



Pontius Pilate nailed to the cross not only the Savior of the world but also the title under which that Savior brutally died, "King of the Jews." He did this to antagonize the Jewish officials who had handed Jesus over to him out of jealousy. And also to mock the Jewish people and to show the power of Rome—that Rome could squash their king like a common criminal!

We, as Catholic Christians, boldly and proudly proclaim Jesus as our King! But the real test of this feast day is not our proclamation in words and song and prayers, but more importantly, our proclamation by the witness of our lives. What does that mean? It means that we are His subjects and we are not slaves to anyone or anything else. But is this true for all of us?

Although very few could admit it, I believe many in our world today are far more loyal to a political party or personality or sports figure or the latest music sensation and the list goes on and on, than they are to Christ Jesus.

What does it mean to say Jesus is Lord and King? It means that I am subject to His rule, to His will, to His desires for me and my life. It means that my life is to serve Him and to be a loyal subject. Why would any of us not want to be subject to Christ, who is pure love and total self-giving? When all of the other kings, all of the other rulers, or would be rulers of our lives are filled with flaws, shortcomings, and selfish motivations? Today is a good day for all of us to take serious looks at our lives before Christ and ask ourselves, "Is He the ruler of our lives or have we made ourselves slaves to something or someone less than He?"

The Holy Sacraments which He has left us are tools to help us reclaim Him as Lord of our lives, especially the Sacrament of Reconciliation. May I suggest to you a beautiful meditation: consider the Shroud of Turin. There are many scientists today who have testified to the authenticity of this remarkable ancient shroud. You can YouTube—as I have done—many testimonies of researchers of all faiths and hear their remarkable explanations regarding the 3D qualities of the shroud.

I recommend examining the wounds of the man on the shroud, like Thomas, the Apostle, did when Jesus appeared to him and invited Thomas to place his hands in His hands and in His side. When we gaze upon these wounds, we can't help but be overwhelmed with the love of our Savior. Knowing how totally and completely He loves us, why would we ever want to follow after anyone less? This is a perfect examination of conscience prior to celebrating the sacrament of Confession.

God love you,




**Holy Spirit Parish**  
**Confessions/Reconciliation**  
**St. Vitus Church**

December 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday  
11:00 am to Noon

December 11<sup>th</sup> Saturday  
**Penance Service**  
10:00 am to Noon

December 15<sup>th</sup> Wednesday  
**The Light is on for You**  
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

December 18<sup>th</sup> Saturday  
11:00 am to Noon

