

# *St. Mary's Catholic Church*



*Hamburg, Iowa    November 24, 2019*  
*Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe*  
*Page 235 in Breaking Bread*

Christmas is still a month away, but you wouldn't know it if you turned on the television or walked into a department store. But here and now we celebrate a very different holy day and listen to a passage from the other end of Luke's Gospel. "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom," the criminal executed with Jesus asks. Let us resolve today, no matter the distractions, to set our eyes on the kingdom of heaven.

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*Bulletins are online at—*

*<http://www.parishesonline.com/find/st-mary-church-51640>*



## Christ the King

2 Samuel 5:1-3; Psalm 122; Colossians 1:12-20; Luke 23:35-43

### **Theme: Christ, the king of my life**

This is the last Sunday of the liturgical year. The following Sunday, already in the season of Advent, we begin year A. And as you know, every last Sunday of the liturgical year we celebrate the *Solemnity of Christ the King*. Christ is king not only of the universe out there; he should be left to be King of our lives. So, we could pray for the grace to be able to welcome him as master of our lives.

The Gospel of Luke paints a touching picture of a powerless king. The Messiah is stripped of his dignity as the soldiers roll dice for his clothes. Taunts are directed at Jesus, daring him to save himself from this agony. Then an ordinary Palestinian criminal recognizes the royal status of this man by requesting a share in the mercy that only a king can provide. For Luke, Jesus' role as Savior means meeting the needs of the penitent. Jesus grants forgiveness, dramatizing his royalty even more than does the sign over his head: "This is the King of the Jews" (Luke 23:38).

Baptism makes us one with Christ and grants us a share in his kingship. How do we exercise this royalty? To be bone and flesh with the Lord is to be servant of all God's people.

### **Resolution and commitment**

This is the last Sunday of the liturgical year. Every Sunday for the entire liturgical year we have heard the teachings and miracles of Jesus. It has been clearly illustrated to us, with preponderance of evidence, that Jesus is God, and that he reigns as King of the entire universe for all eternity. On this last Sunday, we are asked to decide: **are we going to serve our King?**

An affirmative response to this question may be easy to give, but it entails serious resolutions and hard decisions. Among these are to make God as the priority in our life; to worship and adore the real presence of Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Eucharist; to set apart a meaningful time for prayer and scriptural reflection every day; to reject all teachings and beliefs, attitudes and behavior that are contrary to the Gospel; to love and serve Jesus in the poor and the needy among us. Let us pray that, the Lord may grant us all the graces we need to become true and loyal followers and servants of Jesus, the Eternal King.

### **Do you have any space for him?**

For Christ to be King of my life I need to give him space. That's why he says: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and dine with him, and he with me" (Rv 3:20).

Am I ready to open the door of my life so that Christ can come in as master of my life?



## Feast of Christ the King – our reflections

Today, just as in 1925, our world continues to experience turbulent times. In addition to political unrest and ongoing threats of wars, people are becoming increasingly more secularized and more materialistic. Church attendance throughout the world is also on the decline. Many people are pushing Christ aside as they tend to more “important” matters. Some may not even realize they are doing it. We live in a society where many individuals are caught up in their own lives, with getting their own needs met and focusing on wealth and possessions. The danger is what I refer to as the “eclipse of God”. By this, humanity is attempting to cover God out of everything and taking the center stage. The Feast of Christ the King is a wakeup call for all of us, to stop and assess our lives. ***Are we including our faith in all the decisions we make? Do we only remember to pray when we need something? When we attend mass, do we actively listen to the Scripture readings and reflect on the messages? When we genuflect or bow, do we do it with meaning and awe, or are we only going through the motions?***



As we reflect on the Kingship of Christ today. Let the words of Pope Pius XI resonate with us:

“He must reign in our minds, which should assent with perfect submission and firm belief to revealed truths and to the doctrines of Christ. He must reign in our wills, which should obey the laws and precepts of God. He must reign in our hearts, which should spurn natural desires and love God above all things and cleave to him alone. He must reign in our bodies and in our members, which should serve as instruments for the interior sanctification of our souls.”

## SAYING GOODBYE TO YEAR C

Beloved in Christ,

Today we bring the liturgical year C to a close. What is important on this feast day? Is Christ the king of my life? Having gone through year C, What have you learnt? Do you see any growth in your spiritual life and relationship with Christ, family and friends?

Beloved, let us not just invite Jesus into our home, but also into our HEARTS. Jesus should affect our behavior, our relationships and our spiritual lives. We need to crown Jesus not only in our homes but also in our hearts.

We can recall the devastating flood in March 2019 that took away many properties and farmlands. It took several months for some to have a home. Some couldn't farm this year due to soil erosion and bad land. Despite these setbacks, we are glad to have family and friends so caring and loving.

