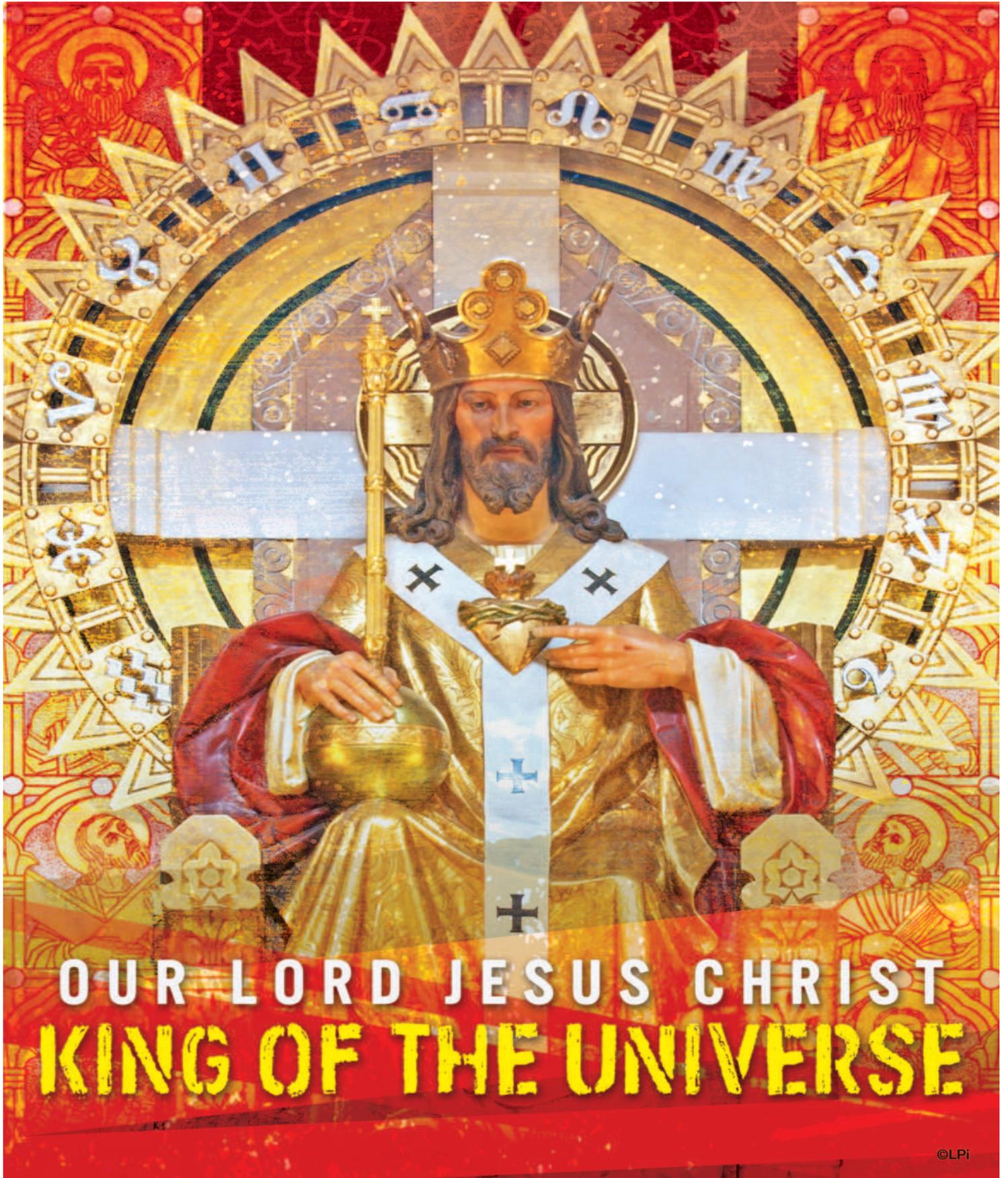


Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe • November 23, 2025

St. John Paul II Cluster



MASS INTENTIONS

November 24, through November 30, 2025

St. John Parish, Independence

Tues.	8:00 am	Deceased Members of the Merfeld Family
Wed.	9:30 am	Alice Elsbernd (at West Village)
Thurs.	9:00 am	Mary & Kenneth Bowden & Kyle Augustine
Sat	5:30 pm	Merritt & Mary McCardle
Sun.	10:00 am	Jim Connell

