

November 23, 2008

Our Lord Jesus Christ the King

TODAY WE CALL JESUS A KING.

We're not used to having kings or royalty around; we don't have a sense of being subjects. Our use of the word *king* is based more in legends and fairy tales than in experience. Church history and Church art show Christ as a king. But where did those images come from? The impact of this particular title for Jesus might come to us more secondhand than second nature.

In the passage we read today in Matthew's Gospel, there is a dominant theme—we are challenged to serve Christ by serving people in need. In the Great Judgment scene, it is sobering to see that how we treat others will determine how Jesus recognizes us.

Another more subtle message is embedded in the heavenly drama. People in other eras (like the first-century audience of Jesus) would have seen something immediately that we might miss: *This king has a very strange view of power.*

Christian artists have often expressed Christ's coming in power with images drawn from their times and places. These images show a powerful recognition—Jesus Christ is more than the rulers and governors of this world. Our art portrays Christ in the imagery of kings in the world, in the imagery of rulers from the artists' own experiences. These images gave people subject to earthbound rulers great hope. What power do we fear? Christ is more.

Yet in Matthew, Jesus reveals an amazing way in which his power really happens, an amazing invitation for us to recognize him and join him in building his kingdom. He *is* the hungry, the poor, the lonely.

There's a twist, too, when Jesus recognizes his own. They're surprised. Do *we* know when we are serving him? What sort of kings impress us?

DAN FINUCANE

sundaybulletins@liguori.org



Today's Readings

Ez 34:11–12, 15–17
1 Cor 15:20–26, 28
Mt 25:31–46

Do we know when we are serving him?



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St. Stephen Catholic Church

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9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Rectory – 1904 Bethel Road
817-596-9586

Web Page – www.ss-cc.org

Gift Shop – Saturday 5:30 to 6 PM
Sunday 9:45 to 11:00 AM
Noon to 12:30 PM

Club House—817-599-8423
Pro Shop—817-599-8431

MASS SCHEDULE

All Masses are held at the Church on Bethel Road unless otherwise noted

Saturday 6:00 PM ♦ Confessions Saturday 5:00 PM

Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:45 AM (English) ♦ 12:30 PM (Spanish)

Holy Days 7:00 AM & 7:00 PM

Daily Mass 8:45 AM

WELCOME NEW FAMILIES AND VISITORS

Please complete a registration card at the Welcome Table in the church foyer and return it at your earliest convenience. Thank You!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	November 22	6:00 PM	Jesus Ipina, RIP	<i>St. Cecilia, virgin and martyr</i>
Sunday	November 23	8:00 AM	Dennis Mees, RIP	<i>34th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		10:45 AM	Our Community	<i>34th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		12:30 PM	La Comunidad	<i>34° Domingo Ordinario</i>
Monday	November 24	8:45 AM	Irma Fuhrmann, RIP	<i>Memorial of St. Andrew Dung-Lac, priest and martyr, and his companions, martyrs</i>
Tuesday	November 25	8:45 AM	Communion Service	<i>Memorial of St. Catherine of Alexandria, virgin and martyr</i>
Wednesday	November 26	8:45 AM	Mathilda Bierschenk, RIP	<i>Weekday</i>
Thursday	November 27	10:00 AM	In Thanksgiving	<i>Thanksgiving Day</i>
Friday	November 28	8:45 AM	David Meza, RIP	<i>Weekday</i>
Saturday	November 29	6:00 PM	Joan Wood	<i>Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
Sunday	November 30	8:00 AM	Bob & Marlene Fronk	<i>First Sunday of Advent</i>
		10:45 AM	John C. Lusk, RIP	<i>First Sunday of Advent</i>
		12:30 PM	La Comunidad	<i>1° Domingo de Adviento</i>

Marriage – six months notice required – please see Fr. Casey. **Aviso para el Matrimonio** – seis meses es necesaria

Baptism Instruction—English (1st Thursday of each month): Spanish (1st Monday of each month)

Quinceañera – three month notice required – girl must be attending CCD and Mass *regularly* – please see Fr. Casey

Prayer Chain Coordinators—Ann Allen (817-594-8637) Bette Binzer (817-599-0454) LaVerne Cardwell (817-594-3805)

Weekly Visitation of the Sick & Shut-Ins. Contact the church office to be on the schedule.

