

*We are one diocesan faith family, children of God,  
Christ-centered, and Spirit-led  
working together to build the Kingdom of God in Central Florida.*



**The Catholic Foundation  
of Central Florida**  
Inspire Giving. Fund God's Work.



November  
2021

The Catholic Foundation  
of Central Florida  
Newsletter

*Bearer of gratitude make the world better.* When we think of **gratitude** we think of an action – saying thanks perhaps. The dictionary simply states that gratitude is the state of being grateful. Science tells us gratitude is not just an action, it is a positive emotion that serves a biological purpose.

Many studies have been done on gratitude and scientists have measured its positive effects. Harvard Medical School defines gratitude: **"a thankful appreciation for what an individual receives, whether tangible or intangible... As a result, gratitude helps people connect to something larger than themselves as individuals – whether to other people, nature or a higher power."**

*When defining gratitude we most often see that it is an action or state of being*

*in response to something good.*

*However, St. Paul advises the Thessalonians that  
the will of God is to give thanks in all circumstances.*

St. Paul, having preached the Gospel had converted some Jews and a great number of Gentiles in Thessalonica. After he departed to Athens he heard that

the converts in Thessalonica were under great persecution and he sent Timothy to strengthen and comfort them. Meanwhile, he had gone from Athens to Corinth and while there he wrote both of his Epistles to the Thessalonians encouraging them to be thankful even while being persecuted.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us ***"Thanksgiving characterizes the prayer of the Church which, in celebrating the Eucharist, reveals and becomes more fully what she is."*** Our Lord's sacrifice at the time of his death, through human vision and understanding, did not appear to be something to praise and offer thanksgiving. Our risen Lord helped clarify the apostles' confusion.

***We know God has a plan and we know our salvation is part of His plan.***

***The Catechism continues, "every event and need can become an offering of thanksgiving."***

Pope Francis addressed a general audience in December 2020 and noted that only one of the lepers, "a Samaritan, a sort of 'heretic' for the Jews of that time", returned to thank Jesus for healing him. He commented, ***"This narrative so to speak, divides the world in two: those who do not give thanks and those who do; those who take everything as if it is owed them, and those who welcome everything as a gift, as grace."***

***Pope Francis also said, "Above all, let us not forget to thank: if we are bearers of gratitude, the world itself will become better, even if only a little bit, but that is enough to transmit a bit of hope."***

Science has proven that being filled with and experiencing gratitude is good for us as it connects us to each other, Creation and God. ***Gratitude is like a gift though and to fully realize its purpose – it must be given away.*** Our Church and apostles reveal that being bearers of gratitude is not only good for us but also good for the world.

The Catholic Foundation is grateful for our diocesan family and the gifts of time, talent and treasure generously shared to build the Kingdom of God here in Central Florida. As we enter this Advent season let's be mindful of being thankful in all circumstances and bearing our gratitude with others. Together we will bring hope and the light of Christ to our lives and our community.

In Christ's everlasting peace,

Kimberlee Riley, CAP  
President & CEO

***In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:18***

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## In This Month's Newsletter:

- November's Intentions from the Pope
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## THE HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS FOR THE MONTH OF: ***NOVEMBER 2021***

### **People Who Suffer from Depression**

We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.



**DISCOVER THE POPE'S MONTHLY INTENTIONS FOR 2021**

#WeAreCalled

# Tomorrow is CATHOLIC GIVING TUESDAY!



#CatholicGivingTuesday | Nov. 30, 2021  
[www.CatholicGivingTuesday.org](http://www.CatholicGivingTuesday.org)

*"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace."  
1 Peter 4:10*

We are so blessed to have many ministries throughout the diocese which provide for the spiritual and corporal needs of our community. Your donation on this #CatholicGivingTuesday will provide financial resources to your favorite ministry as we all continue to meet the increased needs caused by the pandemic.

We invite you to follow your Catholic heart with a donation to **help sustain the parishes, schools, and ministries in our diocese for which you are grateful.** Our goal is to have **225 people donate** to their favorite Catholic charity on #CatholicGivingTuesday to lift up the collective impact of charitable giving in our community. Your gift of any size is a beautiful sign of your support for the work of the Catholic Church in Central Florida.

