

# OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE



November 21, 2021

Today we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King and begin the last week of the Liturgical Year. Next Sunday we begin a new Liturgical Year with the celebration of the First Sunday of Advent. The

Liturgical Year tells the story of our salvation fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

There are three cycles that are observed over a three-year period. During these cycles we primarily read from one of the three synoptic gospels: Matthew, Mark and Luke. On various occasions we turn to the Gospel of John. A good example happened last summer when we read the Eucharistic Discourse (John 6) for five weeks. Nevertheless, the cycles accommodate a consistent reading of one of the gospels. When it comes to the weekday masses, the year for the Ordinary time (excluding Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter) we read again from the three synoptic gospels. What is different over the two-year cycle for weekdays is the first reading. We read continuous passages from the books of the Old Testament and New Testament.

The take-away from this; we read a great deal from the scriptures. A criticism of the Catholic Church from outside the church is that we are not a biblical religion. Quite the contrary, if you went to mass everyday over the three-year cycle, we would have successfully read over fourteen thousand verses from the scriptures. If anything, it can be truly said, we are a profoundly biblical church. We are nourished with the best spiritual food: Word and Sacrament.

Today's feast of *Christ the King of the Universe* was first established in 1925 by Pope Pius XI in his encyclical letter "*Quas primas*." The feast was established for a very simple reason, to act as a counterbalance to widespread secularism. This was the time after World War I and, little did he know, before the start of World War II. Pius XI started his encyclical letter with the words of his motto "*Christ's peace through Christ's reign*." He cited secularism in his letter as "*the apostasy of a great number of people who have banished Christ and his most holy law from their individual and familial lives and from public affairs*." He added that there would be no hope for a lasting peace between peoples as long as nations and their citizens refused to affirm and proclaim the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ. He pointed out that "*we must look for the peace of Christ in the reign of Christ*." Jesus Christ must reign in our lives.

This feast finds its place at the end of the Liturgical Year as an emphasis on the coming of Christ at the end of time to establish his Eternal Kingdom. "*Our citizenship is in heaven and from it we await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ*." (Philippians 3:20). We are citizens of the Kingdom of God. This Eternal Kingdom is our destination and true home. Heaven is the perfect Communion of Saints in and through our Savior; Christ the King. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ reigns supreme in his Eternal Kingdom.

Countering secularism Pope Pius XI was on to something very important. It is something that has not gone away and continues to gain traction even in our day. There remains a widespread development of secularism in our world and in our country. We saw it happening in Europe. With the establishment of the European Union and the writing of its new constitution there was the glaring omission of Europe's Christian heritage. At the time of its writing Pope Benedict XIV pointed out this omission. Christianity played a major role in shaping the history of Europe. There was and is no mention of this influence in the general history

of Europe. There was a systematic removal of all things religious: most glaringly in reference to Christianity. Secularism was and is active and growing.

With the diminishing presence of the Christian faith in Europe there is at the same time a growth in the Islamic population and influence. Sadly, both are devoid of Jesus Christ. Without Christ there cannot be true peace. Without Jesus Christ reigning in our hearts, homes and society there cannot be true peace. When there is a perceived peace, this peace is shallow since it is understood as the *absence* of conflict or war. True peace can only be found in Christ. He is the one who unites, harmonizes and gives true peace. As we recall in the Gospel of St John as Jesus speaks to his disciples at the Last Supper: "*Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives*." (14:27). Peace is a gift that is given to us by Christ. In the context of the Last Supper, it is the gift of the Holy Spirit and of himself in the Eucharist. We can say that worldly peace is the *absence* of something. Christian peace is the *presence* of something or more precisely of someone: God: The Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is our ardent belief that we cannot have true and lasting peace without the Incarnate God.

We see this movement in Europe: it is also happening within our country. Slowly but surely, we can detect that there is a movement to remove all things that refer to God and more particularly the Christian presence and influence. This is a slow process. Pope Pius XI observed in his day, secularization of society comes about slowly and in small ways. This is still true today. We see it creeping into some of the healthcare issues and mandates: especially the life issues. We see it in the secularization of our schools. But what is interesting about these seemingly small and slow developments, when they are confronted, those who oppose them are made to appear to be over-reacting religious zealots.

Throughout our history the Church has instituted special feast days to counteract some growing secular trend. A good example would be the Feast of Corpus Christi. There was a growing negligence and diminished devotion toward the Holy Eucharist. The influence of the "Age of Enlightenment" denied the presence of Christ under the signs of Bread and Wine. It denied the true presence of Christ's Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, in the Eucharist. The Feast of Corpus Christi was instituted to counter this lack of respect for the Eucharist by renewing our worship, reverence and genuine devotion to the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist.

