



Issue: 15 - November 2, 2025 - November 9, 2025
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SECTION 1 — COUNCIL & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Fostoria City Council Recap — October 21, 2025

Mayor Highlights Importance of Upcoming Levy

With Election Day just ahead, Mayor **Don Mennel** emphasized the vital role of the city income tax levy in maintaining Fostoria's services and stability.

"This income tax levy supports nearly half of our operating budget," he said. "It is very important to the future of the city that it passes."

Financial Recovery & Planning Ahead

Fostoria's fiscal progress continues to trend upward. As of September 30, the city held **\$22.7 million** in total funds, with **\$17.3 million** available — a strong indicator of movement toward exiting fiscal emergency.

Director of Public Service & Safety Eric Keckler confirmed that budget planning for 2026 is underway.

"There are some exciting projects coming down the pipeline," Keckler said.


A **Five-Year Financial Recovery Work Session** will be held **Tuesday, November 18 at 5:30 p.m.**, followed by the regular council meeting. The **revised Fund Carryover Balance Policy**, recently approved, will help ensure more transparent and sustainable budgeting.


Strengthening Regional Partnerships

Council passed **Ordinance 2025-74**, entering a **paid EMS agreement with the Bascom EMS District of Seneca County**, ensuring Fostoria receives compensation for calls made outside city limits that were previously unpaid.

"This agreement ensures we are compensated when we respond to calls in Bascom's territory," Keckler explained.

Upcoming Meetings & Community Engagement

 **Next Council Meeting:** *Wednesday, November 5 at 6:00 p.m.* (rescheduled due to Election Day)

 **Five-Year Financial Recovery Work Session:** *Tuesday, November 18 at 5:30 p.m.*

 **"Convos with Council" at Kemosabes:** *Saturday, December 6 at 11:00 a.m.* — final session of 2025

Council also noted **public interest in exploring a city manager form of government**, which could be reviewed through the **Charter Commission** or a future council-led initiative.

Looking Ahead

- **November 5 Council Session:** Expected updates on winter readiness, ongoing street projects, and budget preparations.
- **November 18 Work Session:** Key discussion on the city's five-year plan and fiscal independence goals.
- **December 6 Community Q&A:** “Convos with Council” to wrap up the year with open discussion on progress and 2026 priorities.


Fostoria continues to move toward stability and growth — building financial resilience, improving local services, and keeping citizens engaged in the city's next chapter.

SECTION 2 — COMMUNITY & TRI-COUNTY EVENTS



 Week of November 2 – 9, 2025

Fostoria & Seneca County



Nov 4 — Election Day

 Polls open 6:30 a.m.–7:30 p.m. Your vote matters — local levies and city seats are on the ballot.



Nov 5 — Fostoria City Council Meeting

 City Hall Chambers |  6:00 p.m. Public invited for financial and community updates.



Nov 6 — Preschool Storytime

 Tiffin-Seneca Public Library |  Morning session. Interactive reading and crafts for ages 3–5.



Nov 7 — Family Fun Friday

 Kaubisch Library |  4:00–5:30 p.m. Free crafts and games for families.

Nov 8 — Harvest Market at Wolfe Creek Grange



  9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. Local produce, handmade gifts, baked goods — a perfect start to holiday shopping.

Nov 9 — Tiffin-Seneca Community Choir Concert

 Calvert High School Auditorium |  3:00 p.m. Celebrate gratitude with song.

Bowling Green & Wood County



Nov 5–6 — BGSU Men's Basketball vs. Texas State & Ball State

 Stroh Center |  Evening games. MAC season openers.



Nov 7–9 — BG Opera Theatre presents *Hansel & Gretel*

 Donnell Theatre |  Family-friendly opera classic.

Nov 8 — Lego Cup Challenge

 Wood County Library |  10:00 a.m. Kids build and compete for creative designs.

