



**Bukás Loób sa Diyós**

(Open in Spirit to God)

CATHOLIC CHARISMATIC COVENANT COMMUNITY  
DISTRICT OF NEWARK

# COVENANT NEWS

Volume 27 Issue 46

Thanksgiving Edition

November 26, 2021

## NEWS

### Cardinal Tobin's 2021 Thanksgiving Message

Taken from RCAN: <https://www.rcan.org/gratitude-contagious-cardinal-tobin-writes-latest-newsletter>

One of my brother bishops recently wrote these words in his Thanksgiving message:

*Gratitude is more contagious than any pandemic. It soothes our bitterness, resentment and fear, and it opens the eyes of our hearts to see how blessed we truly are in spite of our difficulties. Simply by saying "thank you" for whatever blessings—large or small—we have received, we can find relief from whatever pain we feel in our minds, hearts or bodies.*

We celebrate Thanksgiving in order to recognize the abundant blessings we've received and to thank God for them. We thank God for the gift of life itself and for the love that we share with spouses, children and friends. We also thank God for our vocation as missionary disciples of Jesus Christ, for our freedom as Americans, and for all our God-given gifts and talents. This year especially, under the pastoral leadership of Pope Francis, we thank God for the opportunity to participate in a worldwide synod process that is designed to strengthen and renew our Church—and to remind us that we are a pilgrim people walking together and dreaming of a better life for all.

Once again this year, we should add to our gratitude list all who have supported and encouraged us during the difficult days of COVID-19, including family and friends, healthcare workers, first responders, retail merchants, and all service personnel who put themselves in harm's way to provide for our basic needs. We should also be grateful for our pastors, school leaders and Church personnel who have worked hard to adapt to the challenges of this past year and to provide for our spiritual and

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## COUNSELS

### Why We Long for God in Our Lives

**THEME:** We prepare for the coming of Jesus, our Savior, when we pray and conduct ourselves in a manner pleasing to God.

**WORD:** Jer 33:14-16/ Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14/  
1Thes 3:12-4:2/ Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

**ORDER:** *"Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent."* (Luke 21:36)

**REFLECTION:**

Christ Jesus rules now in heaven. He reveals his power and glory through us, His Church. He is present when we live with high moral standards and when we pray. He is present when we get out of the way and allow Him to reveal his power, with us, through us. And Jesus will come again. We do not know when the end of time will take place. Only the father knows the day. However, we must acknowledge that Jesus spoke clearly about His Second Coming as a known fact, a for-certain event we can expect to take place.



*"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on earth nations will be in dismay, perplexed by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will die of fright in anticipation of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken."* (Luke 21:25-26)

...Continued on page 2

### Promise of the Week

*"All the paths of the Lord are kindness and constancy toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees."* (Psalm 25:10)

# COUNSELS

(from page 1)

This scenario of the coming persecutions and the great signs from heaven can strike terror in those who are unprepared. Violence, sickness, hatred, division, scandal, and the like plague us day in and day out. As a result, the eyes of our soul, our interior vision of faith, is darkened, ignored, forgotten about, and dismissed. The Second Coming would leave people disturbed about Divine Will and guessing about the future. Fear would be so intense that some people will be literally scared to death.

But Jesus does not say these things to frighten us, but to prepare us for redemption. He wanted His people to stand tall and raise their heads, to keep ready, as if preparing for something wonderful, such as the coming of the bridegroom. That it will be a time of great joy. Watching for His return means being spiritually ready and working faithfully at the tasks He has given us. As members of BLD, we must remember to live our lives firmly fixed on God's will and ready to move at God's command.

***“Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap.”***  
*(Luke 21:34-35)*

Jesus mentions here three compromisers of readiness:

First – carousing or dissipation. It is defined as a condition in which energy and resources are expended to no useful purpose. It is the opposite of stewardship, which tries to make the most of God-given resources. Dissipation squanders time, money, relationships, and lives.



The second compromiser is drunkenness, usually associated with alcohol, but also with other intoxicating substances, which dull our inhibitions and judgment and reduce our mental and physical powers. Many people who would never abuse drugs or alcohol may be lulled into complacency by sports, music, television, social media, or a host of other earthly pleasures. Even though they may be essentially harmless in moderation, they can become addictions that distract us from following Christ. Some people are intoxicated by power, ambition, wealth, and sexual conquest.

