

**For The Bulletin Of  
November 20, 2016**

## **THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING**

### ***From Father Robert***

Illness is one of the things that tends to make people grumpy. When we don't feel good, we naturally turn inward upon ourselves. We want this to be over. We want to feel good again and get on with the tasks and challenges at hand.

Prolonged illness keeps some people grumpy all the time, while a surprising number of other people seem to be able to rise above their pain and distress and, sometimes even because of it, reach out to others. Jesus, in today's gospel, is hanging on a cross. He is in much pain and distress. He's being "sneered at." He's being "jeered." He's being "reviled" Was Jesus grumpy and turned inward upon Himself? No!

Three hang on crosses, suffering and dying. One reviles, one begs for salvation. One promises Paradise. Indeed, only One can promise Paradise. Who but "the Christ of God" could make such a promise? Who but a divine King could reach beyond His own suffering and dying to bestow Life on another? Who but One totally innocent of evil could draw goodness out of One Who is "condemned justly"? Three hang on crosses. One remains condemned. One is redeemed. One will rise from the dead, King of the universe.

Although Jesus' kingdom is established from the very beginning of creation and through the Davidic kingship, His reign is not one of power but of mercy, not one of self-service but of self-giving, not

one of material wealth but of eternal salvation. His throne is a cross. Such a King the world has never seen. Through His suffering and death, this King brings Life to all who are open to receive it. This King offers Paradise to all those who come to Him, accept His reign, and remain faithful to the will of His Father. This King remembers each of us and bids us to come into His kingdom, into the eternal Life He won for us.

The cross is where we least expect a king to be. Yet this is how God's kingdom is established and where our discipleship begins: allowing ourselves to be crucified on the cross of self-giving. Jesus demonstrates His kingship not by power but by loving reassurance that Paradise awaits faithful disciples. Only by beginning here, on the cross, can our discipleship end like the Good Thief's, hearing Jesus say to us, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

### ***Living The Paschal Mystery***

The Good Thief said, "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." This solemnity celebrates Christ as King. His kingdom has come. We are living in God's kingdom now. We are called, however, not to simply pay homage to our exalted King, but to do as He did. This means that each day we must live in a self-giving way because only through goodness expressed in reaching out to others is God's reign at hand. Living the paschal mystery means living the daily dying the cross demands. Just as the cross was the means to Jesus' exaltation, so is the cross our only way into Paradise. When self-giving seems to swallow us up and we are tempted to choose a self-serving attitude, all we need to do is remember

that the cross is the door to Paradise. This only way – the cross – is the way out of this life, crossing into eternal Life. The only way.

As we come to the conclusion of this Year of Grace that has been 2016, it is appropriate to reflect on how we have grown individually and as a community as the disciples of Jesus. Am I closer to Jesus than I was a year ago? Have I allowed the Word of God to shape my life? Am I more self-giving? Am I as willing to embrace the cross as was Jesus?

- What today's gospel teaches me about Jesus as King is...
- The goodness Christ the King draws out of me is...I share this goodness with others by...
- I experience the fullness of Life in Christ's kingdom when...

#### ***About Liturgy: Discipleship and Victory***

For months now we have been traveling with Jesus through the proclamation of Luke's gospel. This feast of Christ the King is the last Sunday and culmination of the entire liturgical year. Next Sunday we begin Advent and thus begin again yet another paschal mystery journey through a liturgical year. This annual celebration reminds us that the difficulties of discipleship are always rewarded by the joy of victory. The cross leads to risen life. As we embrace the cross in our own journey of discipleship each day, we are spurred on to faithfulness by remembering that it all culminates in this victory.

Each year, we begin and end the same journey. What keeps this cyclic pattern of our liturgical celebrations from

becoming tedious? The answer lies in our taking the time to recognize our own growth in discipleship and our personal relationship with Jesus our King during this past year. Since judgment is one of the themes of the end times, it might be good to take some time this coming week to judge our own growth and preparedness to enter Paradise with Jesus. Without such self-reflection we run the risk of every liturgical year simply being like all the others for us. Endings and beginnings always give us an opportunity to assess growth and recommit ourselves to faithful discipleship. True, the cross is not something we would naturally choose for ourselves. But the end of this liturgical year and the beginning of the new one when we encounter our victorious Christ is exactly what we need in order to be faithful to the disciple's life of self-giving for the good of others.

