



# PAX CHRISTI

## *Catholic Community*

952-941-3150 • [www.paxchristi.com](http://www.paxchristi.com) • Thirty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time • Week of November 19, 2017

## BEFORE I FORGET...

*Written by Fr. Bill Murtaugh*

Next Sunday, November 26, is the **Feast of Christ the King**. It is a fitting celebration and culmination of all that Christ means to us and his exalted role at the right of Abba, God.

The gospel we will read is Matthew 25: 31-46, the parable of the final judgement, an elaborate description of the final verdict on human history. What will decide our final destiny is not the religion we belong to or the faith we confess during our life. The important thing is whether we live with compassion, helping those who suffer and need our help. What we do for those who are hungry, defenseless immigrants, people crippled by sickness, and prisoners forgotten by everyone, we are doing to God-made-flesh in Jesus. The religion that pleases God most is help for people who suffer.

This gospel story does not use big words like JUSTICE, SOLIDARITY, or DEMOCRACY. Words do no good without real help for the suffering. Jesus talks about food, clothing, something to drink, a place to stay. There is no talk about LOVE. That language is too abstract for Jesus. He almost never uses it! This story is about specifics. At the end of life we will not be asked about love; we will be asked what we have done for people, especially the poor, the hurting, the broken.

This is Jesus' "RADICAL" call to all humanity: Go to the people who suffer; care for the little ones. The only way to live life as Jesus wants it is by liberating people who suffer. No religion will be blessed by God unless it moves people to compassion for the last and the least.

The important thing in life is not what we say or think, or what we believe or write. The important thing in life, according to Jesus, is helping those who need us. I believe that Pope Francis is asking us to get back to gospel living and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus. Is that the reason why people of all faiths admire Pope Francis? Is the Holy Spirit nudging us to be a simple and compassionate Church?

Jesus' parable of the Final Judgement that we hear next Sunday forces us to ask very specific questions: Am I doing something to help someone? Whom can I help? What am I doing to bring a little justice, hope, solidarity, and friendship to the people I know? What more could I be doing?

This parable is Jesus' last and most concrete teaching: The Reign of God belongs and always will belong to those who love the poor and help them in their need. This is the most essential and definitive teaching. One day we will open our eyes to the surprising discovery that love is the only truth and that God reigns wherever women and men are able to love and care for others, who need us to help them as we would help Jesus Christ. Yes, we help the poor, but we are also asked to transform our society into one that serves the poor and dispossessed. Why? Just read the gospel.

The gospel writers leave no room for doubt. Jesus is entirely devoted to the people who need help. He can't pass them by. No one's suffering is foreign to him. He identifies with the smallest and most helpless, and does whatever he can for them. **Compassion** is the most important thing for him. That is the only way to be like God, in whose image we are created: Be compassionate as your God is compassionate. We shouldn't be surprised that when Jesus speaks of the Final Judgement, He presents compassion as the ultimate and decisive criteria by which our lives and our identification with Him will be judged.

In Matthew's story of the Final Judgement, all the nations appear before the Son of Man, that is, before the compassionate Jesus. He doesn't distinguish between the chosen people and the pagans. He says nothing about different religions and cults. He talks about something very human that everyone understands. What have we done for people who are suffering around us?

The speaker is a judge who identifies with all who live in poverty and in need. 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 addresses those who lived their lives without compassion...those who turned their backs on the suffering have turned away from Jesus.

We don't need to wait for the Final Judgement. Right now we are turning towards or turning away from those who suffer. Right now we are turning towards or turning away from Christ. Live Matthew 25. We are called by Christ to do so.

## IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN THE PAX CHRISTI CHILDREN'S CHOIR!

The Children's Choir is still open to enthusiastic singers between grades 2 and 6. We rehearse on Sundays at 10:00am and usually sing at one Mass each month. We will also be singing at the Children's Christmas Eve Mass beginning at 1:45pm on Christmas Eve. You do not need to make each rehearsal or Mass to participate. Contact Amanda Tahnk-Johnson, [Amanda.TahnkJohnson@gmail.com](mailto:Amanda.TahnkJohnson@gmail.com), with questions.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MOMS ROCK EVENT: THE ISSUE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Wednesday, November 29, 9:30–11:30am, Room 212 RSVP

### FIRST FRIDAY COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Friday, December 1, beginning with Mass at 8:30am

### PAX YOUTH WAYFINDERS: FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Friday, December 1, 6:00–9:30pm, 9TH–12TH GRADE YOUTH RSVP

### TWELFTH ANNUAL HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE

Saturday, December 2, 9:00am–3:00pm

### ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAKE SALE: BAKED GOODS NEEDED

DROP OFF IN ROOM 111: Friday, December 1, 4:00–8:00pm, or  
Saturday, December 2, 7:30–8:45am