**GIVE TODAY TO CATHOLIC GIVING TUESDAY**

# NATIONAL PHILANTHROPY DAY 2021



*National Philanthropy Day recognizes the profound impact philanthropy has on the fabric of society.* According to the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) Central Florida Chapter, "The program honors individuals, corporations, foundations, civic and service groups, and nonprofit organizations in Central Florida whose efforts change the face of our community." Several of The Catholic Foundation team are honored to be members of the AFP Central

Florida Chapter to work together to advance philanthropy by helping people and organizations practice effective and ethical fundraising.

More than 400 community leaders gathered on Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 to celebrate the impact positive philanthropy has on our Central Florida region. The Catholic Foundation nominated [Bishop Grady Villas](#), [Catholic Charities of Central Florida](#), and former team member's daughter, Raquel Caramello, and was blessed to also be selected as an honoree this year. The broad community gained awareness about the many ways our Catholic Church supports our community – we educate, we house, we clothe, we feed, we provide medical and behavioral healthcare, and more. **We don't only serve Catholics – we serve all because we are Catholic.**



**National Philanthropy Day Celebration Awardees & Honorees**

**David R. Roberts Youth in Philanthropy Award**  
(sponsored by Edyth Bush Charitable Foundation)  
Raquel Caramello – Morning Star Student

**Creating Change Honoree**



(sponsored by UCF Advancement)  
Bishop Grady Villas – Accepted by Kevin Johnson

**Corporate & Foundation Engagement Honoree**

(sponsored by PNC Financial Services Group)

The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida – Accepted by Tom Chandler

**Community Impact Honoree**

(sponsored by Nemours Children's Health)

Catholic Charities of Central Florida – Accepted by Gary Tester

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## Consecrated Life and Its Mission in the Church and in the World

**~A Reflection by:** Sister Teresa Maria, Servant of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary;  
Executive Assistant to the Bishop of Orlando; Board of Director, The Catholic Foundation

In October 1994 the world Synod of Bishops considered the consecrated life and its mission. On March 25, 1996, the Feast of the Annunciation, Pope John Paul II issued an Apostolic Exhortation, *Vita Consecrata* (the Consecrated Life), based on his reflections on the proceedings of the Synod. In this important document, St. John Paul II presented to all members of the faithful his reflections on the gift and mission of the consecrated life at the service of the Church.

"The Consecrated Life, deeply rooted in the example and teaching of Christ the Lord, is a gift of God the Father to his Church through the Holy Spirit. By the profession of the evangelical counsels the characteristic features of Jesus — the chaste, poor, and obedient one — are made constantly "visible" in the midst of the world and the eyes of the faithful are directed towards the mystery of the Kingdom of God already at work in history, even as it awaits its full realization in heaven. In every age, there have been men and women who, obedient to the Father's call and to the prompting of the Spirit, have chosen this special way of following Christ, in order to devote themselves to him with an "undivided" heart (cf. 1 Cor 7:34). Like the Apostles, they too have left everything behind in order to be with Christ and to put themselves, as he did, at the service of God and their brothers and sisters. In this way, through the many charisms of spiritual and apostolic life bestowed on them by the Holy Spirit, they have helped to make the mystery and mission of the Church shine forth, and in doing so have contributed to the renewal of society."<sup>1</sup>

The religious vocation is, in essence, a call of love and for love. We must find its beginnings in a mysterious dialogue that takes place between the Heart of God and the heart of the human person. The "follow me" which Christ speaks to the heart has caused a marvelous interior revolution that moved you to 'leave everything in order to go after Him' (cf. Mk 10:21). That "follow me" should resound within the rest of our lives, making our fiat a constant echo that beautifies the face of the Church and witnesses before the world the supremacy of the love of God. <sup>2</sup>

We were created by love and with a loving divine reason for our existence. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born, I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you." (Jr 1:5) 5 It is a gift of God, knowing that our life, as the Holy Father Benedict XVI has told us, "is not an accident," but a fruit of the design of love of God. Our greatest task before this free gift of God, is to discover the vocation of my life...what is the path of love and total donation of self by which I will achieve the full realization of my being? What is the design of love, the plan of love for which I was created? When God thought of you, what did He think? What did He say to your soul? 3

What unique and unrepeatable role should you occupy in history? How does God need me to build His Kingdom here on earth? How can I be leaven in the world so that the values of the Kingdom may build a society, a new civilization? How can I spread His Word, the seed, in the soil of the contemporary world? How can I live my primary vocation to love the Lord with all my heart, all my soul, and all my strength? How can I do the greatest good for humanity? How can I make of my life a sincere gift of self, in totality, unconditionality, and permanence? Only by asking ourselves these questions, *"life takes on the value of a 'gift received which, by its nature, tends to become a good given."* (World Day for Vocations, 2001)<sup>4</sup>

