





How fitting it is to celebrate the **Solemnity of Christ the King** today. It is the thirty-fourth week of the season known as Ordinary Time and next Sunday it will be the start of Advent. By acknowledging Christ as King today, we understand it to mean that Jesus reigns over all – everything, that is – in creation (visible and invisible). Nothing stands outside His victory over the Cross. As Saint Irenaeus (d. 202) would say, Jesus recapitulates all of history. No one has parity with Him. And in the wisdom found in the liturgical calendar, we turn right around (one week later) and get ready to welcome Him (Advent) in the Incarnation.

Next Sunday, we begin our Advent observance. It will be a short **Advent** this year, starting with the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December and concluding with the Fourth Sunday of the season on December 24<sup>th</sup>. It is a compressed Advent this year but it is Advent. And that means waiting, waiting for the King to be born of a Virgin. And there isn't a better way to wait than by coming to Mass every Sunday and planning to use the Sacrament of Penance. In this column, I will make some comments on the Sacrament of Forgiveness beginning now and continuing until the Eve of Christmas.

To begin these remarks on the **Sacrament of Confession**, let me advert to an expression used around Christ and Christmas and it is this: Christ is the reason for the season. It's that we might focus singularly on the Lord and not on peripheral aspects. The Incarnation is the Word taking on flesh – to be like us in all things but sin. To take on sin, Jesus has to defeat it, and that happens with His death on the Cross. As Saint Paul tells us in the New Testament, the wages of sin is death. We are all sinners and we are all going to die. To put a finer point on it, when we sin, we die. We need Someone Who will save us from our sins and from death, and that is Christ; in fact, it is ONLY Christ Who can do that. Jesus **reconciles** us with Our Heavenly Father.

The Sacrament which has the power to reconcile us with Our Heavenly Father is the **Sacrament of Penance**. Given to us by Christ Himself, we use this Sacrament to deepen our communion with the Triune God. What Jesus does for us as the Son, the Holy Spirit prepares our hearts and minds and souls to receive what God gives us each time the Sacrament is celebrated. And that of course would be contrition, a firm purpose of amendment and penance. To be continued in successive issues of this column.

Our next **Holy Hour** is Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. It starts at 7:00 PM in the church when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed for adoration until 8:00 PM. We close out the hour with Benediction. Our hour with the Eucharistic Lord includes the proclamation of the Word of God, preaching, and reflection on that preached Word. There is also ample opportunity for personal prayer in silence. All are invited to join us.

We celebrate **Lessons and Carols** on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 PM in the church. This is the third time we are having this service as a way of readying ourselves for Christmas. Please note the time. It has been moved earlier in the afternoon to avoid the darkness of the late afternoon. There is a reception immediately after the service in the church basement or auditorium. All are invited to join us.

The Pastor will **meet with the ushers** on Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in the pastoral center building. Ushers from all four of our weekend Masses are asked to attend. It will not last more than 45 minutes. We will take up a consideration of proper coverage and finding replacements when there are expected absences. Thank you for your cooperation, as always.

Before the Second Sunday of Advent, the Church has a **Holy Day of Obligation** on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Masses are offered at 9:00 AM and 7:30 PM. We celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception that day. We pray the Eucharistic Liturgy as we ponder the sinless character of the Blessed Virgin Mary who disposed herself to make God's will her own will. Our Lady is the exemplar for us of how to discern an obedience to the Word of God.

Blessings to one and all for the Advent season.

Until the next time.

Msgr. Batule  
Pastor



**The mission of Tomorrow's Hope Foundation is to ensure the excellence as well as the continuance of Catholic schools on Long Island by increasing awareness and by providing scholarship and program funding for the needs of students and schools.**

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*TODAY'S CHILDREN ARE TOMORROW'S HOPE!*



## Advent Holy Hour Adoration & Benediction



Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>  
7pm ~ 8pm

## Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception



Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>  
Masses at 9:00 am and 7:00 pm



## Lessons and Carols

**Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> ~ 2:30 PM in the church.**

*We invite all parishioners to join us. The service consists of biblical readings and hymns as we await the birth of Our Savior.*

