



Blessed Trinity

Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

October 26, 2025 ▪ The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Didier Descouens | Wikipedia CC BY-SA 4.0

Why do Christians put their hands together when they pray?

By Philip Kosloski

A common belief is that the hands-folded posture was derived from a Roman practice symbolizing submission.

Should believers fold hands, keep their arms outstretched with palms facing upward (the classic *orans* position) or cross them, like monks often do? Does it really matter? While it may seem strange, this is an important

question to ask. In fact, it is a fundamental aspect of prayer, and one that allows believers to discover their own practices as rooted in ancient, venerable traditions.

Many can remember being taught by religious sisters **how to pray with folded hands**. One individual recounts, whether true or not, the reason the sisters taught him for folded hands.

Pray with hands folded up so that your prayers will go to heaven.

If your hands are pointed down your prayers will go down to hell.

And if your hands are sideways, your prayers will bounce all over the room.

Sure, this is quite naive, and chances are **the actual instruction was lost in kid translation**. Truthfully, the real reason most believers fold their hands in prayer **has much deeper symbolism**. In Christianity, the tradition has its roots in the customs of ancient and late-antique cultures.

In the Jewish tradition, **there is evidence in the Talmud that some prayed with hands folded as early as the post-Exilic period and even continued after Christianity was established**. According to the text, the Jewish Babylonian sage, Rabba (Abba ben Joseph, C. 280-352), used to pray with his hands folded. Some historians believe that **early Christians adapted this custom from their Jewish heritage**.

But another common belief is that **the hands-folded posture was derived from a Roman practice symbolizing submission**. Religious historians trace the gesture back to the act of **shackling a prisoner's hands with vine or rope: joined hands came to symbolize submission**. In ancient Rome, a captured soldier could avoid immediate death by joining the hands together. Just as waving a white flag today, the message was clear, 'I surrender.'

Centuries later, subjects demonstrated their loyalty and paid homage to their rulers by joining their hands. **In time, clasping the hands together communicated both an acknowledgement of another's authority and one's own submission to that authority**. This type of joining hands to profess loyalty is still evident in the liturgy of ordination. **A bishop will clasp the hands of the priest he is ordaining and say, "Do you promise respect and obedience to me and my successors?"**

Another aspect of the folding of hands includes crossing the thumbs, which many have been instructed to do in the form of a cross. All of this results in a gesture that represents loyalty to God, pointing our prayers to heaven and being reminded of the cross of Christ. **While Christians are not bound to pray with hands folded, it is a meaningful option, with ancient roots and profound symbolism.**



Pastor

Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

Deacon

Deacon Bill Lovelace

Clergy Assistance

Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM, Fr. Randall Roberts, OFM
Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM, Fr. Ken Breen, OdeM
Fr. Victor Bartolotta, Fr. Eric Peters

Mass Schedule

Weekday Masses, Monday - Saturday 8:00 am

Weekend Masses, Saturday Vigil at 4:00 pm

Sunday, 8:00 am, 9:30 am and 11:30 am

Follow the Sunday Mass on our website, btsp.org

Confessions will be held Saturdays 2:45-3:45 pm

Parish Office

Monday—Friday 9:00 am-12:00 pm and 1-4 pm

Closed for Lunch Noon to 1:00 pm

1600 54th Ave S

St. Petersburg, FL 33712

Phone, (727) 867-3663

FAX, (727) 864-2679

Website, <http://btsp.org>

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Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 25, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Larry and Chris Roberts (liv)

Saturday, October 25, Vigil for Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Laura Sacks (liv)

Sunday, October 26, Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Tom and Marie Cullen (dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. The Baker Family (liv)

Monday, October 27, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Fr. Wayne Genereux (liv)

Tuesday, October 28, Feast of Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles

8:00 a.m. Paula Dubinsky (dec)

Wednesday, October 29, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations and Mark Cullen (liv)

Thursday, October 30, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Dorothy Jackson (liv)

Friday, October 31, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Kate Ryan (liv)

Saturday, November 1, Solemnity of All Saints

8:00 a.m. Kayla and Nathan Roberts (liv)

Saturday, November 1, Vigil for Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Dwight "Doctor" Valentine (dec)

Sunday, November 2, The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, All Souls

8:00 a.m. Dolores Marie Ciminera (dec)

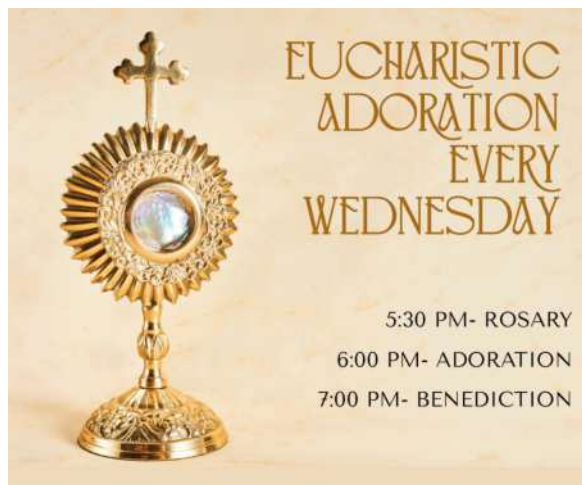
9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. William Isaac (dec)



Grief Support

At this time, individual/one-on-one *Grief Support* is available by calling Rachel at the church office. Group support meetings will take place when a group is formed. For more information call 867-3663.