A vocation is a personal gift, but not private...consecrated love should always pass through the world doing good, like Jesus did. A vocation is not individual property, but a personal donation to build a new civilization, a new world, a new land, a new humanity. God needs us to continue saving humanity. He needs our 'yes' to continue doing good. God calls us to become participants in His salvific mission in each historical moment. The religious vocation is a 'yes' to God and a 'yes' to man, to those who depend on our total dedication to God to serve them with the goodness of the love that God has poured into our hearts (cf. Rom 5).

### **Preparing Our Hearts with the Oil (cf. Mt 25:1-13)**

God is Love....and deserves full correspondence of our hearts...a response of love. To come to discover the "precious pearl," the vocation hidden from eternity in the Heart of God for which we were created, it is necessary to prepare our heart with the oil that keeps the lamp burning so that when He comes to find us, we might be ready. It is indispensable to have the oil of the Sacramental life, of the Holy Mass, of assiduous prayer, of a sincere and heart-to-heart dialogue, dialogue of listening to His Word, and of listening to the voice of Our Mother and Teacher, the Church, in the lamp of our heart. The oil of a filial relationship with the Mother of Christ and Our Mother, who is the first heart totally consecrated to God and in whose maternal womb all vocations are conceived and given birth, is indispensable. It is also necessary to have the adequate help of a loving and very wise spiritual director. The clear understanding of the dignity of the gift and the dignity of the human response; the humble and certain perception that the gifts and goods are received to be given, and a life of generous giving and service to others.. Without ever forgetting that "to deny ourselves" is a necessary plan of life to strengthen our will for greater choices of love.

"Open your hearts to Christ, to His law of love without placing conditions on your availability, without fear of giving a definitive response because love never sets, it has no limits. Believe in Christ and in His program of life for you. Only Christ has the words of eternal life." (St. John Paul II, Address in Spain, 1982, trans. SCTJM) His call is demanding because he invites you to be 'captured' completely by Him, in a way your existence is contemplated under a different light. God counts on you, and His plans, in a certain way, depend on your collaboration, on the offering of your life and the generosity with which you follow Him." (Address, 1980, trans. SCTJM) 5

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1 VITA CONSECRATA, St. John Paul II

2 A LOVE CAPABLE OF FAITHFULNESS, Mother Adela Galindo, Foundress of SCTJM, First Profession, Jan. 24, 2006.

3 A PROFOUND GAZE AT VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT, Contemplating the Heart of St. John Paul II, Words from the Heart of Mother Adela Galindo, Foundress of SCTJM.

4 A PROFOUND GAZE AT VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT, Contemplating the Heart of St. John Paul II, Words from the Heart of Mother Adela Galindo, Foundress of SCTJM.

5 A PROFOUND GAZE AT VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT, Contemplating the Heart of St. John Paul II, Words from the Heart of Mother Adela Galindo, Foundress of SCTJM.

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## CATHOLIC CHARITIES: SPECIAL COLLECTION

### ONE FAITH FAMILY ~ ONE BODY OF CHRIST

#### ***Serving Our Sisters and Brothers:***

We are called to return our blessings to God and your generosity impacts lives. Whether they are young or old, hungry and homeless, Catholic Charities of Central Florida sees the face of God in those in need.



The mission of Catholic Charities of Central Florida is to provide vital social services to individuals and families, regardless of their religious, social or economic background. These services include emergency financial assistance, food, counseling, medical care, transitional housing, and affordable housing programs.

**SUPPORT CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF CENTRAL FLORIDA**

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## THANK YOU TO OUR OUTGOING FOUNDING BOARD MEMBERS





PICTURED, LEFT TO RIGHT: RICHARD STRUBE, J. STEPHEN ZEPF, ALLAN E. KEEN: Chairmain 2010-2013

We offer our deep gratitude to our outgoing founding board members: **Allan Keen, Rick Strube, and Steve Zepf.**

Thank you for your vision and all of your hard work and dedication in establishing a foundation we are able to build upon. ***The Foundation appreciates your leadership and guidance and we wish you abundant blessings! May God bless you.***

## THANK YOU FOR ACCEPTING THE VICE-CHAIR ROLE: **KEVIN BOWLER**



### Vice-Chair

*Parishioner of Prince of Peace, Ormond Beach*

Kevin F. Bowler is President of Daytona Beverages, LLC, distributors of Anheuser-Busch brands and other craft and micro products. Kevin assumed this role in 1995 when he left Anheuser-Busch, Inc. of St. Louis, Missouri, and moved to Daytona Beach, Florida.

