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### Christ the King – November 22, 2020 Year A

**Kingship of Jesus in New Testament.** The New Testament tells us that Jesus is the long-awaited King of the Jews. In the account of the Annunciation, (Lk1:32-33), we read: *“The Lord God will make him a King, as his ancestor David was, and he will be the King of the descendants of Jacob forever and his Kingdom will never end.”* The Magi from the Far East came to Jerusalem and asked the question: (Mt 2:2) *“Where is the baby born to be the King of the Jews? We saw his star... and we have come to worship him.”* During the royal reception given to Jesus on Palm Sunday, the Jews shouted: (Lk 19:38) *“Blessed is the King, who comes in the name of the Lord.”* When Pilate asked the question: (Jn 18:33) *“Are you the King of the Jews?”* Jesus, in the course of their conversation, made his assertion, *“You say that I am a King. For this was I born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the Truth. Everyone who belongs to the Truth listens to My Voice”* (John 18:37). That Truth, as we know, is that He is God and Sovereign King of all Creation. The Gospels tell us that the board hung over Jesus' head on the cross read: *“Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews,”* (Mt 27:37; see also, Mk 15:26; Lk 23:36; John 19:19-20), and that, to the repentant thief on the cross who made the request: *“Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom,”* Jesus promised that the repentant thief would be in Paradise with Him that very day. (Luke 23:39-43). Before His Ascension into Heaven, the Risen Jesus declared: *“I have been given all authority in Heaven and on earth”* (Mt. 28:18). The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that *“In the Lord's Prayer, ‘thy kingdom come’ refers primarily to the final coming of the reign of God through Christ's return.”* (CCC 2818, cf. *Titus 2:13*)

The sick in our parish: Teresa & Con Lamonaca, Nola, Eleanor Priest, Judiel Teodoro, John Markis, Kathy Romanow, Wladyslaw Stopa, Rosa Latanzio, Leanne Blanchflower, Carmela Bovezza

Recently deceased: Giuseppa Gandolfo, Alfred Micallef, Josefina del Rosario, Damiano Ambrosini, Mary Grech, Sr. Elisabetta Cichello

We pray for all those whose Anniversaries occur at this time: Renata Romanow, Paola Cubella, Vincenzo Montalto, Concetta & Vincenzo Brullo, Giovanni Di Benedetto, William & Margaret McDonough, Molly Nichols, Margaret Clinch, Mario Benfatti, Giuseppe Zugaro, Lucia Di Alfonso, Antonio Stefani, Stefani Family, Nicolussi Family, Salvatore Beltempo, Michele Malarbi, Bartolo Natoli,

We especially pray for all the deceased whose names are on the Church pews & the Resurrection Chapel.

**Life messages: 1) We need to surrender our lives to Christ's rule:** Since Christ, our King, lives in our hearts with the Holy Spirit and His Heavenly Father and fills our souls with His grace, we need to learn to live in His Holy Presence, doing His will by sharing His forgiving love with others around us.

**2) We need to fight against the enemies of Christ's Kingdom:** Terrorism has affected the entire world, including Christ's Kingdom on earth. These terrorists are people who slaughter the unborn; engage in a frontal attack on the modern family through provocative television shows, movies, music and pornography; eradicate any recognition of God from public display and public schools; they include those priests and the religious who abuse children. Hence, Jesus, the King, needs convinced apostles prepared and ready to fight against these enemies, first by prayer, then by accepting willingly the sufferings that come our way and offering them to God with Jesus, our King, in reparation for our sins and the sins of the world, and finally by living lives of loving, humble service, using our gifts generously for all.

**3) We need to use what authority we have been given to pass on Jesus' message.** This feast is an invitation to all those who have power or authority in the government, in public offices, in educational institutions and in the family to use it for Jesus. Are we using our God-given authority so as to serve others with love and compassion as Jesus did?

**4) We need to make Christ the King of our Personal, Familial, Social, and Cultural life: Personal:** By allowing Him to be King and center of our heart through prayer, receiving the Sacraments and freely entering a personal relationship with Him.

**Conclusion:** The Solemnity of Christ the King is not just the conclusion of the Church year. It is also a summary of our lives as Christians. On this great Feast, let us resolve to give Christ the central place in our lives and to obey His commandment of love by sharing our blessings with all his needy children. Let us conclude the Church year by asking the Lord to help us serve the King of Kings as He presents Himself in those reaching out to us. *“To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His Blood and made us a Kingdom, priests for His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen”* (Rv 1:5b-6). *Christus vincit! Christus regnat! Christus imperat!* Christ conquers! Christ rules! Christ reigns!