In the same manner we have this feast of Christ the King. Its intent is to renew our allegiance and devotion to Christ our King. He is the one who claims our first loyalty: "*Christ's peace through Christ's reign*." At the beginning of his ministry, Jesus declared that the Kingdom of God is at hand. Living as faithful followers of Christ, we make his kingdom present here and now. This is a foretaste of Christ's Peace in its fulfillment. We pray that when His Eternal Kingdom is brought to its fulfillment at the end of time, we may experience Eternal Peace.

We live in a world that is unsettled and divided in so many ways. There is no true peace. In recent days we have heard news of numerous disturbances that have rattled even a secular understanding of peace, most notably in Afghanistan, Iran, Ukraine, Asia with China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and the Korean Peninsula. It is also a world that attempts to eliminate the only true cause to true peace: Jesus Christ.

Jesus' gift of true peace confronts the real cause for all divisions. Our King has come to conquer sin! Sin is the underlying problem that prevents true peace. Sin is the cause of all divisions: between nations, communities, families and most especially within our very hearts. Sin must be conquered in order to establish true

and lasting peace in our personal lives, our families, our communities and between nations. We will not have peace until Jesus Christ reigns in our hearts. Where Christ reigns sin cannot coexist. Come Lord Jesus.

Shifting gears, if you have been out to Mount Olive Cemetery this past week you will notice that the road in the cemetery has been repaired and repaved. This has been in the works for a long time. With a good return on our cemetery endowment fund and a grant from the Rogge Foundation, we have been able to make these most needed repairs.

We have other projects on the horizon, the rectory roof being one of them. Unfortunately, I just heard (today) that the roofers can't do it until next spring. I'm disappointed with this news. My only hope is that there is another year left in those shingles.

Lastly, the Mass for Thanksgiving Day will be at 8:00 am.

Have a great week and a Happy Thanksgiving  
Father Ralko

**This week we pray Week II  
of the Liturgy of the Hours.**



*We pray for those who have died  
recently:  
Deborah A. Riffle*



The Solemnity of Christ the King, November 21, 2021  
*Real Presence, Real Future reflections: Making Christ Our True King*

**Deacon Doug Yglesias, St. Brendan the Navigator Parish, Hilliard**

A lifelong Catholic once said that it was difficult to accept Jesus as both Savior and King, but then had a change of heart: "I accepted that God died for me, but for some reason that is where it stopped. Recently God had become King of my heart, meaning that I acknowledge everything in my life is now belongs to Jesus. In Adoration, I ask Him to reign over it all, and I have finally found peace!" Inspired by this person's experience, let us ask ourselves this week: Can we also bring all our hopes, worries, and dreams before the Lord and ask Him to reign as not only Savior but King in our lives?

For more about the life of faith and discipleship in the Diocese of Columbus, visit [www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org](http://www.RealPresenceRealFuture.org).

**Pre-Jordan class** for November is **Tuesday, November 30th** at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Office building. The Class is for parents and sponsors of infants and small children who are to be baptized. Please call 453-0597 to register for the class.

**BISHOP ROSECRANS  
ATHLETIC BOOSTERS:**

Booster Mania tickets are available for the upcoming year. \$25.00 each or three tickets for \$60.00, drawings for tickets are for every day for this next year. Questions or concerns, please contact Marvin Paul at 740-819-3429.



**Happy Thanksgiving  
from Fr. Ralko and  
the Parish Staff**

The Parish Office will be closed **Thanksgiving,**

**Thursday, November 25th and Friday, November 26th.** We wish everyone a Blessed Thanksgiving. Please join us for Thanksgiving Mass on Thursday at 8:00 a.m. We will be collecting food for Eastside Ministries. Baskets will be in the back of the church for your donation.



**THE GIVING TREE**



Every Advent we place a Giving Tree in the Church vestibule. It contains paper ornaments with gift items to be purchased for needy families. This year we will be giving the gifts to the Muskingum Valley Clinic for children,

Heartbeats, Transitions, and our own homebound St. Nicholas Parishioners. Please pick an ornament, buy the requested item, wrap and securely fasten the ornament tag to the package. All packages must be returned to the church by **December 12<sup>th</sup>**. You are always so generous, and we thank you for helping others this holiday.



**Monday, December 6th** is the Feast Day of our Patron Saint, St. Nicholas. St. Nicholas was the bishop of Myra in Turkey in the 4th Century. He is remembered for being kind and generous to the poor, to children and to those unjustly imprisoned. Legend tells that St. Nicholas gave anonymously; he did not seek praise but wanted good things to be done and the hearts of children to be delighted.

Please join us for dinner on Saturday, December 4th following the 5:15 p.m. Mass as we celebrate our Patron Saint Nicholas featuring traditional German foods. All are invited!