During his twenty-six-year employment at Anheuser-Busch, Kevin served as President of Eagle Snacks, which at the time was the second-largest snack food company in the United States. His involvement with Eagle Snacks began at its

inception as an Anheuser-Busch Company, where his contributions resulted in the growth of over \$500 million in sales.

Since moving to Daytona Beach, Kevin has held various offices of community groups including board member for the United Way of Volusia County, The Daytona Beach Chamber, Vice-Chair Business Development Partnership, The Mayor's Task Force on Special Events, Civic Pride, and numerous other civic and charitable activities. In addition, he aids with the organization of the annual Michelob Ultra Invitational Golf Tournament benefiting the Boys & Girls Club of Volusia/Flagler Counties, which has provided more than \$1.5 million to their clubs.

When asked about his new role with the Board of The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida, Mr. Bowler said, *"I am excited about the opportunity to work with Tom Chandler (Board Chair) and the rest of the Catholic Foundation in the continued development of a sustainable business model which will, thru God's providence, inspire passionate and purposeful giving to allow through the foundation's gifts and earnings to complement the work of other Diocesan entities in shining God's light and goodness on those in need in our diocesan community."*

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Kevin received his undergraduate degree from Providence College in Providence, Rhode Island, and received his MBA from Hofstra University in New York.

Kevin and his wife, Jennifer Bowler, reside in Ormond Beach. He is fiercely proud of their seven children and all of their grandchildren.

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## **THE BLESSINGS OF FINANCIAL WELLNESS: *REACHING YOUR FINANCIAL and PHILANTHROPIC GOALS***



We know the end-of-year is a time with important deadlines for those we serve. That's why we put together a list of **helpful tips** to help guide your end-of-year giving.

1. Each taxpayer is eligible for a \$300 above the line charitable deduction on their 2021 tax returns – Donations must be made by December 31<sup>st</sup> via cash, check or credit card!

2. Itemizers can benefit from "bundling" donations using a Donor Advised Fund – take your maximum deduction this year and make donations over a number of years – visit [www.CatholicDAF.org](http://www.CatholicDAF.org).
3. Double the benefits with a donation of stock – receive an immediate tax deduction for the fair market value of the stock AND avoid capital gains tax on the growth of the stock!

Find more details on these and other tips from The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida at [www.cfocf.org/givingtips](http://www.cfocf.org/givingtips) or contact Madelyn Weed, CFRE, CAP at [mweed@cfocf.org](mailto:mweed@cfocf.org) or (407) 664-7856.

**The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida**  
Inspire Giving. Fund God's Work.

**GREAT OPPORTUNITIES TO MAXIMIZE YOUR YEAR END GIVING IMPACT**

Did you know that 30% of U.S. annual giving happens in December? And December 31st is the most generous day of the year! The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act created two temporary changes to the deductibility of charitable donations that donors can take advantage of by December 31st: One is a universal deduction that could benefit more than 90% of taxpayers who take the standard deduction! The other is meant to incentivize the remaining high-income earners (and businesses.) If you have questions or for assistance on maximizing the impact of your year end giving, contact Madelyn Weed, CFRE, CAP, Vice President of Donor Services at [mweed@cfocf.org](mailto:mweed@cfocf.org) or (407) 664-7856.

**CARES ACT CREATES CHARITABLE GIVING TAX INCENTIVES FOR EVERYONE**

**\$300**  
Above the line deduction

For the 9-out of 10 taxpayers who no longer itemize, the CARES Act allows these donors to deduct donations to charity of up to \$300 on their 2020 federal tax returns, even though they take the standard deduction. (A married couple filing jointly can claim up to \$600 this year's deduction under the CARES Act must be in cash (includes checks and credit cards) and given to a 501(c)(3) public charity.

**Itemizers deduct up to 100% of AGI**

For taxpayers who itemize and desire to make a major impact on their favorite charities in 2020, the CARES Act raised the bar for the deductible amount of donations from 30% to 50% of their adjusted gross income, so (hypothetically) they could donate their entire year's income and walk away with no taxes owed! (For businesses, the new law also increases the limit on the deduction for charitable contributions from 30% to 25% of a corporation's taxable income.)