Life can be compared to a story book. Some pages are boring or sad and other pages are interesting and inspiring. If you stop at the most boring or sad part, then that will be your picture of life. In the same way if you stop at the interesting part that will be your picture. Whatever page you find yourself, a blend of both is important.

You may not begin well but the most important thing is to end well. There might be tears on your eyes. But remember no matter how dark the night is, day will certainly break. God will not give you more than you can carry. John Newman said, "your grace Lord has brought me this far, your grace will lead me home." I find this very inspiring as we end our liturgical season today.

We all have a story hidden under the carpet.

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Some are health challenges, broken relationship, financial crises, matrimonial challenges, work issues, child or parent issues weighing you down or perhaps lost a dear one, just to mention but few. In all these challenges, we put up a good face to embrace whatever life throw at us.

Appearances are sometime deceptive. Smiling in the rain and putting up good looks doesn't mean life is easy. Yet God always give us the strength to smile through the storms of life. Yes! We have the strength to stand firm even when the walls are falling on us.

Beloved, as we begin a new season next week, let us all embrace the future with hope. Let us leave behind all that affect us at the feet of the Lord. May the **liturgical season year A** help us to grow in faith and devotion. With Jesus in the boat, we can smile at the storm.

Remain Blessed. Fr. Raphael



### A Piece of Pumpkin Pie?

Jolene was only 8 years old and lived in the country with her parents and brother. Consequently they did not often have visitors from the city. One day Jolene's mother said that father was bringing two guests home for Thanksgiving supper. After they had enjoyed the turkey, Jolene went to the kitchen to help her mother, and proudly brought in the first piece of pumpkin pie and gave it to her father.

He then passed the plate to a guest. When Jolene came in with the second piece and gave it to his father, he again gave it to a guest.

This was too much for Little Jolene, who blurted out, 'It's no use, Daddy. The pieces are all the same size.'



## **MOTIVATION FOR THE WEEK -THE IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE**

As you probably recall, the Dead Sea is really a Lake, not a sea. It's so high in salt content that the human body can float easily. The salt in the Dead Sea is as high as 35% - almost 10 times the normal ocean water. And all that saltiness has meant that there is no life at all in the Dead Sea. No fish. No vegetation. No sea animals. Nothing lives in the Dead Sea. And hence the name: Dead Sea.

The other Sea is the Sea of Galilee. It happens that the Sea of Galilee is just north of the Dead Sea.

Both the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea receive their water from river Jordan. And yet, they are very, very different.

Unlike the Dead Sea, the Sea of Galilee is pretty, resplendent with rich, colorful marine life. There are lots of plants. And lots of fish too. In fact, the Sea of Galilee is home to over twenty different types of fishes.

**Same region, same source of water, and yet while one sea is full of life, the other is dead. How come?**

Here's apparently why. The River Jordan flows into the Sea of Galilee and then flows out. The water simply passes through the Sea of Galilee in and then out - and that keeps the sea healthy and vibrant, teeming with marine life.

But the Dead Sea is way below the main sea level that it has no outlet. The water flows in from the river Jordan but does not flow out. There are no outlet streams. It is estimated that over 7 million tons of water evaporate from the Dead Sea every day. Leaving it salty, too full of minerals and unfit for any marine life.

**So the Dead Sea takes water from the River Jordan and holds it. It does not give. The result? No life at all.**

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Mind you, the sea of Galilee does not discriminate. It's gives off its water freely to the open sea this is what keeps it fresh and alive. This is what our dying world needs most today.

### **Moral implication**

Think about it. Life is not just about getting. It's about giving. We all need to be a bit like the Sea of Galilee.

We are fortunate to have wealth, knowledge, family, love and respect. But if we don't learn to give, we could all end up like the Dead Sea. The love and the respect, the wealth and the knowledge could all evaporate like the water in the Dead Sea.

If we get the Dead Sea mentality of merely taking in more water, more money, more everything, the results can be disastrous. Nature communicates to us all the time and this is one perfect example!

In the sea of your own life, make outlets; many outlets for love, peace, happiness, joy and everything else you get in your life, make sure you don't just get; give as well.

Open the taps and you'll open the floodgates to happiness. Make it a habit to share and you will experience the richness of life.



The Inter Church Council will hold a Thanksgiving service today at 5 p.m.  
@ the Baptist Church.

All churches are invited to attend.





## THANK YOU!!

We are very THANKFUL for the support of our St. Mary's parish family. Thanks to your generosity, we made 43 Very full 'Blessing Bags' to distribute to the homeless while on the NCYC Trip. Each bag had a hat, gloves, hand warmers, socks, pack of Kleenex, towel, bandaids, snacks and toiletries along with a inspirational Bible verse. Thank you again for your continued support of our service projects. We also appreciate the snacks and baked goods you donated for us to take along on the trip.