#### ***The Rite of Acceptance Into The Catechumenate***

During the 4:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Eucharist we will celebrate the Rite of Acceptance Into The Catechumenate for **Rod and Barbara Conner, Jason Skrdlant, Heather and Bill Hatteroth, Jessie Okon and Brenda Lee Vagenas.** We will also welcome the following children through the Rite for the Christian Initiation of Children: **Jett Armstrong, Jaxx Armstrong, Adriana Xiomara Bonilla, Jason Dillon, Cezar Carnero, Chauncey Lewis, John Thomas Perez, Gabriel L. Skrdlant and Nathan L. Skrdlant.** Please keep all of them in your prayers as they take this next significant step in their journey to full initiation through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

### ***Thanksgiving Basket Weekend***

Thank you to all of you who shopped, filled, and decorated your boxes or baskets for our annual Thanksgiving Basket Outreach. I especially want to thank Mr. Siino and the faculty, staff, children, and families of our adopted parochial school of St. Peter Martyr for their participation once again in this holiday outreach. We would also like to recognize our CYO teams and our Faith Formation classes for their generous contributions. The baskets will be taken to the parish hall following the 10:00 a.m. Liturgy to be prepared for the distribution by our St. Vincent de Paul Society members tomorrow morning. A turkey will be added to each box. Your thoughtfulness and generosity have enabled us to once again be the heart and hands of Jesus in reaching out to the least among us who otherwise would not be able to celebrate this wonderful holiday of Thanksgiving.

### ***St. Cecilia Sing***

We are a member of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians and in conjunction with them, concerts, recitals, and choral festivals are being held all over the United States today, November 20<sup>th</sup> to honor St. Cecilia, the Patron Saint of Church Music. Our parish is participating once again this year with the celebration of Sung Evening Prayer on this afternoon at 3:00 p.m. followed by a reception in the parish hall. I hope you will plan to join us in this service of praise and thanksgiving that honors St. Cecilia and asks for God's blessing on our parish music ministry.

### ***Thanksgiving Day***

This coming Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, is our National Day of Thanksgiving.

What better way to begin the day than to gather with fellow parishioners to celebrate Holy Eucharist? We have a wonderful tradition in our parish that we observe each year as parishioners are invited to give the homily/Thanksgiving Reflection. This year, that honor has fallen to **Larry and Jeanine Ford**. Music for the Liturgy will be under the direction of **Don Pearson, Director of Music/Organist/Artist-in-Residence** along with our Parish Choir. Please be sure to bring the bread/rolls and wine for your Thanksgiving Dinner to be blessed as a part of this liturgy. Tables will be set up across the front of the church for this purpose. Our liturgy begins at 9:00 a.m. and I hope you will join us.

### ***Environment Help***

On Friday morning, November 25<sup>th</sup>, the day after Thanksgiving, we will transform our environment from Fall/Harvest to the beginning of a new Liturgical Year and the Season of Advent. It takes many hands to do this and I want to invite all who are able to join us for this wonderful experience. We have a great time together and also provide for coffee and pastries mid-morning and lunch at midday. We begin at 9:00 a.m., immediately following the Friday Morning Eucharist.

### ***St. Nicholas Festival Dinner***

One of the most beloved traditions of the Advent Season is our St. Nicholas Festival Dinner. Tickets went on sale last weekend and it is important that you get your tickets as soon as possible as this is always a SOLD OUT event! The theme for this year's dinner is "Come Home For Christmas!" Our parish hall is transformed into an elegant wintry, Christmas gathering with beautifully decorated tables in the spirit of the

theme, with delicious food and wines, and a wonderful holiday dessert. Dinner is once again being prepared by **Chef David Costanza and His Kitchen Krew**. Please remember to bring your bells to ring to herald the arrival of St. Nicholas, always the highlight of the evening. Tickets are once again available following each liturgy this weekend.

#### ***Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration***

On Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, the Third Sunday of Advent, we will also celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. **Lidia Tarango and the members of our Guadalupana Society** will participate in the Liturgy as well as hosting the dinner that follows in the parish hall. The Liturgy begins at 4:00 p.m. followed by a traditional dinner in the parish hall. A free-will offering will be received in the hall to support this event and to help defray its costs. No tickets will be sold – this is a gift from our Guadalupana Society.

#### ***Simbang Gabi***

Once again our parish will join the **Deanery Celebration of Simbang Gabi**, a novena of nine days of liturgies in preparation for the Christmas Feast, sponsored by our Filipino Community. We will join the parishes of our Deanery at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Brentwood. Beginning December 16<sup>th</sup>, the liturgies will be celebrated through Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 a.m. each morning. I will be presiding and preaching on Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> and members of our Filipino Ministry will share in the ministry of the liturgy and the traditional Filipino Breakfast that follows in their parish hall.