**IRA**  
Qualified Charitable Distributions

The CARES Act extension reinstated the required minimum distributions for IRAs and retirement plans. Donors 70 1/2 or older can benefit from making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from their IRAs of up to \$10,000 this year. In addition to the tax benefits, a QCD (this year) reduces your account balance and, therefore, future RMDs for you and your beneficiaries.

**BENEFITS OF BUNDLING WITH A DONOR ADVISED FUND**

Donors who give annually to one or more charities and are looking to maximize their tax deductions could consider bundling charitable gifts with a their own Donor Advised Fund. Making a larger donation in a single year versus spreading smaller donations across several years can be worthwhile from a tax perspective, even if you are already able to itemize. (Note: Donations to Donor Advised Funds are tax-deductible but do not qualify for additional CARES Act listed benefits above.)

For example, consider a married couple that donates \$4,000 to charity each year. This donation will not create an additional tax benefit if their total deductions do not exceed the standard amount. However, by saving up several years worth of donations and making a bigger donation in a single year, they can itemize in that year and receive a tax benefit for that donation and still distribute their \$4,000 to charities annually over those several years. For more information visit: [www.cfocf.org/DAM](http://www.cfocf.org/DAM)

**Example of Bundling**

**DOUBLE BENEFITS WITH GIFTS OF STOCK**

By donating appreciated stock, donors receive an immediate tax deduction on the fair market value of their stock gift AND avoid capital gains. The Catholic Foundation processes stock gifts for all parishes, schools and ministries throughout the Diocese of Orlando at zero cost to the entity, so 100% of the gift goes directly to your favorite entity. For more details visit: [www.cfocf.org/Stock](http://www.cfocf.org/Stock)

## Great Opportunities to Maximize Your Year End Giving Impact

## LITURGICAL LIVING: GROW YOUR FAITH

### NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH OF...



#### BLACK CATHOLIC HISTORY

Meeting in Fordham University in New York, the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus of the United States voted on Tuesday, July 24, 1990 to designate November as Black Catholic History



#### ALL SOULS

For the Catholic Church, November begins with All Saints Day and All Souls Day, as the Month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

Month. November marks a time when the Church prays for all saints and souls in loving remembrance, as well as a time to recall the saints and souls of Africa and the African Diaspora.

In our own diocese we have the faithful community of St. Andrew Catholic Church and School established in 1957 and 1961 respectively to share the light of Christ through their value of cultural responsiveness.

***Their mission is to proclaim the Gospel by being a beacon of hope for the marginalized in our community so that all may experience a sense of warm welcome, generous hospitality and unconditional belonging.***

**We invite you to prayerfully consider a charitable gift to this parish in our diocesan faith family to celebrate Black Catholic History month.**

**Donate to St. Andrew Catholic Church & School**

All Saints' Day (November 1st) was formally started by Pope Boniface IV, who consecrated the Pantheon at Rome to the Virgin Mary and all the Martyrs on May 13 in 609 AD. Boniface IV also established All Souls' Day (November 2nd), which follows All Saints.

In communion with this month's remembrance and celebration of the rich heritage of Black Catholics, we prayerfully reflect also, specifically on the opportunity to review the lives of saints of African descent in the first 300 years of the Church on Nov. 1, All Saints' Day and Nov. 2, All Souls' Day, to remember all the enslaved African people who lost their lives in the Middle Passage crossing of the Atlantic Ocean and those who died as enslaved persons on American soil.

### **St. Katharine Drexel, our patron saint of philanthropy, and determined ally.**

In 1891, she founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People. Over the course of 60 years—up to her death in 1955 at age 96—Mother Katharine spent about \$20 million in support of her work, building schools and churches and paying the salaries of teachers in rural schools for blacks and Indians.

On October 1, 2000, Pope John Paul II solemnly decreed that Katharine Drexel, Founder of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People, is a saint of the Catholic Church.

Katharine Drexel's legacy lives through the children whose lives she has touched directly and through her sisters. Her order, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, today has 245 members who are pursuing their original apostolate of working with African-Americans and Native Americans in 21 states and Haiti, the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

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## **THANKSGIVING: A CATHOLIC PERSPECTIVE**

As the saying goes, "We don't always know what we have until it's gone."



