

# Fragments

NOVEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

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## **ODCCW Mission Statement**

*To promote among our Catholic women a greater devotion to Christ and the Church,  
as we share the Blessed Mother's role of bringing others to Christ  
through spirituality, leadership, and service.*



## **A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

**Janine Meckler**  
ODCCW President

Dear sisters in Christ Jesus, I thank God for you, such beautiful women inside and out. Thank you for sharing of yourselves, your friendship, and your Catholic faith. How fitting it is that we look to Mary, the mother of God, as our ODCCW role model for  
*(continued on next page)*

women. Thanksgiving has been traditionally one of my favorite holidays, because its very nature is a day of gratitude and thanksgiving to God. God is the whole reason we exist. I love meditating on that in my heart. May God richly bless you and your families with His abiding Presence. God never leaves us. I cannot think of anything else to be more grateful for.

Janine



## ST. MARGARET Feast Day - November 16



St. Margaret of Scotland, whom we honor as our patron, was canonized for her concern with and ministry to the poor, the orphaned, the widowed, and the sick.

She built schools and hospitals, and spent time each day listening to the needs of the people in the outer court of the castle where she reigned as queen with her husband, Malcolm III.

The history of this parish has continued the witness of Margaret. For almost fifty years, the expression of our call to love God and to serve our neighbor has taken different forms, always faithful to St. Margaret's commitment to be Christ's witness in the world.

Source: from [saintmargarets.com](http://saintmargarets.com) website

## ETERNAL REFLECTIONS

### Fr. Chris Heath

All Saints Day (and its vigil All Hallows Eve) and All Souls Day are an annual reminder that life for us Christians is more than the few short decades we have on earth, but is in fact an eternity that awaits us after our bodies cease to function. This of course begs these questions: do we truly believe there is something beyond life as we know it? Is there a supernatural (that is, above nature as we know it) life that continues after death? Do we have a soul? Is there judgment and eternal consequences for our actions in this world, and is sin a real thing? Is Heaven for real? Is there really a hell? Is Purgatory just made up? Are there Angels and demons or is this just some “boogeyman” made up to keep us in line?

Polling data shows more people believe there is a life to come, but by the way most people behave, it doesn't seem like actions have consequences! Many people think Heaven is just automatic, or don't believe in hell so the afterlife for everyone is going to be pleasant. Most people aren't concerned about the state of their soul, something we should be mindful of at all times because we don't know when our death will be and so we have to be on our guard all the time. And not just the state of our soul, but also the content of our conscience measured against how we acted: were we consistent with our beliefs or did we say one thing and do another?

Sacred Scripture and the teachings of our Faith are pretty specific about these matters. And the month of November is an opportune time to review these teachings. I encourage you to read up on these topics in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, or online at Catholic Answers. I recommend these titles as well: Heaven is for Real (Burpo), The Invisible World (Destafano), Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Heaven (Kreeft).

May God bless you, may the Angels watch over you, and may the Saints intercede for you!

Fr. Chris Heath



## GIVE THANKS FOR HE IS GOOD

**Dr. Ida Pennella, PhD, ODCCW Emeritus Advisor**

The “season” is upon us as All Hallows’ Eve ushered in All Saints’ Day on November 1. As we look forward to Thanksgiving Day on November 23, we will give praise to God for His bounty, and “in everything, give thanks” (1 Thessalonians 5:18). “Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name” (Psalm 100:4). “The meat of their fellowship offering of thanksgiving must be eaten on the day it is offered; they must leave none of it till morning” (Leviticus 7:15).

