



faith FORMATION

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH // VOLUME 3 // ISSUE 11 // NOVEMBER 24, 2024

Solemnity of
Our Lord Jesus Christ
King of the Universe

In the Beginning...

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This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (commonly called Christ the King). I think sometimes we forget that Jesus is our literal, actual King. Instead, we might see the kingship as something metaphorical. Often in other circumstances, we might use phrases like “she’s the queen of my heart,” “he’s the king of the ring,” something similar. In the same way, we may see Jesus as our “king” (king in quotation marks).

But He is our actual King and we belong to a true Kingdom. Scripture tells us that Jesus descended from the line of David and He would sit on the throne of David (see Luke chapter 1). What else does this tell us? In ancient times, the King’s mother (not his wife) was the Queen. And so based on history and Scripture, Mary is our Queen.

Historically, kings would often travel away from their kingdom to fight in battle, to make pilgrimages, etc. What did he do to make sure his kingdom had order in his absence? He appointed a steward who figuratively and quite literally had control of the keys of the kingdom. Sound familiar? When Jesus gave Peter the keys to the kingdom, he appointed him to an office - the royal steward. When Peter died, the office didn’t die with him. He was replaced. And to this day, the royal steward gets replaced every time he dies. We call him the Pope.

Our challenge as members of His Kingdom is to recognize the true, tangible Kingship that Jesus has and our responsibilities as a result. It’s not just some metaphorical phrase that tries to emphasize His importance. We needn’t do that. Jesus is God incarnate. Calling Him a King doesn’t serve to increase His stature. But it does remind us that our loyalty should be to our King first. If we lived in an ancient kingdom and had greater loyalty to a treacherous mayor who often opposed the king, we would find ourselves in serious trouble. Likewise, if we pledge loyalty to earthly leaders (political or otherwise) or earthly goods (money, power, hobbies) that go against our King, we may find ourselves in trouble at the end of our days.

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name? Did we not drive out demons in your name? Did we not do mighty deeds in your name?’ Then I will declare to them solemnly, ‘I never knew you. Depart from me, you evildoers.’” (Matthew 7: 21-23)

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Confession

Saturday: 2:00 - 3:30PM
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Friday: 8:30AM

Weekend Mass

Saturday: 4:00PM
Sunday: 8:30AM, 10:30AM

SUNDAY BIBLE REFLECTION

By Scott Hahn

Readings:

[Daniel 7:13-14](#)

[Psalm 93:1-2,5](#)

[Revelation 1:5-8](#)

[John 18:33-37](#)

[LISTEN HERE](#)



What's the truth Jesus comes to bear witness to in this last Gospel of the Church's year?

It's the truth that in Jesus God keeps the promise He made to David of an everlasting kingdom, of an heir who would be His Son, "the first born, highest of the kings of the earth" (see [2 Samuel 7:12-16](#); [Psalm 89:27-38](#)).

Today's Second Reading, taken from the Book of Revelation, quotes these promises and celebrates Jesus as "the faithful witness." The reading hearkens back to Isaiah's prophecy that the Messiah would "witness to the peoples" that God is renewing His "everlasting covenant" with David (see [Isaiah 55:3-5](#)).

But as Jesus tells Pilate, there's far more going on here than the restoration of a temporal monarchy. In the Revelation reading, Jesus calls Himself "the Alpha and the Omega," the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. He's applying to Himself a description that God uses to describe Himself in the Old Testament—the first and the last, the One who calls forth all generations (see [Isaiah 41:4](#); [44:6](#); [48:12](#)).

"He has made the world," today's Psalm cries, and His dominion is over all creation (see also [John 1:3](#); [Colossians 1:16-17](#)). In the vision of Daniel we hear in today's First Reading, He comes on "the clouds of heaven"—another sign of His divinity—to be given "glory and kingship" forever over all nations and peoples.

Christ is King and His kingdom, while not of this world, exists in this world in the Church. We are a royal people. We know we have been loved by Him and freed by His blood and transformed into "a kingdom, priests for his God and Father" (see also [Exodus 19:6](#); [1 Peter 2:9](#)).

As a priestly people, we share in His sacrifice and in His witness to God's everlasting covenant. We belong to His truth and listen to His voice, waiting for Him to come again amid the clouds.