The last two years have given us challenges and trials no one expected. One minute everyone was looking forward to spring vacations and summer was just around the corner. March Madness was about to begin. New movies were set to premiere. Life was ready to be lived. But within the span of a few days, everything changed. COVID-19 became the forefront of our lives. New concerns over health and safety, including the well-being of loved ones, dominated our lives. People were worried about money, their jobs, and how the pandemic would change the way we live. These were unprecedented times and it seemed every day brought a new reminder of how much was different.

Thanksgiving is a holiday many of us spend surrounded by family and friends. Hours of preparation lead to dinners filled with turkey, stuffing, macaroni-and-cheese, and sweet rolls. In the days leading up to Thanksgiving, one of the most common questions to be asked is "Who are you getting together with?" Food and family are synonymous and Thanksgiving is a time to receive generous helpings of both. More than food, there are other traditions families hold dear. Some families watch football while others spend the day playing cards. Keeping with the spirit of this holiday, some families even gather together to visit retirement communities or to volunteer their time, to share the blessings they have received. Spending this time together is so important that people may travel for hours just to spend a few days with the people they love most.

The Thanksgiving of November 26, 2020 was different. Families were divided across states and continents. The dinners were made and some of the favorite foods were prepared, but there were less people to share them with. There was no extended family and friends sitting at the same table. We were all giving thanks for life and our health, but without that poignant reminder of all that we are grateful for: family.

***This year, let us be more thankful than ever for God's grace and mercies and for all of the blessings we have received. When we gather together with our families, we should take time to reflect on everything we have been given, no matter how small, and give thanks by sharing those blessings with others.***

***As Catholics we are called to the table to give thanks for our gifts every mass, a gift we did not all get to partake of last year.***

At the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the priest leads the Church in a prayer of thanksgiving to God. The word thanksgiving itself holds a special meaning to the mass, as "Eucharist" means "thanksgiving." The bread of the Eucharist is meant to come from the community as an offering of gratefulness.

***This year, remember that when we give the gifts we have received to others, we are joining in the sacrifice as an offering.***

***We give thanks to all the donors who have shared their blessings by giving to or through The Catholic Foundation. Each gift is a reminder of how fortunate we are and the joys that are only found in God's love and grace.***

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## *This first Sunday of Advent*

we read, pray, and reflect on the hope God's plan gives us, and we meditate on the promise of Christ's coming glory-filled return.

Wishing you a  
peaceful & prayerful  
Liturgical season



## **Advent: November 28th**

### ***First Sunday of Advent***

The First Sunday of Advent marks the new Liturgical Year when the Church shifts into a new Lectionary Cycle for Sundays, with 2021-22 from Year C, the Gospel of St. Luke. ***In this new Liturgical Year, the Church not only wishes to indicate the beginning of a period but the beginning of a renewed commitment to the faith by all those who follow Christ, the Lord.*** This time of prayer and path of penance that is so powerful, rich and intense, endeavors to give us a renewed impetus to truly welcome the message of the One who was incarnated for us. In fact, the entire Liturgy of the Advent season, will spur us to an awakening in our Christian life and will put us in a 'vigilant' disposition, as Advent is not just looking back at the first coming of Christ at Christmas, but our personal preparation for His Second Coming:

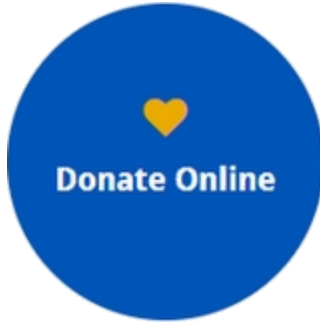
***'Awaken! Remember that God comes! Not yesterday, not tomorrow, but today, now! The one true God, "the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob," is not a God who is there in Heaven, unconcerned with us and our history, but he is the-God-who-comes.'***



# About The Catholic Foundation of Central Florida

## Our Mission:

To inspire and increase giving, to prudently invest the resources entrusted to us, and to capably steward those charitable gifts to support the spiritual and corporal needs of the community of the Diocese of Orlando.



*Stay Connected With Us Everyday!*



The Catholic Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit foundation committed to fostering and stewarding philanthropy to address community issues and meet the spiritual and corporal needs of our community year-round. As a proven trustworthy philanthropic organization to give to and give through, we have received the Guidestar Platinum Seal of Transparency. Fully endorsed by the Diocese of Orlando and its Bishop, we work extensively with Catholic parishes, schools and nonprofit organizations aligned with Catholic social values to help inspire giving and secure resources needed to further their long-term goals.



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[www.cfocf.org](http://www.cfocf.org)