

**For The Bulletin Of
November 26, 2017**



THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

From Father Robert

Seeing can be a physical activity of the eyes, or an inspired activity of the heart. We might see with our eyes the worried look of a parent caring for a sick child; our inspired heart sees love and compassion pouring out. We might see with our eyes a student struggling to get through school; our inspired heart sees potential for creativity and insight beyond book learning. We might see with our eyes the run-down condition of a neighborhood; our inspired heart sees the inner beauty of downtrodden people desiring a better life. We might see with our eyes the homeless; our inspired heart sees hopelessness reaching out for understanding. We might see with our eyes the hungry, the thirsty, strangers, the naked, the ill, the imprisoned, the lonely, the abandoned, the elderly, the dying; our inspired heart sees the Person of Christ our King in each of them crying out to be touched by the Person of Christ our King Who dwells within each of us.

Today's gospel and solemnity of the last Sunday of the Liturgical Year invites us to draw on the strength of the Christ Who dwells within us to reach out to be Christ in the other. This gospel is about future judgment; it is even more about present discipleship.

So much about this gospel speaks to us of Christ's glory and power ("When the Son of Man comes in His glory," "all the nations will be assembled before Him," "the king will say") and rightfully it should. However, there is a remarkable surprise in the gospel. Christ is victorious, to be sure; He is King enthroned, to be sure; He judges all nations, to be sure. This surprise is that on this festival honoring Christ the King both the gospel and the first reading speak about others who need our help and caring for them. We honor Christ the King by acknowledging that He is in the other and within us. No greater honor can we give our Savior King than to serve Him in one another. In a sense, then, our focus on each other is really a focus on Christ – for it is a measure of how much we imitate His care for others. It is a measure of how much we are His faithful disciples. He showed us by His very life how to care for others. So must we spend our lives in this way.

Christ the King will come "in His glory." It is not "if" He will come, but "when." There is an imperative in the immediacy of this "when." The gospel claim is clear: Christ the King, arrayed in all His glory, is present now in the other. WE must look beyond what we see with our eyes and see with the heart of Christ; we must see others as He sees them. His throne is the person of the other; He dwells within them. His throne is the person of the other; He

dwells within them. The “when” of His coming is now. The kingdom of God is now. The judgment is now. In our care for others, here and now, Christ the King reigns. Alleluia!



Living The Paschal Mystery

One of the best ways we can begin to see the Christ in the other is by not judging the negative aspects of their persons first, but instead looking for the good in the other. This can be carried out in such a simple Christian practice as seeking always to compliment rather than to criticize another. Care that we don't spread gossip is another way. Thus do we build up the Body of Christ and bring honor to Christ our King Who dwells in ourselves and the other. Thus do we see the face of Christ our King in everyone we meet. Perhaps the first and most important task of being good subjects of Christ the King is to live as he did – not simply seeing with the eyes, but seeing with hearts responding to the dignity of others, to their need for healing, forgiveness, reconciliation, compassion, mercy, and love.

- When I take the time to reflect on Christ coming in all of His glory, I am moved to...
- It is easiest to see the person of Christ in others when...

- The person in my life I need to be more attentive to is...

About Liturgy: Ongoing Catechesis

With today's solemnity we have completed another Liturgical Year. There is perhaps some tendency to think in terms of other things we have completed: “That's finished and over with; now I can get on with the next thing.” But the marvelous rhythm of the Liturgical Year is that we immediately begin another year and are given yet another opportunity to come ever closer to the Christ Whose disciples we are.

Our catechesis about liturgy can never end, either. Liturgy, as mystery, is inexhaustible; this means that we can never get to the point where we know enough about liturgy. We can always learn more, and the more we learn the deeper into liturgy we are taken and, consequently, the deeper into Christ's mystery. It might be a good exercise to think back over the past year and consider what you have learned about liturgy. Then, ask the important questions, “Has this helped me celebrate better? Live better? After all, this is the real goal of liturgy: to be transformed continually, so that we are ever more perfect members of the Body of Christ, living as He did, loving as He did, continuing His saving mission.





What an unbelievable response to this year's Thanksgiving Basket Outreach! **Our adopted parochial school of St. Peter Martyr, Pittsburg, delivered 85 beautiful baskets/boxes on Friday morning** and then parishioners began to deliver theirs. By Sunday morning, before the beginning of our first liturgy, there were already **149** boxes/baskets delivered...and they kept coming! By the conclusion of the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist, a total of 243 boxes/baskets were delivered! The students of our Confirmation I and II class transferred the boxes on Sunday afternoon to the tables in the parish hall so that they would be ready for distribution last Monday. Our St. Vincent de Paul members facilitated the giving out of the boxes/baskets to which were added a turkey, fresh farm-to-table broccoli, carrots, and butter, thanks to **Will Avitabile and Catherine Vidaurri**. **Catherine** also made home-made potato soup to feed to the families who arrived to pick up their box. Families were also given the opportunity to select a new winter coat from our Winter Coat Outreach sponsored by our Confirmation I and II students and the Knights of Columbus a few weeks ago. Our Parish Family brought 260 coats; 111 Women's, 63 Men's and 86 Children's. Coats were made available

in the patio area while our sisters and brothers awaited their turn to receive their basket. All of the coats found new homes. Many, many thanks to all of you for your amazing generosity to this outreach this year. So many words of gratitude and appreciation were heard from the families. You are the heart of Jesus extended to those less fortunate to embrace them and let them know they are not forgotten.



