

MUSIC FOR THE LITURGY

Sunday, November 25, 2018
Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King Of The Universe

4:00 PM
8:00 AM

Gathering: To Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King
BB 734

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 97)

*The Lord is King, the Lord is King, the
most high over all the earth.*

Preparation What Wondrous Love Is This BB 481

Mass Parts Mass of Creation

Communion Eat This Bread BB 337
Whatsoever You Do BB 622

Recessional: Crown Him With Many Crowns BB 733

10:00 AM

**MUSIC FOR THE 10:00 AM LITURGY
WAS UNAVAILABLE
AT THE TIME THIS BULLETIN
WAS SUBMITTED**



We welcome in our faith community

Delaney Fox St. Cyr

who recently received the Sacrament of Baptism



Find us on:
facebook®

St. Luke the Evangelist is now on Facebook! Go to
www.facebook.com/stlukenh.org or **St. Luke the Evangelist
Parish – Newton/Plaistow** and give us a Like! Please invite
fellow parishioners and friends to do the same.

✠ PARISH TITHING ✠

Our Parish needs to take in \$7,000.00 each week in order to make ends meet. Thank you for your generosity to our parish! Your weekly contribution helps ensure that the parish remains a vibrant community. Please remember to submit your weekly gift even if you will be away. We depend upon your support!

November 11, 2018

Offertory \$6,587.32
Campaign/Human Develop. \$1,424.25

**COLLECTION AMOUNTS FOR
NOVEMBER 18, 2018
WILL APPEAR IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN**

PARISH GIVING

Saint Luke the Evangelist Parish has engaged *Parish Giving* to provide parishioners with an opportunity to make your offertory and other contributions through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). Parish Giving is a simple, secure, and convenient way to manage your stewardship without weekly envelopes and without worries. It allows you to select contribution amounts and special collections right from your own computer or smart phone. You can be a good steward for the Parish even when you are away from the area on a weekend. Parish Giving allows you to print out a report detailing your contributions for the year. This program is available to parishioners at no cost. Log on to the St. Luke the Evangelist Parish website at <http://stlukenh.org>, click on the Parish Giving logo, and follow the easy registration instructions.

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

November 25, 2018 Christmas Flowers
December 2, 2018 Property Management

**Out of respect, please remember to
silence or turn off
your cell phones during Mass.
Thank you!**



Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on Income

Annual Income	5% Commitment annually/ weekly	3% Commitment annually/ weekly
\$100,000	\$5,000/\$100	\$3,000/\$60
\$75,000	\$3,750/\$75	\$2,250/\$45
\$60,000	\$3,000/\$60	\$1,800/\$36
\$50,000	\$2,500/\$50	\$1,500/\$30
\$40,000	\$2,000/\$40	\$1,200/\$24
\$30,000	\$1,500/\$30	\$900/\$18
\$25,000	\$1,250/\$25	\$750/\$15
\$15,000	\$750/\$15	\$450/\$9

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on a Percentage Increase

Your Current Offertory Contribution	25% Increase	30% Increase	40% Increase
\$75.00	\$93.75	\$97.50	\$105.00
\$50.00	\$62.50	\$65.00	\$70.00
\$40.00	\$50.00	\$52.00	\$56.00
\$35.00	\$43.75	\$45.50	\$49.00
\$30.00	\$37.50	\$39.00	\$42.00
\$25.00	\$31.25	\$32.50	\$35.00
\$20.00	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$28.00
\$15.00	\$18.75	\$19.50	\$21.00
\$10.00	\$12.50	\$13.00	\$14.00
\$5.00	\$6.25	\$6.50	\$7.00

✠ PARISH NEWS ✠

PAINT THE TOWN!

THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR SAINT LUKE THE EVANGELIST PARISH

Our Parish community continues with our Capital Campaign. Our next projects include exterior painting for the church and Parish house in Newton. We'd also like to paint the interior sanctuary of the church in Newton and complete some electrical upgrades to the church.

Other possible projects include work on our Plaistow and Newton parking lots, and ramp access to the church in Plaistow.

Can you help?

