

November 24, 2019

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

For those who believe, life in this world comes to an end but with the confidence that eternal life is offered to those who fear the Name of the Lord and listen to his voice. November begins with the feast of all Saints, calling to mind that for which we live, and it also is a time of memory for those who have gone before us to meet the just Judge.

The end of the year in our liturgy which we celebrate this weekend hails Jesus Christ as King. The Kingship of Christ has many layers of meaning for us.

We call Jesus "Lord" or in the Latin, "Dominus." As Lord He dominates human history in the most excellent way. No tyrant, the King of heaven rules over the entire cosmos with the justice and mercy of one Who knows all things and is the source of every blessing.

That image which recalls his eternal and monarchical rule in heaven, has a beautiful reflection on the Cross of Calvary where his title, *Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews*, was nailed above his sacred Head.

The Virgin Mary was calmed by the archangel Gabriel with the words, "He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." (Luke 1:32-33)

And we saw the One who keeps the planets in orbit resting as an Infant in a mean crib of hay while being heralded by the angels, "*Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.*" And suddenly there was a multitude of the heavenly host with the angel, praising God and saying: "*Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.*" (Luke 2:10-14)

Our celebration of Jesus Christ King of the Universe is a joyful and yet sober reminder that the Lord of history is the Lord of heaven and earth! He reigns eternally and he reigns here in time. We surrender ourselves into his rule if we are wise enough to accept his invitation to follow Him today and always. Our King rules whether we submit to his kingly rule or not. Today the evidence of his rule can seem weak in our society, but it is no less real.

All things in time will come to an end but as servants of the King we live in confident hope that the trials and obscurity of this life will be transformed by the King who became flesh, mounted the gibbet of the Cross and has taken his rightful place in heaven as King.

Holy Family, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, save souls!

Fr. Martin Flum

Advent – "a mini Lent"

The bishops of the United States in 1966 wrote a pastoral statement on Penance and Abstinence. They identified three penitential periods that particularly mark our lives as Catholics. It might surprise you that Advent is included with Lent and certain other days, including every Friday. The major seasons of penance prepare us for Christmas and Easter. That is the overarching purpose although they also have the effect of developing the virtue of self-mortification in our hearts.

The bishops observed back in 1966 that the faithful were already being drawn into the over-heated retail push referred to as "the Holiday season" which was stealing away the purpose of Advent.

"Changing customs, especially in connection with preparation for Christmas, have diminished popular appreciation of the Advent season. Something of a holiday mood of Christmas appears now to be anticipated in the days of the Advent season. As a result, this season has unfortunately lost in great measure the role of penitential preparation for Christmas that it once had." (#5)

The bishops were reminding us that Advent is "...a season of effective preparation for the mystery of the Nativity. (#6) What happens if one does not properly prepare for something? Its fruits are diminished. If we prepare for the Christmas season, which begins December 25th, by a penitential Advent season, then the proper spiritual benefits will be poured into our hearts.

"If in all Christian homes, churches, schools, retreats and other religious houses, liturgical observances are practiced with fresh fervor and fidelity to the penitential spirit of the liturgy, then Advent will again come into its own. Its spiritual purpose will again be clearly perceived." (#8)

We want to not just perceive the spiritual purpose but to benefit from the wisdom of Mother Church who urges us to prepare for the coming of the Lord each year. The Lord saw fit to let millenniums pass as He prepared the people of Israel for his coming. Advent means "coming".

Each year we renew that joyful anticipation. Let us set out to observe Advent in its proper spirit and renounce the spirit of the world which always tries to suffocate the work of the Holy Spirit in us.

SERIES: CONSECRATION TO JESUS THRU MARY

The last talk in preparation for Consecration to Jesus thru Mary on Friday, **November 29** will be: **Jesus Christ, Divine Wisdom**. You will have the opportunity to spend time in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and receive Benediction. On **Sunday, Dec 8th** during a **4pm holy hour**, we will pray together the prayer of Consecration to Jesus thru Mary entrusting ourselves to our Blessed Lady.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 24, 2019

Monday: Dn 1: 1-6. 8-20/ Dn 3: 52. 53. 54. 55. 56/ Lk 21: 1-4
Tuesday: Dn 2: 31-45/ Dn 3: 57. 58. 59. 60. 61/ Lk 21: 5-11
Wednesday: Dn 5: 1-6. 13-14. 16-17. 23-28/ Dn 3: 62-67/ Lk 21: 12-19
Thursday: Dn 6: 12-28/ Dn 3: 68-74/ Lk 21: 20-28
Friday: Dn 7: 2-14/ Dn 3: 75-81/ Lk 21: 29-33
Saturday: Rom 10: 9-18/ Ps 19/ Mt 4: 18-22
Next Sunday: Is 2:1-5/ Ps 122/ Rom 13:11-14/ Mt 24:37-44