33 Pilate entered the praetorium again and called Jesus, and said to him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" 34 Jesus answered, "Do you say this of your own accord, or did others say it to you about me?" 35 Pilate answered, "Am I a Jew? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me; what have you done?" 36 Jesus answered, "My kingship is not of this world; if my kingship were of this world, my servants would fight, that I might not be handed over to the Jews; but my kingship is not from the world."

JOHN 18:33-36

The Gospel at Home

SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

Gospel Reading

John 18:33b-37

Jesus is questioned by Pilate about the charge brought against him that he is “King of the Jews.”

Family Connection

Understanding today’s feast of Christ the King may be particularly challenging. While most of us do not have direct experience with kings or royalty, we have a sense of who they are. We know that royalty have sovereignty over their kingdoms. We know that those who are subjects to royalty offer them allegiance and honor. To understand how Christ is our king, we extend and magnify what we know to be true of the best of human royalty. Christ’s kingship extends to all places, all people, and all times. Christ manifests his kingship through his death on the cross in which he offered salvation to everyone. Those who can see with eyes of faith recognize Jesus to be our heavenly king.

As you gather as a family, recall that this Sunday is the last Sunday in the Church year and on this Sunday we celebrate the feast of Christ the King. Talk together about what it means to be a king or queen. How do those who are subjects behave toward royalty? Invite children to role-play what one does in the presence of royalty. Read today’s Gospel, John 18:33b-37. Ask your family to discuss these questions: Does Pilate treat Jesus like royalty? (No.) What does Jesus say about his kingdom? (It is not of this world.) Talk about how your family shows honor and obedience to Christ our King. Pray together the Lord’s Prayer and ask God to help your family act in ways that show you recognize and honor Christ as King.

37 Pilate said to him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Every one who is of the truth hears my voice.”

JOHN 18:37

Did You Know?

Jesus is King of the Universe!



On the last Sunday of each liturgical year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, or Christ the King.

Pope Pius XI instituted this feast in 1925 with his encyclical *Quas primas* (“In the first”) to respond to growing secularism and atheism. He recognized that attempting to “thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law” out of public life would result in continuing discord among people and nations. This solemnity reminds us that while governments come and go, Christ reigns as King forever.

During the early twentieth century, in Mexico, Russia, and some parts of Europe, militantly secularistic regimes threatened not just the Catholic Church and its faithful but civilization itself. Pope Pius XI’s encyclical gave Catholics hope and—while governments around them crumbled—the assurance that Christ the King shall reign forever. Jesus Christ “is very truth, and it is from him that truth must be obediently received by all mankind” (*Quas primas*, 7).

Christ’s kingship is rooted in the Church’s teaching on the Incarnation. Jesus is fully God and fully man. He is both the divine Lord and the man who suffered and died on the Cross. One person of the Trinity unites himself to human nature and reigns over all creation as the Incarnate Son of God. “From this it follows not only that Christ is to be adored by angels and men, but that to him as man angels and men are subject, and must recognize his empire; by reason of the hypostatic union Christ has power over all creatures” (*Quas primas*, 13).

The Church calls us to acknowledge Christ’s kingship with our whole lives: *He must reign in our minds, which should assent with perfect submission and firm belief to revealed truths and to the doctrines of Christ. He must reign in our wills, which should obey the laws and precepts of God. He must reign in our hearts, which should spurn natural desires and love God above all things, and cleave to him alone. He must reign in our bodies and in our members, which should serve as instruments for the interior sanctification of our souls, or to use the words of the Apostle Paul, ‘as instruments of justice unto God.’* -*Quas primas*, 33

Today, religious freedom for many people means that we can believe whatever we want in private, but when we enter the public square or the marketplace, we may not speak of anything that relates to our faith. However, the Church acknowledges the reign of Christ, not only privately, but publicly. This solemnity encourages us to celebrate and live out our faith in public. “Thus by sermons preached at meetings and in churches, by public adoration of the Blessed Sacrament exposed and by solemn processions, men unite in paying homage to Christ, whom God has given them for their King” (*Quas primas*, 26).