Census Information—Please notify the church office if you are new to our Parish, have a change of address or phone number, or move to another Parish.

Bulletin Notices are to be written or typed and in the office at least one week prior to event – notices may be e-mailed – deadline for bulletin is Noon on Tuesday – your cooperation is greatly appreciated – Thank You!

REGULAR COLLECTION

November 15-16

\$12,108.94



*Flowers for the Altar this Weekend
Are A Gift In Thanksgiving*



NOVEMBER SECOND COLLECTIONS

November 22-23

Campaign for Human Development

PROPERTY PURCHASE INFORMATION

Cost of New Property—\$1,631,842.00

Monthly Interest Payment—\$9,700.00

Total Contributions to Date—59,669.59

Interest Paid to Date—40,129.00

34th Sunday in Ordinary Time—Christ the King

Tending the needs of others is a gift of service to God as well as those in need. Imagine that you chose to serve God as a deacon, priest, brother, or sister. What do you think/feel about this choice? (Matthew 25:31-46)

34° Domingo Ordinario—Cristo Rey

Lo que hemos hecho por los más pequeños de nuestros hermanos y hermanas, se lo hemos hecho a Cristo. Sirve en cualquier oportunidad; escucha la llamada al servicio como sacerdote, hermano o hermana religiosa. (Mateo 25:41-46)

WELCOME TO ALL, INCLUDING VISITORS AND NEW PARISHIONERS.

Please join us this Sunday between Masses for breakfast in the parish hall, provided by the Boy Scouts Troop #72.

Thanksgiving Mass will be 10 AM

Thursday, November 27.

The Church Office will be closed

November 27 & 28.

No Religious Education Classes November 30.

Classes Resume December 7.

*No Bible Study, Adult Catechism, or Breakfast Served on
November 30*



Because of the Thanksgiving Holiday, all bulletin items for the weekend of November 29-30 are due in the church office no later than 12:00 Noon, Monday, November 24. Thank You!

ADVENT begins next Sunday, November 30. Advent materials are available in the church foyer. *Please take one set per family.*

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER training will be conducted in the church at 3 PM on Sunday, November 23. All Eucharistic Ministers must be over the age of 18. If you are interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister for the St. Stephen parish, please plan to attend this important session. Also, all existing Ministers are welcome but not required to attend the session. For more information, please contact Sharmayne Bierschenk at 817-596-9141 or sbiersch@ont.com.

REMINDER: Altar Society will be selling Christmas baskets and handmade mini capes in the Holy Spirit Center on December 6 after Mass and at the breakfast on December 7.

60+ will gather for Mass at 11 AM followed by a covered dish luncheon on Wednesday, December 10. Please come and join us!

THE FEAST OF THE VIRGIN OF GUADALUPE. Everyone is invited to attend a celebration honoring the Virgin of Guadalupe on Sunday, December 14 at 1:30 PM in the Holy Spirit Center. Festivities will include a re-enactment of her appearance to Juan Diego, traditional dancing and music, food, and cultural fun for all. Questions? Contact Carlos Frias 817-307-8332 or Jeanette Houle at 817-613-8008 or doschicas@att.net

LAS POSADAS. Everyone is invited to participate in the Las Posadas celebrations, running December 16 through December 23, 6 to 8 PM, in the Holy Spirit Center. More information to follow. Willing to help sponsor an evening's snacks? Questions? Contact Jeanette Houle at 817-613-8008 or doschicas@att.net.

CHILDREN'S BILINGUAL CHRISTMAS EVE MASS. The 6 PM Christmas Eve Mass will be a Children's Mass with a Nativity presentation during the Gospel. Christmas Carols to begin at 5:30 PM. Come join in the celebration!

THANK YOU so much for your donation benefiting the Senior Citizens of Parker County. The success of our Meal-On-Wheels program as well as the other programs that we provide the Seniors of Parker County depends upon the generosity of special people like you who care about our community. Teresa Cox, Parker County Senior Center.

PLEASE VISIT the Storeroom in the Family Center —Warm Clothing for the Family.

