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**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.**

**VIVA CRISTO REY
LONG LIVE CHRIST THE KING**

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER JASON – I can already smell Turkey. Thanksgiving week always conjures up excitement and eagerness for me. Of course, as you may *subtly* know, Thanksgiving means that we are one more holiday closer to Christmas; but more than that, this week and today put into perspective what I am thankful for as this weekend, the holidays, and our very life are about gratitude for all that has been given to us. It is Jesus' assurance that he has come to allow us to take part in the Kingdom of God in this weekend's gospel that compels us to be grateful. Even amidst challenges, suffering, and drudgery of what our lives can be; when we remember and realize we have Jesus as King that helps us put into perspective everything else. The Solemnity that we celebrate in "Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe" also reminds us to be grateful that we have been saved not by ourselves or our ways; but by one who gave everything and will give everything. Below is a history of this feast that I think helps us understand it and its indirect connection to Thanksgiving:

"On the last Sunday of each liturgical year, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, or Christ the King.

Pope Pius XI instituted this feast in 1925 with his encyclical Quas primas ("In the first") to respond to growing secularism and atheism. He recognized that attempting to "thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law" out of public life would result in continuing discord among people and nations. This solemnity reminds us that while governments come and go, Christ reigns as King forever.

During the early twentieth century, in Mexico, Russia, and some parts of Europe, militantly secularistic regimes threatened not just the Catholic Church and its faithful but civilization itself. Pope Pius XI's encyclical gave Catholics hope and—while governments around them crumbled—the assurance that Christ the King shall reign forever. Jesus Christ "is very truth, and it is from him that truth must be obediently received by all mankind" (Quas primas, 7).

Christ's kingship is rooted in the Church's teaching on the Incarnation. Jesus is fully God and fully man. He is both the divine Lord and the man who suffered and died on the Cross. One person of the Trinity unites himself to human nature and reigns over all creation as the Incarnate Son of God. "From this it follows not only that Christ is to be adored by angels and men, but that to him as man angels and men are subject and must recognize his empire; by reason of the hypostatic union Christ has power over all creatures" (Quas primas, 13).

The Church calls us to acknowledge Christ's kingship with our whole lives:

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, or to use the words of the Apostle Paul, 'as instruments of justice unto God.' -Quas primas, 33

I don't know about you, but this explanation both fits our time and helps us to truly give thanks for the gifts we have been given, especially the gift of the Eucharist as our King's presence meets us where we are (hence why we had Eucharistic Adoration this weekend). Please take time this week to pause, remember, and give thanks for Christ our King!



Speaking of Thanksgiving, please join us for our Thanksgiving Mass. This year you have two opportunities: Wednesday, November 26 at 6pm or Thursday, November 27 at 7:30am. I know these times may be odd to us, but they were chosen to allow those traveling and those who will be preparing dinner to hopefully attend to start your holiday off in the most important way we can. Please join me! **Also, I am looking forward to working with you at our Dinner on Thursday. Please know there are still plenty of ways to get involved in our Thanksgiving Dinner here at the parish. Please visit our website for up-to-date information and to sign up for any of the remaining shifts/help needed.**

Next weekend, remember to bring your Advent Wreath to be blessed. **Thank you to the Catholic Daughters of America for offering them to be purchased after masses through next weekend as well!**

We are certainly entering a very busy time of year. Please make sure the office has your up-to-date email (as well as phone, address, etc.) so you can receive the latest up to date information. Also, if you have not done so, make sure you download myparish app so you can receive various reminders. Again, print is good, but unfortunately both the schedule mailed home, and the bulletins are often incomplete especially this time of year due to early print deadlines (this was written and submitted on Nov. 13). **PLEASE MAKE SURE WE HAVE UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION FOR YOU AND YOU ADDED THE MYPARISHAPP SO YOU DON'T MISS ANYTHING!** Finally, speaking of communication please let the office/myself know if you/your loved ones get admitted to the hospital. If I can get to visit you pending timing, I will!

Thank you for joining us as well at our Knights of Columbus Mass this weekend and for your participation in Adoration.....there is no better place to be than with our Lord and one another!