If carousing or dissipation is the opposite of stewardship, the third compromiser, anxiety or worry, is the opposite of faith. Worry, like dissipation, →→

→ consumes energy without accomplishing anything. We are as tired after a day of worry as after a day of work – but work gives us a sense of achievement while worry gives us only high blood pressure. Worry seems such a mild fault by comparison, but it kills our spirits and our faith.

Given the busyness of our daily lives, it is easy to “become drowsy” to Jesus’ coming: to get caught up in the things of the present moment or to be weighed down with troubles. But the Lord knows our shortcomings and struggles. He is ever ready to fill us with His strength and divine power to bear our burdens, to overcome temptations and to walk in His way of holiness. However, there is one thing He doesn't tolerate: an attitude of indifference, being passive, not caring, and doing nothing when we could be actively seeking God and His kingdom! He wants to work in and through us for His glory. That is why He expects more of us than we can do by ourselves. His grace enables us to actively watch for His action in our lives.

Jesus urges us then to remain on our guard, to keep alert at all times, and to pray.

Prayer will help us to avoid dissipation, drunkenness, and anxiety. Prayer will keep us open to receive God's blessings and will focus our spiritual energies to do God's will. We can never fully predict disastrous events, but we can pray for the strength to live through the darker days. To actively pray for perseverance and endurance when we face trials and difficulties.

The attitude of being alert – of being ready – is not meant only for the “end of time” but for today and every day. It must become a permanent way of life, day by day and week by week. Ultimately, we can live as if Jesus is fully present.

For us who are in Christ, Advent is not about gloom and doom. It is a time to step back and explore why we long for God in our lives. It is a call to get ready and stay ready because our redemption is drawing near.

## Directions

1. ***Repent and pray incessantly for the conversion of souls.***
2. ***Devote your time to learning the Word and living it.***



Joe Tobin  
@CardinalJWtobin

Heavenly Father, gratitude fills our hearts today as we recall all you have given us. Keep us ever thankful and generous in your service. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

6:23 AM · Nov 25, 2021 · Twitter for iPad

# GIVING THANKS

## Message from the District Council of Stewards:

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus”. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Today's holiday readings make us reflect on two aspects of Thanksgiving: 1) the blessing aspect of thanksgiving; and 2) the connection of love and thanksgiving. We thank the Lord for blessing us with an abundance of goodness, holiness, and joy in our lives with the family, friends, and community He gave us. Through these relationships we recognize His love for us which we share with each other and see His hands directing our paths to a deeper relationship with God, our Savior and Redeemer.

May this Thanksgiving Day be an opportunity for us to enjoy God's blessings and a day of sharing our meal with our loved ones. May this day lead us to be even more compassionate, kind, humble, gentle, patient, forbearing, forgiving, peaceful, and loving not just today, but every day of our lives.

A blessed and joyful Thanksgiving Day to all!

To God be the glory!

We are forever grateful to be graduates of BLD Newark's ME 2, LSS 2, and FE 1 classes. Our two sons were among the first batch of youth ministry and were graduates of Singles Encounter 1. In our younger days, our family were FE sharers with the Santiago & Silao families. We shared our story of conversion on both the East and West Coast, USA, and as far away as Canada. Currently, we are members of BLD Newark Mission Apostolate's Parish Outreach. We are so grateful to God for BLD Newark for it served as God's instrument in our repentance, conversion, renewal, transformation, and close relationship with God. In addition, our two sons met their spouses here, who are very good, God-fearing wives and mothers. We are undeserving, but truly so blessed beyond words!

LORD JESUS, we honor, adore, worship, glorify, praise, and thank You forever & ever! Amen!

Mother Mary, St Joseph pray for us.

St. Lorenzo Ruiz, pray for us.

St. Pedro Calungsod, pray for us.

## GIVE THANKS

## Thankful...

—that God, my Father, continues to reveal His love, mercy, and blessings to me every day.

—for my husband (we are Covid survivors!), family, friends, job, and BLD community being sustained until “normal normalcy” is real!

I am very grateful that the zealous and charismatic pastor, Fr. Joseph Meagher, became our spiritual director. We were extremely blessed to be in the aspirants' group where he was a retreat participant. While he often joked with us, he also led us in a much-anointed healing and reflection. We were able to glimpse his powerful example to us of how the quarantine should not abate our praise and proclamation of Jesus when he stepped out onto the St. Antoninus church roof to give benediction of the world.