Any contribution is welcome. Make checks payable to
Saint Luke the Evangelist – Capital Campaign.

From the Pastor's Desk



HOLY ANGELS CEMETERY CLOSING

With the end of the Fall season and the coming of the Winter months, **Holy Angels Cemetery in Plaistow will be closed from December 1, 2018 until Spring 2019.** This decision comes as result of the real dangers of snow and ice in the Cemetery and the costs to Parishioners to inter during the winter months. Please contact the Parish Office with any questions.

THE BOOK OF THE NAMES OF THE DEAD



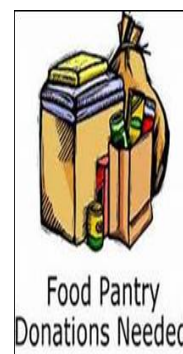
Throughout **November**, a special *Book of the Names of the Dead* will be opened near the Baptismal Font & Paschal Candle for parishioners to record the names of the faithful departed. It is a visible sign that the faithful departed remain with us as part of the Church. You are welcome to record names of loved ones and the dates of their death.

AMAZON SMILE

St. Luke the Evangelist Parish has been issued a **\$42.62** donation from the AmazonSmile Foundation as a result of program activity between July 1 and September 30, 2018. **AmazonSmile.com** is the same market platform as Amazon.com, but with the added benefit of allowing customers to donate 0.5% of the price of items purchased to a charitable organization. Please register today to start shopping and donating at www.amazonmile.com. Be sure to choose: **St Luke the Evangelist Parish, Plaistow.**

ST. LUKE THE EVANGELIST FOOD PANTRY

Food or care items are always needed – donations can be dropped off at Church or are welcome at the Parish Office during regular business hours. Cash donations for food are always welcome – make checks payable to **St. Luke the Evangelist Food Pantry**. All donations to the Food Pantry go toward helping the needy of our communities.



FOOD PANTRY HOURS

Wednesday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Thursday from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Friday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

For more information, call the St. Luke Food Pantry at **603-819-4949**.

WHILE AWAY THIS FALL...

We appreciate all of you who remember to send in your Parish Offertory during the Fall even when on vacation or visiting other parishes. Thank you for remembering that our expenses also continue through the Fall months. We invite others to consider doing the same before or even after you return home.

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

✠ WEEKLY CALENDAR ✠

Sunday, November 25

Decorate Churches for Advent After

8:00 AM and 10:00 AM Liturgies

10:00 AM Religious Ed – PreK to 8 *Plaistow*
6:00 PM Vespers and Benediction *Newton*

Wednesday, November 28

HOLY ANGELS CHURCH
OPEN ALL DAY FOR PRAYER

Thursday, November 29

8:30 AM Adoration Begins *Newton*
9:00 AM Intercessory Prayer *Plaistow*
8:30 PM Adoration Ends *Newton*

Saturday, December 1

3:00 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Plaistow*

Sunday, December 2

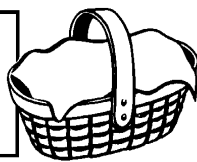
10:00 AM Religious Ed – PreK to 8 *Plaistow*
11:00 AM Advent Family Activity *Plaistow*
11:00 AM Baptism Catechesis *Plaistow*
12:00 PM Parish Pastoral Council Meeting *Plaistow*
6:00 PM Vespers *Newton*
6:30 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation *Newton*



Please pray for the repose of the soul of:

Rosemary Duhamel

**St. Vincent
de Paul
Society**



Thank You!

Thank you, dear parishioners!!! Our Annual Bake Sale was "sweetly" successful and the Walk for the Poor went above and beyond our highest expectations with the funds raised. Your continued support, including your "Dropped Dollars," helps us with our mission to keep giving a "hand up" to the poor and forgotten in our community. Keep it up - we're counting on you! Thank you for stopping by our table at the Craft Fair for some yummy fudge and handmade items.

Our next meeting on **Wednesday, December 19 at 7:00 PM**. We meet downstairs in the Church Hall in Plaistow. **New members are always welcome!**

If you seek assistance or need information about the St. Vincent de Paul Society, call 603-382-8324 x315.

