

During this unprecedented time in our world's history, we offer you the following material for your praying and reflecting on God's Word.

Today as a Church, we conclude our liturgical year and celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. The Gospel we proclaim shows the great mystery of our faith: In the moment of his crucifixion, Jesus is shown to be King and Saviour of all. We are confronted with the crucified Jesus, whom faith tells us is King and Saviour of all. The irony is that the inscription placed on the cross, perhaps in mockery, contains the profoundest of truths. As the leaders jeer, the thief crucified by his side recognizes Jesus as Messiah and King, and finds salvation.

Jesus is King, but not the kind of king we might have imagined or expected. His kingship was hidden from many of his contemporaries, but those who had the eyes of faith were able to see. As modern disciples of Jesus, we, too, struggle at times to recognize Jesus as King. Today's Gospel invites us to make our own judgment. With eyes of faith, we, too, recognize that Jesus, the crucified One, is indeed King and Saviour of all.

Lectio Divina with the Sunday Gospel

Lectio Divina means 'divine reading'. It is a way to pray using the holy scriptures in a step-by-step process. Gather the entire family around and make the sign of the Cross. Light a candle.

Leader: "Holy Spirit, you inspired the authors of Sacred Scripture to write what you wanted us to know for the sake of our salvation. Inspire us now to hear those words not only with our ears, but our hearts, so that we might know your saving Word for us today."

- Have one person **read** the scripture slowly, out loud and have a few moments of silence afterwards. (It may be helpful for everyone to have a copy of the reading).
- **Read** the scripture again out loud and choose a single word or short phrase that touches, speaks or surprises you. Share with everyone.
- **Read** the scripture out loud one more time and discuss what is happening directly in the text.
- **Meditate** on what God is doing now in our lives through this text.
- **Respond** to what God is doing through prayer.
- **Contemplate** on what God is asking of me through this text and how to use these words as a gift for others through my actions.
- After a period of silence, end with the Sign of the Cross.

(see over)

The Holy Gospel for November 20, 2022

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

The leaders scoffed at Jesus saying,

“He saved others,

let him save himself if he is the Christ of God, his chosen one!”

The soldiers also mocked Jesus, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”

There was also an inscription over him,

“This is the King of the Jews.”

One of the criminals who were hanged there

kept deriding him and saying,

“Are you not the Christ?

Save yourself and us!”

But the other rebuked him, saying,

“Do you not fear God,

since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?

And we indeed have been condemned justly,

for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds,

but this man has done nothing wrong.”

Then he said,

“Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

Jesus replied,

“Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

(see over)

Family Activities

❖ As a family, reflect on these points:

- What is a king? What do they do, and what are they like?
- How is Jesus like a king?
- How is Jesus different from ordinary human kings?

❖ Print the photo of Christ the King (see next page) and place it in a frame.

Select a family member to carry the picture, form a line with the selected member last. Walk in procession around your yard/home singing an appropriate hymn. Place the picture on your home altar. Say the prayer to Christ the King acknowledging Him as King of the family, then enjoy refreshments or a nice meal.

❖ Bake a **Christ the King Spice Crown Cake**

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Thoroughly grease and flour a bundt pan.**

In a large bowl, cream until fluffy and light: 2 Cup sugar and 1 Cup butter, softened

Beat in:

1 Cup yogurt

2 1/4 Cup flour

3 eggs

1 tsp vanilla

1 tsp cinnamon

1 tsp allspice

1/2 tsp nutmeg

1/4 tsp ground cloves

1/2 tsp salt

1/2 tsp baking soda

Pour batter into pan

Bake 50~55 minutes

Remove from oven when a toothpick inserted into the middle comes out clean.

Set to cool for a bit in the pan before turning over onto a cooling rack. Pipe with your favourite icing so that it looks like a King's crown.

(see over)



(Family Activities continued...)

Prayer:

**Most sweet Jesus, Redeemer of the human race,
look down upon us humbly prostrate before you.**

**We are yours, and yours we wish to be; but to be more surely united with you,
behold each one of us freely consecrates himself today to your Most Sacred Heart.**

**Many indeed have never known you;
many, too, despising your precepts, have rejected you.**

Have mercy on them all, most merciful Jesus, and draw them to your Sacred Heart.

**Be King, O Lord, not only of the faithful who have never forsaken you,
but also of the prodigal children who have abandoned you;
grant that they may quickly return to their Father's house,
lest they die of wretchedness and hunger.**

**Be King of those who are deceived by erroneous opinions,
or whom discord keeps aloof, and call them back to the harbour of truth and
the unity of faith, so that soon there may be but one flock and one Shepherd.**

**Grant, O Lord, to your Church assurance of freedom and immunity from harm;
give tranquility of order to all nations; make the earth resound from pole to pole
with one cry: Praise to the divine Heart that wrought our salvation;
to it be glory and honour for ever. Amen**