***Brentwood Community Chorus
Christmas Concert Here
December 15th***

Please mark your calendars for a wonderful Christmas Concert as the 85 voice Brentwood Community Chorus presents their annual Christmas Concert here on Friday, December 15th, 7:30 p.m. The program will feature classical as well as contemporary music of the season. The concert will be followed by a festive reception in our parish hall. There is no charge to attend, however, there will be the opportunity for a free will donation. The concert will also include the use of instruments and handbells!



You are invited to join our Filipino Community for the traditional nine day novena of liturgies leading up to

Christmas, beginning December 16th through the 24th at 5:00 a.m. each morning in the church, followed by a traditional Filipino Breakfast in our parish hall. The presider and homilist this year is **Fr. Ricky Pacoma** who is coming from the Philippines just for our parish! Ministries have been forming as well as sponsors for the breakfast each day. If you are interested in being a part of this wonderful cultural and spiritual event, please contact **Estrella Rusk, Financial Secretary**, in the Parish Office. While he is here, Fr. Ricky will also celebrate the 50th anniversary of his parents who are members of our parish.

Thank You

To all our faithful parishioner volunteers who do so much to help in the maintenance of our parish and its ministries.

...to those who clean the church each week, arriving long before the sun comes up each Saturday morning:

Angela Bueno, Jun Bajet, Jack Goncalves, Carole Miller, Mency Osborne, Cathy Romeo, Steve Rojek, and Rose Salamanca.

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

...to **Dilcia Aparacio** who does such an excellent job of washing, ironing, and caring for the Sacred Linens.

...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, Yvette Young, Melodye Costanza, Harlan Young, 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, Judy Quicho, Dilcia Aparicio, Kathy Augusta, Vince Augusta and Judi Heckendorn.**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot Security who keep watch over our vehicles during weekend liturgies: **Don Benson and Steve Rojek.**



Bishop Michael C. Barber, SJ, has named Stephen Wilcox, president of the nonprofit Wilcox Family Foundation and former interim chief executive officer of Catholic Charities of the East Bay, as Chancellor for the Diocese of Oakland, effective Nov. 16. “Steve will bring a

passion for the faith and a commitment to organizational effectiveness to our Diocesan services,” Bishop Barber said. “I am grateful for his willingness to serve in this capacity for our local Church.” In his new role Wilcox will oversee the offices of Catholic Youth Organization (CYO), Communications, Formation and Evangelization, and Mission Advancement, as well as the Diocesan Review Board and Archives. He will also serve as Bishop Barber’s liaison for Catholic schools and Catholic Charities of the East Bay, serve on the Bishop’s Administrative Council and lead special projects as directed by Bishop Barber. Bishop Barber also expressed gratitude to Father Robert Herbst, OFM Conv., who served as Interim Chancellor. Father Herbst will continue as judicial vicar and vicar for religious. “I am humbled by the opportunity to assist Bishop Barber, the clergy and lay leaders achieve their mission for the Church here in the Oakland Diocese,” Wilcox said.

A retired senior executive of Accenture, LLP, Wilcox worked for the technology outsourcing company for 28 years, serving for several years as the lead executive of one of Accenture’s largest global accounts. He volunteered as interim CEO of Catholic Charities of the East Bay (CCEB) from September 2013 to May 2014, having served on CCEB’s board since 2006 and as its chair since 2012. He currently serves on several nonprofit boards and committees, including the board of the Red Cloud Indian School in Pine Ridge, S.D.; the Covenant House California; the Cristo Rey De La Salle East Bay High School; and the board of Emergency Management Services International, based in Culpeper, Va. Wilcox holds a

bachelor’s in political science from Stonehill College, a Catholic school operated by the Congregation of the Holy Cross and a master’s degree in public management and policy analysis from Heinz College at Carnegie Mellon University. He and his wife Margaret (Peg) are parishioners of St. Joan of Arc in San Ramon and have three adult sons.

Cathedral Center construction update

Dear Parishioners and Friends of the Diocese of Oakland:

I write today to update you regarding our investigation of the design and construction issues at the Cathedral Center. As I have previously reported, the Catholic Cathedral Corp. of the East Bay Board of Directors approved a plan recommended by our expert consultants for comprehensive physical testing on Cathedral Center buildings. This is part of our ongoing legal action to ensure the responsible parties pay for the necessary corrective work.

The initial physical testing, which focused on the Chancery, rectory and parking garage, was completed in December 2016. As part of our continued investigation, we reviewed the design of the Cathedral and its foundation, in light of the defects discovered in those areas adjacent to and surrounding the Cathedral itself. Unfortunately, this review has uncovered underlying conditions similar to those found in other parts of the Cathedral Center. We are deeply disappointed to discover the Cathedral is also affected.

A full list of defects has recently been reported to the court-appointed special master for our case and to the parties

named in our claim. The court-appointed special master is overseeing the development and exchange of information between the parties in preparation for mediation. Since this is a complex case, it is not possible to predict the timeline or outcome of the mediation. The special master is making sure the case moves along as quickly as possible without sacrificing our rights or the rights of the defendants.

Our goal is to ensure the safety of all who use these facilities, and to be good stewards of the generosity which built our Cathedral and the Cathedral Center. The Cathedral of Christ the Light should stand as a reminder of the beautiful radiance of Christ's light in our community. The project architect and structural engineer have advised us the Cathedral Center buildings are safe for our employees, visitors and parishioners to occupy, while we continue to seek resolution of the design and construction issues.

To limit further deflection of the floor slab and future repair costs of the B1 level of the parking garage, it will remain closed for the foreseeable future. We have also asked our expert consultants to identify recommended repairs to limit further deterioration and future repair costs throughout the Cathedral Center and the Cathedral itself.

Thank you for your patience and support as we work to address these issues. We will continue to update you as the project progresses.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
**Very Rev. George Mockel, Vicar
General**