For Christians, when our faith is repeatedly marginalized in public life, we can fall into the habit of compartmentalizing our lives. We love Jesus in our private lives, but we shrink from acknowledging the kingship of Christ in social life. When we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King, we declare to the world and remind ourselves that Jesus is the Lord of the Church and of the entire universe.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Opportunities to Grow in Faith

Saturday, November 23:

2:00pm - Reconciliation until 3:30pm

4:00pm - Mass (Sunday vigil Mass)

Sunday, November 24:

8:30am - Mass

10:30am - Mass; Children's Liturgy of the Word during this Mass.

11:30am - OCIA Inquiry Session in the Kelly Conference Room.

4:30pm - Choristers rehearsal in church lower level.

5:30pm - Faith Formation Classes for grades 1-8.

Monday, November 25:

7:00pm - Women's Bible Study in the Thaddeus Center. The study is "God, the Mystery of the Trinity in the Bible". If you are interested in joining, please call Peg Manuszak at 616-361-5836.

Tuesday, November 26:

8:30am - Mass

9:00am - Eucharistic Adoration in the church until 7:00pm.

7:00pm - Men of Emmaus. All men are welcome to join us on Tuesday nights at 7:00pm in the Millennium Conference Room (just across from the parish office). No special supplies or preparation needed. If it's your first time, just show up! It's a great time for fellowship with other St. Jude men.

Wednesday, November 27:

8:30am - Senior Men's Group in the Thaddeus Center. Do you like to play cards? We are a group of senior men who play cards at St. Jude in the Thaddeus Center. We meet every Wednesday at 8:30am. If you are interested or have any questions, call Denny Biggins at 616-365-1371.

7:00pm - AA Support Group in the Thaddeus Center.

Thursday, November 28:

8:30am - Mass

Friday, November 29:

No Mass

"Jesus replied,
'The first is
this: 'Hear, O
Israel! The Lord
our God is Lord
alone! You shall
love the Lord
your God with
all your heart,
with all your
soul, with all
your mind, and
with all your
strength.'"

MARK 12:29-30

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Weekend Mass

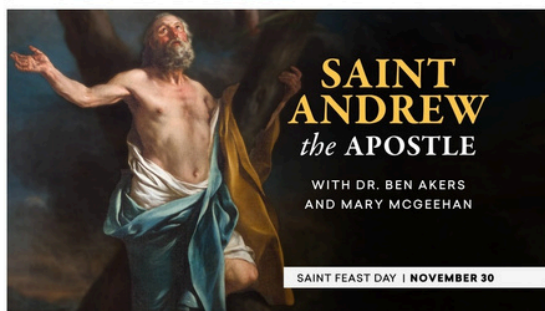
Saturday: 4:00PM

Sunday: 8:30AM, 10:30AM

[Click here!](#)

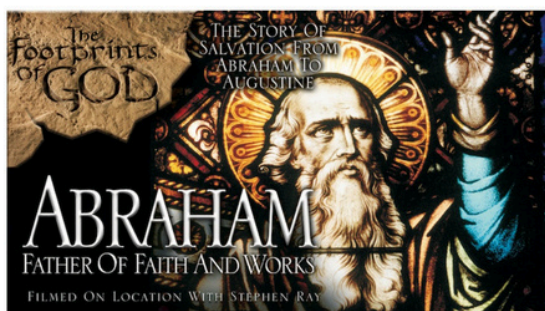
THIS WEEK ON **FORMED**

Week of November 24, 2024



St. Andrew the Apostle | Catholic Saints

All of the saints had a story before they met Christ. For St. Andrew, he was a fisherman. Hearing the call of Christ, Andrew and his brother Peter left everything behind to follow Jesus. Join Dr. Ben Akers and Mary McGeehan as they discuss St. Andrew, his life, and the example he provides to all Christians.



Abraham: Father of Faith

He left his home, the bones of his ancestors, and the false gods of his fathers to follow the God of glory. Excruciating trials, weary miles of desert travel, and even the command to offer his son Isaac as a sacrifice did not deter him. Mount your camels and ride back in time to discover Abraham, the only man called the "Friend of God."



The Perpetual Virgin | Lectio: Mary | Episode 5

Why do Catholics believe that Mary remained a virgin her whole life? Dr. Brant Pitre unpacks this much debated topic in this engaging presentation.

