

Sunday, Nov 25, 2018

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

By whose authority

Every instance of bad leadership reinforces the vital importance of good leaders. In church and in government, at work and at home, we need people of wisdom and vision to take us into the future. Leaders must lead, not merely from a platform or agenda, but with a profound respect for the common good as an unshakable principle. Championing the common good makes families more holy, workplaces more just, societies more civil, and governments more noble. What kind of world do we want to live in? At what kind of authority will we bend our knees?

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 7:13-14; Revelation 1:5-8; John 18:33b-37 (161). "So Pilate said to him, 'Then you are a king?'"

Monday, Nov 26, 2018

Generosity is not for sale

Strolling through the crooked, crowded, exciting streets of the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem, you'll see vendors hawking every imaginable treasure. Spices from the Orient, silks from India, beauty products made with Dead Sea salts, prayer shawls of every description. You can buy almost anything there, including "the widow's mite," according to the sandwich board in front of an archeologically minded coin shop. Whether or not the coins are authentic to the time of Jesus, the one thing you can never acquire from any shop is the spirit of generosity that humble woman in the gospel story demonstrated. Is your generosity big enough to impress Jesus?

TODAY'S READINGS: Revelation 14:1-3, 4b-5; Luke 21:1-4 (503). "I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest."

Tuesday, Nov 27, 2018

Time's up

At the close of each church year, Catholics get a little apocalyptic in their focus. While it's in the fine print of mortality that someday we'll face the final hour of this life, it's a thought we keep under wraps most of the time. Yet the hour of the Reaper is coming: How prepared are you to be "reaped"? The church invites you to practice the daily examination of conscience to consider the harvest of each day, both the chaff and the grain of your efforts. (Search on "examination of conscience" online for some options.) Consider today: What fruits have you gathered to present to the Lord?

TODAY'S READINGS: Revelation 14:14-19; Luke 21:5-11 (504). "Use your sickle and reap the harvest, for the time to reap has come."

Wednesday, Nov 28, 2018

Walk the walk and you will talk the talk

As we approach Advent, we already begin to hear talk of preparing for Christ's coming—making ourselves ready. And of course we have gospels full of warnings to "Be prepared," "Keep vigil," "Bring oil for your lamps," "You know not the day nor the hour." But when it comes to defending our faith at the end times, Jesus tells us to not prepare our testimony in advance. Huh? Apparently we're to get busy putting our faith into action now, and when the time comes for putting it into words, we can rely on the wisdom of the Spirit to help us out.

TODAY'S READINGS: Revelation 15:1-4; Luke 21:12-19 (505). "I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking."

Thursday, Nov 29, 2018

Put an end to gloom and doom

Each new generation has its heralds of doom reading signs in every calamity that the end is near. But rest assured, the end-times are not our concern. Our commission is to stand amid the chaos and "give birth to a dancing star," to quote Nietzsche at his poetical best. Our choice is always to embrace life—a gift freely given to us by One who loves us. So ignore those who speak the language of scarcity and gloom. They want you to live small, fear-filled lives. "Stand erect," Jesus says. "Drink from my cup." Do this, and you will be satisfied and most surely saved.

TODAY'S READINGS: Revelation 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a; Luke 21:20-28 (506). "Stand erect and raise your hands because your redemption is at hand."

Friday, Nov 30, 2018

FEAST OF ANDREW, APOSTLE

Cast a wide net

In the gospels, Andrew is portrayed as a simple fisherman who brought others to Jesus. He brought forward the boy with the five loaves and two fishes. He brought his brother Simon the news, "We have found the Messiah." In Jerusalem, he introduced some Greek men who wanted to meet Jesus and speak to him. Later, he was a missionary said to have traveled widely before being martyred on a cross in the shape of an X. Because of the belief that Andrew preached in Scotland, the Scottish put his cross on their flag. While few of us will be remembered on national flags, all of us can be remembered as people who did our best to introduce others to the healing message of Jesus.

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22 (684). "Immediately they left their nets and followed him."

Saturday, Dec 01, 2018

MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Ours were the wounds he bore

People throw parties when it's time to celebrate. But grief and loss are private places we often go alone. How comforting to know that Mary our Mother went all of those places ahead of us and is waiting there to enfold us in mercy and consolation! Pick up a rosary today and pray the Sorrowful Mysteries for those who are suffering alone and unseen: in places of humiliation and condemnation, in sickness and disability, in mourning and loneliness, and especially at the hour of death.

TODAY'S READINGS: Revelation 22:1-7; Luke 21:34-36 (508). "Be vigilant at all times."

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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