Are You Hoping to Receive One of the Following Sacraments With Us?

Matrimony

Congratulations on your engagement! Every Diocese in Florida requires at least six months preparation before marriage. Please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for an appointment before setting a date.

Baptism

We are honored that you would like to choose Blessed Trinity Catholic Church for the baptism of your child! We ask that you please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

Join us for a Papal Mass in 2027!
**Blessed Trinity Festival
 Choir and Pilgrims**
 Fr. Wayne C. Genereux, Pastor
 Lisa S. Screeton, Director of Music and Liturgy

Peter's Way Tours

December 28, 2026–January 4, 2027
www.petersway.com/1365.html

Fire of the Spirit Prayer Group Invites you to a Night of

PRAISE - PRAYER - HEALING

Where: The Cathedral of St. Jude Parish Center
 5815 5th Ave N, St. Petersburg

When: Friday, November 21 at 7:00 pm



Spend some time in prayer to end abortion.

Blessed Trinity Day next day is October 30

Join us for peaceful prayer at
 All Women's Health Center
 4131 Central Ave, St. Petersburg

For more information, call Cathy Browne
 at 646-552-8015
 or email cathy6browne@yahoo.com





October 26, 2025

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 35:12-14, 16-18 | 2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-18 | Lk 18:9-14

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE**GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE**

Today's first reading says, "The Lord is a God of justice who knows no favorites." While we humans show deference to people we admire or give preferential treatment to those we like, God loves all his creatures with the same perfect love. But then the reading goes on to say something that seems to contradict that opening line, even suggesting that God has a soft spot in his heart for the poor: "Though not unduly partial toward the weak, yet he hears the cry of the oppressed." The text mentions that God hears the prayers of the widow and orphan, and that "the prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds." So what are we to make of all this? While God loves all perfectly, his heart is moved to mercy particularly toward the poor and lowly. And so the tax collector's humble prayer is heard, and he goes home justified, while the Pharisee does not.

GO EVANGELIZE**PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT**

Jesus knew how to tell stories that acted as a mirror to reveal the state of peoples' hearts. Today's Gospel opens with the line: "Jesus addressed this parable to those who were convinced of their own righteousness." Because we cannot know what's going on in someone's heart the way Jesus knows, we have to be careful not to assume we know what another needs to hear. Yet, in our efforts to accompany others on the road to discipleship, there may be moments where we're called to speak a word that "afflicts the comfortable or comforts the afflicted." If we do, we must always do so from a place of love and humility, recognizing that sometimes we are sharing this word because God has convicted *us* of precisely the same thing we're sharing with another! In that way, our sharing becomes more *witness* to the ways God has humbled us.

PRAY

There is a short, ancient Christian prayer known as the Jesus Prayer that is derived, in part, from our Gospel reading today. The entire text of the prayer is one line: "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner" which is repeated over and over again. Consider praying this prayer throughout the week as a way of rooting yourself more deeply in humility and an awareness of our need for God's mercy.

GET TICKETS NOW!*We Await...*

An Evening of Lessons and Carols
Wine reception to follow

DECEMBER 7, 2025
6:00 P.M. IN THE CHURCH
(\$10 SUGGESTED DONATION)

**Magnificat of St. Petersburg,**

a Ministry to Women,
invites you to a Magnificat Meal

Saturday, November 8, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Reservations—\$18.00

Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle

5815 Fifth Avenue North, St. Petersburg

Join us for St. Jude's Parish Mass at 8:15 am



Your morning will culminate with meeting Kelli Crabb, a family law attorney and parishioner of Holy Family Catholic Church, whose faith has kept her going through her trials and triumphs, always knowing God has granted her more time to do good things for Him.

Please mail your check, payable to Magnificat, to our treasurer, Linda Barron, 6069 Second Ave N, St. Petersburg, FL 33710. **Checks must be received by November 3, 2025.** Your ticket will be at the door. Seating is limited.

Questions or need more information? E-mail magnificatofstpetersburg@gmail.com or text Jane at 727-452-7404 or Linda at 727-415-2693.