**Hear, OH LORD, and answer me
for I am poor and needy.**

✠ MASS INTENTIONS ✠

Saturday, November 24 ~ Vigil / Christ the King

Dn 7:13-14; Rv 1:5-8; Jn 18:33b-37

4:00 PM Mary Coltin by Colleen and Mark Hammond
Plaistow

Sunday, November 25 ~ Christ the King

Dn 7:13-14; Rv 1:5-8; Jn 18:33b-37

8:00 AM Walter and Gladys Metcalf by their family
Newton

10:00 AM Howard Foster by his wife Joan and family
Plaistow

Monday, November 26 ~ Weekday

Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5; Lk 21:1-4

8:00 AM Chet Connors (Month's Mind)
Newton

Tuesday, November 27 ~ Weekday

Rv 14:14-19; Lk 21:5-11

8:00 AM Intentions of Paul Fournier by Dan & Jean Lloyd
Plaistow

Wednesday, November 28 ~ Weekday

Rv 15:1-4; Lk 21:12-19

6:30 PM Craig Skinner by Helen Baird
Plaistow

Thursday, November 29 ~ Weekday

Rv 18:1-2, 21-23, 19:1-3, 9a; Lk 21:20-28

8:00 AM David Coddling (Month's Mind)
Newton

Friday, November 30 ~ Andrew, Apostle

Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22

No Mass

Saturday, December 1 ~ Weekday

Rv 22:1-7; Lk 21:34-36 (Day)

Jer 33:14-16; 1 Thes 3:12—4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36 (Vigil)

4:00 PM Mary and Roland Guilmette by their family
Plaistow

Sunday, December 2 ~ First Sunday of Advent

Jer 33:14-16; 1 Thes 3:12—4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

8:00 AM Robert and Esther Cote
by Christine and Wayne Cote
Newton

10:00 AM In Thanksgiving to St. Michael the Archangel
Plaistow

PRAYER LINE

St. Luke's offers a prayer line as a resource for those seeking prayer assistance. To submit your prayer request please call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 314 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

✧ FAITH FORMATION & PARISH INFORMATION ✧



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION HOLY DAY

December 8 is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Under this title, Mary is the patroness of the people of the United States. This fact always makes **December 8 a Holy Day of Obligation** for Catholics in the US. We will celebrate Liturgy on that Holy Day as follows:

Friday, December 7 at 6:30 PM in Plaistow
Saturday, December 8 at 8:00 AM in Newton

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Are you an adult who has been Baptized and received Eucharist, but has not celebrated the sacrament of Confirmation? The adult Confirmation process is an opportunity to complete the Sacraments of Initiation. If you would like to prepare for Confirmation, or if you have questions, call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

PARENTS BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION

The monthly preparation session for infant Baptism will be held after the 10:00 AM Liturgy on **Sunday, December 2, 2018** in the Parish Office living room. All parents planning to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism are welcome. Families wishing to celebrate Baptism in the Church must be registered (according to Church Canon Law) and practicing (attending Sunday Mass) for 3 full months before a Baptism can be scheduled. The use of the envelope system is always optional; however, it does guarantee a manner of accountability. For most families, the Pastor or staff can easily verify attendance during these three months. Church Canon Law also regulates baptismal sponsors (godparents). Sponsors must be at least 16, fully initiated (having received Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation), and be practicing Catholics living Christian lives consistent with the Church's teaching. Please see Fr. Albert with questions.

HELP WANTED – ADVENT PREPARATIONS

Volunteers are invited to help do some rearranging and decorating on **Sunday, November 25 following the 8:00 AM Liturgy in Newton and the 10:00 AM Liturgy in Plaistow**. Our tasks include Advent decorating, pew missalette change-overs and some light clean up of the churches in preparation for the Advent season. All are welcome to help!

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. If you or someone you know is interested in inquiring about becoming a member of the Roman Catholic Church, call Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

CATECHUMEN

Please continue to pray for our Catechumen,
Brent MacKenzie.

ADORATION

We are truly blessed to have times for Adoration of Our Lord in our Parish. This time of prayer and intercession is not only a source of great grace for the individual, but it is a great source of grace for us as a parish family, as well.