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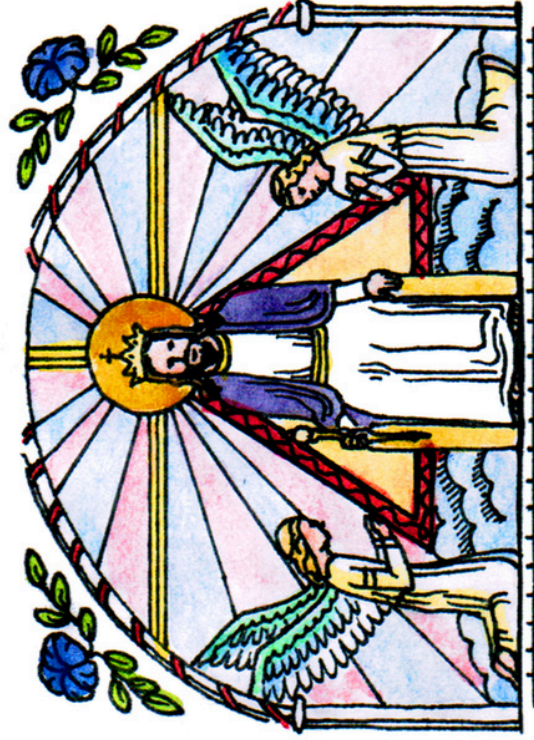
Christ is the King!

Every year on the last Sunday before Advent, we celebrate the feast day of Christ the King.

Jesus is a good king who loves His people so much that He died so we could go to Heaven.

What can you do to show Jesus that He is the king of your life? What can you do to show other people that Jesus is your king?

What is something special that you can do today to celebrate the feast of Christ the King?

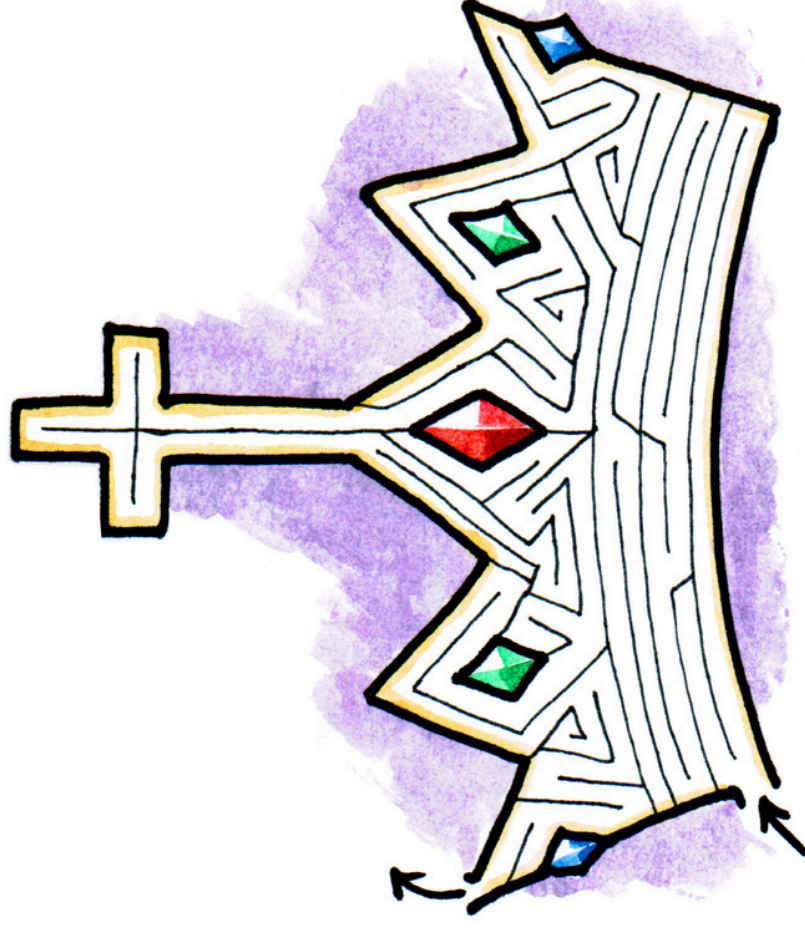


Answers to the crossword puzzle:
Down: 1.faithful, 2.king, 3.Jesus, 5.kingdom, 6.be, 11.of
Across: 4.witness, 7.sins, 8.freed, 9.God, 10.glory, 12.him