<https://youtu.be/B-5jjXDfpHo>



I am thankful for the gift of life, the gift of faith and the gift of good health. I am also thankful to the Triune God for continued Divine providence, guidance and protection of my parents and family. Most of all, I am thankful to our Lord Jesus Christ for His redeeming love and for His continued presence - body, blood, soul, and divinity in the Holy Eucharist. After all, Eucharist means Thanksgiving.

Very thankful for God's abundant love and blessings always, especially my family and the people He put in my life who have made me the person I am today.



Joe Tobin  
@CardinalJWTobin

Heavenly Father, gratitude fills our hearts today as we recall all you have given us. Keep us ever thankful and generous in your service. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

6:23 AM · Nov 25, 2021 · Twitter for iPad

# WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

I am thankful for the Melchizedek prayer group comprised of ME 42 and Rene and Claire Monje. We started praying The Angelus and the Holy Rosary and sharing Bible Reflections in March 2020. We meet online at 6:30 pm practically every day except on Fridays when we attend BLD's Praise and Worship. The strength, calmness, and wisdom drawn from God's Presence is life-saving. Opportunities to willingly intercede for family and all peoples are truly humbling. We bonded with God and Mama Mary by praying together through Messenger. And, we are thankful that this tradition continues.

I am thankful for...

... my family and friends

... BLD community, for those who serve as examples of what true servanthood is, for those who want only what is good for the community and who pray for others without being asked, for those who exemplify selflessness, for those who are bold to show their faith in God in their prayers and those who quietly serve without seeking recognition.

"I am grateful Father God, for the countless blessings amidst the storms in my life, you have sustained me with your love."

I am thankful that I will get to live today and hopefully tomorrow too.

I am thankful for time, because it allows me to experience life.

Being thankful helps me to think more about other people's feelings.

Being grateful also enables me to get through life's tough times, because I can quickly call to mind all of the good things in my life.

Being grateful just makes me happy, and being happy can help keep your mind and body healthy; I am thankful for my health even though it may not be perfect.

Of course, I am thankful for all the blessings showered on me from sunrise to sunset.

## A PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

### Thank you, God, for family

For parents who taught us how to live and work and play and love

For brothers and sisters, children and grandchildren... sometimes a challenge and always a blessing

For sons-in-law and daughters-in-law

For grandparents and aunts and uncles and cousins

For a good marriage and love expressed through intertwined fingers

For joys and sorrows shared

### Thank you, God, for a warm and welcoming home

For my favorite chair

For electricity and lamps and good books for reading

For strong foundations and weather-stripping and gutters and storm windows and everything that protects us from the rain and snow

For food to eat, a reliable stove, and a good cookbook and for husbands who do the dishes

For the trees that are framed by the living room window and the way they change with the seasons

For blue skies and white clouds

For house plants and candlelight and old records

**Thank you, God, for good health**

For long lives

For body parts and senses that still work...  
most of the time

For sanity and wisdom and courage...  
most of the time

For smiles and yawns and winks that speak without  
words

For afternoon naps

For hobbies and e-mail and trips to the mall that keep  
our hearts pumping and our minds active and  
our hands and feet busy, too

For curly hair or gray hair or any hair at all

**Thank you, God, for a church close to home**

For faith...and friends to share it with

*For the BLD community which nourishes that faith  
and shows believers how to become disciples.*

For Easter Sunday and all it means and for putting it  
in the middle of Spring when flowers are everywhere

For the committees that decorate the church and plan  
the celebrations and for the choir...  
especially for the choir

For Easter brunch with the family  
and the egg hunt afterwards

For peace

**Thank you, God, for this beautiful country we live  
in**

For veterans and the men and women who still defend  
it today

For policeman and firemen who risk their lives to help  
people who are in trouble

For doctors and nurses and EMT's and 911 operators  
and hospital workers and for all the days when we  
don't have to call on them for help

For good jobs and family vacations  
and a dependable car to go in

For "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness"

**Thank you, God, for grassy front yards**

For quiet streets and for safe and friendly  
neighborhoods

For good neighbors who have become good friends  
For time to sit outside on warm summer nights and for  
citronella candles to keep away the mosquitoes

