

CHRIST THE KING 2020-November 22nd

On the last Sunday of each liturgical year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, or Christ the King.



Pope Pius XI instituted this feast in 1925 with his encyclical Quas primas ("In the first") to respond to growing secularism and hostility against the Church. Today reminds us that while governments and ideologies come and go, Christ reigns as King forever.

During the early twentieth century, in Mexico, Russia, and in many parts of Europe, atheistic regimes threatened not just the Catholic Church and its faithful but civilization itself. Pope Pius XI's encyclical gave Catholics hope and-while governments around them crumbled-the assurance that Christ the King shall reign forever.

Quas primas continues to ring true. The Holy Father speaks directly to the problem of what he referred to as "anti-clericalism" by which he meant the attitude of those who were seeking to extirpate Christian influence from political life.

We see a version of this same attitude today. For example, when it is suggested that belief in the Catholic teachings renders a person unfit for a judicial appointment. And in recent years, aggressive secularist campaigns have sought to marginalize the Church and other religious institutions.

When our nation is beset by civil unrest, racial tension, and a pandemic, we do well to turn to Our Lord, who reigns over every people and nation.

ADVENT

The last Sunday of November will mark the first Sunday of Advent. We will publish an advent calendar electronically and have available for pickup as well The Little Blue Books-that 15 minute Daily Devotional series of readings.

Preparations are underway for the advent wreath, and we are hopeful that interim song director, Mike Dreelin, will be able to find the Advent Wreath song in his resources for down loading.

Thinking ahead to Christmas Eve and Christmas Day celebrations, we are planning "Open Masses"; that is, there will be no alphabet restrictions for these Masses.

Finally, we need to decorate for Advent and ask you to remain after Mass TODAY or arrive after Mass to help us do that.

Attached to the bulletin is the Advent Calendar which differs from other years by the absence of a specific day for reconciliation at either church. If you desire reconciliation, please call the office so we can set you up with an appointment.

The Catholic Church Of The Visitation

8462 General Puller Highway/P.O. Box 38
Topping, Virginia 23169 Phone: 804-758-5160
E-Mail: churchofthevisitation@va.metrocast.net
Website: www.church-of-the-visitation.org
Pastor: Gerald Kaggwa Rectory: 804-286-9271



November 22, 2020

Year A

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, 2020

The celebration of Our Lord Jesus Christ as King of the Universe, "Christ the King", was proclaimed and brought into the liturgy by Pope Pius XI in 1925. This Feast is meant to bring Christ as Ruler, and Christian values, back into the lives of Christians and into the entire society. The Feast is also a reminder to those with authority that Jesus Christ is the only Sovereign King. We are invited to honor Christ as the King of the Universe by enthroning Him in our hearts, surrendering our lives to God. This feast challenges us to see Christ the King in everyone, especially those whom our society considers the least important, and to treat each person with the same love, mercy, and compassion Jesus showed.

The kingship of Christ that we celebrate today is a kingship of care. Care for all but particularly for the least ones: the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the ill, the ones in prison. Like the disciples, we are invited to care for these because in doing so we care for Jesus who identifies with these least ones. Today's feast both consoles as well as challenges us. We are consoled by the Lord's care for us, which is indeed comforting during these days of the pandemic. At the same time, we are reminded that we are called to care for one another, particularly the least among us.

The first reading, taken from the Prophet Ezekiel, introduces God as the Good Shepherd reminding us of Christ's claim to be the Good-Shepherd-King, leading, feeding, and protecting his sheep. He looks after His sheep, tends them, rescues them, pastures them, gives them rest, seek them out when they are lost and brings them back. He binds up the injured, heals the sick.

In the second reading, St. Paul presents Christ as the all-powerful Ruler-King Who having been raised from the dead, is above all and to Whom every form of power and authority must eventually give way.

