

The Work of the People

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

Today is the Thirty-Fourth or Last Sunday in Ordinary Time. The official name for this Sunday is the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. This solemnity was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925, an observance celebrating an aspect of Jesus's identity rather than of his life. Conventional understandings of kingship and power are transformed. Rather than calling up images of Jesus Christ dressed in kingly robes, the Gospel proclaims him as king by the sign over his head on the throne of a wooden cross (I.N.R.I. – *Jesus nazarenus rex iudaeorum* – Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews). Paradoxically, it is the thief who recognized in Christ the Lord and Messiah.

This week we read once again from the Book of the Prophet Daniel. The Son of Man will come on the clouds of heaven. He will receive dominion over all. All nations shall serve him. His dominion shall never be taken away. All this is foreseen by the prophet Daniel.

The Second Reading is from the Book of Revelation. To Jesus Christ belongs all glory and power forever and ever. The Book of Revelation assigns the vision of clouds to Jesus as well. In this one passage we meet prophecy and fulfillment as we are reminded of the words Jesus used to speak of himself.

The Gospel passage helps us understand what we mean by the title "King" as applied to Jesus. To a contemporary society in which kings are held in low esteem, the word carries a sense of entitlement and caste. But the kingship of Jesus is not of this world. We all yearn for a ruler who will take responsibility for society, whose own goodness will influence the goodness of others, who will contain evildoers and rescue the poor. Jesus Christ is the ideal ruler, and we have given to him the throne of our hearts.

The reflection for this Sunday is from John Klassen, OSB, who is abbot of Saint John's Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota.

This feast of Christ the King serves as a "parable of reversal." Turning on its head the common understanding of king as authoritarian ruler, Jesus serves in a fundamentally new way that is consistent with his proclamation of the reign of God. In so doing, he embodies the king envisioned by the prophet Isaiah: a humble

servant whose reign is marked by justice, peace, and love (Isaiah 11).

Jesus is a humble king because he overcomes the powers of evil and chaos but not through domination and force of arms. He does it by emptying himself of all divine privilege. He does it by enduring bitter suffering and a shameful death.

Jesus is a servant king because he gives his Father's reign a new meaning, a new significance. Jesus rules through service of others rather than through domination and fear. He is selfless enough to let go of his own ego, loving in the face of tightfistedness, and forgiving toward those who kill him.

Jesus is a just king because the reign of God for which he is giving his life is grounded in truth, not lies and manipulation. For Jesus, "kingship" is to be the very embodiment of truth, the truth he knew and witnessed as God's only Son sent into the world. And then he adds, "Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

This is the final command, the final challenge Jesus gives to us before he offers his life for us. He challenges us to always be truthful. By being truthful we will be able to hear and understand the message of Jesus. We will become his loyal disciples. We will want him as our king. By being his disciples we will be persons free to love and be loved.

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: Dn. 6:12-28/Lk. 21:20-28
 Friday: Dn. 7:2-14/Lk. 21:29-33
 Saturday: Dn. 7:15-27/Lk. 21:34-36
 Sunday: Jer. 33:14-16/1 Thes. 3:12; 4:2/Lk. 21:25-28, 34-36

CHANGES TO THE COMMUNION RITE

After much reflection, Bishop Lawrence Persico has determined that the time is opportune for us to return to the practice of kneeling after the singing of the Lamb of God. Once the people return after receiving Holy Communion, they may kneel or be seated. All will stand at the "Let us pray" for the prayer after Communion. This restored practice is intended to help to unify posture and assist those parishioners who are unable to stand for long periods of time, as well as bring our practice into union with our neighboring dioceses. Those who are unable to kneel should feel free to sit instead.

This directive goes into effect the First Sunday of Advent, at 4:00 pm on Saturday, November 27, 2021.

WORSHIP

Monday, November 22
 8:00 am + John E. Auer
 Tuesday, November 23
 8:00 am + Josephine Haluch (PNA Lodge 1540)
 Wednesday, November 24
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Thursday, November 25 - THANKSGIVING DAY
 9:00 am + Faith & Hope on Thanksgiving
 Friday, November 26
 8:00 am + Daniel H. Baker (Rita Baker & Family)
 Saturday, November 27
 4:30 pm + Living & Deceased Parishioners
 Sunday, November 28
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Lucy Stake (Jim & Fran Peters)
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 John C. Wickware (Rebecca Wickware)
 12:30 pm + LATIN MASS
 For the Holy Souls in Purgatory
 (Joyce Lyons)

THINKING ABOUT PRIESTHOOD?
Come to St. Andrew Dinner
 Monday, December 6, 2021
 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
 St. Brigid Church Social Hall
 967 Chancery Lane
 Meadville, PA 16335
 Any mature young man striving to follow Jesus' call in their lives and open to the possibility of the seminary and priesthood. Cost is free. Casual but respectable attire. RSVP to the Epiphany of the Lord Parish 814 336-1112 For more information Contact Fr. Scott Jabo at SWJabo@eriercd.org 814 824-1200/Erie Vocations.org

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CANTATA
 Members of local churches will present the Christmas musical "One Small Child" on Saturday, November 27th at C.S. St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 7:00 pm and Sunday, November 28th at C.S. 1st United Methodist Church at 7:00 pm. Praise God that He has blessed our community to gather together to praise and worship Him.

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday, November 21
 10:30 am - Faith Formation Classes
 Tuesday, November 22
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
 Saturday, November 27
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession (or by appointment)
 Sunday, November 28
 AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Before Mass - Confession
 AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 After Mass - Confession

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE
 When we are young our parents "tell us about Jesus" and we believe what our parents believe. At some point, we must leave our parents faith and ask Pilate's question: "Are you the King?" Pilate is just asking these questions on our behalf.

MARRIAGE MOMENT
 Thanksgiving is coming up this week in the USA. You've probably already told your beloved many qualities that you appreciate about him or her. Can you think of a new one? Or perhaps just thank them for something simple he or she did yesterday.

*"Lord,
 I will bless you in good times
 and in bad times.
 I praise and exalt you
 above all forever."*

SAVE THE DATE
 Young adult
 Christmas party
 Friday, December 3
 8 - 10 pm
 St. Agatha Center

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$502.00
Campaign for Human Dev.	10.00
TOTAL	\$512.00
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$7,050	Paid: \$7,040

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$682.00
Maintenance	208.00
Energy	148.00
All Saints	25.00
Roofing Fund	100.00
Candles	47.00
TOTAL	\$1,210.00
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$28,555	Paid: \$26,989

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