We have many who have made the commitment to spend an hour each week with our Eucharistic Lord, **but** we need more people so there will be at least two people at each hour. We are also looking for people who would be able to substitute.

**Newton – Thursday
8:30 AM – 8:30 PM**

If you can commit to one hour a week in Adoration of our Lord, or if you can be a substitute, please contact Cathy Smith at 603-382-8324, ext. 305 or email her at csmith@stluketheevangelist.net.

The Church in Plaistow is open all day on Wednesdays for people to stop by and pray before the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle.

✧ PARISH DIRECTORY ✧

Parish Office	382-8324
Parish Prayer Line	382-8324 x 314
St. Vincent de Paul Society	382-8324 x 315
St. Luke's Food Pantry	819-4949
Preschool	382-9783
Presentation of Mary Convent	382-2744

Fr. Albert Tremblay	fr.albert@stluketheevangelist.net
Cathy Smith	csmith@stluketheevangelist.net
Joyce Szapa	jszczapa@stluketheevangelist.net
Jackie Tremblay	jtremblay@stluketheevangelist.net
Thomas Kondel	tkondel@stluketheevangelist.net
Val Barczak	mvmbarczak@comcast.net
Youth Ministry	youth@stluketheevangelist.net
Parish Council	parishcouncil@stluketheevangelist.net

✠ Parish News ~ Youth News ~ Around The Diocese ✠



GIVING TREES

Giving Trees are located in the back of both churches. Please take an ornament, buy the item(s) listed, and return it - **with the ornament attached** - to the church or the parish office **no later than December 8-9** (the Second Sunday of Advent).

TAI CHI

Tai Chi is the ancient Chinese martial art that is used for meditation, exercise, balance, and mind and body wellness. St. Luke the Evangelist Parish is offering this form of graceful, slow movement to help parishioners to gain strength, to improve their balance, flexibility, and range-of-motion, and to relieve stress. Classes will be taught by members of the Oriental Healing Arts Association – a Senior Friendly and Senior Safe Tai Chi Program with the purpose of bringing Tai Chi to all age groups. Classes will be on **Mondays at 9:00 AM** and **Thursdays at 3:00 PM** in the Plaistow Church Hall. If there is enough interest, an evening class can be added on either a Monday or Thursday evening at 6:30 PM. The cost is \$5.00 per class, and for seniors on a fixed income, the cost will be \$3.00 per class.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

With the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays upon us, we have the following early bulletin deadlines:

12:00 Noon on Tuesday, December 11 for the December 23 bulletin

12:00 Noon on Tuesday, December 18 for BOTH the December 30 and January 6 bulletins

A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM

**December 14, 2018
6:00 to 8:30 PM
St. Michael Church**

St. Michael Parish in Exeter, NH invites you this Advent Season to join them on a live nativity walk following in the footsteps of Mary and Joseph on that holy night in Bethlehem. This is great for the whole family – a live presentation with real animals!

Another Look at Contraception

Read the full version at usccb.org/contraception.

To some, the Catholic Church's consistent teaching against birth control may seem outdated. Yet with each passing year, evidence of contraception's negative consequences keeps piling up. In the time since birth control first became widely used, science has shown that some contraceptives can cause early abortions; procured abortions and nonmarital births skyrocketed; and women have been subjected to sometimes serious or fatal health issues, as well as what economist George Akerlof calls "the feminization of poverty." As humans made in God's image, we are called to imitate His generous, sacrificial, life-giving, and eternal love. Through the Church's teaching, He invites us to a fuller, richer, deeper way of life and love.

ATKINSON LION'S CLUB FOOD DRIVE

The Atkinson Lions Club, in partnership with the Atkinson Academy, will be holding their annual food drive to benefit local food pantries, **including St. Luke's Food Pantry**. The Atkinson Lions would greatly appreciate receiving drop-off non-perishable food and / or cash **on Saturday, December 1 between 10:00 AM and 1:00 PM at the Dow Common** in the center of Town. They greatly appreciate the support of the local community in aiding our neighbors in need!

