CHRIST THE KING

The Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Sunday, November 21, 2021

May Thy Kingdom Come!

Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here." John 18:36

Today, on the final Sunday of our Church year, we celebrate the glorious Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Next Sunday begins Advent. On this day we profess the profound truth that our Lord is King! He is the King of all things. He is King of the Universe. And He is King of Heaven and all spiritual realities. However, in the Gospel passage quoted above, Jesus responds to Pilate who was questioning Him about whether or not He was the King of the Jews. Jesus is clear that He is a King, but that His Kingdom does not belong to this world. So where is His Kingdom?

We can look at Jesus' statement from two points of view. First of all, if Jesus would have claimed that He were an earthly king, one with civil authority, then Pilate would have judged Him to be guilty of trying to overthrow the Roman authority. This would be unlawful and would be punishable by death. In that case, Jesus could have been found legally guilty of violating civil law.

But Jesus was purely innocent. He was morally perfect in every way, and that included His obedience to all legitimate civil law. But Jesus was a King. He was The King of all Kings! Therefore, so as to exercise His Kingship, He declared that His Kingdom was not of this world. In other words, it was not a Kingdom that was in competition with the Roman authorities or any other civil authority. To that, Pilate did not know how to respond.

Today and always, God desires that His glorious Kingdom reign in every way. God begins by reigning in our souls. He invites us to invite Him to enter in and take control of our lives. He desires to be the ruler of every passion, desire, thought and action that is ours. When this happens, His Kingdom is firmly established within us.

It also needs to be pointed out that Jesus wants His Kingdom to grow. First, it must grow in the minds and wills of all people. But from there, He wants every person to then work to conform every part of our society to the governance of Him as King. This means that as the hearts of civil leaders are converted, they will be called to enact laws that fully support and build up God's Kingdom on earth. It means that business leaders, as they convert, are called to govern their businesses in accord with the will of God so that their businesses contribute to the establishment of God's Kingdom here and now. It means that as the leaders of our schools, sports programs, social programs and the like all invite Jesus to reign in their hearts as King, The King of the Universe will then guide them to conform all of their endeavors to His will and to the continued upbuilding of His Kingdom.

The first duty of the Christian, in regard to the governance of every aspect of society, is not to impose God's law from without, as a ruthless authoritarian would. Rather, it is to convert minds and hearts so that God's governance comes forth from within. As God's Kingdom is established in the lives of His people, all objectively grave evils embedded within our earthly laws must be overturned. For example, the legalization of abortion stands out as perhaps the greatest of moral evils, since it involves the taking of a completely innocent life. This and countless other immoral earthly laws must be replaced by the laws of God as hearts and minds are converted to His Truth.

Reflect, today, upon your duty to help bring forth the Kingdom of God here and now. Start by seeing your duty to allow God's Kingdom to grow within you and your family. From there, be open to the many ways that God wants to use you to help others do the same. As you do, do not be afraid to work toward the external establishment of God's Kingdom in all that you do and in all that falls within your responsibility. Jesus is King, and He desires to reign everywhere. Cooperate with Him, and His Kingdom will indeed come.

My glorious King, I choose You as King of my life, and I dedicate to You all my actions and endeavors. Please use me to further Your Kingdom. I pray for wisdom, prudence and courage as I am sent forth by You to help bring forth Your merciful and just reign in the lives of all people and within the entire Universe that You created. May Your Kingdom come and Your will be done! Jesus, I trust in You.

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS

5855 East W Avenue, PO BOX 264, Vicksburg, MI 49097
(269) 649-1629 St. Vincent DePaul Ext 1010
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Mass Schedule: Sat 5:30p Sun 8:00a & 11:00a Wed & Fri 9:00a
Live-Stream Masses: 11/21-8:00a 11/28-9:30a 12/05-8:80a
Reconciliation Sat 10-11a or by appointment
Pastor: Msgr. Thomas A Martin
Office Hours: Mon—Fri 9:00a-4:00p

MASS INTENTIONS & SCHEDULE

Nov 20 5:30p Mass †Larry VanderBeek
by Mike & Deena Anderson

Knights selling Christmas cards after all Masses

Nov 21 8:00a Mass For the people of St Martin
Coffee and Donuts after masses 8A & 11A Masses
9:30a Religious Ed & Adult Study
9:35a **Parish Cenacle**, in church till 10:30
11:00a Mass †Elizabeth Sehy
by Dcn Dave & Jane Guido

Nov 24 9:00a Mass †Elizabeth Sehy
by Margot Shick

Please help change Missalettes after Mass

Nov 25 **Office closed Happy Thanks Giving**
Nov 25 **No RCIA this week**
Nov 26 **Office Closed**
Nov 26 8:00a **Friday Adoration** till 9:00a
Nov 26 9:00a Mass †Francis Hilger by Janet Sehy
Nov 27 10:00a **Confessions/10:00a-11:00a**
Nov 27 5:30p Mass †Donald Korte by family
Nov 28 8:00a Mass †Larry Houghtaling
by Jackie Houghtaling
Nov 28 11:00a Mass For the people of St. Martin

SOUTH COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES FOOD PANTRY requests: soup, stuffing mix, jello, cereal, toothpaste. Please drop donations in the pantry basket in the narthex. Thank you for your donations!

