



The Catholic Community of Divine Savior

# Family Faith Focus

Volume 10, Issue 17

November 21, 2021

## Dates to Remember

- November 21: Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe—  
Mass at 4:00 PM on Saturday & 9:00 AM on Sunday
- November 22: Memorial of St. Cecilia
- November 24: Memorial of St. Andrew Dung Lac & Companions
- November 25: Thanksgiving Day— Mass at 9:00 AM
- November 28: First Sunday of Advent— Mass at 4:00 PM on Saturday & 9:00 AM on Sunday

## Catholic Terms to Know

*"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "the one who is and who is to come, the almighty."*

— Revelation 1:8

**Alpha (A) and Omega (Ω):** The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, therefore representing the beginning and the end, or as we say, "from A to Z." Used to name God, the Alpha and Omega signify the eternal existence of God, that nothing existed before God and that God is our final end for all eternity.

## The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe John 18: 33b-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Pilate said to Jesus,

"Are you the King of the Jews?"

Jesus answered, "Do you say this on your own or have others told you about me?"

Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I?"

Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?"

Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world.

If my kingdom did belong to this world,

my attendants would be fighting

to keep me from being handed over to the Jews.

But as it is, my kingdom is not here."

So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?"

Jesus answered, "You say I am a king.

For this I was born and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth.

Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."

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

## Sunday Gospel Connection: November 21, 2021 Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe — Cycle B John 18: 33b-37

**Gospel Background:** This Sunday is the last Sunday of the Church's liturgical year. On this Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. Each year we set aside this Sunday to reflect upon this title that we have given to Jesus. In Lectionary Cycle B, we read a portion of the passion from the Gospel of John, which is also part of the Gospel reading proclaimed each year on Good Friday.

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In John's Gospel, Pilate is shown in a more favorable light than in the other Gospels. In today's reading, we hear one of two dialogues between Jesus and Pilate that are reported in John's Gospel. Pilate questions Jesus about the charges brought against him. Caiaphas and the high priests have charged Jesus with a political crime, one that would require a punishment of death. Pilate distances himself from the Jewish leaders who accuse Jesus; he is not a Jew, and he seems to want little to do with this Jewish affair.

In his responses to Pilate's questions, Jesus distinguishes his kingdom from the political powers of this world. King and kingdom may be appropriate terms for Jesus' mission and promise, but only by analogy. Jesus is king, but not the kind of king we imagine or expect. He was certainly not the kind of king Pilate feared he might be.

Jesus refers to a kingdom that does not belong to this world. This has been mentioned earlier in John's Gospel. Recall that in his prayer during the Last Supper discourse (see John 17:6-18), Jesus prayed for his disciples who are in the world but do not belong to the world. Yet like Jesus, they are sent into the world for the world's salvation. In today's reading, we see Jesus identify the final proof that his kingdom is not of this world: If his kingdom were of this world, then there would be people fighting to save him. Again we hear echoes of John's theme—salvation is worked out through a cosmic battle. It is helpful to return to the first chapter of John's Gospel to understand the context for Jesus' words to Pilate. Jesus came into the world, but the world did not know him. In John's language, the world prefers the darkness, and yet the light will not be overcome by the darkness.

Truth has been another important theme in John's Gospel. We see it emphasized in the conclusion of the dialogue between Jesus and Pilate. Those who know the truth will recognize Jesus as king and will know how to interpret this insight. Yet Jesus' kingship was hidden from many of his contemporaries. Only those chosen, those who have the eyes of faith, are able to see. As modern disciples of Jesus, we also struggle at times to recognize Jesus as king. Today's Gospel invites us to see with eyes of faith that we might recognize that Jesus, through his crucifixion and death, is indeed king and Savior of all.

**Family Connection:** Understanding today's feast of Christ the King may be particularly challenging. While most of us do not have direct experience with kings or royalty, we have a sense of who they are. We know that royalty have sovereignty over their kingdoms. We know that those who are subjects to royalty offer them allegiance and honor. To understand how Christ is our king, we extend and magnify what we know to be true of the best of human royalty. Christ's kingship extends to all places, all people, and all times. Christ manifests his kingship through his death on the cross in which he offered salvation to everyone. Those who can see with eyes of faith recognize Jesus to be our heavenly king.

As you gather as a family, recall that this Sunday is the last Sunday in the Church year and on this Sunday we celebrate the feast of Christ the King. Talk together about what it means to be a king or queen. How do those who are subjects behave toward royalty? Invite children to role-play what one does in the presence of royalty. Read today's Gospel, John 18:33b-37. Ask your family to discuss these questions: Does Pilate treat Jesus like royalty? (No.) What does Jesus say about his kingdom? (It is not of this world.) Talk about how your family shows honor and obedience to Christ our King. Pray together the Lord's Prayer and ask God to help your family act in ways that show you recognize and honor Christ as King.

For more information and Sunday Connection resources visit:

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



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# Thanksgiving Day Liturgy

**Thursday, November 25, 9:00 AM**

**ALL of our FCFF Families  
are Invited and Encouraged to Be Present  
As We Join Together to  
Give Thanks for our Many Blessings!**

**The Story of the First Thanksgiving  
will be presented by the children  
in Pre-K through Grade 4**

**What Better Way to Begin this Day of Family Celebration  
than to Join Together as God's Family at the Table of the Lord!**