

November began with All Saints Day, when we gave thanks and prayed for all those who, in Bishop Sandy's words, "made it easier for us to believe in God." It will conclude with the Feast of Christ the King, when we acknowledge the sovereignty of Jesus Christ over our lives.

In between we will celebrate Thanksgiving, when we give thanks for the bounty of the earth. Today we celebrate the baptism of a new member, Macie Younce, and give thanks for her companionship on our journey of faith.

November is a month of gratitude. Gratitude for our companions in faith; gratitude for the guidance of Jesus Christ; gratitude for rains and harvest.

When we are grateful, it changes our orientation toward life and the gifts we are given in it. Gratitude makes us want to share our blessings. November, therefore, is also a month of stewardship. The theme for this month is Matthew 25:34-36.

On November 22 we will have a special ingathering of protein foods for the Food Bank. ("I was hungry and you gave me food.") On December 7, St. Nicholas Day, we will collect socks for Mary & Elizabeth's Closet ("I was naked and you clothed me.") On November 15 your Bishop's Advisory Committee will share their proposed budget for another year of ministry at St. Mary's. Then on the first Sunday of Advent, November 29, we will offer at the altar your gifts of money and ministry for the coming year.

*Vicar Jaime*