

ALL SAINTS

CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL



Love God • Serve Others • Form Disciples

November 22 & November 23, 2025;

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Deacon Mike's Homily

HOMILY - Year C – Feast of Christ the King (2025)

When I think of Jesus, I think of my savior who humbled himself by becoming man, suffering, and ultimately allowing others to crucify him on a cross. I am drawn to his compassion, his total forgiveness, and his love for us; instead of him being a king. Yet today we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King.

For Me, and I think many Americans, the concept of King is negative. We fought a revolution against King George to gain our independence. History is full of dictators and rulers, many called kings, who have done nothing to serve others. The concept of kingship seems very antiquated, especially for us who live in a democratic society.

In discussing today's celebration of Christ the King with my wife, Barb; I lamented to her that I preferred many other names used to describe Jesus. To me Messiah, Savior, Shepherd, Teacher, Lord, Son of God, and Son of Man were much more appealing. Barb disagreed with me, once again proving that she is smarter and wiser than me in most matters, except in the selection of a life-long marriage partner.

Barb countered that while watching a baptism at Mass, she is filled with hope when Father places oil upon the just baptized; and proclaims: "(God the Father) now anoints you with the Chrism of salvation, so that you may remain as a member of Christ, Priest, Prophet and King, unto eternal life."

To Barb, hearing these words, remind her that as a follower of Christ, the "sky is the limit". By her baptism, she also was anointed with the Holy Spirit and joins Jesus in his divine offices of Priest, Prophet, and King. As King, He overcame his, and our enemies, through the power of the cross, not by military or political power.

In our Second Reading from Colossians, Jesus's kingship is described to us. He is the invisible God through whom all things, visible and invisible were created. All are subject to him. He is head of the Church. All spiritual and temporal powers were created through and for him. Much more importantly for us, Jesus is our Redeemer: "Give thanks to the Father, who has made (us) fit to share in the holy ones of the light." Our Father sent Jesus to rescue us from the power of darkness and "transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son." Our redemption and the forgiveness of our sins come through our Savior. Jesus brought God's peace to the earth, through the Blood of the Cross.

The kingship of Jesus is unique. He reigns from a throne of the cross, and he opens the doors of his kingdom to those who recognize him as our crucified king. Our Gospel from Luke brings us to Calvary with Jesus hanging upon the cross, along with two other criminals being crucified. All his supporters have abandoned him except Mary, the Apostle John, and Mary Magdalene. Everyone else watching ridiculed and mocked him. Luke singles out three sources that rebuked him: the leaders of the people, the soldiers, and one of the criminals crucified with him. Jesus responds to them with astonishing forgiveness.

“Father, forgive them, they do not know what they are doing.” His response to the good criminal is even more significant. He tells him that “today you will be with me in Paradise.” In his last act before his death, Jesus teaches us that anyone who repents and returns to God will be forgiven.

I began this homily with my inability to see Jesus as a King. My problem was not grasping the nature of his divine kingdom. His Kingdom is not based on power, or possessions, or controlling others. It is based on love. Jesus saves the world through his total self-giving.

We end our liturgical year with this celebration to remind us that Jesus is not just our friend, He is also our King. We don't just have conversations with him in which we seek suggestions and advice, then go our own way. I liked the way a Scripture Scholar described the distinction this way: “We allow a friend to ride shotgun. We give our King the keys to our car. We don't just consult with Jesus. We give him our lives and let him direct us.” Whoever listens to his voice; and believes in him, is a member of the kingdom of God. God's kingdom is forever because it is built on the foundation of God's eternal love and justice.

Jesus asks us to follow and give our lives to him. He gives us the choice between two kingdoms – the kingdom of light and the kingdom of darkness. Jesus our King, unlike others with their own self-interest in mind, will not force us to follow him. The choice is ours as to which kingdom we serve.

Next week we begin our new Church Year with the beginning of Advent. May it be a time of preparation for the coming of our Lord, and a time for us to reflect on how well we have served him as faithful members of his Kingdom.

