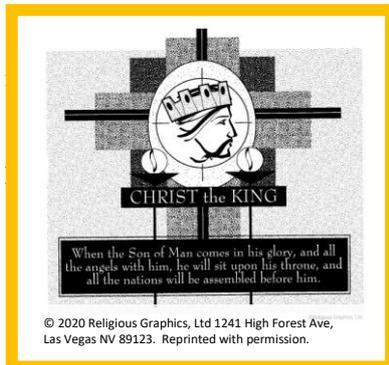


Observing the Lord's Day Solemnity of Christ Jesus the King (20A)

22 November 2020, Father Slowiak



Bishop Callahan has distributed a diocesan policy for the gradual reopening of parishes to celebrate the Sacrament of Eucharist on Sunday. We for author-25% of the church capacity (about 75) with members of the same household together, others are to practice safe distancing. The wings of the church are open. Phone ahead to have your name added to the 25% list. When 75 are will open the 8:00 am on Sunday.

We understand face coverings/masks to an element of prolife as sign of one's respect for the common good.

We will continue to stream the Sunday celebration. I invite parish members and families at 4:30 or 10:00 am (or a family time) to gather and observe the Lord's Day with the weekly Communal Prayer.

L Leader (Certainly rotate within a family and the role of the Leader)
A Assembly

Opening Rite

L In the name of . . .

A the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

L Lord Jesus, you are the king who washed the feet of your disciples, who died for your people. Who are the servant king who calls us to imitate you

A Lord, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

L We pray. Father, You raised Jesus to a throne of glory as King and Shepherd of all the nations, to inaugurate an everlasting Kingdom founded on divine characterizations. Bless us, in our friendship with You, with an unshakeable convictions that having conquered death in all of its forms, Jesus will turn over to You and healed and redeemed creation of Your making.

A Amen. – Based on Prayers for Sundays and Seasons, Peter Scagnelli, Liturgy Training Publications, 1998.

The Texts

Considering that we have Bibles (or Bibles for children) in our homes, the texts for today:

Ezekiel 34:11-17

Matthew 25:31-46

Or, the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops <http://uscgb.org> then, Bible, Today's Reading for the texts

A Reflection

The gospel text closes a number of parables about the end times. Exactly how or what moved the spirit of Jesus to utter such words is not known or is the text based on an experience or situation that is unsettling the community at Antioch in Syria? We can find ourselves in quicksand when daily living becomes unsettled, thus a number of parables to encourage the believers to be alert and aware of God's eternal care and concern.

¹So, from the text, we will not be judged, Jesus teaches through Matthew, by how well we say/recite our prayers or carry out our worship. The criterion of Jesus, the Son of God is . . . have we loved our neighbors as ourselves? Do we respond to God's graciousness by serving those in need? Have we learned to see the face of Christ in the least of our brothers and sisters? Pope Saint John Paul II referring to this passage wrote, "We cannot delude ourselves: by our mutual

love and, in particular, by our concern for those in need we will be recognized as true followers of Christ (cf. John 13:35; Matt 25:31- 46). This will be the criterion by which the authenticity of our eucharistic celebrations is judged” -Pope Saint John Paul II's Apostolic Letter, *Mane nobiscum Domine* (Stay with us, Lord), #28. ¹This paragraph is a digest of a reflection by Father Lawrence Mick, 2011.

General Intercessions

L Let us pray to God in the name of Jesus, the Son of God.

1. Move us to be responsible, honest and fair in our choices and decisions. We pray.
2. Let us not forget that there are those among us who are hungry, thirsty, without clothing or shelter. We pray.
3. Comfort those who are physically ill, those in pain because of broken relationships, and those living with a debilitating condition. We pray.
4. Grant us the gifts needed to choose to provide for the common good by making choices founded on the way and manner of Jesus. We pray.

Sitting at the Table with Christ Jesus (A spiritual communion)

L Christ Jesus, sacramentally present to us all our days . . . take us by the hand today and show us what You would have us do. Every day we are besieged by the hurting problems out of the dysfunction of the environment we created in Your creation. We confess that often we simply tune out the troubles in order to survive. We wonder how You were able to move through the madness in the world of our making without being crushed. Most of us have not learned to do that.

So bring us back today to our real purpose and our real task. Sometimes the needs are under our own roof, sometimes down the street—too often in faraway lands with pinched starving faces we will never see. Show us the least of these. Show us how to reach out as You did.
Amen.

Closing

A In the name of the Father . . .



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