### SHARING YOUR GIFTS: AN INDOOR LABYRINTH WALK

Tuesday, December 5, 6:30–8:30pm RSVP

### FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY

Holy Day Mass, Friday, December 8, 8:30am

### HONORING OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

Saturday, December 9 at the 5:00pm Mass

### "SHARE THE JOY" CHRISTMAS DRIVE

DROP OFF GIFTS AT DOORS 1 AND 3 IN DESIGNATED BINS, BY December 10

### CHRISTMAS CAROLING AT LOCAL CARE CENTERS

Sunday, December 10, 2:00–4:00pm, Room 111 RSVP

### BOOMERS AND BEYOND EVENT: CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Saturday, December 16, 11:15am–2:30pm RSVP

## PRAYER CORNER

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE LOVED ONES:

Scott, Darlene, Jim, Tara, MacLynn, Donna, Bethany, Donna, Ryan, Fred, S.U., Dan, Randy, Dale, Ben, Kelly, Judy, Diane, Kathleen, Christine, Joe, Jeannette, Mary, and Irene.

Pax Christi offers, as a community, the gift of prayer. If you would like to have your name listed in this Prayer Corner during a time of need, contact Pastoral Care, 952-941-3150.

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS STORY at 1:45pm; Mass at 2:00pm

Each year, Pax Christi's young people take the lead in being ministers of the Word and music for a special Children's Christmas Eve Mass. This is one of our most treasured traditions here at Pax Christi. Our Children's Christmas Eve celebration begins with 3rd and 4th grade youth telling the story of Christmas in word and song at 1:45pm. Mass begins at 2:00pm.

Third and fourth-grade students are invited to participate in telling the Christmas Story in word and song as prelude to this Christmas Eve Mass.

The Pax Christi Children's Choir, whose members are 2nd through 6th graders, will support the music for this special Children's Christmas Mass. Anyone wishing to join the Children's Choir is invited to get connected now (see page one for more information), as this is a great way to get to know the choir and have a special role in our community Christmas celebrations.

**Rehearsal for all is Saturday, December 23, 9:00am–12:00noon**

Participants and their parents will be required to attend the one and only dress rehearsal. In order to successfully create this special liturgy, parent volunteers are needed. Registration is required no later than December 9. Visit [www.paxchristi.com/childrenschristmass](http://www.paxchristi.com/childrenschristmass) for online registration or contact Joan Howe-Pullis, 952-405-7247. Questions? Contact the Parish Office, 952-941-3150.

## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

### Monday, November 20

8:30am MASS  
5:00pm Tai Chi  
6:30pm JustFaith  
6:30pm Scout Pack 348  
7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 370

### Tuesday, November 21

8:30am MASS  
9:00am Rosary Group  
2:30pm Chair Yoga  
6:00pm 50+ Basketball  
7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal  
7:00pm Venturing Crew 370  
7:00pm Alanon  
7:00pm Alcoholics Anonymous

### Wednesday, November 22

9:30am Angel Hour  
11:00am Tai Chi  
6:00pm MASS

**ADDITIONAL DETAILS AND EVENT  
REGISTRATION AT  
[WWW.PAXCHRISTI.COM](http://WWW.PAXCHRISTI.COM)**

### Thanksgiving Day

#### Thursday, November 23

9:00am THANKSGIVING DAY MASS  
1:30pm Thanksgiving Meal

### Friday, November 24

PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NO MASS AND THE BUILDING/OFFICE IS CLOSED FOR THE DAY

### Saturday, November 25

SHARE THE JOY DRIVE  
NURSERY CLOSED FOR THE WEEKEND  
9:00am Overeaters Anonymous  
9:00am Women's AA Group  
4:00pm Private Reconciliation  
5:00pm MASS - FR. MURTAUGH

### Sunday, November 26

HOSPITALITY FOLLOWING MORNING MASSES  
NURSERY CLOSED FOR THE WEEKEND  
SHARE THE JOY DRIVE  
9:00am MASS - FR. POULIOT  
10:00am GIFT Married Couples  
11:00am MASS - FR. POULIOT  
5:00pm MASS - FR. MURTAUGH



Week #19 Contributions

YTD through Week #19

17–18 Contributions Goal – \$2,785,000

This Year  
Actual

71,408

949,124

This Year  
Budget

65,000

918,000

Variance from  
Budget

6,408

31,124

Last Year  
Actual

942,233

Variance from  
Last Year

6,891

EFT and credit card giving available. Visit [www.paxchristi.com](http://www.paxchristi.com) for more information.