25 November 2018 - Solemnity of Christ the King

From the Desk of the Pastor ....

Today we honor Christ as our King. This Feast was introduced by Pope Pius XI in 1925. It was a time of great stress in the world. In Europe, many nations were still badly wounded by the First World War. In Russia, atheistic Communism was already persecuting the Church. In Italy and Germany the unrest which led to ideas such as fascism and Nazism was growing. The Pope reminded the world that there is ultimately only one ruler: God. God made his rule most clear in the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King. As Pope Pius XI said, when we all recognize “both in private and in public life, that Christ is King, society will at last receive the great blessings of real liberty, well-ordered discipline, peace and harmony.

Jesus exercises his kingship through his sacrificial and loving death. The incarnate word of God goes through humiliation, suffering, and death. Jesus challenges all our notions of power. His kingly robe is the blood pouring down his body, his crown is a crown of thorns, and his throne is the cross. His kingdom is not of this world. From the wood of the Cross even at the moment of His death on the Cross, He finds an opportunity to exercise his kingship and forgives the repentant thief, granting him sovereign freedom, and healing of his sins:

"Indeed, I promise you, today you will be with me in paradise."

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

ST. JOHN SCHOOL

St. John School is accepting applications for next August's Transitional Kindergarten and Kindergarten classes. Please call the school office at 415-584-8383 if you are interested in a tour. Children must be 4 years old by September 1, 2019 for Transitional Kindergarten and 5 years old by September 1, 2019 for Kindergarten.

St. John School, mindful of its witness to the love of Christ for all, admits students of any race, color, and national and/or ethnic origins to all rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded to or made available to students at this school. St. John School does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, and national and/or ethnic origin, age, sex or disability in administration of educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH CHOIRS

We would love to have more members in our Parish choirs, both in English and Spanish.

We invite new members to join our choirs. We look for whoever wants to sing God's praises in our choirs.

Come and make friends and lend your voices to this ministry.

Practice for the English Choir is at 6pm on Wednesdays.

Practice for the Spanish Choir takes place on Sundays after the Spanish Mass.

O Christ Jesus, What is Truth?...

When we celebrate Christ the King, we are not talking about political power. That is the only kind of king that Pilate recognized. Our first two readings describe in poetic terms what Christ's kingdom is like: a priestly kingdom of glory and power that will never end. Pilate was judging the One who would one day judge him. He wanted to know if Jesus claimed to be a king, or if the Jews who wanted Jesus destroyed were behind the rumors of kingship. Jesus does not deny his kingship; after all, he says his purpose in life is the Truth. If you were reading this in the Bible, you would see Pilate's response, "What is truth?"

For Jesus (and for us), truth is the relationship between God and God's people. God is the source of the universe, the source of all life. Jesus came to show us the truth of God's love for all people. The divine kingdom is simply the way that we relate to God and each other. We join that kingdom, not by signing a membership list, but by living a life of love. Love for God and for each other. So why doesn't Jesus use all that power and glory to make everyone follow him? Because God asks us to be humble like Jesus. God doesn't force people to believe. That is another side of Truth: who God is and who we are. If you believe in God, you begin to see God in people whom you love, people who need our help, even people who don't like us. We even see God in the beauty and majesty of creation. A few years ago, when I heard that scientists were coming to accept that the universe was infinite, I was afraid that that would make people reject the idea of God. But then it occurred to me that an all-powerful God would make an infinite universe to show the divine glory.

Today Jesus invites us to accept the truth and become members of his kingdom. The tax is what we freely choose to give; the army are those who freely give themselves in service to the poor, the sick, and those who are seeking God. And the laws of this Kingdom are simple—Love God with all your being and love your neighbor as yourself. And that's the Truth.

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LAST WEEK’S COLLECTION

COLECTA DE LA SEMANA PASADA

Nov 13th - Nov 18th, 2018

Tuesday's Spec coll. ......$ 97.00
Tuesday's Spec coll. ......$ 10.00
Weekend Offering.......$ 3,384.00
Weekend Offering.......$ 280.00
Campaign Human Dev...$ 1,354.00
Human Dev. On-line giving.$ 5.00