NOTIFICATION OF DISMISSAL FROM THE CLERICAL STATE: PHILIP A. PETIT

(MANCHESTER) - declared Philip A. Petit dismissed from the clerical state and dispensed him from all obligations subsequent to sacred ordination. Mr. Petit's dismissal follows credible allegations of sexual abuse of minors and misconduct involving adults. By virtue of this decree, Mr. Petit has no faculties to act, function, or present himself as a priest.

Mr. Petit was ordained on April 26, 1980 and was assigned to St. Theresa Parish in Manchester, St. Joseph Parish in Dover, Guardian Angel Parish in Berlin, Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Merrimack, St. Aloysius Parish in Nashua, **Holy Angels Parish in Plaistow**, and Portsmouth Regional Hospital in Portsmouth. Mr. Petit was removed from ministry in 1986 and has had no permission to function as a priest since that time.

We encourage anyone with information pertaining to sexual abuse in the Church to report the information to law enforcement. For information about how to report abuse, harassment, or exploitation to the Church, to request counseling assistance and other services of the Office for Healing and Pastoral Care, or to learn more about how the Diocese of Manchester works to create a safe environment in all of our ministries, visit: www.catholicnh.org/safety.

The Solemnity of Christ the King is a relative latecomer to the liturgical calendar of the Roman Church. The Solemnity was instituted in 1925 by Pope Pius XI, and was specifically designated to be a “spiritual weapon” against what the Pope saw as two forces destructive of that time: secularism and atheism. The early 1900’s were a time where industrial development saw people living in tenement housing and other inhuman conditions without hope (remember the Child Labor Laws of the U.S. and other social reforms are all products of the post-depression years). The Church also recognized that the world was still reeling from the awful reality of the “war to end all wars,” (!) and the consequences of the rise of national and political movements such as communism, nazism, and fascism which were gaining popularity in Europe. The Church saw a great need to point to another reality - the reality and power of Christ as King and Savior of the world.



The notion of Christ as King refers to Jesus’ human royalty as a Son of David and to his royalty as the divine Son of God. Matthew, who’s Gospel we have heard all this year, implicitly unfolds Jesus’ Kingship as he describes the Kingdom of God and those faithful disciples who act in the world to bring that Kingdom to fulfillment.

This day also marks the end of the liturgical year in the Church. The Solemnity of Christ the King, capping the whole year, encourages us to look back to find signs of God’s grace and power, while looking forward to his coming again in glory, while at the same time looking around to see where Christ’s Kingship shows itself in the world today.

***Join us at 6 PM tonight, Sunday, November 25 in Newton
For Evening Prayer and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament
as we honor Christ our King.***



The Society of St. Vincent DePaul, at St. Luke the Evangelist Parish, invites you to join our Prayer Shawl Ministry! Even if you are unable to attend meetings, your talents are more than welcome.

Shawls can be made with yarn, quilt fabric, or fleece. They are filled with prayer, care and love. They will be given to anyone in need of comfort or solace.

If you are interested in prayerful camaraderie or just want to contribute your talent, consider joining our committee.

If you know of someone that is in need of comfort and would like to receive a gift from our group, please call to make the request.

Barbara Metcalf

603-642-8334

cmbklb@yahoo.com

Meeting Schedule:

- First Thursday of each month, except July and August.
- 10 A.M. – 12 Noon
- Parish office building (dining room)
- Material can be supplied

We are honored to provide this service to anyone in need.



HAPPY ADVENT!

Before all of the shopping, school events, family obligations, office parties, tree decorating, and general mayhem begins...

Join us for a Family Advent hour...

Everyone's welcome! After 10 am Mass on **Sunday, December 2.** We will pray together, bless an Advent Wreath for you to take home, and work on Jesse Tree symbols for your family tree.

Donuts will be eaten & coffee and cocoa will be sipped.

The Gospel for All Ages

Family Catechesis

Gospel Weeklies
Pflaum
FAITH FORMATION PROGRAM

Feast of Christ the King • November 25, 2018 • Jesus Is King

Sunday Readings: Daniel 7:13-14; Revelation 1:5-8; John 18:33b-37

Weekly Discussion Questions

For the Parish Bulletin

Life Question: What do you expect from a leader worth following?

