

J.M.J.

Dear Parishioners,

In this final Sunday of the liturgical year, the Church invites us to celebrate the Lord Jesus as King of the Universe. She calls us to look to the future, or more properly into the depths, to the ultimate goal of history, which will be the definitive and eternal kingdom of Christ. He was with the Father in the beginning, when the world was created, and He will fully manifest his lordship at the end of time, when He will judge all mankind. Today's three readings speak to us of this kingdom. In the Gospel passage from the account of Saint John, Jesus appears in humiliating circumstances – He stands accused – before the might of Rome. He had been arrested, insulted, mocked, and now His enemies hope to obtain His condemnation to death by crucifixion. They had presented Him to Pilate as one who sought political power, as the self-proclaimed King of the Jews. The Roman procurator conducts his enquiry and asks Jesus: "Are you the King of the Jews?" (Jn 18:33). In reply to this question, Jesus clarifies the nature of His kingship and his messiahship itself, which is no worldly power but a love which serves. He states that His kingdom is in no way to be confused with a political reign: "My kingship is not of this world ... is not from the world" (v. 36).

Jesus clearly had no political ambitions. After the multiplication of the loaves, the people, enthralled by the miracle, wanted to take Him away and make Him their king, in order to overthrow the power of Rome and thus establish a new political kingdom which would be considered the long-awaited kingdom of God. But Jesus knows that God's kingdom is of a completely different kind; it is not built on arms and violence. The multiplication of the loaves itself becomes both the sign that He is the Messiah and a watershed in His activity: henceforth the path to the Cross becomes ever clearer; there, in the supreme act of love, the promised kingdom, the kingdom of God, will shine forth. But the crowd does not understand this; they are disappointed and Jesus retires to the mountain to pray in solitude (cf. Jn 6:1-15). In the Passion narrative we see how even the disciples, though they had shared Jesus' life and listened to His words, were still thinking of a political kingdom, brought about also by force. In Gethsemane, Peter had unsheathed his sword and began to fight, but Jesus stopped him (cf. Jn 18:10-11). He does not wish to be defended by arms, but to accomplish the Father's will to the end, and to establish his kingdom not by armed conflict, but by the apparent weakness of life-giving love. The kingdom of God is a kingdom utterly different from earthly kingdoms.

That is why, faced with a defenseless, weak and humiliated man, as Jesus was, a man of power like Pilate is taken aback; taken aback because he hears of a kingdom and servants. So he asks an apparently odd question: "So you are a king?" What sort of king can such a man as this be? But Jesus answers in the affirmative: "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice" (18:37). Jesus speaks of kings and kingship, yet He is not referring to power but to truth. Pilate fails to understand: can there be a power not obtained by human means? A power which does not respond to the logic of domination and force? Jesus came to reveal and bring a new kingship, that of God; he came to bear witness to the truth of a God who is love (cf. 1 Jn 4:8,16), who wants to establish a kingdom of justice, love and peace (cf. Preface). Whoever is open to love hears this testimony and accepts it with faith, to enter the kingdom of God.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb

**S.M.A.R.T.**

All orders for the annual

Pie Buy

will be available for pick up November 21st and 22nd at all Masses.



F.A.I.T.H. -12 Advent Wreaths will be available for sale \$20/each, on Nov. 28th and 29th in the Narthex. Sorry but no pre-orders available.

Join us on **Wednesday, December 9th** for Christmas Caroling at St. Joseph's Nursing Home - 4:30pm and the Water's Edge community at 5:30pm. **All are welcome!**



Join us Sun., Nov. 29th for
St. Mary's

All You Can Eat Breakfast

Adults \$8 Children \$6
(ages 5 and under FREE!)

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd in Religious Education needs people to donate old or extra non-breakable Nativity figures or Manger sets they may have so our kindergarten children can work with them in our Atrium. Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Angels, shepherds, kings, donkeys, sheep, lambs, camels, elephants, cows please. Please note they must be non-breakable.



Christmas Food Baskets

We are still in need of stuffing, canned gravy, cranberry sauce, and canned fruit. We currently have 50 families signed up and a waiting list of 19 families.

We will also be collecting turkeys and hams on Thursday, December 17th from 5:30pm until 7pm.

