

**Last Sunday of October
29 October 2017
Feast of Christ the King**

“The Lamb that was slain is worthy to receive power and divinity and wisdom and strength and honour: to Him be glory and empire for ever and ever.” Rev. 5:12 & 1:6

Firstborn of All Creatures

Jesus is the firstborn of all creatures. He gives the Father the greatest glory as Man because He is true God and thus He is able to love the Father infinitely as God, the Son. This is why the Father is so pleased with His Son. Christ is the King for all eternity because He has given Himself for our ransom and has won for us our eternal salvation: *“The Lord will reign forever and will give his people the gift of peace.”* Ps. 28: 10-11 Jesus Christ is the *“Son of Man”* as He is both God and man. He is the first-born of all creatures and as such He gives the Father the greatest glory. This is why He is the *“King of Kings” and the “Lord of Lords.”* He is Christ the King of all nations and tribes: *“He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have our redemption, the remission of our sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature. For in him were created all things in the heavens and on the earth, things visible and invisible...”* Col. 1: 13-16

He Has Redeemed Us

“(Jesus Christ) faithful witness, first-born of the dead and ruler of the Kings of the earth.” Rev. 1:5. Christ is the faithful witness who has given His life and *“washed us from our sins in His own blood.”* Rev. 1:5 All creation looks to Him as He is the *“Alpha and Omega,”* (Rev. 1:8) the beginning and the end of all things. All things are measured by His great sacrifice for He has conquered death and redeemed us of our sins. *“To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever.”* Rev. 1:6

Jesus Christ is King, Priest and Victim

The Preface for the Feast of Christ the King echoes the theme of Christ’s Kingship: *“that we should at all times and in all places give thanks*

to Thee, holy Lord, Father almighty, eternal God: Who with the oil of gladness didst anoint Thine only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ as Priest for ever and King of all.” (Preface) Jesus is our eternal High Priest and King of Kings forever: *“That offering Himself on the altar of the Cross a stainless Victim to appease Thee, He might accomplish the mysteries of man’s redemption...”* (Preface) He is not only our King, but He is also our Priest who has sacrificed Himself for our sins. By His sacrifice, we are redeemed for His eternal kingdom in heaven: *“and that subjecting all creatures to His sway, He might present to Thine infinite Majesty a universal and eternal Kingdom; a Kingdom of truth and life; a Kingdom of holiness and grace: a Kingdom of justice and peace.”* (Preface) To obtain this Kingdom, St. Paul told us we must be *“without spot or wrinkle.”* (Eph. 5: 27)

“My Kingdom is not of this world.” Jn. 18:36

St. Augustine tells us that *“...He (Jesus) was King of Israel to rule souls, to care for their eternal interests, to lead those who believe in Him, hope in Him and love him into the kingdom of heaven.”* (St. Augustine, *Treatise 51 on John, 12-13*) When Jesus was crucified, Pilate had the words *“Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews,”* (INRI—there is no “J” in Latin so I is used). The Jews objected to this and asked Pilate to write *“He said He was King of the Jews.”* Pilate refused and said what *“I have written, I have written.”* Jn. 19:22 It is important for us to realize that this then makes the Cross the actual throne of Jesus Christ, the King of the Jews (and all nations). Jesus wanted His followers to realize that in order to follow Him that they too would have to suffer and carry their crosses, and, if need be, suffer and die for Him in order to enter heaven. We need to adore Christ the King on His throne, the Cross! Every Crucifix then is the throne of Christ the King! It is our duty to become like Him by being like Him, *“meek and humble of heart.”* Mt. 11:29 When Pilate asked Jesus if He were the King of the Jews, Jesus answered, *“Dost thou say this of thyself, or have others told thee of me?”* Jn. 18:33 St. Augustine tells us that *“...He (Jesus) wished to show from Pilate’s answer that He had been accused of this as a crime by the Jews. In other words, He wanted to lay bare to us the thoughts of Men, which He knew were vain. Then after Pilate’s answer He more opportunely and*

fittingly could say both to the Jews and to the Gentiles, 'My kingdom is not of this world.'" Jn. 18:36 St. Augustine, Treatise 115 on John, 18:36. We, too, need to live by the Cross with Our Lady who stands at the foot of the Cross. Let us pray to her always the words of the "**Stabat Mater**" for the Twelfth Station of the Cross, the Crucifixion: "**By the Cross with you to stay/ There with you to weep and pray/ Is all I ask of you to give.**"

Tragic Choice of Modern Man

The nations of the world tragically reject the Kingship of Christ with their immoral opposition to God's Divine laws. Many nations today have legalized practices which are opposed to the Ten Commandments: abortion, divorce, contraception, same sex marriages, and euthanasia. With these sins against God's Commandments, the world has chosen Satan, the Prince of this World, as their leader (king). This choice can only lead to tragedy for all of us in this world. People no longer believe in truth and think that they can do what they want; they no longer believe in the eternal truths of heaven, hell and judgment; they deny the Church's teachings on life and marriage and fail to procreate the children that God wishes to give the world. "**Without a deep reverence for the sacredness of life, humanity places itself on the path of self-destruction.**" (Bishop Sean O'Malley of Fall River, Ma. USA, *In Vitro Fertilization*)

Christ the King Must Reign in Our World and in Us All

When Pope Pius XI instituted this feast in 1925 with his decree, "**Quas Primas,**" he wanted to remind us that Jesus Christ must reign as King in our minds, our hearts, and in our wills if we want peace and happiness in this world. "**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 desire 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.**"(#21) Jesus has created us, He has redeemed us, He has sanctified us with His Flesh and Blood, He governs us with love and protection, and He has prepared a

place for us in His heavenly Kingdom if we are faithful to His commandments. He will come to judge us in His glory and power. If we choose Him as our King today, we need not fear that He will refuse us His kingdom in Heaven for all eternity.

The Feast of All Saints, Wednesday 1 November 2017

On this Holyday of Obligation, let us rejoice in all the Saints of the Catholic Church

The Feast of All Souls Thursday 2 November 2017

Souls in Purgatory: November is the month in which we remember the poor souls in Purgatory who cannot help themselves. They rely on us to shorten their time of purification.

The First Friday, 3 November 2017

Now is a good time to continue (or begin) the devotion to the "**Nine First Fridays**" of the Month. The Sacred Heart of Jesus promised to St. Margaret Mary: "**I promise thee in the excessive mercy of My Heart that My all-powerful love will grant to all those who communicate on the First Friday in nine consecutive months, the grace of final penitence; they shall not die in My disgrace nor without receiving the Sacraments; My Divine heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.**" There is no better way of honouring the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus than in receiving Holy Communion on the "**Nine First Fridays.**"

The Five First Saturdays

Saturday, 4 November 2017 is the First Saturday of November. Our Lady told Sr. Lucia in 1925 "**...I promise to assist at the hour of death, with all the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months go to confession and receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary and keep me company for a quarter of an hour while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me.**" If only we would do what Our Lady asks, we would be assured of eternal salvation. Our Lady promises us all the graces necessary for our salvation if we keep *The Five First Saturdays!*