



# Time to PREP

- For Class
- For the Week
- For Yourself

WEEK #8 – November 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Gospel for November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021**  
**The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King**  
**(Thirty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time)**  
**John 18:33b-37**

*Pilate said to Jesus,  
"Are you the King of the Jews?"  
Jesus answered, "Do you say this on your own  
or have others told you about me?"  
Pilate answered, "I am not a Jew, am I?  
Your own nation and the chief priests handed you over to me.  
What have you done?"  
Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world.  
If my kingdom did belong to this world,  
my attendants would be fighting  
to keep me from being handed over to the Jews.  
But as it is, my kingdom is not here."  
So Pilate said to him, "Then you are a king?"  
Jesus answered, "You say I am a king.  
For this I was born and for this I came into the world,  
to testify to the truth.  
Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice."*

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**The Eucharist as thanksgiving**

*The Catholic Spirit, Fr. Michael Van Sloun, Nov.20, 2018*



*"You have no idea how many people have told me, "I don't get anything out of Mass." I am quick to reply, "You have it backwards. You don't come to Mass to get something. You come to Mass to give something, and that something is your thanks to our good and gracious God for the blessings that you have received."*

*...After we receive holy Communion and Christ is really present to us in an intensified sacramental way, it is a perfect time to have a chat with the Lord, to mention a few of the blessings we have received over the past week, and to tell Jesus just how grateful we are. All we have is from God, and without God we would have nothing. It is an empty argument to say, "I don't get anything out of Mass." We go because we owe God our praise and thanks."*

*We are grateful for you... your time, your patience, your generosity and the gift of your faith which you share with our families and especially your students. We wish you and your family a very happy, healthy and peaceful Thanksgiving.*

*~ Love, Debbie, Terri, Sue & Andrea*



## **Background on the Gospel Reading**

This Sunday is the last Sunday of the Church's liturgical year. On this Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. Each year we set aside this Sunday to reflect upon this title that we have given to Jesus. In Lectionary Cycle C, we read a portion of the passion from the Gospel of John, which is also part of the Gospel reading proclaimed each year on Good Friday.

In John's Gospel, Pilate is shown in a more favorable light than in the other Gospels. In today's reading, we hear one of two dialogues between Jesus and Pilate that are reported in John's Gospel. Pilate questions Jesus about the charges brought against him. Caiaphas and the high priests have charged Jesus with a political crime, one that would require a punishment of death. Pilate distances himself from the Jewish leaders who accuse Jesus; he is not a Jew, and he seems to want little to do with this Jewish affair.

In his responses to Pilate's questions, Jesus distinguishes his kingdom from the political powers of this world. King and kingdom may be appropriate terms for Jesus' mission and promise, but only by analogy. Jesus is king, but not the kind of king we imagine or expect. He was certainly not the kind of king Pilate feared he might be.



Jesus refers to a kingdom that does not belong to this world. This has been mentioned earlier in John's Gospel. Recall that in his prayer during the Last Supper discourse (see [John 17:6-18](#)), Jesus prayed for his disciples who are in the world but do not belong to the world. Yet like Jesus, they are sent into the world for the world's salvation. In today's reading, we see Jesus identify the final proof that his kingdom is not of this world: If his kingdom were of this world, then there would be people fighting to save him. Again we hear echoes of John's theme—salvation is worked out through a cosmic battle. It is helpful to return to the first chapter of John's Gospel to understand the context for Jesus' words to Pilate. Jesus came into the world, but the world did not know him. In John's language, the world prefers the darkness, and yet the light will not be overcome by the darkness.

Truth has been another important theme in John's Gospel. We see it emphasized in the conclusion of the dialogue between Jesus and Pilate. Those who know the truth will recognize Jesus as king and will know how to interpret this insight. Yet Jesus' kingship was hidden from many of his contemporaries. Only those chosen, those who have the eyes of faith, are able to see. As modern disciples of Jesus, we also struggle at times to recognize Jesus as king. Today's Gospel invites us to see with eyes of faith that we might recognize that Jesus, through his crucifixion and death, is indeed king and Savior of all.

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### **PLEASE PRAY FOR...**

- ♥ *Father of Lori Donelan (T3A Catechist);*
- ♥ *Daughter of Erin Kelleher (R1A Catechist) who is recovering from surgery;*
- ♥ *Marilyn Harmyk (Conf Facilitator) who is recovering from surgery.*
- ♥ *Family member of Betsey Conway (T4A Catechist);*
- ♥ *PREP catechists, students and families;*