Nov 8–9 — Planetarium Show: *Through the Eyes of Hubble*


 BGSU Planetarium |  7:30 p.m. Free admission. A journey through galaxies.

Hancock County & Regional Highlights

Nov 6–9 — Findlay Art League Fall Exhibition

 Downtown Findlay | Local and youth artists featured.

Nov 9 — Blanchard Valley Center Friendsgiving Craft Fair

 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Handmade crafts, food trucks, family fun.

Upcoming Local Events

Fostoria & Tiffin

- **Nov 10–11 — Veterans Day Parades & Ceremonies**
Fostoria (10 a.m.) | Tiffin (11 a.m.)

- **Nov 18 — City Council Financial Recovery Session** |  5:30 p.m.

- **Nov 22 — Fostoria YMCA Family Turkey Walk** | 🕒 9:00 a.m.
- **Nov 26 — City Employee Awards Ceremony** | 🕒 2:00 p.m.

Bowling Green & Beyond

- **Nov 23 — BGSU Planetarium Premiere: *Life Under the Arctic Sky***
- **Nov 29 — BG Small Business Saturday** | 🎁 Shop downtown and support local merchants.

🎄 Looking Ahead

- **Nov 30 — Downtown Fostoria Christmas Parade** 🧑🎅
Theme: "A Christmas to Remember."
 - **Dec 6 — "Convos with Council" at Kemosabes** | 🕒 11 a.m.
 - **Dec 6 — Tiffin Jingle Fest & Tree Lighting** | Downtown Tiffin.
 - **Dec 7 — BGSU Planetarium Winter Series Begins: *Life Under the Arctic Sky***
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🕯️ Preparing for the Season of Light

November ushers in a time of **gratitude, remembrance, and renewal** — as Ohioans finish harvests, ready their homes for winter, and join neighbors in celebrating faith and light.

✝️ Christian & Catholic Traditions

- **Nov 1 — All Saints' Day** and **Nov 2 — All Souls' / Día de los Muertos**: Masses, candles, and family remembrance.
- **Nov 30 — First Sunday of Advent**: Light the first candle and prepare hearts for Christmas.
- **Dec 6 — St. Nicholas Day**: Celebrate giving with small gifts or acts of charity.

ॐ Other Faith Observances

- **Nov 12–16 — Diwali**: Festival of Lights with lamps and sweets.
 - **Nov 24 — Guru Nanak Gurmurb**: Sikh celebration of service and community meals.
 - **Dec 8 — Bodhi Day**: Quiet reflection on enlightenment and peace.
 - **Dec 19–26 — Hanukkah**: Menorah lighting and gratitude.
 - **Dec 7–8 — Mawlid al-Nabi**: Commemorating the Prophet Muhammad through prayer and charity.
 - **Dec 21 — Winter Solstice / Yule**: Celebrating the return of light.
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🏠 Home & Community Preparation

- **Winterize Homes:** Inspect furnaces, seal windows, cover spigots.
 - **Garden Cleanup:** Cut back perennials, compost leaves, plant garlic or bulbs before frost.
 - **Support Local Markets:** Shop the Harvest Market and Small Business Saturday.
 - **Share Warmth:** Donate coats, blankets, and food.
 - **Outdoor Safety:** Prepare for frost and icy roads.
 - **Quiet Reflection:** Light candles — from Advent to Diwali — as symbols of hope.
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Spirit of the Month — Gratitude & Renewal

November connects civic duty and faith: voting, honoring veterans, and helping neighbors.

As darkness deepens, Ohio gathers around the light — in churches, temples, homes, and city streets — renewing its shared spirit of community and hope.

SECTION 3 — LOCAL HISTORY & HERITAGE

Into the Light: Fostoria's Gas, Glass & the Season of Illumination

"Under the new gaslights, the track shone brighter than a noonday fair."
— *Fostoria Review Tribune*, September 1889 (archival reference)

As November settles in and daylight shortens, Ohio enters what many faiths call **the Season of Light**—a time of candles, lamps, and reflection. Over a century ago, that same theme quite literally defined Fostoria's identity.