ST. MICHAEL'S MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK

Saturday, 11/30/19 5pm
Rosary Leader: Irene Goldsmith **Lector:** Vicky Hayden
Server: Kathy Fisher **EMHC:** Joan Royal
Sunday 12/01/19 8am
Rosary Leader: Ron Smith **Lector:** James Holly
Server: Julissa Holly **EMHC:** TBD
Sunday, 12/01/19 11:30am
Rosary Leader: Kevin Mondorf **Lector:** David Mason
Server: Kayla Aure **EMHC:** TBD

OUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS

St. Michael's
Offertory Collection for Nov 3rd \$ 3,027
St. Dominic's
Offertory Collection for Nov 3rd \$ 1,080

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

For those who suffer from chronic illness, especially Joe Aviles, Madison Brady, Ann Canter, Charlene Cardwell, Tom Cardwell, Joyce Chambers, Thomas Chambers, Jackie Chapman, Brianna Daniels, Dorothy Dunston, Mabel Hamilton, Florence Henderson, Crystal Johnson, Bernice Kirby, Marie Knobel, Wanda Langley, Betty Lindsay, Kenny Lindsay, Adam Lumpkins, Rachel Makle, Michael Mohun, Ralph and Regina Nasatka, Fannie Newman, Joyce Pickeral, Rev. Robert Pittman, Ann Proctor, Betty Proctor, Dawn Russo, Lucille Shanks, Dee Smith, Geraldine Stewart, Willie Stewart, George Thomas, Terry Wilson and Belinda Windsor, may their crosses be joined to the Cross of Jesus.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday,	11/23/19	5pm	Joseph Sobnosky Sr. +
Sunday,	11/24/19	8am	John W. Brown +
Sunday,	11/24/19	10am	All Souls Intentions
Sunday,	11/24/19	11:30am	Our Parishioners
Monday,	11/25/19	8am	Joseph Novacich
Tuesday,	11/26/19	8am	Karl Frantz
Wednesday,	11/27/19	8am	Lourdes Yano +
Thursday,	11/28/19	8am	All Souls Intentions
Friday,	11/29/19	8am	Donna Dudley +

Knights of Columbus High School Scholarships

The Maryland State Council of the Knights of Columbus are offering two scholarship programs. One is for any Catholic student going to a Catholic High School and the other is for the sons and daughters of Knights. There is more information on their website www.kofc-md.org select "Programs" and then "High School Scholarship Programs". Application window is now open until Feb 1, 2020.



TRIP to the MOVIES!

Have you ever wanted to know more about St. Faustina and the miraculous image of Divine Mercy? How about go to the movies as a parish? Here is the opportunity for you to do both! We'll be going as a group to see the newly released film *Love and Mercy: Faustina* on Dec. 2nd. This film was originally shown on Oct. 28th as a one time showing, and it

is back a second time by popular demand. It is a docudrama about St. Faustina and the message of Divine Mercy. We will meet at St. Michael's at 5:30 PM to carpool to a 7 PM showing in Alexandria. Or if you want to meet us at the theater, that can be arranged! Remember, this is your last chance to see this movie in theaters! **Please sign up in the binder in the vestibule.** Contact Joanna Mason, at evangelization.stmichaelbaden@gmail.com for more information.

Live the Gospel - Challenge of the Week

Sign up for the trip to the movies to learn more about Faustina and the Divine Mercy image! :D

Adoration and Healing Prayers

Do you pray for healing in your life or in your family? God may not always answer as we would like Him to, but He always answers according to what is best for us. Come to St. Michael's at 7 PM on December 11th, 2019 for an evening of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament followed by prayers of healing by Fr. Flum over anyone who would like to come forward. We hope to see you there!

***** THANKSGIVING *****

With the advice of the Finance Council I ask you to consider making a gift to the parish, a **THANKSGIVING** donation, that will help us continue to make those repairs to our hall and churches that are pressing at this time.

Two parish repair items need to be completed soon. First, the roof at St. Dominic has been losing a lot of slate tiles and we are actively trying to determine how we are going to fix it. Once that is fixed, we can install the sacristy door that has been made to match the new front door. Second, the floor tiles in the parish hall are starting to come up in many places – the whole floor must be redone.

You can use the envelope marked **THANKSGIVING** that came with your regular contribution envelopes or just write "Thanksgiving" on the memo line of your check.

Mass will be at 9am Thursday morning.