St. Mary's Religious Ed Class  
Emily Van Houten & Beth Phillips

*Coming Soon.....*

*Nov. 24—ICC Thanksgiving service @ 5 p.m.—Baptist church*

*Dec. 4—Adoration—5:30 p.m. -6:30 p.m.*

*Dec. 8— Children's Mass*

*Dec. 15—ICC Holiday Dinner*

*Dec. 22—Christmas pageant and Ambassador service*

### **St. Mary's ladies !!**



The Ladies Guild of St. Mary's Shenandoah have invited us to join them for their Holiday gathering on **Monday Nov. 25th @ 6 p.m...** They will be serving soup and will also have a gift exchange. If you would like to be included in the exchange please bring a pair of christmas socks(can purchase at dollar tree), fill with small useful things (chap stick, Hand sanitizer, hand lotion, candy, gum, dental floss:),etc., after you get them filled, tie them together with a ribbon and bring along! Hope to see you there!



### **Readings for the week of 11–24–19**

**Sunday:** 2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43

**Monday:** Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56 [52b]/Lk 21:1-4

**Tuesday:** Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61 [59b]/Lk 21:5-11

**Wednesday:** Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn 3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67 [59b]/Lk 21:12-19

**Thursday:** Dn 6:12-28/Dn 3:68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74 [59b]/Lk 21:20-28

**Friday:** Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81/Lk 21:29-33

**Saturday:** Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [10 or Jn 6:63]/Mt 4:18-22

**Next Sunday:** Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [1]/Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

# ST. MARYS HAPPENINGS

## PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

CHRIS HINES

JOSH SIMMONS

JACOB ANDERSON

JUSTIN PHILLIPS

DERRICK HUBARD

STEVEN ANDERSON

COLBY MCGINLEY



11-15 Ethan Roberts

11-21 Cassidy Hobbie

11-25 Suzie Moores

11-26 Alex Dewhirst

11-27 Jeff Phillips

11-28 Kelcie Gaines

11-30 Katrina Gude

12-1— Marvel Travis

12-3—Joe Whitehead



11-26

Marty & Carolyn Maher



Greg Andersen  
Grady Secht

Reese Kemp

James Dowling

LeRoy Herscheid

Noah Howe

Mary Lou Miller

Dottie Dankof

Isacc Durr

Robert & Nancy Dalton

Todd Quick

Verona Mitchell

Joel Loggins

Kenneth Russell

Bill Long

Henry Johnsen

Lawrence DuBois

Angie Witter-Childers

Pat Sheldon

Joe Kirk

Tim Konecny

Esther McCowan

Shawn Collins

Drake Travis

Martha Gude

Gloria Green

Larry Dalton

Vickie Graham

Glen Whitehead

Ronda Shirley

Zayne Osborn

Marty Weston

## *Your Contributions*

*November 17, 2019*

*Tithes-\$1103.00*

*Plate-\$80.00*

*Coffee—\$*

*Thank You!!!*

<b>2019</b>	<b>November 24</b> Our Lord, Jesus Christ King of the Universe 8:30	<b>December 1</b> 1st Sunday of Advent 8:30	<b>December 8</b> 2nd Sunday of Advent 8:30 <b>Children's Mass</b>	<b>December 15</b> 3rd Sunday of Advent 8:30	<b>December 22</b> 4th Sunday of Advent 8:30
<b>Greeters and Ushers</b>	Dan & Lori Goodman	Richard & Linda Dewhirst	Jim & Ruth Flores	Marty & Carolyn Maher	Vince & Susan Hilton
<b>Eucharist Ministers</b>	Rich Dewhirst Denny Travis	Robbie Travis Vince Hilton	Anne Hendrickson Dan Goodman	Joe Travis Annie Wakefield	Denny Travis Bill Green
<b>Servers</b>	Kylie Foster Addison Foster	Brady Hutt Isaac Hutt	TBA	Emily Hutt Alyssa Dowling	Keeley Mount Ryan Roberts
<b>Lector</b>	Kathleen Lorimor	Mark Gude	High School	Rick Jamison	Dave Dowling
<b>Mass Setup</b>	Joe	Rosie	Joe	Rosie	Joe
<b>Cantor</b>	Beth/Kim & Evan	Kim/Evan	Kim-Upstairs <b>Kate/Cara Cora/Cora</b>	Beth/Amelia	Kim/Evan
<b>Accompanist</b>	Nancy	Donna	Nancy-Upstairs <b>Cale/Nichole Joseph/Emily</b>	Nancy	Donna
<b>Coffee and Donuts</b>	Kathy Moody Angie Sheldon	John & Joyce Travis	Youth Biscuits and Gravy	ICC Holiday Dinner	Shane & Connie Smith
<b>Wash Linens</b>	Ruthie Paper	Marilyn Gude	Marilyn Gude	Marilyn Gude	Marilyn Gude
<b>PASTOR</b>		<b>PASTORAL ASSISTANT</b>		<b>BOOKKEEPER</b>	
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