A City Fueled by Fire Beneath Its Feet

In 1887, Fostoria tapped into the **Trenton Limestone Gas Field**, part of the same underground blaze that had turned nearby Findlay into "Gas City." The new fuel—hotter and cleaner than coal—drew investors and glassmakers from across the country. Within a few short years, the prairie town gleamed through the night with the flames of its factories.

Between 1887 and 1893, more than a dozen glassworks lit their furnaces here, including:

- **Fostoria Glass Company (1887)** — tableware and oil-lamp bodies [1]
- **Nickel Plate Glass Company (1888)** — kerosene lamps and bar goods [2]
- **Fostoria Shade & Lamp Company (1890)** — then the nation's largest lamp manufacturer [3]

The Gas-Lit Horse Race

The peak of Fostoria's gas era was celebrated with spectacle. In September 1889, the **Fostoria Driving Park** hosted a "**Grand Gas-Light Race**," where harness horses ran under rows of flaming gas jets and glass reflectors. Bands played, vendors sold snacks and kerosene lanterns, and thousands watched night turn to day beneath a blue-white glow [4][5].

It was both a celebration of modern energy and a symbol of hope—proof that light could push back the dark.

Industry and Transition

Natural gas made Fostoria the "City of Light," but its flame was brief. By 1895 the wells weakened, factories closed, and the Fostoria Glass Company relocated to Moundsville, West Virginia in search of steady fuel [6]. Still, the legacy of those furnaces endured in the craftsmanship of Fostoria glass and the stories told by its descendants.

From Gas Flames to Holy Lights

Today, as candles are lit for **Diwali**, **Advent**, and **Hanukkah**, the parallel is striking. The same light that once rose from beneath Fostoria's soil now glows from our windows and altars. We enter this Season of Light not only remembering how our city forged illumination from earth and flame, but how each generation carries that light forward—through faith, community, and craft.

Sources

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<https://journalofantiques.com/articles/fostoria-glass-company>

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3. *Wikipedia*, “Fostoria Shade and Lamp Company,”
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4. *Fostoria Review Tribune*, Sept 1889 (archival microfilm, Kaubisch Public Library Local History Room; referenced in Fostoria Area Historical Society “Gas Boom” binder, 1985).
5. B.F. Bowen & Co., *History of Seneca County, Ohio* (1902), pp. 429–430 (HathiTrust Digital Library).
6. *Remarkable Ohio* Historical Marker No. 5-74, “Fostoria — Home of Fostoria Glass,” Ohio History Connection,
<https://remarkableohio.org/marker/5-74-fostoria-ohio-home-of-fostoria-glass>
7. Ohio Geological Survey Bulletin No. 3 (1890) and ODNR Division of Geological Survey GN-1 (Clifford, 1975), “Oil and Gas Fields of Ohio.”
8. Ohio Oil and Gas Energy Education Program (OOGEEP), “History of Ohio’s Oil & Gas,”
<https://oogEEP.org/industry/history>

SECTION 4 — ARTS

“Light, My Light” – Tagore’s Vision and the Season of Illumination

By Elliott Shaffer | *The Fostorian*

The Poem

Light, my light, the world-filling light,
the eye-kissing light, heart-sweetening light!

Ah, the light dances, my darling,
at the center of my life;
The light strikes, my darling,
the chords of my love;
The sky opens, the wind runs wild,
laughter passes over the earth.

The butterflies spread their sails
on the sea of light.
Lilies and jasmines surge up
on the crest of the waves of light.

The light is shattered into gold
on every cloud, my darling,
and it scatters gems in profusion.

Mirth spreads from leaf to leaf, my darling,
and gladness without measure.

The heaven’s river has drowned its banks
and the flood of joy is abroad.