Please note that our Church Offices close on Wednesday and will re-open on Monday after Thanksgiving. If you have an emergency, please call the church and leave a message for me and I will do my best to respond. In the meantime, please know of my sincere love, prayer, and gratitude that I have to call Immaculate Conception home. May we hold each other in prayer and gratitude of our king! Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours!

To download MyParishApp:

- Go to your phone's app store
- Find and download MyParishApp
- Select Immaculate Conception Parish

Once you do this you will be able to receive messages from us! Please enable notifications. This is the only way to receive Emergency Communications at this time. After that we will send email as well, so please make sure we have your correct email address.

*Community Thanksgiving Dinner**November 27, 2025*

PLEASE VISIT THE PARISH WEBSITE
TO RESERVE MEALS.

You can also check for volunteer opportunities.

**The Community
Thanksgiving Dinner Committee
looks forward to
serving you this year.**



**December 2, 2025 is
Giving Tuesday**

Advanced Giving is
already underway!

We need your help to make our campaigns successful!

With the funds raised through #iGive Catholic this year, we will be enhancing the safety and security of our Parish Campus. Projects to update our current safety measures such as outdoor lighting, additional security cameras and bollard installation are just a few on the list. Providing the utmost safety and security for our parishioners, guests and students is very important to us.

The easiest way to donate online is to use the links on the parish website. Envelopes will also be available.

Thank you for your support!

LOTTERY CALENDARS make excellent Christmas gifts for anyone on your list. Tickets are currently available from school families or in the school office. They will also be available to purchase after Masses. Calendars are \$20, giving you 365 chances to win in 2026! All you do is buy the ticket. We take care of watching the daily lotto numbers. You just watch your mailbox for a check with your winnings!



FROM DEACON JOE – We will again be collecting items for our **Stockings for Seniors** Activity beginning **Saturday, November 29**. There will be a box in the church lobby as well as in the school cafeteria for you to drop off items. We will be meeting to fill stockings at 9:30 a.m. on **Sunday, December 14** at the OLCC. Please drop off any of the following items in the drop boxes by 9:30 in the morning on December 14: **Individually wrapped candies, crackers, travel toiletries, pudding / gel / fruit cups, crossword puzzle books, word search, coloring books, pens, crayons, colored pencils, pet treats.**

Note from the committee: Please make sure your items will fit in a 6-inch opening.

Thank you for helping to make Christmas brighter for those seniors in our community.

*MASS Intentions***Monday, November 24 – Saint Andrew Dũng-Lạc and Companions**

7:30 a.m. Jim and Rose Selker
(Lee and Linda Dechant)

Tuesday, November 25 – Saint Catherine of Alexandria

8:30 a.m. Father Monty Sayers (Kim and Clay Kroh)

Wednesday, November 26

7:30 a.m. Robert and Joan Donahue
(Jim and Mary Lou Delaney)
6:00 p.m. (check Mass Intentions calendar on website)

Thursday, November 27 – Thanksgiving Day

7:30 a.m. Emmy and Ray Summerville
(Sid and Debbie Miles)

Friday, November 28

— NO MASS —

Saturday, November 29

4:00 p.m. Dennis and Mary Ochs and Family
(Ruth Ochs)

Sunday, November 30 – First Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Karen Hulings and Larry Reed
(Kathy Reed)

8:30 a.m. **RADIO MASS** – Don Weidner
(Jim and Mary Lou Delaney)

11:00 a.m. For the People

Readings for the week of November 23, 2025

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

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

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

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

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

Saturday: Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87
/Lk 21:34-36

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

AROUND THE AREA – Christmas Holiday Craft Show at St. Mary Church

This event is on Friday, Dec. 5th, and Saturday, Dec. 6th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the St. Mary Social Hall in Crown (117 Lencer Drive, Leeper, PA). Admission is free. Dozens of tables will showcase hand-crafted products including holiday decorations, home decor, wooden toys, nativity sets, jewelry, apparel, wreaths, and much, much more. Come find a unique gift for that special someone. A soup and sandwich luncheon will be available for purchase. A Chinese Auction, 50/50 Raffle, and The 12 Days of Shopping and Eating Raffle (\$600 worth of gift cards) will also be held. Proceeds benefit St. Mary Church Faith Formation Program.

If you are interested in being a crafter/vendor for our show, please text or email Sheila Martz at 814-229-3083 or sheilamartz16@gmail.com. Thank you!

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