Come join the Social Group
November 2, 2025 from 12:30-4:30 pm

PICNIC

AT MAXIMO PARK

Pinellas
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Sunshine
Skyway Ln S.
Shelter #5

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dogs, plates, cups, utensils and water.
Don't forget to bring a serving utensil for your dish,
lawn chair, and sunscreen!



Music is Instrumental!

Help Blessed Trinity build an instrumental ensemble!

We currently have vocal and handbell choirs, but want to build a group of instrumentalists for the Music Ministry. Did you play an instrument in high school? College? Community Band? Professionally? Just for fun?

If you play guitar, strings, trombone, tuba, trumpet, saxophone, oboe, clarinet, bassoon or percussion **we NEED you!**

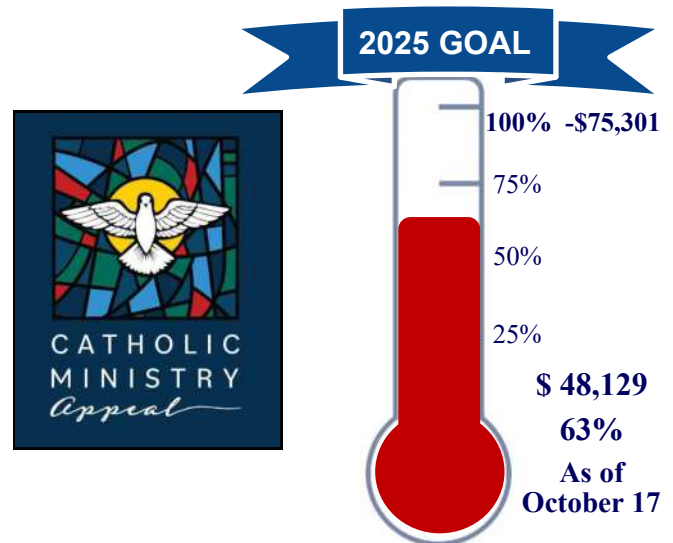


Call Lisa in the office or email lss@btsp.org

Weekly Offering Weekly Giving 10/19/25

Offertory	\$ 6,740
Other Donations	\$ 80
Restoring the Sacred	\$ 50
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 256
Mission Sunday	\$ 1,071

Thank you for your generosity!



Thank you for your prayerful giving!

Blessed Trinity Veterans and First Responders Breakfast

Sponsored by
Blessed Trinity Catholic Church, and the
St. John Paul II, Knights of Columbus Council
This event is being held at Blessed Trinity's Parish Hall



Sunday, November 9, 2025

8:00 am Mass, followed by Breakfast, Parish Hall
9:30 a.m. Mass, followed by Breakfast, Parish Hall

Veterans and First Responders Free

Tickets are \$10.00 per person at the Door

Blessed Trinity Catholic Church
1600 54th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 26

Coffee and Donuts after the 8:00 am and 9:30 am Masses PC
Trinity Awards Presented at the 9:30 am Mass CH
and Reception

Monday, October 27

6:30 pm Life in the Spirit CYH

Tuesday, October 28

10:00 am Scripture Class CYH

Wednesday, October 29 ~Adoration

5:30 pm Rosary CH

6:00 pm Eucharistic Exposition and Meditation CH

7:00 pm Benediction CH

Thursday, October 30

8:00 am – 6:00 pm *40 Days for Life* Peaceful Protest
@ All Women's Health Center, 4131 Central Avenue

5:00 pm Handbell Practice MR

6:30 pm Choir MR

Friday, October 31

BT Social Group Meeting after the 8:00 am Mass at
Paradeco Coffee @ Sky Beach– 6800 Sunshine Skyway Ln. S.

Sunday, November 2

Coffee and Donuts after the 8:00 am and 9:30 am Masses PC
12:30 pm Parish Picnic @ Maximo Park- Pinellas Point Dr S &
Sunshine Skyway Ln S, St. Petersburg, FL 33711

Monday, November 3

6:30 pm Life in the Spirit CYH

Tuesday, November 4

10:00 am Scripture Class CYH

7:00 pm Knights of Columbus Meeting PC

Wednesday, November 5 ~Adoration

5:30 pm Rosary CH

6:00 pm Eucharistic Exposition and Meditation CH

7:00 pm Benediction CH

Thursday, November 6

5:00 pm Handbell Practice MR

6:30 pm Choir MR

Sunday, November 9

Coffee and Donuts after the 8:00 am and 9:30 am Masses PC

Key for Events

PC= Parish Center, MR=Music Room, CYH= Courtyard Hall, CH=Church, CYH-1= Courtyard
Hall Classroom #1, CR=Choir Room, FF=Faith Formation Room, PL=Parking Lot