— Rabindranath Tagore, *Gitanjali* (Song Offerings), 1913 (public domain)

Tagore’s Religious Vision

Rabindranath Tagore (1861 – 1941), born in Calcutta, India, was a poet, composer, and mystic who sought to unite the human spirit with the divine through art. Raised in the Brahmo Samaj movement (a 19th-century reform branch of Hinduism that emphasized one God, moral living, and the unity of all faiths), Tagore’s spiritual philosophy rejected ritual in favor of inner communion with the Creator.

For Tagore, **light was God’s presence made visible.**

He believed that the divine dwelt not in temples alone but in the everyday beauty of wind, sky, and living things. In Bengali spiritual thought, light is the eternal breath of truth — a symbol of knowledge that scatters ignorance as dawn disperses night.

In the poem, the radiance that “dances at the center of my life” is both a personal and cosmic experience. It expresses the joy of being alive in the presence of the Creator — what Christian mystics might call *divine indwelling*.

Parallels with Catholic and Christian Teachings on Light

November in the Christian calendar ushers in a transition:

- **All Saints' Day (Nov 1)** and **All Souls' Day (Nov 2)** honor the light of the faithful departed.
- As the month wanes, the Church turns toward **Advent**, the season of waiting for Christ — *the Light of the World* (John 8:12).

In both Tagore's poem and Catholic theology, **light represents the presence of God** that enlivens and redeems creation.

Compare Tagore's line — *"The heaven's river has drowned its banks and the flood of joy is abroad"* — to Psalm 36:9: *"In your light we see light."* Both speak of a joy that cannot be contained.

In Catholic worship, the Paschal candle lit at Easter and the Advent wreath lit in late November serve as visible reminders of this same truth: that divine light shatters darkness. Tagore's "light shattered into gold on every cloud" becomes a universal metaphor for resurrection and hope.

November's Lesson

In Ohio and throughout the Northern Hemisphere, November is a month of dim skies and early twilights. Yet Tagore's poem reminds us that light is not gone — it merely changes form. It returns diffused through memory, faith, and art.

For students and readers, this poem becomes a lesson in **symbolism and spiritual continuity**:

- Both Hindu and Christian traditions see light as a manifestation of the divine.
- Both use light as a teaching tool — for illumination of mind and soul.
- Both celebrate light's victory over darkness as a sign of faith and renewal.

Educational Extension

For art and religion students, compare:

- **Tagore's Light, My Light** → Psalm 27 (*"The Lord is my light and my salvation"*)

- **Hindu Diwali Festival of Lights → Catholic Advent Candles**
- **Tagore's shattered light imagery → Christian theology of the Transfiguration** (Matthew 17:2)

Each points to a shared human impulse: to seek, praise, and carry light through darkness.

Closing Reflection

As November unfolds in its hushed tones of gray and gold, Tagore's poem serves as a reminder for both reader and artist — that light is not merely a thing to see, but a truth to live by.

Whether in the lamplight of Fostoria's streets or in the first Advent candle of the season, it is the same flame that animates our world.

SECTION 5 — TECHNOLOGY & DIGITAL LIFE

“Let There Be Light — and Enlightenment”

By Elliott Shaffer, The Fostorian

November is the season when daylight shortens and our lamps burn longer — a time when we crave warmth, brightness, and a little clarity amid the encroaching dark. Yet light today is more than flame or filament. It's energy, it's data, it's design. From the glow of our screens to the pulse of LED pathways, *light* has evolved — and so has the meaning of *illumination*.

In the spirit of Fostoria's own glowing legacy — a city once lit by glass, gas, and the sparks of invention — this month's “Technology & Digital Life” explores how we can bring **light** and **enlightening technology** into our homes, habits, and hearts.

Light Tech — Bright Ideas in Every Sense

Once, the hum of a gas lamp meant safety at night; now, the flick of a smart bulb can shift a room from work to rest.

