

# A Pastor's Perspective

November 22, 2020 Bulletin



Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

In today's Gospel for the Feast of Christ the King, Jesus teaches us that ***"whatever you did for one of the least brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."***

Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow: With the Thanksgiving holiday fast approaching, I invite all of us to spend some time in prayer this coming week and to prepare either a mental or actual checklist of everyone and everything for which we are grateful. That might seem to be a daunting and even unappealing task given the difficulties of this past year. For many of us, however, those same challenges have highlighted and put into clearer perspective those people, events, occasions, and things that really matter most. For example, I have heard, seen or experienced things like the following:

- Many families who have reclaimed Sunday as a day truly dedicated to God and family once again (with Mass, either in person or virtually, followed by a family brunch or dinner);
- Individuals who make sacrifices to assist those struggling because of unemployment, lack of food, etc.;
- Parishioners who have checked in on their neighbors, expressing concern for their well-being, dropping off a hot meal, or performing a much-needed chore around their house or yard;
- Volunteers who have stepped up to greet and register fellow parishioners before Mass and/or to sanitize our churches after Mass; and this list could go on and on.

In fact, I invite you to bring your list with you to Thanksgiving Day Mass, whether you are attending virtually (9:00 a.m., livestreamed from St. Mary's Church) or in person, so that together we can give thanks and praise to God from Whom all blessings flow.

A Year-End Appeal for the 2020 Catholic Appeal: As of last Thursday, 587 parishioners (15% of all registered households) have made a donation or pledge to the annual Catholic Appeal totaling \$205,118. Our parish's monetary goal is \$242,911. Our participation goal is to have 100% of all parishioners make a contribution for the ministries and work of the Catholic Church in Maine. If you have not yet made a gift and are able to do so, please pray about making it before year end (it is tax deductible, in accordance with the law). Your gift, along with my gift and that of our fellow Catholics around Maine, supports the compassionate outreach of Catholic Charities Maine, including their work through St. Michael's Center here in the greater Bangor area; the sacramental ministry of priest-chaplains at our state's major medical centers; the pension plan for our dedicated Catholic school teachers; and many other programs that prepare our children for their sacraments, engage them in youth ministry, and make the church present on their college/university campuses. You can make a gift through the website of the diocese at: <https://portlanddiocese.org/Appeal>. Thank you for your thoughtful and prayerful consideration of this request, and for all you do to walk daily with Jesus, especially by recognizing his need in our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Discernment Evening for Possible Deacon Candidates: On Saturday evening, November 14, the priests and deacons of our parish hosted a gathering about the ministry of permanent deacons in the life of our parish and diocese. Seven men from St. Paul the Apostle Parish attended. We are grateful for their willingness to enter into this preliminary conversation about whether the Lord is calling them to serve as deacons. Please keep them in your prayers as they and the Church prayerfully reflect on and consider this call to ordained service. To learn more, contact Deacon Peter Bernier, director of the Office of Ministerial Services, at (207) 773-6471.

Peace, blessings, and a Happy Thanksgiving to one and all!

Msgr. Andrew