**The Annual Bishop Rosecrans Holiday Bazaar** is back and will be on **December 4, 2021, from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.** at Bishop Rosecrans High School. The Bazaar has something for all your holiday needs and for everyone on your Christmas list. There will be baked goods, crafts, jewelry, wreaths, soaps, candles, ornaments, t-shirts, clothing and much more. We will have our concession stand with homemade soups, sandwiches and more. Take a chance on the Chinese Raffle or Gift Card Raffle. There is something for everyone. Start your December off right at the BRHS Holiday Bazaar. We still have a limited number of spots for vendors. If you have any questions, please contact Holly Marsh at 740-408-2705 or Melissa Wilson 740-260-2519. We look forward to seeing you!

**Eucharistic Adoration** - All are encouraged to participate in Eucharistic Adoration on Friday, December 3rd. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will begin immediately after the 8:00 a.m. Mass and will end at 3:00 p.m. While drop-ins are welcome and there is no limit on the number of participants at any given time, there is a need for a minimum of two people per hour or the day. If you are able to commit to an hour, please contact the parish office at 740-453-0597 ext. 14 or [pboggs@stnickparish.org](mailto:pboggs@stnickparish.org).

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## Fulltime Cemetery Groundskeeper

**Description:** We are looking for an individual that understands the importance of a strong work ethic and is willing to work with a small team to accomplish the day-to-day operations at the cemetery.

Job duties include but are not limited to helping with funeral services and all phases of care for the cemetery grounds. This will include lawn care, snow removal, marker installation, and building maintenance. This is a fulltime job where work is performed year-round in all weather conditions. If you are looking to find a stable career that is year-round and has room for growth this is the job for you.

### Requirements:

- Cemetery experience preferred, but not required
- Zero-turn mowers and lawn care equipment. Backhoe experience a plus.
- Ability to lift up to 50 lbs.
- Background check.
- Ability to work with minimal supervision.
- Some Saturday work is required

## ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS

St. Nicholas Church has a convenient way to make your regular offerings. With our electronic giving program, you can easily set up a recurring giving schedule. If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks a year or prepare 52 envelopes. Even when something prevents you from attending services, our church will continue to receive your contributions on an uninterrupted basis. To become an electronic giver, call or visit the church office or our website: [stnickparish.org](http://stnickparish.org).

*Our thoughts and prayers remain with those serving our country currently and with their loved ones at home. We pray for a safe homecoming and that the world may one day be at peace.*

**PLEASE REMEMBER ST. NICHOLAS PARISH IN YOUR WILL. CALL THE PARISH OFFICE AT 453-0597 FOR MORE DETAILS.**

*Please join us each Monday at the St. Nicholas Parish Office Chapel at 2:00 p.m. as we gather to pray the Rosary asking Our Lady's Intercession for the many needs of our nation, community, and parish.*

## What's Happening in Our Parish

### MONDAY, November 22, St. Cecilia

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Dorothy Krebs, Church*

2:00 p.m., Rosary, *Parish Office Chapel*

### TUESDAY, November 23, St. Clement I, pope

9:00 a.m., Mass: *St. Thomas Intention, Church*

10:00 a.m., Tuesday Morning Bible Study, *Parish Office Upper Level*

### WEDNESDAY, November 24, St. Andrew Dung-Lac

8:10 a.m., School Mass: *Thomas Trott, Church*

### THURSDAY, November 25, St. Catherine of Alexandria

*Parish Office Closed Today*

8:00 a.m., Mass: *St. Thomas Intention, Church*

### FRIDAY, November 26

8:00 a.m., Mass: *Linda Dosch, Church*

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### SATURDAY, November 27

4:15 p.m. p.m.-4:45 p.m., *Confessions, Church*

5:15 p.m., Mass: *William C. Kohler, Church*

### SUNDAY, November 28

8:15 a.m., Mass: *Cletus Schoeppner, anniversary, Church*

10:45 a.m., Mass: *St. Nicholas Parishioners, Church*

## Readings for Week of November 22

Monday	Dn 1:1-6, 8-20	Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday	Dn 2:31-45	Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday	Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28	Lk 21:12-19
Thursday	Dn 6:12-28	Lk 21:20-28
Friday	Dn 7:2-14	Lk 21:29-33
Saturday	Dn 7:15-27	Lk 21:34-36
Sunday	Jer 33:14-16	Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS SCHEDULE – November 27 & 28, 2021 – Our Lord, Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

	CANTORS	LECTORS	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS
Saturday, November 27 5:15 p.m.		Nichole Hannahs	Karen Robinson Margaret Kronenbitter, Josh Wright
Sunday, November 28 8:15 a.m.		Peggy Hill	Phil Kocoloski Dan Sylvester, Cheryl Sylvester
Sunday, November 28 10:45 a.m.		Sam Palleschi	Gerald Tiberio Claire Tiberio, Diana Dunn
<b>Please arrange a substitute if you are unavailable for your scheduled time)</b>			