St. Patrick Parish, Winthrop

Mon.	4:30 pm	Fr. Vorwald
Fri.	8:00 am	No Mass Offered
Sat	4:00 pm	Parishioners of the St. John Paul II Cluster
Sun.	8:00 am	Joshua Schmitt

Altar Linen Schedule: All November Mary Lou Shonka**ST. JOHN PARISH, INDEPENDENCE****Thursday, 9:00 am, November 27, 2025**

Eucharistic	B: Fr. Beckman	Volunteer	
Ministers:	C: Dc. Post	Volunteer	
Hospitality	Volunteer	Volunteer	
Ministers:	Volunteer	Volunteer	
Lector:	Jodi Grover		
Altar Servers:	Volunteer	Volunteer	n/a
Music:	Bonnie O'Brien	TBA	

Saturday, 5:30 pm, November 29, 2025

Eucharistic	B: Fr. Beckman	Jean Crawford	
Ministers:	C: Dc. Post	Abby Crawford	
Hospitality	John Evers	John Schultz	
Ministers:	Volunteer	Volunteer	
Lector:	Jodi Grover		
Altar Servers:	Connor Holle	Evelyn Priebe	n/a
Music:	Karen Kremer	Kathy Kitner	

Sunday, 10:00 am, November 30, 2025

Eucharistic	B: Fr. Beckman	Dan Crawford	
Ministers:	C: Dc. Post	Maggie McGarvey	
Hospitality	Mark McGarvey	Mike Schumann	Mark Schumann
Ministers:	Volunteer	Volunteer	Volunteer
Lector:	Diane Williams		
Altar Servers:	Elizabeth Hilliard	Maize Freidhof	n/a
Music:	Bonnie O'Brien	Jubilee Choir	

Rosary Ministry: Linda Bagby**ST. PATRICK PARISH, WINTHROP****Saturday, 4:00 pm, November 29, 2025**

Eucharistic Ministers :	B Fr. Beckman	Carrie Gudenkauf
Eucharistic Ministers :	W n/a	
Hospitality Ministers*:	Bryan Flexsenhar	Volunteer

*Ushers - Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to Mass to greet people as they walk into church

Lector:	Dianne Fank	
Gift Bearers:	Bryan Flexsenhar Family	
Altar Servers:	Lilly Hansen	Volunteer
Music:	St. Patrick Choir	

Sunday, 8:00 am, November 30, 2025

Eucharistic Ministers :	B: Fr. Beckman	Jessi Optiz
Eucharistic Ministers :	C: n/a	
Hospitality Ministers*:	Jessi Optiz	Volunteer

*Ushers - Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to Mass to greet people as they walk into church

Lector:	Ron Crawford	
Gift Bearers:	Volunteers	
Altar Servers:	Olivia Optiz	Volunteer
Music:	St. Patrick Choir	

Monday, November 24, 2025**Collection Counters:** Lois Loughren Joanice Brace**Stewardship Quotes**

Today we celebrate Christ the King and are reminded that all was created through Him and for Him. Does my stewardship of the blessings entrusted to me give evidence that Christ is Lord of my life?

THE WEEK AHEADMonday, November 24, 2025**Nothing listed on schedule/calendar**Tuesday, November 25, 2025**KC Meeting:** Denali's - Church 5:30 pm / Dinner 6:30 pm / Meeting 7:00 pmWednesday, November 26, 2025**Mass:** West Village, 9:30 am (for Alice Elsbernd)**SJS:** No School**St. John Religious Education:** No Classes**St. Patrick Religious Education:** No ClassesThursday, November 27, 2025**Happy Thanksgiving! Cluster Office is closed**Friday, November 28, 2025**SJS - No School / Cluster Office is closed**Saturday, November 29, 2025**Confessions at St. Patrick's:** 3:15 - 3:45 pm, before MassSunday, November 30, 2025**Confessions at St. John:** 9:15 - 9:45 am, before Mass**Scrip Cash Table Volunteers for November 29/30****5:30 pm** Debbie Merfeld & Amy Holle**10:00 am** Joe & Lisa Kremer**Readings for the week of November 23, 2025**