- **Smart LEDs and Solar Lanterns** are the new torchbearers — adjustable, efficient, and often powered by the same sun they mimic.
- **Full-spectrum therapy lights** chase the gray from our mornings, offering the daylight our bodies miss in Ohio's long winters.

- **Fiber optic art kits** and **projection lamps** turn bedrooms into starlit galleries — a gentle reminder that light has always been our most creative medium.

Fostoria, the “City of Light” in more ways than one, knows this well. It was here that glass once bent and danced with fire, turning sand and flame into beauty. In today's labs, engineers bend photons the same way — making light itself a material.

Enlightening Tech — Illumination of the Mind

Then comes the highest form of brightness: understanding.

- **Apps like Hallow, Abide, and Calm** weave prayer and peace through gentle digital light.
- **Star-mapping tools** turn a cold November night into a family astronomy lesson.
- **Augmented reality tours** bring museum glass, cathedrals, and even Bible stories into the palm of your hand.
- **AI learning companions** glow with possibility — helping students, teachers, and lifelong learners rediscover curiosity.

When used wisely, these tools don't just shine on us — they shine *through* us. They're the lamps to our feet and the light to our path (Psalm 119:105), drawing together faith and function in the same radiant thread.

✨ Living Lightly, Living Brightly

Light reminds us to see. Enlightenment reminds us to learn. And living lightly — in both spirit and technology — reminds us to breathe.

In the glow of a screen or the soft beam of a lamp, we have the same ancient invitation:

to look, to reflect, and to share that light forward.

So as Fostoria lights its streets, homes, and hearts this season — may our technology follow suit.

Not to blind, but to *brighten*.

Not to distract, but to *direct*.

Not to consume, but to *illuminate*.

Every small spark adds to the glow.

Sidebar Suggestion for Layout:

💡 *Try This Week:*

- Replace one screen hour with a walk under real starlight.
- Swap a harsh bulb for a full-spectrum daylight lamp.
- Charge your devices with solar power for a day.
- Pray, read, or learn something that lightens your mind.

SECTION 6 — HEALTH, WELLNESS & ENVIRONMENT

“Eating the Light” — How November Foods Bring Warmth and Energy to the Body

As November deepens and the days grow short, our bodies crave what the sun once gave freely: warmth, brightness, and energy. In the darker months, we turn to foods that store the light — plants and animals nourished by summer’s sun, now carrying that glow into our winter kitchens.

The Sun Inside Our Food

Every bite of real food is a kind of sunlight in disguise. Through photosynthesis, plants capture the sun’s rays and convert them into nutrients that sustain us. When we eat foods rich in carotenoids — the golden pigments in carrots, pumpkins, sweet potatoes, and squash — we’re literally taking in the energy of late summer fields. These orange and yellow vegetables are packed with vitamin A and beta-carotene, nutrients that support vision, skin, and immune strength during low-light months.

The Sunshine Vitamin — Naturally

Our skin makes vitamin D from sunlight, but in Ohio’s November skies, that’s in short supply. Nature compensates through foods that hold stored sunlight: eggs, cheese, salmon, and fortified milk. Even a bowl of oatmeal with milk and a sprinkle of nuts can provide a grounding morning ritual that gently nourishes through the season.

Grounded Foods for a Grounded Mind

Root vegetables — beets, parsnips, turnips, and potatoes — grow deep in the dark, yet hold a concentrated sweetness that comforts us in the cold. Their natural carbohydrates help the brain release

serotonin, the same “feel-good” chemical sparked by morning sunlight. Roasting them in olive oil transforms them into a slow-burning source of warmth and contentment.

Fruits of Stored Light

Apples, pears, and cranberries remind us that fall’s light lingers long after the leaves have dropped. Their bright flavors and vitamin C protect against seasonal illness and bring color back to winter plates. Locally sourced apples — perhaps from an orchard just outside Fostoria — carry not only nutrients but a sense of place and memory.

