



# FROM THE DESK OF FR. RICH

This weekend the liturgical year comes to a close with the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. (Formerly – Christ the King). The irony of this day is in the connection between the kingship of Christ and the wood and the suffering of the cross. The way of God’s Kingdom is not the way of earthly kingdoms. The road to our eternal home involves suffering and service to one another. This is in direct conflict with the understanding and comprehension of earthly kings and kingdoms of the past. Hopefully, we have all come to better understand that God’s ways are not always our ways.

\*\*\*\*\*

This coming Thursday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, is Thanksgiving Day. As is our tradition, we will be having Mass at 9:00 a.m. on that day (not the usual time of 7:00 a.m.). **Please note that this year our Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady, Mother of the Church and not at St. Eugene Church. Because we have two worship sites and Thursday morning’s Mass is held at Our Lady, Mother of the Church, we will gather there this Thanksgiving. If you have not yet gone to our neighboring worship site, please join us.** This will be the only Mass celebrated on Thanksgiving when we will gather as a parish family to give thanks to God for all His blessings in our lives and nation.

I truly encourage all in our parish to join us for this special Mass, even if this has not been your practice in the past. What better way to start off this national holiday than to gather around the

Lord’s Table before we come together later in the day to celebrate with family and friends? And if this will not be the case for you, let *us* be your family on Thanksgiving morning. So, pop the turkey in the oven and plan on joining us around the Lord’s Table with your Queen of Peace family this Thursday.

\*\*\*\*\*

Believe it or not, next Sunday we begin the Advent season and the time for each of us to get our lives in order and focus on preparing our hearts and homes for the coming of Christ. This time of the year encourages all Christian people to not only celebrate Christ’s Incarnation on the first Christmas, but also to prepare our hearts for his final and Second coming.

To help you and your family make the best of the upcoming Advent and Christmas Season, we have once again purchased “Little Blue Books” for you to carry with you, keep in your cars, family rooms, dinner tables, pockets, etc. This booklet is a great way to help you keep the Advent and Christmas Seasons with a prayerful and reflective time throughout each day. It is not too difficult or overwhelming, but rather provides a mixture and a variety of facts about the season, scripture reflections, and other various traditions and customs.

These books have been purchased for you. There is no charge to you for them. All we ask is that you make an effort to use them. You will find the booklet to be not only an aid to your prayer life,

# QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH



but also extremely important with regard to the many traditions of our Church. They will be available at the doors of the church and in the vestibule next weekend at all the Masses throughout Advent until they are all taken. Enjoy!

As we prepare for Advent, which begins next weekend, may we always remember what the gospels help us all to see and understand – that the lowly are exalted, sinners are called righteous, and that the one who dies gives life. We close this and every liturgical year with the ultimate paradox: The one to whom we offer glory, honor and praise is lifted high for all to see -- seemingly powerless on the cross...and what Jesus' tormentors' thought was a mockery by inscribing over his head "INRI" – Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews – was indeed the truth.

\*\*\*\*\*

This weekend is also the collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, which helps to address the root causes of poverty here in Cook and Lake Counties. Your generosity is greatly appreciated as we work together to sow tangible seeds of hope in marginalized communities.

\*\*\*\*\*

Also, don't forget our 2026 Parish Calendars will be available beginning Thanksgiving Day. They will be available in the vestibules of our worship sites as well as at the doors of the church.

*Fr. Rich Yanos*