For geraniums and tulips and dogwood trees and  
lilac bushes with all their gorgeous colors

For vegetable gardens especially in August when  
the first tomatoes ripen

For swimming pools and big beach towels  
and a cold drink on sunny days

**Thank you, God, for pleasant memories**

For the "Old Neighborhood" and all the great  
neighbors and kids and storekeepers and  
schoolteachers and stray dogs we used to know

For childhood buddies who became our lifelong  
friends

For the kid who let you ride his bike or borrow his  
baseball glove

For knowing what it feels like to have a home with  
parents who love you and a brother or sister to  
stand up for you when everyone else is mad at you

For family parties and all the special occasions  
they celebrate

For all the Aunts washing dishes in the kitchen  
after Thanksgiving dinner and for all the Uncles  
standing in the driveway comparing cars

For football games on television

For coloring books and enough crayons to share  
with your cousins

For young-at-heart uncles who play video games  
with their nephews

For staying late and falling asleep in the car  
on the way home

**Thank you, God, for lots of reasons to get out of  
bed every morning**

For your Word that guides us

For your Spirit that sustains us

For your Son who lived and died for us

For your Presence that surrounds us with love

**Thank you, God, for joy**

**Thank you, God, for hope**

**Thank you, God, for peace.**



We are grateful for the blessing of family and  
friends ~ for their love, presence, and the time  
spent with them.



# NEWS

(from page 1)

pastoral needs.

Gratitude truly is contagious. When we say “thank you” we touch the hearts of others, and with them we embrace the healing power of God’s love. When we say “thank you” we look beyond our own selfish wants and fears—acknowledging that we have been blessed by God even in life’s most difficult circumstances. Giving thanks is the most effective means we have for maintaining a balanced perspective in times of adversity. It helps prevent us from sinking into depression and despair by reminding us of all the goodness we have received from those who love and care for us—in good times and in tough times.

The holidays can be a difficult time for people who are in poor health, homeless, or experiencing emotional or financial difficulties. Especially during this time of pandemic, many people, cut off from family and friends, will struggle to celebrate their blessings. Let’s be sure to pray for those who are less fortunate than we are and to help them every way we can.

I am grateful for the privilege of walking with you as a fellow traveler here in the Archdiocese of Newark. I wish you a joyful and a faith-filled Thanksgiving. May God bless you and your loved ones.

Sincerely yours in Christ the Redeemer,

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin



**“You are my God, I give you thanks; my God,  
I offer you praise.”  
(Psalm 118:28)**



## MESSAGE FROM THE WORD MINISTRY:

Word Ministry is thankful for you,  
the readers,  
past, present, and future contributors,  
editors, publishers, and  
the core members.

Thank you to all who shared what you are thankful  
for. We are thankful for you!

For those who intended to contribute, you can  
always contribute anytime 😊

*Wishing you all  
a Blessed and Safe Thanksgiving!!!*

## LORD’S PROVISION PREVIOUS WEEK’S

Collections:	Last Week	YTD
Tithes & Love Offerings / E-Giving / Mailed Checks	\$ 2,846.62	\$97,097.97
Covid 19 Collection	\$ -	\$ 1,990.00
Mission	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00

Financial details are available to all members through  
[treasury@bldnewark.com](mailto:treasury@bldnewark.com)

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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR



**BLD NEWARK**  
**PRAISE & WORSHIP**  
A Night of Praise & Worship  
Friday, November 26, 2021 - 8:00 PM  
"All the paths of the Lord are kindness and constancy  
toward those who keep his covenant and his decrees."  
Ps 25:10

### [BLD Academy Enrichment Teaching](#) [On Personal Values](#)

Friday, December 3, 2021, After 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Mass  
In-Person: Divine Mercy Parish Auditorium

Please join our own Intercessory Ministry in their  
nightly community prayers via Zoom.

Everyone is most welcome to participate  
Zoom ID: 2265467380 / PW: 750109 @6:30PM  
For more details, please contact  
Ram & Claire Bautista

*Share your Time and Talent: Become a  
Covenant News contributor!*

**Questions of the month: *What are your Christmas  
traditions?***

*How do you celebrate Christmas?*

Send your responses to Word Ministry at  
[Word@BLDNewark.com](mailto:Word@BLDNewark.com).