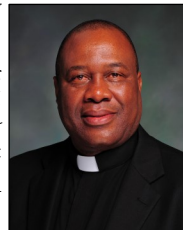
Today's Gospel describes Christ the King coming in Heavenly glory to judge us, based on how we have shared our love and blessings with others through genuine acts of charity in our lives. Jesus is present to us now, not only as our Good Shepherd leading, feeding, and healing his sheep, but also as dwelling in those for whom we are invited to take care of. In this parable of today's Gospel, every person to whom we give ourselves, "whether hungry, thirsty or a stranger, naked, sick or in prison," is revealed to us as Jesus himself. Our reward or punishment depends on how we have recognized and treated this Jesus in the needy.

As we celebrate this Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe, we need to recognize and appreciate Christ's presence within us and surrender our lives to His rule. Since Christ, our King, lives in our hearts and fills our souls with His grace, we need to learn to surrender our lives to Him, live in His Holy Presence, and do God's will by sharing His forgiving love with others around us. Aware of His presence in the Scriptures, in the Sacraments, and in the worshipping community, we need to listen and talk to Him.

We need to learn to be people who serve others. Since Christ was a Servant-King we are invited to be His loyal citizens by rendering humble service to others and by sharing Christ's mercy and forgiveness with others.

We need to use any given authority to support, spread and strengthen the rule of Jesus. This feast is an invitation to all those who have power or authority in the public or the private realms to use it for Jesus by bearing witness to Him in the way we live. Parents are expected to use their God-given authority to train their children in Christian ideals and in the ways of committed Christian living.

We need to accept Jesus Christ as the King of love. Jesus, who came to proclaim to all of us the Good News of God's love and salvation, gave us His new commandment of love and demonstrated that love by dying for us on the Cross. We accept Jesus as our King of love when we love others as Jesus loves us, unconditionally, and sometimes with sacrifices. A love which is open to all especially the least among us.



Very Reverend Gerald Kaggwa, V.F.

TODAY'S MASS

Christ, the King

First Reading:

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17

Responsorial Psalm:

The Lord is my shepherd there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading:

1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Father suggests you say the Prayer for Spiritual Communion during communion →

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that you are truly Present in the Most Blessed Sacrament.

I love You above all things And I desire to possess You within my soul.

Since I am unable at this Moment to receive You Sacramentally,

Come at least spiritually Into my heart.

I embrace You as being Already there, and unite Myself wholly to you.

Never permit me to be Separated from you.

Amen.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Bob Hartman, Mike Melancon, Theresa LaBrier, Bill Brown & John Banks



PARISHIONERS

Marianne Krop, Toni Traynor, Sandi Delagrang, Suzanne Sitterding, Veronica O'Leary, Michele Meaney, Donna Lange, Jack & Louise Petralia, Tom Wash, Paul Pearce, Lynn & Jim Vajda, Min Tassone, Grace Anderson, Natalie Smith, Lorie & Sal Messina, Pat Paul, Georgia Beville, Margaret Hock, Anne Dunn, Michelle Chmiel, Tom & Cindy Jessee, Peggy Williams, Karen Dame, Joe Nolte, Mike Lokie, Steve Kirsch, Marilynne Cerullo, Tom Hawksworth, Mary Ann & Kenneth Gulick, Nancy Wirth, Chris Henkel, Vincent Recupido, Bettie Hodge, Bob & Ingrid Borden, Laurie King, Becky Nunn, Bill & Linda Gray, Peg Meushaw, Carol Smith, Allen Hines, Pat & Lee Reamy, Janine Jaboulay, Anne Paparella, Carole McPherson, Jeanne Lessner, Colin Walsh.

