

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

November 1, 2021

As these days of autumn continue to get a bit shorter & colder, the Church's liturgical calendar continues to wind down toward its annual conclusion & culmination, which is marked by the celebration of *Jesus Christ, King of the Universe*. This year, the celebration of the *Solemnity of Christ the King* occurs on Sunday, November 21st. In the reading taken from John's Gospel, we will hear Jesus openly affirm His Kingship... "So Pilate said to him, 'Then you are a king?' Jesus answered, 'You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.'" (See John 18:37) As Christians, the Kingship of Christ is a reality that we can ultimately place all of our hope & trust in, especially as we witness the constant political unrest & instability in the world around us. In the liturgy for this great Solemnity, we pray... "that, glorying in obedience to the commands of Christ, the King of the universe, we may live with him eternally in His Heavenly Kingdom." On the following Sunday, November 28th, we mark the beginning of a new liturgical year with our celebration of the *1st Sunday of Advent*. *Advent* is a liturgically rich & meaningful season for the Church. It is a season that tangibly places before us the joy & hope of our Christian religion. As a parish family, I pray that we will take advantage of this rich & important time given to us by the Church. During this upcoming month of November, we also have a few other important celebrations & events taking place. Monday, November 1st is *All Saints Day*, immediately followed by *All Souls Day* on Tuesday, November 2nd. For each of these Holy Days there will be 2 *Masses: at 8am & 7pm*. Please note that *All Saints Day* is not a Holy Day of Obligation this calendar year. At the 7pm Mass for *All Souls Day* there will be a special ceremony when we will remember & read all of the names of the parishioners who have passed into *eternal life* this past year. We invite all the members of our parish to attend this meaningful



celebration where we will pray... "Receive, Lord, in your kindness, the sacrificial offering we make for all your servants who sleep in Christ, that, set free from the bonds of death by this singular sacrifice, they may merit *eternal life*." Finally, towards the end of the month we celebrate *Thanksgiving Day*. I want to take this opportunity to wish all of our parishioners and parish families a happy & healthy Thanksgiving!

Peace & Blessings,

Fr. John