Sunday:	2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5 (see 1)/Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43
Monday:	Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday:	Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61/Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday:	Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67/Lk 21:12-19
Thursday:	Dn 6:12-28/Dn 3:68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74/Lk 21:20-28
Friday:	Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81/Lk 21:29-33
Saturday:	Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87/Lk 21:34-36
Next Sunday:	Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

Cluster Finances

Because of an early publication deadline for the holiday, Collection and Budget figures are not available.

EFT Opportunities....

We have many ways you can contribute to your individual parish. Besides bringing your envelope to church or mailing it to our office, you can consider automatic withdrawal from a checking or savings account. This option is available for both St. John's and St. Patrick's. If you are interested in EFT (Electronic Fund Transfer), please contact the parish office at 319-334-7191.

~~AREA EVENTS~~

Aurora Legion & Auxiliary Sunday Breakfast

Carry-outs available!

All you can eat pancakes; also biscuits/gravy, sausage, ham & scrambled eggs, milk, juice or coffee from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm. A 50/50 Raffle to be held each breakfast. Need not be present to win.

Adults \$10 5-8 years \$5 Pre-school Free

Last date for 2025! December 7!!

~~Archdiocesan Events~~



Mark Your Calendars for the 2026 Archdiocesan Women's Conference: Beauty in Christ

Saturday, January 31, 2026

Mark your parish calendar for this virtual event, designed to gather women in your parish/cluster for a morning of friendship, faith, and formation!!! More information to come!



Totus Tuus Missionaries Needed

Do you know any college age men and women from your parishes who would be great role models for younger Catholics? The Archdiocese is looking for college-aged disciples of Jesus to serve on teams with other men and women like them during the summer of 2026. Totus Tuus missionaries serve parishes across the Archdiocese throughout the summer leading songs, teaching, performing skits, and sharing witness talks with the children and youth of the Archdiocese. This is a paid position with training and most expenses provided during the summer. Please encourage anyone who would be excellent at this to apply.

General information about Totus Tuus can be found at www.dbqarch.org/Totus-Tuus. Application information can be found at <https://dbqarch.org/2026-totus-tuus-missionary-application-information>. Please contact Joanne Pohland (j.pohland@dbqarch.org) with any questions.



Remember in prayer: Eileen Barreca, Cindy Krempegs, Kari Magsamen Eddy, Barb Weber, Marlys Fischels, Mary Crawford Compean, Tom Breckler, Jim Welsh, Eileen Welsh, Lakyn Pomaville - as well as Elected Officials



During the Holidays the Cluster Office will be closed on:

Thursday, November 27 - Thanksgiving
Friday, November 28 - Thanksgiving

Holiday Day & Holy Day Mass Schedule:

Thanksgiving:

Thursday, November 27

St. John's @ 9:00 am

No Mass on Friday, November 28 @ St. Patrick's

Immaculate Conception:

Monday, December 8

St. John's @ 8:30 am / St. Patrick's @ 4:30 pm



Trim A Tree project

St. Patrick's Social Concerns Committee again invites you to participate in our Trim A Tree project. If you would like to be a part of this giving project, simply take an ornament from the tree, purchase the gift listed, attach the ornament tag to the UNWRAPPED gift and place it back under the tree. The gifts all need to be back by Mass on Sunday Dec. 13th. Everyone has been extremely generous in the past and we sincerely hope for your support again this year to help those locally in our community. We will have our tree up for the weekend of Nov 22/23rd.



SJ Giving Tree

The "Giving Tree" will be in the front of church on November 30th. We will begin collecting items for 2 families in Buchanan County through Operation Threshold. Please take an ornament, or two, off the tree and return your gift with the ornament attached by Sunday, December 21. Please wrap the gifts or place in a gift bag! Thank you!



