

November 21, 2021

Earlier in John's Gospel, prior to the passage we read today, we have the scene of the multiplication of the loaves and fish. After this miracle, the people wanted to make Jesus their king. Jesus perceived this desire and withdrew from them. In the passage we proclaim today, Jesus acknowledges to Pilate that he is a King, but he clarifies that his Kingship is not of this world. If Jesus is King, as He tells Pilate, why did he not allow the people to declare him King? The reason is that the people wanted a political and material kingship, but Christ came to give them so much more: *a spiritual kingship*. Those who had received bread and fish from Jesus thought of his Kingdom in worldly terms, but as Jesus tells Pilate, his kingdom is not of this world. The Kingdom of God is *"justice, peace, and the joy that is given by the Holy Spirit"* (Rom 14:17).

Today's celebration of the Solemnity of Christ the King concludes our church year and at the same time turns upside down our notion of what the successful conclusion of a royal mission looks like. In Jesus we have a king who is worthy of every accolade and devotion. He has received the tribute of many through the ages as men and women have dedicated their lives to him. Indeed, many have died for him in the course of human history. But unlike other royals who stand above and apart from their common subjects, our king has plunged into our very existence and taken on himself all that we are. This royal gave his life for those who are subject to him, to show us what kingship is all about. In a world that struggles with a true understanding of success as well as lacking servant leadership, we look to Christ our King today. We celebrate that, in his death and resurrection, the victory has been won. Through Him, we have a well-founded hope, that our fidelity to Him will lead us to everlasting life.

GRATITUDE AND THANKS – As we look ahead to the celebration of Thanksgiving weekend, I want to thank all who engaged in giving so that others may be blessed. I thank Marianne Meyer and all the volunteers of Parish Social Ministry for coordinating and disbursing all of the food donations to those in need.

THANKSGIVING MASS – On Thursday at 9:00 a.m. we will celebrate our annual Thanksgiving Day Mass. Thanks to John Buckel and all the members of our music ministry who are preparing for this special celebration.

Our offertory collection at the Thanksgiving Day Mass will be given to an organization called Friar Suppliers for their mission in Haiti, which focuses on creating, building, and improving the living conditions of those in desperate need, as well as bringing hope through evangelization programs. www.friarsuppliers.org

ADVENT WREATH - We enter the season of Advent next weekend and therefore begin our faithful preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth. This year we will begin a new tradition of inviting families and individuals to sign up for the lighting of our Advent Wreath at Masses. The sign-up book can be found on the altar rail in front of the Saint Joseph statue.

SUNDAY CONVERSATIONS – For the next two weekends, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Mass, we will be hosting conversations entitled, ***"Is the Church, right? Do we have evidence for what we believe?"*** The topics for the discussions will be, "Can we prove that God is real?" and "Is Jesus Really God?" The discussions will be led by parishioner Tom Griffin and one of the priests.



Lighting of the Advent Wreath
YOU ARE INVITED

This year we begin a new tradition at St. Rose of Lima.

Families or individuals are invited to light the newest candle on our Advent Wreath at the beginning of mass.

Please see the sign-up book in front of the St. Joseph altar to select a mass for you or your family.

At mass, you will be instructed when to come forward