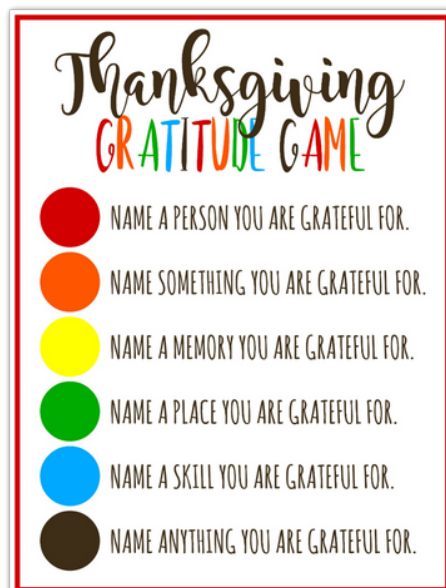
### Thanksgiving Ideas

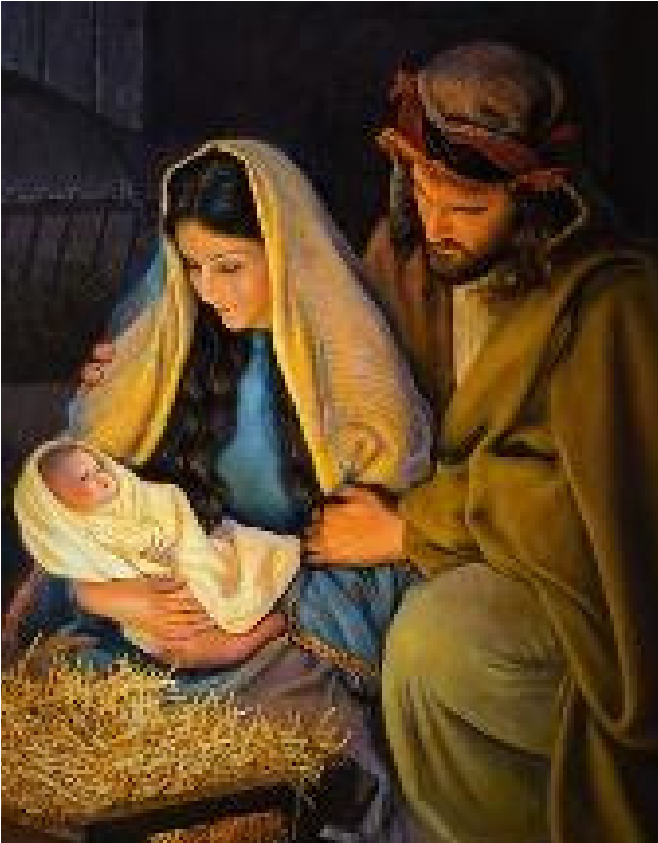
Play the **Thanksgiving Gratitude Game** by preparing the following prompts on a sheet of paper, give one to each guest, have them read their answers out loud.

1. Name a person you are grateful for.
2. Name something you are grateful for.
3. Name a memory you are grateful for.
4. Name a place you are grateful for.
5. Name a skill you are grateful for.
6. Name anything you are grateful for.

Make a **Scripture Place Card** for each setting on the Thanksgiving table by typing or writing a Scripture verse about being thankful. This can be read out loud during the blessing.

Write a **Thankful Note** to someone by using paper, cards, or the media.





A mere ten days later, December 3, Advent begins and ends on December 24, as we re-live the most glorious event, the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on CHRISTMAS DAY, “unto us a child is born” (Isaiah 9:6).

**Advent Ideas:** Plan some simple pilgrimages to sites of spiritual significance if you can’t visit the holy places like the Holy Land, Lourdes, or Fatima, you can ... 1) Pray in front of the tabernacle, 2) Visit a church other than your parish, 3) Place flowers on a gravesite and 4) perform some of the corporal Works of Mercy.

Sources:

<https://www.happygoluckyblog.com/thanks-giving-gratitude-game/>

<https://buildfaith.org/thanksgiving-activities-for-church-and-families/>



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## ODCCW EVENTS

Register for our events at <https://odccw.org>

### **November General Gathering**

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 | 9am-12pm

Our Lady Queen of Angels Catholic Church

2046 Mar Vista Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660

**\*NOTE: This month's General Gathering is on the second Tuesday of the month due to the Thanksgiving holiday.**