Gospel Question: What does Jesus expect from you?

LIFE AND GOSPEL QUESTIONS BY AGE LEVEL

Exploring the Sunday Readings (Adults)

What questions do you ask during an examination of conscience? Visit exploringthesundayreadings.com

Visions (Grades 7-8)

Life Question: How do you use your talents to lead others?

Gospel Question: What kind of king is Jesus?

Venture (Grades 4-6)

Life Question: Whose leadership makes a difference to you?

Gospel Question: What kind of leader or king is Jesus?

Good News (Grades 2-3)

Life Question: What are some of the qualities of a good leader?

Gospel Question: What are ways we show we belong to Jesus' kingdom?

Promise (Grades K-1)

Life Question: What ways do you show your family and friends that you are a thankful person?

Gospel Question: What do you thank God for everyday?

Seeds (Preschool)

Life Question: Name some ways you show your family and friends that you are a thankful person.

Gospel Question: How do you show you are thankful to God?

Family Corner

About the Gospel

This Sunday's Gospel tells us Jesus is King, but he doesn't demand anything except our love and obedience to the commandments. Jesus has authority over everything, but he humbles himself to serve us and even to die for us.

Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings to read this Sunday's Scripture.

In Church

Look around the church and find symbols of Jesus as King (e.g., crown of thorns on the crucifix, statue of Jesus as King, or Infant of Prague wearing a crown).

Question of the Week

How is God's kingdom different from a kingdom on earth?



Family Prayer

Jesus, you are a good and loving king. Help us to follow your will and trust that it is always for our good.

Rincón de la Familia

Acerca del Evangelio

El Evangelio de este domingo nos dice que Jesús es Rey, pero no exige nada más que nuestro amor y obediencia a los mandamientos. Jesús tiene autoridad sobre todas las cosas, pero se rebaja para servirnos e incluso para morir por nosotros.

Visita www.usccb.org/bible/readings para leer las lecturas de este domingo.

En la Iglesia

Echa un vistazo a la iglesia y busca símbolos de Jesús como Rey (p. ej., corona de espinas en el crucifijo, estatua de Jesús como Rey o el Niño Jesús de Praga que tiene una corona).

Pregunta de la semana

¿En qué se diferencia el Reino de Dios de un reino terrenal?



Oración en familia

Jesús, eres un rey bueno y amoroso. Ayúdanos a cumplir tu voluntad y a confiar que es siempre por nuestro bien.



Bringing Home the Word

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
November 25, 2018

Honoring Our King

By Mary Katharine Deeley

Like many people, when I hear the words *king* and *queen*, I have an image formed by fairy tales and historical novels. The rulers of countries live in castles. They wear crowns and long capes and sit on thrones while their loyal subjects pay them homage. While I'm aware that modern kings and queens wear regular clothes unless tradition dictates otherwise and that castles have become more contemporary, I still watch royal weddings for a glimpse of the pageantry that fed my childhood fantasies.

Pilate had an idea of what kings were like, too. In the first century, kings made laws and led people into battle. They had great armies and were a danger to another country's way of life. The Jews kept talking about a Messiah who would become king and destroy Israel's enemies. Pilate wasn't taking any chances. For Rome's sake, he would get rid of anyone who seemed a threat.

What Pilate failed to realize was that Israel's king had a very specific function, and it was not to make laws or lead armies. Instead, the king was to study and obey the Law of God and become himself the example of obedience (see Deuteronomy 17:18–20). When Pilate called Jesus "the King of the Jews," his words were truer than he knew, for Jesus was obedient to his Father, even unto accepting death for our sake. But Pilate had no idea why he was right because he was thinking in human terms.

Today we honor Christ, the king of the Jews, of all of us, and of the whole universe. Let us see him as he is and do as he does. +

*Pilate had an idea of
what kings were like.*

*They made laws and led
people into battle.*

A Word from Pope Francis

The Lord says: it is not important to me that you do this or that, it is important to me that the orphan is cared for, that the widow is cared for, that the outcast person is heard, that creation is protected. This is the kingdom of God!

