

The Work of the People

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

The Solemnity of Christ the King was added to the liturgical calendar by Pope Pius XI in 1925. It is a fitting celebration to end Ordinary Time and transition nicely into the Advent call to prepare for the coming King. Christ's kingship is eschatological, already present in the Church but to be fulfilled for all things at the end, and so cannot be divorced entirely from the idea of the last things, for which harvest is an appropriate image. This solemnity gives a preview of the coming fulfillment of the reign of Christ, which we will then spend Advent being asked to prepare for.

In the Reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel, we hear that the God is our shepherd. Unlike the shepherds who have failed to tend to their sheep and care for the least among them, our God will look after us and care for us. Whether we are wearied from having almost completed the entire liturgical year or simply look forward to celebrating this glorious solemnity, this is good news. God, our King, is not like the corrupt shepherds of the past. God will judge, but God will also seek us out, heal us, and rescue us before the day of the Lord.

In his Letter to the Church in Corinth, Paul draws on the image of the firstfruits of the harvest to describe the relationship between Christ's resurrection and the resurrection of the dead. His Resurrection is the Thanksgiving offering to God just as farmers offered the firstfruits of the harvest to God in gratitude. The firstfruits of the harvest symbolized the holiness of the entire harvest. All belongs to God.

In today's Reading from Matthew's Gospel, the Son of Man will separate the sheep from the goats when he comes in glory; the sheep he will put on his right and the goats on the left. Will our instructions from the King be to "Come" on his right or to "Depart" and go left? We can answer this question by reflecting on how we have responded to Christ. How have we responded to the hunger and thirst of the least ones? How have we welcomed Christ in them? How have we provided Christ clothing? How have we cared for Christ in sickness and in prison? Throughout his lifetime of teaching that we have heard during the course of this liturgical year, Jesus has consistently linked the mission of his disciples with caring for those in need. On the solemnity of Jesus' kingship, his

message is no different. When we see and respond to our brothers and sisters in need, we are also seeing and responding to Christ.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Mary DeTurris Poust who is a writer, retreat leader, and spiritual director.

Jesus doles out some tough love in today's Gospel, which echoes the equally tough love offered by the prophet Ezekiel. Don't get me wrong, Christ the King coming to lead his sheep into the eternal kingdom is both a powerful and comforting message. But then the other shoe drops: Am I a sheep or a goat? Because as it turns out, according to Scripture, the goats are not going to fare so well. We can "baaaaaa" all we want, but at the end of the day if we have not lived up to the challenges God has put before us—caring for those who are hungry and naked and sick, loving God first—we will "go off to eternal punishment."

Our world these days is too often about being a GOAT (Greatest of All Time), but Jesus turns that idea on its head. We are not called to be the GOAT among family or coworkers or neighbors, flaunting our success and power to the envy of all. No, we are called to be like the lost sheep, pulled back from the perilous edge of a rocky crag by the Master's voice. Jesus does not ask us to perform feats of strength or earn piles of money or rise to the highest level of our profession to earn his love. He asks us to let go of the need for all of that and turn back to him with all the tenderness and love we can muster, to follow where he leads.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Dn. 1:1-6, 8-20/Lk. 21:1-4
 Tuesday: Dn. 2:31-45/Lk. 21:5-11
 Wednesday: Dn. 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Lk. 21:12-19
 Thursday: Rom. 10:9-18/Mt. 4:18-22
 Friday: Dn. 7:2-14/Lk. 21:29-33
 Saturday: Dn. 7:15-27/Lk. 21:34-36
 Sunday: Is. 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/1 Cor. 1:3-9/
 Mk. 13:33-37

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Our actions as parents in feeding the hungry, welcoming strangers or estranged relatives into our homes teach our children moral lessons of life. We clothe our sick or imprisoned neighbors by caring for them and visiting them. The beatitudes are the perfect playbook for Jesus' expectations of families. Our routine actions make Christ present in all we do.

WORSHIP

Monday, November 27
8:00 am + David & Christine Ochs Family
Tuesday, November 28
8:00 am + Deceased Members of Lipkovich Family
Wednesday, November 29
8:00 am + NO MASS
Thursday, November 30
8:00 am + NO MASS
Friday, December 1 - FIRST FRIDAY
8:00 am + Norma Adams (Family)
Saturday, December 2
4:30 pm + Living & Deceased Parishioners
Sunday, December 3
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Rick Baker (Pauline Baker)
9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
Michael Marks (Richard & Fran Marks)

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 28
After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
Saturday, December 2
3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession
Sunday, December 3
AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Before Mass - Confession
AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
After Mass - Confession
After Mass - Faith Formation Class
Monday, December 4
5:00 pm - Doors open for BINGO

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, December 2 - 4:30 pm
Sydney Zilhaver
Sunday, December 3 - 9:30 am
Max Marteeny

ST. BERNADETTE ALTAR/ROSARY SOCIETY MEETING

Tuesday, December 5 - 1:00 pm

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship will appear in next week's bulletin.

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD FALL 2023 FAMILY DAY

The Epiphany of the Lord Parish's Fall Family Day will be held on Sunday, December 3 in the Seton Gym. Free admission. Activities will be held before the movie starts. Please come enjoy with us as a family! Doors open at 12:30 pm. Movie "The Grinch (2018)" starts at 1:15 pm.

FOOD PANTRY

The Cambridge Springs Community Food Bank has reached out with ideas of what is needed for the food bank with the upcoming holidays:

- Peanut Butter, Ketchup, Mustard, Boxed items
- Tuna, Canned Chicken
- Toothpaste, toothbrushes
- Toilet paper, paper towels

Boxes are in the gathering space for any items you are able to donate. Thank you in advance.

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Christmas Community Service by the Cambridge Springs Ministerium will be held on Sunday, December 10th at 7:00 pm at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Public is invited. It is suggested carpooling is a good idea.

CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Thank you for your generous support last week for the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development! If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give!

*"Jesus,
I want to join your apostles as a messenger
of your kingdom today!"*

ADVENT LUNCHES

Wed. November 29 - First Baptist Church
Wed. December 6 - Christian Missionary Alliance
Wed. December 13 - First Church of God
Wed. December 20 - C.S. Presbyterian Church

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship will appear in next week's bulletin.

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