Herbs and Teas of Inner Glow

Herbal teas like chamomile, mint, ginger, and lemon balm calm the nerves and warm the body’s circulation. Add honey — another condensed form of sunlight — and you’ve created medicine that’s as ancient as the stars themselves.

The Light We Can Taste

In a world that dims early, our meals become a daily sunrise. Every spoonful of soup, every golden egg yolk, every apple slice glistening in the cold is a reminder: the sun never truly leaves us — it simply changes form. Through food, the light continues to live in us, nourishing body and soul alike.

SECTION 7 — OHIO & STATEHOUSE WATCH

Deadline deal on U.S. House map

What happened: The Ohio Redistricting Commission approved a bipartisan 15-district congressional map at the buzzer. Analysts expect a likely 12R–3D tilt.

Local impact:

- Toledo (OH-9): Harder hold for Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D).
- Cincinnati (OH-1): Redder terrain for Rep. Greg Landsman (D).
- Akron (OH-13): Safer for Rep. Emilia Sykes (D).

Why it matters: A commission deal keeps the map out of the legislature and makes a referendum unlikely this cycle.

Watch next: Candidate maneuvers and fundraising shifts for 2026.

State moves cash to blunt SNAP gap during shutdown

What happened: Gov. Mike DeWine directed \$7M to Ohio food banks and up to \$18M to Ohio Works First families—doubling monthly benefits for ~63,000 Ohioans (~57,000 children) while federal SNAP is disrupted.

Why it matters: Bridge help for households; not a SNAP replacement.

Watch next: Whether aid is extended if the federal shutdown continues and how local pantries keep up with demand.

Medicaid transition: Corcoran out, reforms roll on

What happened: Maureen Corcoran stepped down as Ohio Medicaid Director after overseeing system overhauls, OhioRISE for kids with complex behavioral needs, and the single PBM model.

What's coming:

- Eligibility checks every 6 months returning post-pandemic.
- Work-requirements path with CMS targeted for 2026 (details pending).

Why it matters: Families, providers, and counties should expect ongoing policy and IT changes; OhioRISE growth and budgets will draw scrutiny.

Quick numbers

- Ohio SNAP users: 1.4M people (\$264M/month pre-shutdown).
- Emergency aid: \$25M total (food banks + OWF).
- OhioRISE reach: ~50,000 children served.

Source: The State of Ohio (PBS/Statehouse News Bureau), episode aired Oct. 31, 2025 (Kasler).

SECTION 8 — ELEVATE

Between Light and Land: Lessons from the Tri-County Season

This week, northwest Ohio lives under a changing light. The harvest moon has waned, dawn breaks later each day, and the sky over Seneca, Hancock, and Wood counties turns from gold to pewter before supper. Yet this quieter light — softer, humbler — has its own kind of brilliance.

As the fields fall silent, the land itself becomes a teacher. Farmers finishing their corn and soybean runs speak of patience and trust: knowing when to let the ground rest, when to close the barn door, when to wait for spring. The same lesson reaches our homes and classrooms — the rhythm of the Earth reminding us that rest is part of growth.

Regional Light & Weather Outlook (Nov 2 – 9)

- Early Week: Gentle sunshine returns Monday–Tuesday, highs near the upper 50s °F — ideal for late harvest, outdoor walks, and sky observation.
- Midweek: Winds rise Wednesday with fleeting clouds; Thursday evening light stretches long and golden.
- Late Week: Friday brings scattered rain; by Sunday, cooler air sweeps in with lows in the 20s °F — the first true taste of frost.

The week mirrors a parable of transition — from work to rest, abundance to reflection, bright to dim — each part necessary, each a form of illumination.

In the Field & Community

- Seneca County: Leaf pickup in Fostoria continues; rural roads are edged with late asters and the last bursts of goldrod.
- Hancock County: Winter wheat already greens the soil, a quiet promise beneath the cold. The OSU Extension in Findlay suggests finishing fall mulching before Saturday's temperature drop.
- Wood County: Holiday lights begin appearing downtown in Bowling Green and North Baltimore — small human constellations against the early dusk.