www.thekidsbulletin.com

The Kids' Bulletin

*Feast of Christ the King
Sunday, November 24th, 2024*



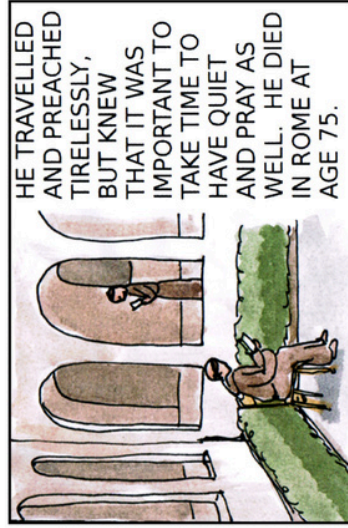
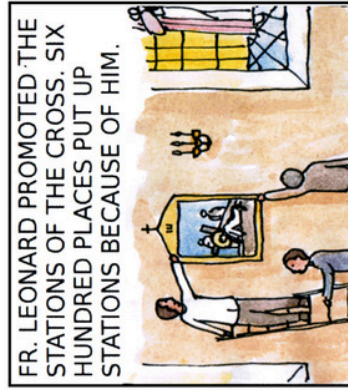
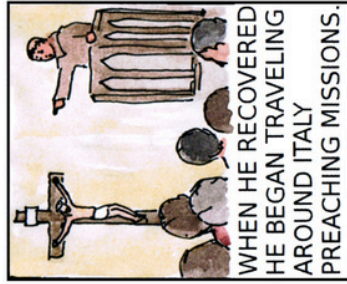
Jesus is Our King!

*Today we celebrate Jesus as the great Lord
and King of Heaven and earth.*

The crown is a symbol of Jesus' kingship.

Saint Leonard of Port Maurice

November 26



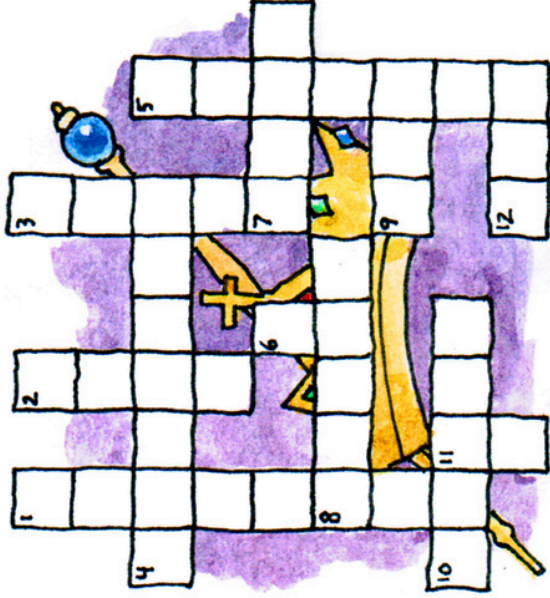
SAINT LEONARD PREACHED TO OTHER PEOPLE TO DRAW THEM TO JESUS AND BROUGHT HIMSELF CLOSER TO JESUS BY TAKING TIME TO BE QUIET AND PRAY. WE CAN GROW CLOSER TO JESUS BY PRAYING TOO. TAKE SOME TIME EVERY DAY TO THINK ABOUT JESUS ON THE CROSS AND TALK TO HIM!

thekidsbulletin@gmail.com

Christ the King Crossword

Revelation 1:5-7

Here is a part of today's second reading. Use the words at the bottom to fill in the blanks and the puzzle.



D=down
A=across.

(3D) Christ is the (1D)
(4A), the firstborn (11D) s of the dead and ruler of the (2D) s of the earth. To (12A) who loves us and has (8A) us from our (7A) by his blood, who has made us into a (5D), priests for his (9A) and Father, to him (6D) (10A) and power forever and ever. Amen.

OF GLORY BE HIM WITNESS
GOD FAITHFUL SINS KING
FREED KINGDOM JESUS