

November 25-26, 2017

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King

Ezekiel 34:11-17

First Corinthians 15:20-28

Matthew 25:31-46

The last King many of us may remember was King George from whom our colonial heritage broke away back in that little dispute called the Revolutionary War. Resulting in a diminished empire for England and a fledgling nation, the notion of Kings and Queens sounds very European and not very American....yet, woven within the Roman Catholic qualities of American spirituality is this CLOSING weekend of our Liturgical Year when we are asked to look upon Jesus not as merely the Good Shepherd or Healer or Miracle Worker or Wonder Counselor or God Hero...but as our KING. Appropriately enough, occurring as it does in November, the imagery speaks of the END TIMES (for which we hopefully are individually preparing) and a final judgment on our worthiness to 'inherit the kingdom prepared for us from the foundation of the world.' Interestingly, the 'rules' of admittance/inheritance are not how beautiful or healthy our bodies have become, nor how big our investment portfolios are nor the universities we may have attended. The measure of entry to heaven, according to Jesus, is how much we have EMPTIED ourselves to be of service to the hungry, abandoned, thirsty, naked, ill and imprisoned. Have these been our PREMIER pursuits while living our lives, overlying our tending of personal pursuits, family and individual goals. Have ALL our pursuits had a primary direction of outreach to those on the material/spiritual/emotional/physical fringes? Have we honored our King by living as he has asked....or have we run amok, feigning ignorance of those around us? With the arrival of this Solemnity of Christ the King, another year has come and gone...and with some degree of luck, good health and avoidance of regrettable accidents, another year of opportunity lies before us with next weekend's beginning of Advent. Based on Jesus' criteria, have our lives merited us our promised inheritance...or not? Looking to the future, what might we want to change, adopt, vary, renew or initiate so as, at the end of our days, to be welcomed by Jesus with a HUGE smile and an outstretched hand gesturing us to come inside?

With final remnants of turkey, stuffing and pie perhaps still hiding within our refrigerators, thank you for sharing this time of Mass, praise and community with our Santa Clara community. Please take special note of our Children/Family Faith Formation ADVENT event next Sunday following the Noon Mass...open to **everyone and anyone**. Our Advent RECONCILIATION Service is Tuesday, December 5th at 7pm and on December 7th there will be a 5pm Vigil for the Immaculate Conception with December 8th Masses at 8:30am and the SFA School Mass (open to all) at 9:30am. Please see the Bulletin for other events and schedules...and as the old liturgical year comes to a close...please remember, you are loved.
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