St. John Cemetery - Mowing Bids for 2026

St. John Cemetery (located behind the fairgrounds in Independence) is now taking bids for lawn care services for 2026. If you are interested, please contact Fr. David Beckman or Polly Barreto at 319.334.7191 or email at dbq106sec@dbqarch.org. We will be accepting bids until January 30, 2026.



St. John Paul II Cluster - Winter Weather Policy

If there is a 2 hour delay for schools at either Independence or East Buchanan, there will be **NO** daily Mass held on that particular day. Please check for announcements on the radio, television, or our Facebook pages to be informed.



Scrip Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers to help sell scrip before and after Mass. This is an easy way to give back to the school and church and takes about 45 minutes of your time (30 minutes before Mass and 15-20 minutes after Mass) about once a month. The current scrip sellers will happily train you on this volunteer opportunity. Please notify Brenda Davis at 319-327-2574 or Mr. Hupke at St John school to ask any questions or get added to the scrip schedule! Thank you for giving of your time!

School News

Holiday Childcare Signup:

Parents —As we approach the holiday season, please let us know if your child will need childcare on the following dates:
 Thanksgiving Week: Wednesday, November 26th or Friday, November 28th / Christmas Break: Please let childcare know if there are any dates needed.

Important Reminders:

1. Childcare will be closed on Christmas Day (December 25th), December 26th, and New Year's Day (January 1st).
2. No breakfast or lunch will be provided since school is closed - please send lunch with your child. Snack will be provided.
3. Please contact Kenedy Armell if you have any questions or are interested by November 10th so they can plan staffing accordingly.

PTO INFORMATION:

The St. John School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is a very active part of our school. The PTO help provide a wide variety of support for our school. Please click on the link for information about our St. John School PTO, learn about the TREMENDOUS things they do for our school, staff, students, and some more opportunities to get involved. If you are not a member of the PTO, please consider joining to help us help your student.

SJS on Facebook!

Check us out on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088497703727>



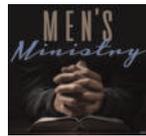
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Men of the St. John Paul II Cluster:

Once again we will be having our annual Advent Men's group. This year we will be reflecting on the life of St. Joseph, the earthly father of Jesus, and how his actions can be modeled in our own lives as a husband, father and friend. We will be using the book, "St. Joseph, Tender Father," His life and his care for us today from the author, Louise Perrotta. You can order this book on your own from Amazon, or from, The Word Among Us Press. We will start our four week journey on Monday evening December 1st from 6:30pm until 7:30pm at the Parish Office. Please read chapter 1 for our first discussion and reflection. Call Polly at the parish office to sign up as we prepare to invite Jesus into our homes at Christmas.



Operation Threshold Crisis & Utility Assistance Needed

Operation Threshold provides financial assistance to households facing crisis situations such as utility disconnection, emergency fuel deliveries, air conditioning repair (homeowners only) and furnace repair/replacement and they need financial assistance currently. Please contact Donna at the Buchanan County location at 319-334-6081 or send your donation to them directly at Operation Threshold, 105 – 2nd Ave NE, Independence, IA 50644



The perpetual light candles that are by the Tabernacle, Sacred Heart of Jesus, Mary and Joseph statues, 4 candles all together, this year are in memory of the Dick Merfeld and Karen McLaughlin



Thanksgiving Prayer

This Thanksgiving, let us remember all the good things, and people, who have come into our lives. We focus on thanking each one who has helped us, and ultimately thank God for the good gifts of this world.

Let us pray...
 God our Father,
 Graciously accept from your humble people a thankful heart and spirit.

