

After the Heart of Jesus ...

*One of the criminals hanging next to Jesus said,
"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."
Jesus replied to him,
"Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."*



“Jesus, remember me, when you come into your kingdom,” is one of my favorite mantras ... for the Lenten season, especially Good Friday. Yet, here we have this Good Friday reading on the Solemnity of Christ the King, the last Sunday of the liturgical year. Why would this Gospel reading be selected for this feast? What is so kindly about a crucifixion or being mocked and made fun of by others?

Christ’s Kingship, however, was perhaps never made more known than through the events of Good Friday and Easter – He shows us the King who loves his people so much that he lays down his life for them. And through the Resurrection His power and reign is known as He conquers evil, and sin, and even death itself. Christ transforms not only what it means to be King but also what it means to be a part of the kingdom. Unlike many earthly kings, let us rejoice that the kingdom that Christ brings is “a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace.” (Preface of Christ the King)

Speaking of peace and justice, I want to encourage everyone to visit the “Gift of Human Hands” Fair Trade Fair next weekend in the McDonald Center (gym). Today’s bulletin includes many of the details of the Fair. I am excited that we are one of the first parishes in the Chicago area to sponsor this kind of an event that educates us, directly supports the poor in many foreign lands, and gives us an opportunity to purchase unique gifts during the holiday season. Our friends from Abbington House will also be present with their craft items, and there will be a bake sale to support our outreach at Abbington. There will be a pizza and salad dinner on Saturday night to support the University mission to the Philippines, and a pancake breakfast for families on Sunday. If you are interested in helping with the Fair Trade Bazaar, please contact Karen Campe at the Parish Center.



Also, join us for the wonderful annual Spirit of Life Concert in Church next Sunday afternoon, December 2, at 4:30 PM. This fall, Spirit of Life is joining with the DesPlaines VFW Post 2992 in “A Soldier’s Wish List.” Please see their website at www.spiritoflifechorus.org to see how you might bring some of the comforts of home to our fighting men and women.

I hope this Thanksgiving weekend has given families a chance to step back and pause, to look around the home and say “Thank you” to God and one another. Developing a sense of gratitude is an important characteristic for all disciples. On the mere human level, gratitude leads to joy as our eyes are attuned to that which makes life good. On the spiritual level, gratitude leads to a greater sharing of gifts as we realize the source and purpose of the gifts we have received. Every gift from God is given for the common good. Then on the deeper Catholic level, a spirit of gratitude leads us to embrace the Eucharist with a greater appreciation of the Holy Exchange that takes place between God and us.

Thank you to everyone continuing to make their commitments to stewardship. The increased sharing of Time, Talent, and Treasure is providing a growing powerhouse of spiritual gifts for Christ to use with and among us for his reign. As we celebrate Christ as our King, may we all chose to live ...

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Father John