#### ***Parish Advent Mission***

Once again we are welcoming **Fr. Jude Siciliano, OP and Sr. Patricia Bruno, OP** to our parish for an Advent Mission. They will preach the beginning of the mission on the weekend of December 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. Each day of the following week, they will have sessions following the Morning Eucharist as well as again in the evening at 7:00 p.m. The mission will help us to conclude the Jubilee Year of Mercy and welcome the new Liturgical Year of Advent. Please mark the dates on your calendar and plan to be with us. This is a great way to help us prepare for Christmas and I hope you will plan to with us.

#### ***Our Christmas Environment***

Each year, the members of our Art & Environment Committee prepare a beautiful and appropriate environment for the Christmas Season. It does not happen, however, without your help and generosity – the trees, lighting, fabric panels, wreathes, and poinsettias are made possible because of you! Once again we invite you to support the transformation of the sanctuary to Christmas by making donations either In Honor Of or In Loving Memory Of a family member or friend. You may use the envelopes provided in our envelope packet or take an envelope from the Credenza and fill it out accordingly. All donations will be acknowledged in one of the bulletins of the Christmas Season. Once again, thank you for your amazing generosity.

#### ***A Thank You From The Archdiocese of the Military Services***

On behalf of Timothy P. Broglio, Archbishop for the Military Services, his Assistant Bishops, and Staff, heartfelt

thanks to those who participated in last weekend's collection. Your prayers and generosity will support the unique ministry to women and men who currently protect our nation and defend the freedoms we hold dear. You have also helped to provide the sacraments and pastoral care for Catholic veterans who served with distinction and who are cared for in our Veterans Administration Medical Centers across the United States, Puerto Rico, and Guam.

***Father Tom's Book of Christmas Meditations***

A book of Father Tom Bonacci's Christmas Meditations has been published by "blurb.com, 580 California Street, San Francisco, CA. 94104, Suite 300" and is available for \$19.95 plus shipping and tax, bringing the total to \$24.75. This will make a wonderful Christmas gift.

***Thanksgiving and Christmas Cards for Archbishop Brunett***

Please do not forget to include Archbishop Alexander Brunett in your Thanksgiving and Christmas card list. His address is:

Archbishop Alexander J. Brunett  
Archbishop Emeritus  
Archdiocese of Seattle  
710 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

***Get Well Cards For San Francisco Police Officer Kevin Downs***

I invite you to join me in sending Get Well cards to San Francisco Police Officer Kevin Downs who was shot in the head and who has been released from the hospital and is recovering. Cards, good wishes, and remembrances of prayers may be sent to him as follows:

Officer Kevin Downs  
c/o San Francisco Police Officers Association  
800 Bryant St., Second Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94103

***The Smile For A Lifetime Foundation***

Since 2010, I have been a founding member of the "Smile For A Lifetime" Foundation that has been established by **Dr. Robert Sheffield**. Since 2011, Dr. Sheffield has been providing free braces to underserved East County children. Every six months, six new children are selected by the Foundation Board to receive braces and orthodontic care. Our parish has not yet had a recipient for this scholarship and if anyone is contemplating or needing braces and has a financial difficulty, please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity and apply. Applications are available on line and are due March 30 and September 30. Please go on line to [www.sheffieldortho.com](http://www.sheffieldortho.com) to obtain the application. A flyer will be found at the back of my Insert.

***Thank You***

Each week I continue to be amazed and grateful for all the volunteer parishioners who give so much of their time and talent to help us with the ministry of the parish as well as its upkeep. Our thanks to those who clean and prepare the church and parish hall each week:

**Carole Miller, Rose Salamanca, Jun Bajet, Cathy Romeo, Sofie Zimmerman, Mency Osborne, Tracy Wetzel, Kelly Wetzel, Angela Bueno, and Steve Rojek.**

...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Virginia Noack, Robert Goncalves, Mary Ewing, Steve Rojek, Patricia Britton, and Harlan Young.**

...to **Dilcia Aparacio** who washes and irons all the sacred linens each week.

...to our Sacristans and Altar Guild who prepare the sanctuary for the celebration of Eucharist each week:

**Peter Degl'Innocenti, Pam and Rich Confetti, Vincent Rodriguez, Harlan Young, Rowena Cayaban, Monika Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, Belen Farin, Nancy Santos and Rose Salamanca.**

...to our **counting teams** who are here every week to count the weekly collections.

...to our volunteers who assisted in the parish office last week: **Sofie**

**Zimmerman, Melody Costanza, Harlan Young, Karen Oliver, Alicia Perez, Joe Fanfa and Bev Iacona.**

...to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week's donations: **Bob Carvalho and**

**Barbara Jackson.**

...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Bob Carvalho, Carole Miller, Dave Costanza.**