WANTED: Ride from Weatherford Towncenter on Tin Top to St. Stephen on Saturday night or Sunday morning. Call Patty at 817-599-9984

Si usted no está corrientemente empleado ó está experimentando cualquier otra emergencia y necesita ayuda para sus niños ó familia en esta temporada navideña, favor de llamar a la oficina de la iglesia esta semana al 817-596-9585. *Esta actividad re-emplazará el Arbol del Angel (Angel Tree).*

If you are currently out of work or experiencing any other emergency and need assistance for the family/children this holiday season, please call the church office at 817-596-9585 this week. *This activity replaces the Angel Tree.*

If you would like to adopt a child or family for Christmas, please call the office at 817-596-9585.

Si usted desea adoptar a un niño o una familia para Navidad, por favor hable a la oficina al (817) 596-9585.

This year we are also including children of the incarcerated. These children are living with a single parent /grandparent through no fault of their own. The names of these children have been submitted by Tony Perez, our Prison Ministry Representative. *Thank you for your help.*

The 40th Anniversary Rome Pilgrimage will depart DFW for Rome on November 9, 2009 and return to DFW on November 16, 2009. If you are interested in more information regarding the Pilgrimage, please contact the church office at 817-596-9585.

TEEN CORNER

Pure Reality Rally: Youth rally for grades 8-12 presented by the Catholic Pro-Life Committee and Catholics Respect Life on Sunday, February 8, 2009, 4-9:30 PM in Arlington. The rally will focus on teaching teens that chastity and abstinence are the true paths to freedom. Cost is \$25.00 to include transportation, entrance, dinner, and t-shirt. Registration and payment due no later than Sunday, December 7, 2008. Contact Susan Ourada at 817-596-3872 or Jeanette Houle at 817-613-8008 or doschicas@att.net.

Thanksgiving Holiday: There will be no Youth Group meeting on Wednesday, November 26. See you on December 3!

All youth ages 13 and above are invited to participate in the Youth Music Ministry. Join us Sundays at 6 PM.

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(All activities held at Bethel Road)

Sunday, November 23

9:15 AM Religious Education Classes (English)
9:15 AM Adult Catechism (Room 19)
9:15 AM Adult Bible Study (Room 3)
11:15 AM Religious Education Classes (Spanish)
3:00 PM Eucharistic Ministers Training

Monday, November 24

6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study
7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #72
7:00 PM RCIA
7:00 PM Grupo de Oracion

Tuesday, November 25

9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study (Rm. 1 & 2)

Wednesday, November 26

6:30 PM Choir Practice

Thursday, November 27

10:00 AM Thanksgiving Mass

Saturday, November 29

7:00 PM Cursillistas Ultreya—Spanish

Dear Padre

How can I develop my prayer life?



How does a beginner start a prayer regimen?

Betty Mae

Dear Betty Mae,

The keys to a successful prayer life are finding a quiet place to pray and praying at the same time every day.

Saint Alphonsus stressed that it is much more important to find a few minutes *each day* than to give a whole hour once a week. In fact, he encouraged beginners to start slowly, even only fifteen minutes a day, as long as they were sure to take those fifteen minutes every day.

Alphonsus also liked to say that prayer is conversation with God about whatever is on our minds or in our hearts. Speak to God as you would your closest friend. Tell him about your day—your preoccupations, your worries, your joys, your hopes. Keep in mind, however,

that a true conversation requires listening as well as talking.

In the Gospel stories, we often see Jesus at prayer. These stories offer us a variety of prayer experiences, but two in particular stand out. In the morning, long before dawn, Jesus often goes out to a lonely place to pray. At other times, Jesus goes into the hills after sunset and prays. But whatever time a person prefers, all of us can benefit from taking a few moments to enter more deeply into solitude with Jesus in the Spirit.

Michael Brehl, C.Ss.R.



SHUTTERSTOCK

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
November 24 <i>Saint Andrew Dung-Lac, priest and martyr</i> Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5 Lk 21:1-4	November 25 <i>Weekday</i> Rv 14:14-19 Lk 21:5-11	November 26 <i>Weekday</i> Rv 15:1-4 Lk 21:12-19	November 27 <i>Weekday</i> Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a Lk 21:20-28	November 28 <i>Weekday</i> Rv 20:1-4, 11-21:2 Lk 21:29-33	November 29 <i>Weekday</i> Rv 22:1-7 Lk 21:34-36	November 30 <i>First Sunday of Advent</i> Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7 1 Cor 1:3-9 Mk 13:33-37