



The Catholic Community of Divine Savior

Family Faith Focus

Volume 8, Issue 17

November 24, 2019

Dates to Remember

- November 24: Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe— **Children's Liturgy of the Word, 10:30 AM Mass**
- November 28: Thanksgiving Day Family Mass Celebration, 9:00 AM
- November 30: Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle
- November 30: Advent Tree Lighting after 4:00 PM Mass
- December 1: First Sunday of Advent — **Children's Liturgy of the Word, 10:30 AM Mass**

Jesus, Remember Me!

Jesus gave his life for each one of us. Who understood this? One of the criminals who was crucified with him understood it well, the so-called "good thief" who asked Jesus to remember him when Jesus came into his kingdom. He saw love in Jesus' example. Jesus' kingship doesn't oppress us, but rather frees us from our weaknesses and miseries, encouraging us to walk the path of the good, of reconciliation and of forgiveness. Let us look at the cross of Jesus and at the "good thief" and say, "remember me when you come into your kingdom." When we feel that we are weak and defeated, that we are sinners, let us look at Jesus and say: "Don't forget me."

—Pope Francis

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe Luke 23: 35-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

The rulers sneered at Jesus and said,
"He saved others, let him save himself
if he is the chosen one, the Christ of God."
Even the soldiers jeered at him.
As they approached to offer him wine they called out,
"If you are King of the Jews, save yourself."
Above him there was an inscription that read,
"This is the King of the Jews."

Now one of the criminals hanging there reviled Jesus, saying,
"Are you not the Christ?
Save yourself and us."
The other, however, rebuking him, said in reply,
"Have you no fear of God,
for you are subject to the same condemnation?
And indeed, we have been condemned justly,
for the sentence we received corresponds to our crimes,
but this man has done nothing criminal."
Then he said,
"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."
He replied to him,
"Amen, I say to you,
today you will be with me in Paradise."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Thanksgiving Meal Prayer

God most provident,
we join all creation
in raising to you a hymn of thanksgiving
through Jesus Christ, Your Son.

For generation upon generation
peoples of this land have sung of your bounty;
we too offer you praise
for the rich harvest we have received at your hands.

Bless us and this food which we share with grateful hearts.

Continue to make our land fruitful
and let our love for you be seen
in our pursuit of peace and justice
and in our generous response to those in need.

Praise and glory to you, Lord God, now and for ever. Amen.



— Book of Blessings

Sunday Gospel Connection: November 24, 2019

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Cycle C

Luke 23: 35-43

Gospel Background: In the context of Luke, today's Gospel appears near the end of Jesus' teaching in Jerusalem, just prior to the events that will lead to his crucifixion. His warnings and predictions are ominous but can be read in many ways.

To those who first heard Luke's Gospel, those may have been words of encouragement. The destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem by the Romans was history (70 A.D.); Luke's Gospel, Catholic scholars propose, was written between 80 and 90 A.D. His audience was probably Gentile Christians. Luke here tries to interpret the fall of Jerusalem for them and to locate it in God's plans for humankind (salvation history). At the same time, Luke is suggesting to his audience that there will be a considerable elapse of time before Jesus' final coming. Luke's listeners have likely seen much upheaval and are anxious to know if these are the signs of Jesus' coming. Luke is urging greater patience.



In the second part of today's Gospel, Jesus warns that his followers will face persecution for their beliefs. Luke presents persecution as an opportunity for the followers of Jesus for "It will lead to your giving testimony" (Luke 21:13). In persecution God's wisdom and power will be shown in the example of followers of Jesus. Perseverance in the face of persecution will lead to their salvation.

Here Jesus is assuring his followers that God is present to all believers, even in times of trouble. Ultimately, Jesus will witness to this with his own death. As disciples of Jesus, we try to follow his example, trusting in God's mercy and protection, even when we are facing difficulties.

Family Connection: Children, while innocently naïve about most world events, are also profoundly sensitive to the concerns felt by adults. We can help children interpret adult concerns by sharing information about current events in appropriate ways. We can also put these concerns in the light of God's kingdom and the assurance of God's care for us.

Discuss with your children one or more current events or a situation in your family which shows difficulties that may challenge our trust in a God who cares for us. Then read together today's Gospel, Luke 21:5-19. Notice how Jesus said that even when his disciples are persecuted, God would be with them.

Together with your children, talk about ways in which God might bring good out of the difficult events you discussed. Talk together about some actions you might take as a family to make better the situations you discussed. Conclude by praying for the needs of the people involved in the events you named. In prayer, place each of these difficult situations into God's hands.

For more information and Sunday Connection resources visit:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/our-lord-jesus-christ-the-king-c-sunday-connection>

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