

From the Pastor



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By the end of the Liturgical Year, just before Advent starts, we celebrate the title we give to our Lord, Jesus Christ - the King of the Universe. It sums up what He is, or supposed to be, for us as a Savior of the world. By giving us this liturgical celebration, the Church hopes that we will not forget about our King and his Kingdom.

The Church is a wise mother. She knows that we have a built-in tendency to forget about these things. The pleasures, possibilities, and worries of life in this fallen world are real. They are strong magnets that try to monopolize our attention. But Christ is stronger. And he has much more to offer - eternal life, in fact, meaning, purpose, forgiveness, wisdom, and the strength of his grace. And yet, he is not a tyrant. He offers us citizenship in his Kingdom, but he leaves us free to accept or reject that offer.

This feast encourages us to once again renew our submission to the King of the Universe. When He proves His love for us in the sacrifice of Mass, we profess our love for Him. We invite Him into our minds, and we let Him reign there through our firm belief in all of His teaching. We invite Him into our wills, that part of us where we make our decisions, and let Him reign there through our loving obedience to His commandments - especially the commandment to love our neighbors as He has loved us. We invite Him into our hearts, that secret center of our souls where we treasure things, where our affections reside, and let Him reign there by putting every natural desire in second place, behind our desire to know, love, and follow our King.

May we put more meaning than usual into the words that sum up every Christian's fundamental mission and deepest desire: Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.

+ Father Roger