

Grow

November Theme: Even when times are tough, we explore what we have to be thankful for. We will draw parallels between the Thanksgiving holiday table and Eucharistic table. We continue to discover joy and hope, even amidst difficult circumstances.

Scripture: Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. —John 12:24

Focus: Notice God's graces in your blessings, struggles and everyday moments.

Past Months –Link to activities and replays from previous months

Share Moments of Blessings and Gratitude

Take time to thank God for what he has provided with one of the following activities.

- The Gratitude Challenge is a 21-day formal challenge for your household that includes a **signed pledge** and **simple, short day to day ideas** that you can do in the comfort of home.
- If you started a Prayer Journal last month, add a section of Gratitude Prayers to your entries.
- Play the **Gratitude Game**! This is a great game to play with the entire household on Thanksgiving Day or any day as a reminder of all that we are thankful for in our lives.
- Pass around your handheld cross around the dinner table and tell what you're grateful for that day.
- Read **Praise God and Thank Him** by Jeff Cavins (eBook available free on FORMED)
- Create a **blessing jar**.
- Try the **daily examen**, a chance to review the day and find God's blessings.

Celebrate Advent

The Catholic Church begins its liturgical year on the first Sunday of Advent, this year November 29. As we enter the season of Advent, choose an activity to make this time special.

- What is Advent? Watch this fun [2-minute video](#) from Busted Halo.
- [Click here](#) for free Advent prayers and activities to do with children through junior high age.
- [Loyola Press](#) offers books that parenting households can read to children and for adult households who want to enrich their spiritual journey.
- Decorate your home. Start by replacing the green altar cloth from the first Together in Faith take away bag with the purple cloth. Place one or two new items of special regard on your prayer table that might aid your reflection of the coming of our Lord into our lives, into our hearts.
- Create an [Advent paper chain](#) (for parenting households).
- Learn about the [Advent wreath](#). If you have one, [bless it](#) with holy water from your October Take Away Bag. If you don't have one, you can shop for one at Divine Treasures or make your own.
- Count down to Christmas with this [downloadable children's advent calendar](#).
- [Catholicicing.com](#) is chock full of children's activities for celebrating the lives of key saints during the season of Advent. We can all grow in our faith by learning more about them and maybe even rediscovering the child within to do some of the crafts ideas!

Where's the Wheat?

Our "wheat" is something that makes us uncomfortable to remind us of self-sacrifice in order to rise with Christ. Choose one of these activities to see how grace can be found in struggles.

- [Grow the grain of wheat](#) included in your November Take Away Bag.

- See how the **Eucharistic table** mirrors our Thanksgiving table.
- **Offer wheat** to find grace in sacrifice.
- Our scripture verse for November is from John 12:24, is located in the church at St. Francis. Do you know where? Stop by and see if you can find it. Post a picture of it on our Together in Faith Facebook page.