Ways to “Elevate” This Week

- Observe the Shift: Step outside at sunrise or sunset and note how the angle of light changes. Let it inspire journaling or prayer.
- Tend the Hearth: Bring in herbs, polish lanterns, light candles at dinner — acts of keeping and gratitude.

- Support Local Makers: Visit tri-county craft fairs and markets before the frost settles; their light sustains our small towns.
- Teach Through Nature: For educators, compare plant dormancy to human rest — both forms of renewal.

Closing Reflection

The first frost may silence the fields, but it also sharpens the stars. Light does not end — it gathers, focuses, and waits. In the Tri-County heartland, every porch lamp, every classroom glow, every shared meal this week becomes part of that great returning light.

SECTION 9 — THE CATHOLIC CORNER

Week of November 2–9, 2025


Theme: *“The Souls of the Just Are in the Hand of God.” — Wisdom 3:1*


The Communion of Souls — Praying for the Faithful Departed


This week the Church enters the solemn octave of remembrance, carrying the light of All Saints into the quiet mercy of All Souls. It is a time to look beyond grief into God’s promise of resurrection, trusting that “death no longer has power” (Romans 6:9). The Church calls us to pray for those who have gone before us — for purification, peace, and eternal joy.


“Everything that the Father gives me will come to me,
and I will not reject anyone who comes to me.”
— John 6:37


What to Carry into the Week

 **Pray for the Departed:** Visit cemeteries, light candles, or list the names of loved ones in your prayer book. Each prayer is an act of mercy that reaches eternity.

 **Offer Mass Intentions:** Attend Mass or request one for souls in purgatory. Each Eucharist extends the saving love of Christ beyond the grave.

 **Hope, Not Fear:** Romans 5 reminds us that “hope does not disappoint.” In death, we meet the God who already proved His love on the Cross.

 **Practice Reconciliation:** Confession before All Souls’ Week unites our hearts with those we pray for. Forgiven hearts pray more freely.

 **Meditate on Resurrection:** As we walk through shorter days, reflect on Christ’s promise — *“I shall raise them on the last day.”* Let November light your trust in eternal dawn.

Sunday Scriptures — Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (Lectionary 668)

Reading I — Wisdom 3:1–9

“The souls of the just are in the hand of God.”

Meditation: What looks like loss to the world is gain in God’s sight. Suffering refines; faith transfigures.

Responsorial Psalm — Psalm 23

R: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Meditation: Even through the valley of death, we are guided home. The Shepherd’s rod and staff are not symbols of power, but of nearness.

Reading II — Romans 6:3–9

“We shall be united with him in the resurrection.”

Meditation: Death is not an ending — it is a baptism into life.

Gospel — John 6:37–40

“I will not reject anyone who comes to me.”

Meditation: Mercy is the gate, and love holds it open. Every prayer for the dead is a step toward the Kingdom.


Pray It, Live It

The Eternal Rest Prayer (Daily for a Departed Soul):

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.

Two-Minute Evening Remembrance:

1. Name one soul you wish to remember.
2. Thank God for a moment shared with them.
3. Pray for their peace and yours.

 **Practice of Mercy:** Visit a nursing home, cemetery, or lonely neighbor this week. Love given to the living honors the dead.

Bishop's Notes & Diocesan Highlights

- **Mass of Remembrance** — Nov 2 at the Cathedral of Our Lady, Toledo
 - **National Vocation Awareness Week** — Nov 3–9: Pray for those discerning priesthood, religious, and consecrated life.
 - **Bishop Thomas Reflection:** “The bond of love does not end at the grave; it is purified, completed, and crowned in heaven.”
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Reflection Thought

November's light is gentler now — gold through gray, like grace through grief. In remembering the faithful departed, we remember who we are: a pilgrim people walking toward eternal morning.