FAMILY OF PARISHIONERS

Krop Family, Andrea Bordgen, Pam Tibbs, Sherry Newton, Aquela Parker, Khloe Nipper, Bernie Smith, Virginia Talke, Phil Melancon, Ray Kostaskey, Doris Melancon, Dominick Perry, Kimberly Lavinder, Frank & Gerri Lohrs daughter, Doug Meuse, Michele Brune, Noele & Mike Anglin, Anita Bomberger, Drinkwater Family, Kathy Shepherd, Lucy Walker, Suzanne Whelan, Jim Rundle, Rundle-Kehl family, Doris & Arthur Green, Rachel, Brian & Marcus Pittman, Robbie Beasley, Sandra Bush & Children, Mary Gray, Denis Popp, PJ Schwedler, John Calvin Barnard, Sal Messina Jr., Colleen O'Rollins, Michael Reamy, Sarah Kobezak, Natash Walsh, Ellen DeMaurez, Michele MacFarland, Shirley Schultz, LC Warren, Joseph Gascoigne, John Vajda, Sandy Alter, Andy & Iris Hetzer.

FRIENDS OF PARISHIONERS

Paula Harcum, Cathy Kirkland, Steve Sohles, Remy Maine Miller, Jessie Debusk, Ryan & Jeanne Norris, Donna Newcomb, Vickie Hogge, Auggie Bain, Maria Franzoni, Pumpkin Brownley, Rita Blommel, Brenda Knupp, Ashely Scott & family, Steve Smith, Susie Loustaunau, Elizabeth Panzer, Linda Cryer, Tyra Freed, Valerie McCarthy, Joan & John Rychtarik.

If you would like to add someone to the Prayer List please contact the office by email or phone.

MAIL IN OFFERTORY, AND ON LINE DONATIONS: NOVEMBER 22, 2020

Collection: \$ 2,481
Second Collection:
Total Offertory Collection Year to Date \$ 44,242
Total Budget Projection: \$ 42,382



There is no Second Collection Today.

We signed the following principal checks this week:

\$229 October Electricity; \$159 Printer Leasing



As an alternative to mailing us a weekly donation, you can visit our website www.church-of-the-visitation.org Click the Red Donation button, select our church, a donation amount and fill in the information. Use the green secure button and done.

BIRTHDAY'S FOR NOVEMBER



3rd-Keith Gulick & Bob Chmiel, 11th-Steven Forte, 16th-Skip Kramb & Charlotte Johnson, 19th-Cathy Davenport, 21st-Kelly McMurtrie & Branch Meanley, 22nd-Lorie Messina, 24th-Dave Filippi, 27th-Laurie King & Lynne Dreelin, 28th-Bill Gray, 29th-Bill Brandl, 30th-Andrea Moore & Mary Foley.



ANNIVERSARY DATES FOR NOVEMBER

7th-Keith & Mary Ann Gulick, 29th-Aldo & Leisa DeCollibus

FATHER'S THOUGHTS

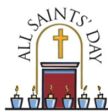
With reverence and humility, I thank those of you who responded in a positive manner to my appeal for an increased offertory contribution during these trying times.

The trend in collections is up, and our goal as always is to meet our annual budget requirements, so we can continue to bring Christ into the world in various ministries and make an impact in the community.

We have begun the construction of a new worship area. Although the great majority of the cost is on hand, some of it will require a loan from the Diocese, an amount to be defined by our abilities to raise additional funds during construction. If you have some ideas on this topic, we urge you to pass them on to Debby Harriman and /or Lisa Forte.

To those parishioners who were not able to heed our previous appeal for support during the pledge campaign for whatever reason, we ask that you look into your heart again, reevaluate your former decision, help us financially, and as a minimum pray for the success of our project that began some 16 years ago and offers to further spread the Catholic word throughout the community.

Father Gerry



NOVEMBER, WE REMEMBER THOSE WHO

REST IN THE LORD.



The month of November is dedicated to the remembrance of our brothers and sisters who have gone before us, the faithful departed.

The Church invites us on November 2, "All Souls Day", and all the days of November to make present our loved ones who are not with us anymore physically but are with us spiritually. Because for us who believe, nothing is lost, even when we die, we continue to live in the Lord. The Scripture readings we use on the November 2nd confirm this faith. They tell us that the souls of the just, are with God, then we are reminded that hope does not disappoint, and that we live in the Lord who is poured into us by His Spirit. And in the Gospel, Jesus encourages us by saying that those who place their faith in Him will not be lost, but that they will be raised up to eternal life.