—Homily, July 26, 2014



Sunday Readings

Daniel 7:13–14

His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, his kingship, one that shall not be destroyed.

Revelation 1:5–8

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

John 18:33b–37

Jesus answered [Pilate], "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world."

REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- Do we express thanks to Jesus for giving us the means to share in his kingdom?
- Do we see Christ as our king, or do we instead pay homage to material things?



Thank You, God!

By Fr. Thomas Richstatter, OFM

If I ask why you attend church, would you offer any of the following replies? “I go to pray.” “I like to hear sermons that help me know how to live.” “I go to ask God to bless my family.” “I like the music.” “I go to receive the Lord in holy Communion.”

These are all good answers, but the most *Catholic* answer is, “I go to Mass to say thank you to God.”

Eucharist comes from the Greek for “giving thanks.” And at each Eucharist, as we begin the central act of the Mass, which we call the Eucharistic Prayer—our great thanksgiving prayer—the priest invites: “Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.” And we all respond, “It is right and just.” It is the right thing to do to give God thanks and praise. And why?

Because to say “thank you” is what one does when receiving a gift. From childhood your parents taught you that whenever someone gives you something, you are to say, “Thank you.” And once you were old enough to write, they encouraged you to write a thank-you note to those who gave you gifts on your birthday or at Christmas. “Thank you” is the proper, human response to a gift. It indicates gratitude and appreciation for something freely given, something we did not merit or earn.

What a Gift!

Catholics celebrate the Eucharist because

we know we’ve been given a gift. Our very existence is a gift; God didn’t have to create us. And not only do we exist. We live redeemed—saved from sin by the death of Jesus on the cross and destined for eternal happiness. It that isn’t a gift, I don’t know what is!

Each time we celebrate the Eucharist we gather with other grateful Catholics and listen as the Scriptures are proclaimed. We hear repeatedly of God’s gifts: creation, freedom, salvation, healing, redemption, and everlasting life. Filled with gratitude for so great a gift, we in turn want to give a gift to God. We bring forward bread and wine, our food and drink, the symbols of our lives, and place them on the altar, God’s banquet table. And we say, “Thank you, God!” in our Eucharistic Prayer. And in the course of that prayer we remember how—at that first Eucharist—Jesus himself took bread and wine and *gave God thanks*.

Then something wonderful happens. God changes our gifts and gives them back to us as a gift more wonderful than we ever could have imagined: the very Body and Blood of Christ. And we joyfully process to the altar a second time—this time not to *give* a gift of bread and wine, but to *receive* a divine, transforming gift.

Creating a New World

The same Holy Spirit whose power changed the bread and wine now changes us. “We, though many, are one body, for

we all partake of the one loaf” (1 Corinthians 10:17).

We Catholics believe that at the Eucharist we really receive the Body of Christ. This belief is central to our Catholic identity. But if we believe that we really receive Christ’s Body and that we really become Christ’s Body, then we have to act accordingly.

At the conclusion of each Eucharist we are sent forth, commissioned to go into the world and bring Christ’s Spirit to everyone we meet and everything we do. We become ambassadors of encouragement, compassion, generosity, healing, understanding, forgiveness, and reconciliation. The gift of the Eucharist is the insight that, in living for others, we find life’s true meaning. Thank you, God! +

PRAYER

Lord, I am grateful that you are the way, the truth, and the life. Help me to be faithful to the truth of the gospel.

From Grateful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

November 26–
December 1

Monday	Weekday: Rv 14:1–3, 4b–5 / Lk 21:1–4
Tuesday	Weekday: Rv 14:14–19 / Lk 21:5–11
Wednesday	Weekday: Rv 15:1–4 / Lk 21:12–19

Thursday	Weekday: Rv 18:1–2, 21–23; 19:1–3, 9a / Lk 21:20–28
Friday	St. Andrew: Rom 10:9–18 / Mt 4:18–22
Saturday	Weekday: Rv 22:1–7 / Lk 21:34–36