Everything we have and are able to share with others ultimately comes from your love of your creations. Often we think that everything we have is our own creation; we ask you this day to create in us a spirit of gratitude, that we may always know that all good gifts come from you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

*Welcome to the
Parishes of the
St. John Paul II Cluster*

*St. John the Evangelist
Independence, Iowa
&
St. Patrick
Winthrop Iowa*

Pastor: Very Rev. David Beckman

Deacon: Dc. Tim Post

Pastoral Associate:

Sharon Bainbridge

Religious Education Coordinators:

St. John: Beth Flaucher

St. Patrick: Jessica Gibbs

319-929-2301

St. John School Principal: Dewey Hupke

<https://www.stjohneagles.com>

Telephones:

Cluster Offices: 334-7191

St. Patrick Center: 319-935-3871

St. John School: 334-7173

Cluster Mailing Address:

209 - 5th Ave NE

Independence, IA 50644

Cluster Email:

dbq106sec@dbqarch.org

Cluster Website:

<https://stjohnstpat.org>

WEEKDAY MASSES:

See Mass Schedule Page 1

WEEKEND MASSES:

St. John the Evangelist - 97.1 FM

Saturday: 5:30 pm

Sunday: 10:00 am

St. Patrick - 97.3 FM

Saturday: 4:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am

RECONCILIATION:

St. John the Evangelist

Sunday: 9:15 - 9:45 am

St. Patrick

Friday: 7:15 - 7:45 am

Saturday: 3:15 - 3:45 pm

BAPTISM:

Arranged after Pre-Baptism Classes.

Contact the cluster office.

MARRIAGE:

Please contact Fr. Beckman to arrange marriage preparations twelve to nine months in advance of the wedding date.



From the Desk of Fr. Beckman:

On this Feast of Christ the King, we hear a hardened criminal, who placed his faith in Jesus, say, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." This Gospel reveals the utter incongruity between how God sees power and how we do. Jesus was spoken as the 'king of the Jews,' but soldiers and criminals alike scoffed at Jesus' seemingly powerlessness and inability to save even himself, much less others, as he hung upon the cross. Even as he performed miracle after miracle, healing after healing, and many other miraculous wonders, Jesus seemed powerless. God's power is not self-serving, but is born of love. Jesus exercises his power in ways that are not visible to human eyes accustomed to the ways of a sinful world. Giving over control, and even his life is his power. This is hard to recognize, but not impossible; one of the criminals crucified alongside Jesus sees and believes that his story is not over and his kingdom is yet to come. When Jesus appeared proclaiming God's kingdom, he offered an antidote to imperial ways. He criticized how the kings of this world lord their power over people and then demanded recognition, but Jesus says, "My kingdom does not belong to this world." He urged his leaders to be servants of all (Luke 22:25-26), a manner of life which he modeled for them, as he took up his mission among the lowest rungs of society. Jesus exercised power through forgiveness, mercy, and compassion unlike an offended monarch who imposes harsh punishments for infractions. Even as Jesus is mocked and taunted in his dying moments, Jesus continues to exercise the power of forgiveness both toward his executioners, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34), and toward one of the criminals who acknowledges his form of power and asks to be included in his realm. "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom!" (Luke 23:42). Jesus responds: Today, you will be with me in paradise!" (Luke 23:43). The Gospel makes clear that Jesus's merciful rule cannot be extinguished by death.

November 23, 2025

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Luke 23:35-43

Not long ago, I was called to a hospital to anoint a woman in her early 80s. She was dying, and visibly in pain. But what struck me most wasn't her suffering — it was the atmosphere in the room. She had eight children and 30 foster kids, and many of them were gathered around her. You'd expect sorrow, fear, maybe even despair. But the room was filled with something else entirely — a quiet strength, a kind of sweetness. It was as if she was suffering not just with them, but for them. And they, in love, were suffering for her. The pain was real. But so was the peace. I didn't want to run. I felt as if I was in a little paradise, beeping machines and all.

I think of that moment when I hear today's Gospel. Jesus, hanging on the cross, doesn't look like a king. But one of the crucified, dying men beside him sees through the suffering and says, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" (Luke 23:42). That word — remember — literally means to make someone a member again. He's asking to be joined to Christ, to become part of his Body. And Jesus says, "Today you will be with me in paradise."

He doesn't say, "I'll take your suffering away." He says, "You will be with me." That's the strange power of Christ the King. He doesn't rule by avoiding suffering. He reigns by entering into it, and transforming it with love. What are you suffering right now in your life? Likely you want it to stop. But if we are willing to suffer with him — paradise begins even today.

— Father John Muir

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