Simplify your Christmas shopping at the St. Nicholas Faire Vendors! Food! Fun!

Sunday, December 6 11am-2:30pm. Fundraiser to benefit St. Mary's Little Lambs



In the spirit of Christmas, we are continuing our tradition of a "GIVING TREE." We are supporting both the local Elks Lodge and the Port Jervis High School Rotary Interact Club in their efforts to provide winter outerwear items for needy children and teens in our community. A donation of \$10 or more would be greatly appreciated; every \$50 will sponsor one child. Please see the Christmas tree in the narthex the weekend on November 29th. They may be returned in the attached envelope, in the collection basket or at the parish office, by Monday, December 14th.

Join us for fellowship after the 5:15pm Mass on Tuesday, December 8th to honor our Blessed Mother, as we celebrate the Feast on the Immaculate Conception. Wine and appetizers will be served. All are welcome. Please contact the parish office by **Monday, November 30th** if you are planning on attending.

Court Madonna Court #114 is hosting a women's day of recollection on Saturday, December 12th from 9:30am until 3pm at St. Mary's Church Hall. The topic will be *Women of the Church*. The cost is \$5.00. Coffee, tea, and donuts will be served at 9:30 and session begins at 10AM. **Lunch will not be provided so please bring your own.** If you are interested in attending, or for more information, please contact Marge 570-491-5240 or Joyce 856-8875.

Essay Contest! All children in grades 7 through 12 and invited to enter. Theme is "Dignity of the Elderly". For guidelines and more information, please call the parish office. Entry deadline is January 4, 2016.

The collection for November 14/15 was \$6,135. Thank you for your continued generosity.

ANNOUNCED MASSES

Monday, November 23 (Clement I, pope and martyr; Columban, abbot; Blessed Miguel Augustin Pro, priest and martyr)

9:00am Regis Foster, by Mr. And Mrs. Declan Carroll

Tuesday, November 24 (Andrew Dung-Lac, priest and companions, martyrs)

9:00am Mary McLaughlin, by Rayola McLaughlin Anthony Capra, by wife and children

Wednesday, November 25 (Catherine of Alexandria, virgin and martyr)

9:00am Regis Foster, by Debbie and Kevin Cunningham Fr. John Murray, by Barbara Guinn

Thursday, November 26 (Thanksgiving Day)

9:00am Stephanie and Allen Tooley, by the family

Saturday, November 28

4:00pm The parishioners of St. Mary's

Sunday, November 29

8:30am Deacon Bowman and the Intentions of Deacon Rich Marino

11:30am Marina Santiago, by Enid Decker

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:

Ida Lissner, Joann Wilcox, Jonathan Saletto, Marion Rohner, Nick Moscatiello, Jeff Sauschuck, Jackie Mundy, Theresa Fuller, Kelly Quick, Sandy Osbourne, Jose Maldonado, Allan Van Starrex, Donald Wolff, Walter Szpakowicz, Michael Barnes, William Lincoln, Vada Glass, Joe Brennan, Betty Brennan, Richard Samek, John McKean, Andrea Fedoruk, Lisa Donahue, Angela Portella, Pauline Portella, Florence Marino, Maureen Hildebrandt, William Quinn, Mary Ellen Piper, Jeannine Lincoln, Mary Platania, Tonya Addy, Gloria Hicks, Jules Diez, John Kavanagh, Al Gessner, Makara Craig, Lillian Diaz, Thomas Gumaer, Jr., Ashley Avella, Amelia Quinn, Janet Smykla, Lillian Diaz, Leon Logan, James DeGroat, Theresa Kavanagh, and Angela Grillo.

*Sick List Update
Please maintain/remove/add
(Due by December 3rd)*

Liturgical Ministers for November 28th/29th

MASS	LECTOR	MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	ALTAR SERVERS
4:00PM	T. LOTHIAN	L. AVELLA, H. ECKES, W. PONDS	Q. KRENTZ, J. AND J. LEGATO
8:30AM	M. LATINI	N. ARROYO, J. TAYLOR, S. RIORDAN	T. LAMOREAUX, T. AND E. WITKOWSKI
11:30AM	M. ESLING	T. MARION, N. SMITH, E. DECKER	J. MALDONADO, D. AND S. KLOTZ