We pray therefore, for all those who rest in the Lord, and all our loved ones who have gone before us may they find happiness and everlasting joy. And may their memories remain with us as a sign of our communion with them.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen



MANY ITEMS FOR PICKUP

In the corridor by the office are many items for pickup, as you desire. We have 2021 Calendars, The Little Blue Books for Advent devotion, you 2021 Envelopes, and Lectors' Workbooks. When you drop by to pick up an item(s), Please exit through the doors by the office. Inserted in the collection books are envelopes designated for donations for the New Worship Area. We presently plan to have these monthly during 2021. For those parishioners who do not attend Mass, but desire to receive any of these items, Mike & Lynne Dreelin have offered to deliver them as a convenience to you. Another way to receive them is to come by the church and pick them up during office hours.

PARISHIONER VIBES



Our parishioner Becky Nunn won the Peoples' Choice Award for contestants from the United States in the Ms. Senior World Pageant. The contest was conducted via the Internet with people voting from all over the country. Becky overtook her nearest competitor by 550 votes. All of the money raised at \$1 per vote will go to purchase Bibles for Third World Countries. In addition to that huge win, Becky was one of nine finalists and finished the pageant as Second Runner Up in the WORLD!



CHURCH INFORMATION

Our hours for prayer when the church is open are Wednesday and Thursday from 9AM-12:00.

Church attendance was 63 this past Sunday with 13 guests.

This coming week the Mass is for parishioners in **Group A-K**.

The important thing to remember is to notify the office if you are planning to attend Mass and are not in the proper alphabetical grouping.

We continue to offer daily Mass on Wednesday and Thursday @9AM for anyone who desires to attend. All are welcome!



ROSARY MINISTRY

Beginning last Sunday we commenced a Rosary Service before Mass starting at 8:30AM. Parishioner Cindy Jessee who successfully lead the ministry in her former parish will lead the Rosary Prayer. If you have any questions, contact her at 804-510-4688 or email cindyjessee6@gmail.com.



ANGEL TREE

With Thanksgiving a few days away, it's time to begin thinking of our Angel Tree Project which benefits the children of inmates of the Saluda Correctional Center at Christmas Time. Because of the Pandemic and the absence of some parishioners at Mass, we will be posting the list of children needing gifts via email and our website. The list should be ready soon and when posted you will need to call Mary Sychterz to register your choice. The instructions for calling Mary will be included at that time.

Online Giving

E-GIVING



Several weeks ago, we asked your opinion about offering E-Giving as a permanent feature for future offertory and special collection donations. The positive responses were enough in number to justify establishing a program for that purpose. After researching it, Debby Harriman recommended a Parish Soft Program; we are presently developing it with their assistance. The Diocese is expecting to discontinue its program shortly and ours will commence on January 1st. More information will follow as we develop ours.

GOV. NORTHAM'S NEW COVID-19 MEASURES



As you are aware Gov Northam announced new restrictions which went into affect last Monday. Although there are new limits to social gatherings, the new guidelines do not impact the manner we have been conducting Daily or Sunday Masses or our Committee Meetings. Of note, however, is the requirement that individuals attending religious services must wear "cloth" face coverings.

WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?

Did you know that over 50% of all people at the time of their death do not have a will or living trust?

Preparing an estate plan is good Christian stewardship— saying thanks to God, expressing your love and concern for family, and showing charity toward others.

Think about the part you want to play in your church's future. Naming your church as a beneficiary in your estate plan to create an endowment can assure your continued participation in the life and mission of your church far into the future.



NEW WORSHIP AREA

As we await the building permit to begin construction, plans are for the general contractor to mobilize his equipment on Monday. Asphalt removal is also scheduled for this coming week, meaning that beginning next Sunday, parishioners will have to enter and exit church through the alcove doors.

Please be patient with this change of procedure and continue to adhere to the guidance of our ushers.



TODAY'S ASSIGNMENTS

Lectors: Tom Shoemaker & Mary Ellen Sherwood

Community Leader: Charlie Costello