SCRIP CARDS: If you have never tried Scrip from St. Martin's maybe it's time. We offer over 700 different retailers that you can purchase cards for to make your daily or weekly purchases. When you buy Scrip cards through the Church, we earn a percent on each one depending on the value of the card. You receive the full face value that is on the card when you use it. For example, you earn $4 for the Building Maintenance fund at St. Martin's when you purchase a $100 Speedway gas card. Percentages of earnings range from 1 ½ % to 13% depending on the card. Scrip cards make great gifts for birthdays and Christmas too!

SCRIP SELLERS NEEDED: We are planning to sell scrip cards in the narthex again soon. We need volunteers to sell the cards after all the Masses. If you are interested or need more details, please call Sue in the Parish office at 649-1629 or email her at pastoralcare@stmartinvicksburg.org

CHRISTMAS CARDS Our Knights of Columbus will be begin selling Christmas cards in the narthex after all Masses this weekend through Nov 27/28.

OUR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS council would like to know if we have any parishioners or their sons or daughters who are currently actively serving overseas in the military in any branch of service. The council sends care packages to them around the holidays. Please contact the Parish Office at 649-1629 with names and APO addresses no later than November 24.

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
TIM MCNAMARA 269-649-1629 ext 1003
dre@stmartinvicksburg.org.

FOR IMMEDIATE AND CONFIDENTIAL PRAYERS
please call our parish prayer line at 269-303-8016 or email deena.christine@yahoo.com

PARISH SUPPORT NOVEMBER 14, 2021

Envelopes 83 On Line Giving $0
Collection envelopes $5,017
Mailed in envelopes $456
Total Collection $5,473 Weekly Goal $6,730
Savings: $799

Purchase Scrip Mon.-Fri. 9a-4p in the church office or in the narthex after all Masses.

YOUTH MINISTER: SHANNON SHEETS
269-649-1629 EXT 1001 ym@stmartinvicksburg.org
UPCOMING EVENTS:

Wednesday, November 24: HS & MS @ 11 am
Community Service: Leaf Raking
Wednesday, December 1: MS (6:00-7:30)
Our Lady of Loreto Celebration: Gingerbread House Building Competition!
Wednesday, December 8: Feast of Immaculate Conception
6pm Mass with open youth center afterward until 8 (HS & MS)
Wednesday, December 15: HS (6:00-7:30)
Our Lady of Loreto Celebration: Gingerbread House Building Competition!

LECTOR/USHER SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK

Nov 27 5:30p Lector: Mike C
Ushers: Jim j& Monica R, Brian C, volunteer
Nov 28 8:00a Lector: Sue M
Ushers: Ron & Jan G, Larry & Judy L
Nov 28 11:00a Lector: Lisa L
Ushers: Ellen & Cidney C, Coleen V, Cindy J

PLEASE PRAY FOR Jody Cunningham, Kassidy Evans, Karen Garcea, Judy Hansford, Brittany Molodovon, Jennifer Stocki, Leo Swiat & Aiden Woodard. To add names email bulltin@stmartinvicksburg.org or call the office at 649-1629.

The Diocese has formed a Synod Coordinating Team to guide this historic process of world-wide consultation in preparation for the Synod of Bishops in 2023. Details can be found on the diocesan website (www.diokzoo.org/synod). If you would like to contribute your time and talent, a sign-up page may be found there as well.

The upcoming Synod requires attentive listening. What is the Synod hoping to hear? The Synod hopes to hear the Spirit who guides each of us in all our moments. How has the Holy Spirit touched you and family? That question is an invitation to prayer. If you would include the Synod preparation in your prayer and reflection, it will be appreciated. If you know of any homebound, please extend to them this invitation to prayer, because their desert experience of separation, feeds the intimacy of their prayer.

Here are a few words to the Holy Spirit:

Lord, God, we know that by baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit, You reign in our lives, and you call us to holiness and truth. Renew us that we might be all that you want us to be, so that we live in accord with your desires. We strive to be attentive to your promptings. Help us to do what is right.
Grant us the gift of knowledge, to be informed;
the gift of wisdom, to use our experience;
the gift of understanding, to learn from one another;
the gift of right judgment, to make good decisions;
the gift of courage, to enact what we decide;
the gift of reverence, to trust you;
the gift of wonder, to be inspired by you. *We ask this in the power of your Spirit, and in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.*

ADVENT FAMILY GATHERING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES. Join us on Saturday, Dec 4 from 10a– 1p at the Crowley Center Gym at St. Augustine Cathedral, 542 W. Michigan Ave, Kalamazoo. Enjoy Advent activities, music, fun and friendship. A simple lunch will be provided. There is no cost for this event. Masks are encouraged. Please register by Nov 27 to Lisa Irwin at lisairwin@ccdok.org or 269-381-9800 x227.

WORD OF LIFE

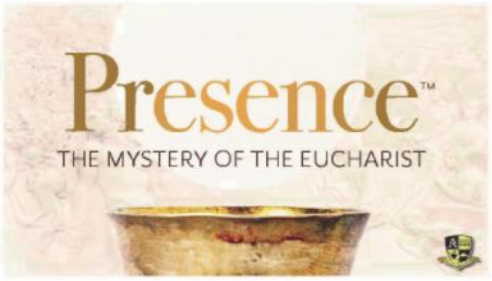
"The right to religious freedom has its foundation in the very dignity of the human person." Pope Paul VI, Dignitatis humanae (Declaration on Religious Freedom), 2.

FORMED PICK OF THE WEEK November 21, 2021

LEARN

PRESENCE

This week we celebrate Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Ring in this great feast by diving deeper into the mystery of Christ's greatest gift to His Church—the Holy Eucharist.



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K OF C
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MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THE 2ND & 4TH TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH.

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