUCE - MAYO - SUGAR
COFFEE - TEA - COCOA MIX
APPLE JUICE - CANNED FRUIT

52 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS!

Wreaths with Heart

It's not too early to start thinking about decking the halls – or your doors – for Christmas. Orders for **festively-decorated wreaths** will be taken beginning next weekend, **November 9-10**. They'll be here to pick up and then hang up the weekend after Thanksgiving, **November 30-December 1**.

The cost is \$25 each. Grave pillows, \$30, and grave blankets, \$45, are also available. The proceeds are donated to the American Heart Association.

Angels Inspire the Giving Tree

You'll be able to select your "angels" from **The Giving Tree** on Sunday, November 17 and Saturday, November 23. It was necessary to split days among two weekends to accommodate scheduling conflicts.

However, there will be more angel tags this year and an option to choose siblings. More details to follow.

Wrapped gifts – with the tag attached – are due Sunday, **December 15**.

Make your own Avent Wreath

Our annual **Advent wreath-making** afternoon will take place at 1 p.m. **Sunday, December 1**. There are supplies for the first 50 families to sign up, which can be done beginning this weekend in Deacon John Hall.

