

## The Work of the People

*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 attend their sheep and care for the least among them, the God's will look after us and care for us. Whether we are wearied from having almost completed the entire liturgical year and 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 Justin Bartkus who studies human-centered design and business and formerly served as a high school theology teacher.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus resists false or premature adulation. Yet the plotline bears inexorably toward the acclamation of Christ as King. We hear hints of it in Matthew's final judgment scene. But before Jesus' crucifixion, it is Pilate who gets straight to the point: "Are you the king of the Jews?" The unfolding of events that day makes it clear: yes, in Jesus we have a king. A king who is crowned (with thorns), who is robed in a royal mantle (for the sake of derision), who receives a scepter into his hands (the reed of contempt).

Behold the king, face-to-face with the uncloaked rulers of the world, the powers of selfishness, fear, and brutality. Behold the king who endures humiliation and mockery rather than stooping to fight with the weapons of the world. Behold the king, fighting under the banner of his Father's mercy.

In a few weeks, we will witness our King receiving homage from the Magi at a crib in a stable. In today's Gospel, we learn other places where he must receive homage: behind the bars of a lonely prison cell, in the places where the homeless and disdained congregate, in boardrooms and offices where decisions are made about the fate of struggling and vulnerable people.

To proclaim Christ as King is to raise a banner of resilient and victorious mercy above the powers of this world. There indeed exists a higher dominion that binds and embraces us. Every other nation, rule, or governing power is but an echo of his merciful, glorious kingdom.

This year the Liturgical Year ends on Saturday, November 28 at the morning Mass. The Liturgical Year provides us with a cycle of celebrations that help us to remember and give thanks for all that God has done and continues to do for us. In these latter Sundays of the Liturgical Year, we are reminded that we live in an in-between time; Christ has come and we now wait for Christ to come again.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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

### CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Please be generous in this week's special collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. With this collection, you support programs that address the causes of poverty and provide a sustainable future for those struggling across the country. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this collection.

## WORSHIP

Monday, November 23  
8:00 am + John Auer

Tuesday, November 24  
8:00 am + For the Repose of the Soul of  
Fr. James T. O'Hara

Wednesday, November 25  
8:00 am + NO MASS

Thursday, November 26  
9:00am + Daniel H. Baker (Rita Baker & Family)

Friday, November 27  
8:00 am + John Blank and Members of Blank Family  
(Joan Rembielak & Phyllis Wronko)

Saturday, November 28  
4:30 am + Alice Undereiner (Betty Bisbee)

Sunday, November 29  
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
Living & Deceased Parishioners  
9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
Marie Sharon Hill (M/M Gerard Adamczyk)  
12:30 pm + LATIN MASS  
William P. Lyons, Sr. (Joyce Lyons)

## PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 24  
After Mass - St. Anthony Novena

Saturday, November 28  
3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession

Sunday, November 29  
Before Mass - Confession - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
After Mass - Confession - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

### MARRIAGE MOMENT

November 22 is the feast of Christ the King. What does it mean to be a King (or Queen)? According to the Gospel it means to feed the hungry and thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the ill and imprisoned. (Mt:25). Discuss with your beloved how you can do one of these this week. Yes, feed your kids, plus what else?

<b>ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARADSHIP</b>	
Offertory	\$321.00
Maintenance	<u>100.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$421.00</b>
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$5,585    Paid: \$5,535	

### #iGiveCatholic

The #iGiveCatholic giving day is just 2 weeks away (December 1) and the advanced giving window runs until November 30.

Please participate in the #iGiveCatholic giving day on December 1 to support our parish. Visit <https://erie.igivecatholic.org/> and search for (insert name of your parish) to make a \$25 or more gift. The Catholic Foundation of Northwest Pennsylvania is coordinating our participation in #iGiveCatholic and will be offering cash prizes! Help us win a prize! Prizes are listed here: <https://erie.igivecatholic.org/>

### Psalms of Praise and Thanksgiving

The Thanksgiving holiday is an excellent time to rediscover the psalms of praise and thanksgiving.

When you find a quiet moment, sit and relax with your Bible. Think of a time when awe and gratitude overwhelmed you. Maybe it was a sunrise, or children playing in a park, an inspirational hymn at Mass, a family gathering, or a walk in the woods. Remember how you appreciated that special moment. Then, open your Bible to one of the psalms of thanksgiving and recite it to yourself. Take Psalm 118 for instance:

*Give thanks to the Lord for he is good;  
His love endures forever.*

Listen to the words. Close your eyes. Let the psalm speak to you.

Other psalms of praise and thanksgiving you might consider include Psalms 92, 95, 98, 100, 103, 104, 105, 107, 111, 117, 145 and 147.

Whatever psalm you choose for that quiet moment, thank God for that special time of awe as well as all the good things in your life, and praise God for this glorious deeds.

*Remind me, Lord Jesus,  
when life seems all too busy,  
too stressful, too much,  
that You are the answer.  
My relief always comes from You.  
Amen*

<b>ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP</b>	
Offertory	\$1,376.00
Maintenance	276.00
Candles	46.00
Energy	85.00
All Saints	10.00
Human Development	10.00
CSA	<u>80.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,883.00</b>
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$26,638    Paid: \$25,558	

**CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA**

**CHURCH NO.:**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

---