

# The **COLLECTION** Basket

**NOVEMBER 2020**

**Family Life Office**

2713 West Chestnut Avenue

Altoona, PA 16601

(814) 695-5579

familylife@dioceseaj.org

Volume XXXV, Number 11

## IDEAS FOR LIVING BETTER FROM THE FAMILY LIFE OFFICE

### *Family Ritual*

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.” – Colossians 3:15

It is often difficult to be at peace, especially with all of the division in the world today. And it is difficult to be thankful, when you see so much uncertainty. But the peace that comes from Christ is not one that says, “everything is fine.” It is a peace that strengthens us, even when “everything is not fine.” A big part of that peace comes from recognizing the blessings in our lives.

This holiday season, take time with your children to remember all the blessings that God has given you. Take into special account the people in your lives who love you and whom you love. Pray for peace together in your own lives. And if during the course of the holidays, or the election season, you feel someone in your life is being aggressive, contrary or difficult, allow the peace of Christ to rule in your heart. That will show the power of faith to your children.

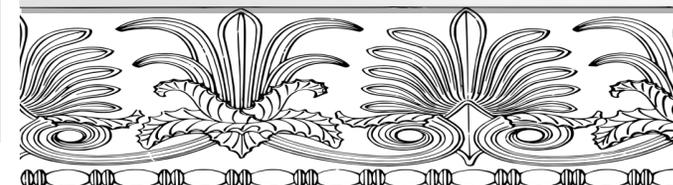
**Andre McCarville**  
Director of Family Life  
Diocese of Altoona Johnstown



Charity unites us to God.  
There is nothing mean in  
charity, nothing arrogant.  
Charity knows no schism,  
does not rebel, does all things  
in concord. In charity all the  
elect of God have been made  
perfect.

**Saint Clement** 35AD-99AD

*First epistle to the Corinthians.*



## **Thanksgiving**



### **A Prayer from Fr. Brian Cavanaugh, TOR**

“For the haunting rhythm of our universe,  
we thank you, Creator and Lord.

For the still-reaching reachers of our world,  
we thank you, Creator and Lord.

For giving us a history and a destiny,  
we thank you, Redeemer and Lord.

For becoming yourself, a man among men and  
women,  
we thank you, Redeemer and Lord.

For drawing us into the mystery of life and love,  
we thank you, Spirit and Lord.

For touching us with stars and blades of grass,  
we thank you, Spirit and Lord.”

## *Families and the Gospel*

**November 1, 2020: All Saints** (MT 5:1-12a)

Anyone can be a “saint” in front of strangers but the daily acts of patience, acceptance, forgiveness, listening, and dying to oneself within the family are religious acts. Family life is the turf of sanctity.

**November 2, 2020: All Souls** (MT 5:1-12a)

Our loved ones, who have stepped through the door of death, are now at rest, free of all burdens. Our hope is that as they go home to the Lord they bring their love and concern for us with them. Death cannot totally separate families; our love binds us together forever.

**November 8, 2020: Thirty-Second Sunday** (MT 25: 1-13)

The bridesmaids in today’s gospel were considered “foolish” because they let their lamps go out. Don’t be foolish. Pay attention to the small acts necessary to keep the flame alive in all your relationships.

**November 15, 2020: Thirty-Third Sunday** (MT 25:14-30)

As the man in today’s gospel entrusted his servants with his money, so God has “entrusted” our family to us. Like the good servants we are expected, not to play it safe, but to selflessly and totally invest ourselves in each other.

**November 22, 2020: Christ the King** (MT 25:31-46)

Families feed the hungry, give drinks to thirsty toddlers and welcome strangers and even estranged relatives into our homes. We clothe children and visit family members who are sick and imprisoned. The routine actions of family life are religious and priestly for we make Christ present in what we do. Family life is Beatitude life.

**November 26, 2020: Thanksgiving** (LK 21:20-28)

As we gather to give thanks this week, we must also ask how well we share with “the least.” Happiness is secured not by having, but by sharing.

Reprinted with permission: A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar



### **On Kindness**

Is being *kind* just for weak and defenseless people who have few other choices? That’s not what Adam Phillips and Barbara Taylor, the authors of On Kindness, concluded after researching how kindness has been viewed over the centuries.

The world’s religions see *kindness and charity as virtues*. There are people, however, who believe human beings are – and must only be – self-interested, unless they’re saints. But mere mortals know the rewards of kindness, too.

The authors quote a wealthy stockbroker after he started volunteering. He said, “Helping kids just makes me so happy. I feel like a different person.”

The lesson? Be kind – despite the pressures of living in a competitive society. Be kind – despite the realities of cruelty and aggression in the world. Be kind – despite the temptation to act in only selfish ways. Be kind – and you will be both sharing and receiving a taste of the divine.

**Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life and honor.**  
(Proverbs 21:20)

*Grant us the wisdom, Holy Spirit, to appreciate the value of kindness.*

Christopher News Notes  
12 East 48th St.  
New York, NY 10017

