

November 23-24, 2019

The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ The King

Second Samuel 5:1-3

Colossians 1:12-20

Luke 23:35-43

What began last December now comes to a close with the festival day of CHRIST THE KING. An entire year of hearing and experiencing the story of Jesus of Nazareth concludes...not with an enthronement or a golden crown but with the image of Christ crucified. Yet, even as he hangs upon the Cross, Jesus welcomes people to eternity: 'This day you will be with me in paradise.' A week from now, after filling our bellies with Thanksgiving delights and emptying our pockets in the madness of Black Friday, a fresh YEAR OF FAITH will be inaugurated as the candles of Advent help us prepare to HEAR THE STORY OF JESUS AS IF WE HAD NEVER HEARD IT BEFORE; thus the cycle continues, one year ends and another is at the starting gate. Perhaps a few more personal aches and pains, perhaps a new child or grandkid or even a change in job or lifestyle, as we take an accounting of what this past year has brought us, how have we more deeply embraced the person of Jesus? Have we gained a new insight or two into our relationship with him? Have we sat in silence awaiting his guidance? Has the weekly reception of Jesus' Body and Blood strengthened us or has this past year wounded our faith or our trust in God's presence? As this year of journeying with Jesus comes to a close, how are YOU different from whom YOU were last year at this time? Our social rituals demand our attention but before we give ourselves wholly to pies, turkeys and stuffing, one last question: has this past year helped or hindered you in sharing paradise with Jesus?

Thank you for sharing this pre-Thanksgiving weekend with our Santa Clara community. **CONCERN-Third World Hand Arts** are on site for your shopping pleasure, perhaps some hostess gifts or stocking stuffers for the coming holidays? If you adopted one of the Immaculate Heart of Mary families, please return your WRAPPED Christmas gifts this week so our team can make sure everyone will receive gifts. Fresh beginnings are soon to be ours with next weekend's First Sunday of Advent but before we start lighting the purple and rose candles, may your Thanksgiving be a time of contentment, may your heart be filled in greater measure than your stomach and may you savor the memories of family and friends who have helped you be whom you are....and please remember, you are loved! Happy Thanksgiving!!