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The BT Social Group invites you
to help put together

Birthday Party Boxes

**Sunday, October 26 after the
8:00 am and 9:30 am Masses
in Parish Hall**



flocknote

Text BTSP to 84576 or online at
btsp.flocknote.com

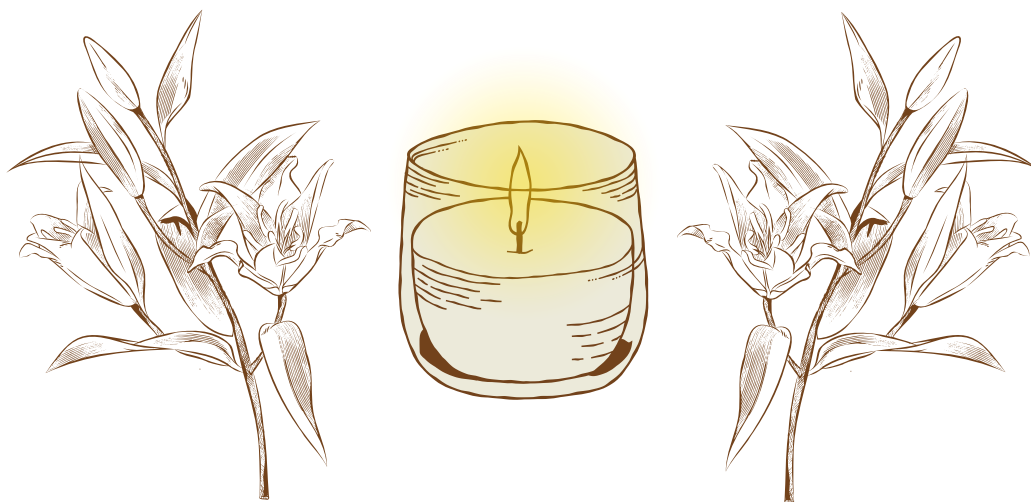
Blessed Trinity Roman Catholic Church

All Souls' Day

Remembering the departed

Sunday, November 2, 2025

We honor the lives of those who have passed, keeping their memories alive in our hearts and offering prayers for their peace and eternal rest.



Eternal rest, grant unto them, Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.

(Entrance Antiphon, Funeral Mass)

The Faithful Departed
Blessed Trinity Parishioners
November 1, 2024 - October 11, 2025

These names will be read on November 2nd at each Mass, after the homily.

Angela Brown
Carol Shandersky
Virginia Amoruso
Bernard Charles Lyons
Julius Okrzesik
Josephine Maher
Amber Nobile
Randy Coffman
Maguerite Hancock
Carmen Forteau
William Lezan
John Lee Irvin
James Martin
Norma Ryan
Richard Funsch
Marie Lowe
Frederick McDowell

Arnold, Barbara
Baker Family
Barhorst, Brady
Becker, Mary
Brown, Bob & Beverly
Calamita, John
Christ, Kathryn
Connor, Kathryn
Cisek, Marilyn
Clark, Christine and
Henry
Clark, Brittany Noel
Comeau, Teresa
Coughlin, Bernadette
Curcio, Louis
Daniels, Joshua
D'Azzo, Lina
DeLong, Judy
DeLong, Todd
Feltes, Lauren
Fitzgerald, Dan
Gawlik, Frank and Sofia
Geneux, Carol
Grace, Kelly
Grimberg, Carol

Gueli, Connie
Gutske, Karl
Hawkins, Ashlyn
Hawkins, Barbara
Helbig, Len
Hoffman, Bette
Hoskins, Kevin
Huff, Walt
Hunnefeld, Sarah
Joyal, Christina
Kartsaklis, Michael
Kehoe, Jonna and Michael
Kirchgessner, Marie
Klima, Sue
Kraynak, Gary
Lague, Norbert
Lanigan, John
Lashley, Diana
LeVan, George
Lewis, Cynthia
Mattingly, Pamela
Mays, Hank
Membreno, Mary & Gus
Newcomb, Jeff
O'Connor, Mary

Parillo, Ceil
Parillo, Dave
Parmigiani, Valerie
Pilcher, Joel
Preeper, Helen
Riley, Marie
Riordan, Donald
Romani, Angelo
Sacks, Laura
Sanderson, Jack
Shelby, Montez
Smith, Elizabeth
Stankiewicz, Cy
Summerbell, Joan
Vanderbeck, Cindy
Vanderbeck, Jay
Walsh, Thomas
Watson, Linda
Youngman, Ruth
Zajac, Leslie



Anointing of the Sick

To request the Anointing of the Sick for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office, 727-867-3663.

If you or a close family member would like to be added or removed from our prayer list, please contact the parish office at 727-867-3663.

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