

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Feast of Christ the King

November 22, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. I suppose for most of us, the concept of royalty and majesty speaks of the great distance between a king and his people. The kings that we read about in history books often stood aloof from their people, allowing them to speak if only spoken to. But for Jesus, the title "King" means just the opposite. Jesus is King of the Universe because His life is so intimately bound up with ours. Jesus is a king who rules within our hearts. As powerful as He is, Jesus does not win our hearts by force or conquest but rather He invites us into a loving relationship with Him. Jesus invites us to join Him in His eternal kingdom of truth, justice and peace. Jesus does not merely govern our lives; He is our life!

Jesus is the King and Lord of human history. As St. Paul states in his Letter to the Corinthians: Jesus draws together all the separate, diverse forces and energies in history, giving them a single unified purpose and direction. Jesus exercises His leadership as a servant, as among the lowest of those who serve-a Shepherd. Today's Scripture readings describe our God as a shepherd/ king and we know that Jesus is the Good Shepherd/King.

In today's first reading the prophet Ezekiel proclaims God's word to Israel almost six centuries before the time of Jesus. Ezekiel's message is directed to those Israelites suffering in Babylonian captivity. They were like scattered lost sheep without a caring shepherd. Their shepherds (kings and religious leaders) led them away from God into disaster and exile. Their evil and wicked shepherds took advantage of them as they were more concerned about advancing their own agendas than serving God's purpose. They prospered at the expense of their people who suffered greatly ending up in exile.

But God does not leave His Chosen people hopeless. Ezekiel prophesizes that God the Divine Shepherd will tend to the needs of His scattered flock by seeking them out, rescuing them, bringing them back and binding their wounds. God will give His flock the care and attention that they never had under their former kings and religious leaders. God will definitely find His flock and lead them back to the pasture in their homeland. We see that Ezekiel's prophecy is fulfilled in Jesus as He welcomes those who are poor and in need of healing and forgiveness.

In today's Gospel passage, St. Matthew presents a vision of the Final Judgment of all nations. Matthew's apocalyptic story portrays Jesus as the Son of Man as well as a king, making this passage suitable for today's Solemnity.

Continued...

Weekend Masses

Sat Nov 21	4:00 p.m.	Ellen, Lillian, + Richard VonLehmden
Sun Nov 22	8:00 a.m.	For our parish
Sun Nov 22	10:00 a.m.	Special Intention
Sat Nov 28	4:00 p.m.	Rosemary Meyer
Sun Nov 29	8:00 a.m.	For our parish
Sun Nov 29	10:00 a.m.	Dennis Warren

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$1,653.00	Loose \$903.00
	Total	\$2,556.00

43 envelopes returned = 20%



*Thank you for your generosity!
Thank you also to those who give
electronically!!*

Assignments for November 28 & 29, 2020

Money Counters: Tonya Meyer, Nick Recker
4:00 p.m.

Cantor: Courtney McLaughlin
Ushers: Jeanne and Jerry Wehri
Lector: Jenny Roby
E.M.: Edna Conkling
Servers: Adelyn Althaus

8:00 a.m.

Cantors: Courtney McLaughlin
Ushers: *Volunteer*
Lector: *Volunteer*
E.M.: *Volunteer*
Server: *Volunteer*

10:00 a.m.

Cantor: Courtney McLaughlin
Ushers: Greg and Gabe Denecker
Lectors: Chris Denecker
E.M.: Rachel Rader
Servers: Shylee and Ronald Kaufman

Readings for November 29, 2020

First Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17, 19; 64:2-7

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel Reading: Mark 13:33-37

