

SCRIPTURE READINGS

God uses money to confirm direction.
*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight” (Prov. 3:5-6).*

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the Lord, have spoken.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

PSALM 95:1-7a

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, *

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I

pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said, “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

**WE REMEMBER BEFORE GOD ALL PEOPLE
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN
DISRUPTED BY VIOLENCE OR WAR.**

**WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO WORK FOR PEACE
AND FOR NEW BEGINNINGS.**

- ✧ As we pray, let us remember Sharyon; Natalie; HT; the Phillips family; Debbie; Nini; Francisco; Anita; Zoey; Alex; Abel, Angelo; the Juanillo family; Tori; Sue; the Klamka family; Joe; Tommy; Alan; Terri; Colin; the Austin family; Emily; Haley & Andrew; Joyce; John; Susie; Michael; Ken; Linda; Robert; Scott; Steve; Mike; Betty; Marge; Elizabeth; Anthony; Randall; Lori; Hollis & Denise; Keira.
- ✧ We pray for those who have died, especially Ken Phillips.

Our altar flowers are given by
Ron & Marykay Nelson for their 35th wedding anniversary
and by Phyllis Brown's sons, Jeff & Les,
and her grandson, Steven
in celebration of her birthday

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MILITARY VETERANS MINISTRY MEETS THIS FRIDAY in the church kitchen at 10 AM to prepare & transport food, then serve approximately 80 veterans at the US Vets Center. We welcome all parish members willing to help.

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT IS DECEMBER 3. The following Saturday, December 9, at 11:00 a.m. we will green the Sanctuary as a sign that we are in the season of Advent and are anticipating Christmas. Refreshments will be available. Please let me know if you will join in this fun event. If you are a ministry leader, please tell your members to come and join us as well.

CHRIS BECKER DINING HALL We go to the soup kitchen next Sunday (Dec. 3). This is our biggest day of the year! We take clothing for cold weather such as jackets & sweatshirts, as well as blankets, sleeping bags, gloves, hats — anything to keep the folks warm. New socks and jeans or sweatpants are given out also (and maybe shoes). To get it all done, including serving food and giving chocolate, milk, shampoos, soaps, lotions we need lots of smiling faces. If you can help, let Dan know. Our visit is from about 4-6p.m. We'll give out the remainder of our winter items in January, so please continue bringing items to the church. Thank you so much for all the candy and clothes you have brought in. YOU MAKE THIS MINISTRY POSSIBLE AND YOU ARE WONDERFUL!

SOUL FOOD SUNDAY We continue sharing the book "Rediscover Jesus" by Matthew Kelly. We meet 9:10 to 9:55 AM. If you have questions, contact Dan Basche, Mary Grace Gannon, or Rose Hartley.

**THANK YOU TO ALL WHO FILLED
AN OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX!** We filled 89 boxes! That is 89 children who will receive a shoebox full of love, prayers, toys, and the opportunity to learn how to faithfully follow Christ and share Him with others!

**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA DEDICATION SIGN UP SHEETS ARE
IN THE ALTAR FLOWER NOTEBOOK**

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR PERRYVILLE WOMEN'S PRISON
Before & between services, everyone is invited to sign and mail Christmas cards to the ladies incarcerated in Perryville Women's Prison. The cards, envelopes, and address labels are on tables in the Parish Hall, but we need postage stamps! If each member of St. John's could bring just 10 postage stamps to donate, it would be enough to send out at least one card to every woman who has requested to be on the Christmas list and help us send December birthday cards as well. Please help us send these cards to those who are especially hard hit by the holidays and share the message of God's love with them this Christmas. Thank you so much for your help! PS: If you have any extra Christmas cards or birthday cards (that don't have glitter or removable parts), please consider donating them to this program for future use.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Today	Nursery care	7:45–11:15 AM
	Holy Eucharist Rite I	8 AM
	DOK meeting (CH 4 & 5)	9 AM
	Soul Food Sunday (CH3)	9:10 AM
	Sunday School (CH 2 & 8)	9:45 AM
	Youth Group (CH 6)	9:45 AM
	Holy Eucharist Rite II	10 AM
	Inquirer's Class (CH3)	11:30 AM
	Praise Band Practice	11:30 AM
Tue.	Joyful Noise practice	7 PM
Wed.	Holy Eucharist Rite II	6:30 PM
	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7 PM
Thu.	Women's Bible Study (MR)	6 PM
Fri.	Military Veterans/Meal Prep (K)	10 AM
Sat.	POW-WOW	8 AM
	REGROUP Lunch/ Refugee Ministry	12 Noon
Sun.	Nursery care	7:45–11:15 AM
	Healing Litany / Holy Eucharist Rite I	8 AM
	Soul Food Sunday (CH3)	9:10 AM
	Sunday School (CH 2 & 8)	9:45 AM
	Youth Group (CH 6)	9:45 AM
	Healing Litany / Holy Eucharist Rite II	10 AM
	Inquirer's Class (CH3)	11:30 AM
	Praise Band Practice	11:30 AM
	Chris Becker Dining Hall	4:10 PM

FOOD PANTRY

I would like to thank members of the congregation and members of the food pantry for the wonderful efforts in this year's Thanksgiving Dinner food drive. We were able to serve 50 families consisting of nearly 200 people this year.

Marc Delhotal