*The Music Ministry will lead us in the singing portion of the prayer service.*

***Hospitality will be held immediately following in the auditorium. All are welcome !***



### St. Margaret's Spousal Bereavement

Both individual and group bereavement counseling services are available for those who are mourning the loss of their husband or wife. All confidential sessions are held on a weekly basis and participants need not be St. Margaret's parishioners. For more information please contact

Barbara Gottfried at (631) 698-6053



### Heart of the Island Council Knights of Columbus

*The Knights of Columbus is a membership organization founded by Fr. McGivney in 1882 on the principles of Charity, Unity & Fraternity. The members of our local council serve in many ministries of the Church. Prospective members call Tom Piderit at 631-682-8711.*

We ask parishioners and church-goers at Saint Margaret to check the bulletin boards in church if they are unsure when Second Collections are taken up in the parishes of the Diocese of Rockville Centre. We do not make announcements during the Church's liturgies about second collections.

### Bible Study Group

Bible Study group meets every Wednesday from 10am to 11am in the parish center. Deacon Ed Hayes will be the facilitator.

Please bring your Bible.



### New Parishioner?

#### Moving out of the parish?

Kindly fill out the form below—drop it in collection basket or mail to Parish Center. It will help us keep our files up-to-date and welcome newcomers

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

New Parishioner \_\_\_\_\_ Moving \_\_\_\_\_

### Hands Needed!

Our Music Ministry is in need of someone to assist in placing the words on our screen during Mass. All that is required is clicking the next screen with one button. Please see Dan, our Music Minister, after Mass or call at 631-732-3131 x117.

Prayerfully Consider

**Sunday, Nov 26, 2023****Save the best for last**

The film industry has always had a love affair with the afterlife. From *It's a Wonderful Life* to *Heaven Can Wait* to *Ghost* to *Flatliners*, stories remind us that our choices in this world have ramifications in the next. More recent shows—*Dead Like Me*, *The Good Life*, *After Life*, and *Hotel del Luna* among many others—are less traditionally religious but no less curious about what comes next. Every culture and generation seems to sense the need for spirit guides and guardians, as well as justice and an hour of reckoning. As the church year closes, contemplate the ledger of your years. Does it add up to a heavenly ending?

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17; 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28; Matthew 25:31-46 (160). *"He will answer them, 'Amen, I say to you, what you did not do for one of these least ones, you did not do for me.'"*

**Monday, Nov 27, 2023****Conversion can be revolutionary**

British poet Alice Meynell, who died on this day in 1922, converted to Catholicism while recovering from chronic illness, and her writing thereafter turned to religious subjects. She married a Catholic newspaper publisher and founded a Catholic suffragist organization. When a British priest preached against giving women the right to vote because it would risk "bringing a revolution of the first magnitude," Meynell replied, "...the vaster the magnitude of the revolution, the better." One hundred years after her death, the struggle for equality continues. How do the teachings of Jesus inform your work for justice?

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 1:1-6, 8-20; Luke 21:1-4 (503). *"She, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood."*

**Tuesday, Nov 28, 2023****Little lamb, who made thee?**

Happy birthday to the English poet William Blake, born this day in 1757. Though not Catholic, he's inspired great Catholic poets and many of his poems—like "Jerusalem"—became hymns. Trappist monk Thomas Merton wrote his master's thesis on Blake, emphasizing his spiritual significance in *Seven Storey Mountain*: "His rebellion ... was fundamentally the rebellion of the saints. It was the rebellion of the lover of the living God, the rebellion of the one whose desire of God was so intense and irresistible that it condemned, with all its might, all the hypocrisy and petty sensuality and skepticism and materialism" of organized religion. Pray for all who search for God but find obstacles in religious institutions—and enjoy Blake's "The Lamb."

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 2:31-45; Luke 21:5-11 (504). *"Jesus said, 'All that you see here—the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down.'"*

**Wednesday, Nov 29, 2023****Gracious encounters of the digital kind**

Did you buy anything on Cyber Monday? Did you make a charitable donation yesterday, on Giving Tuesday? Whether you did or not, this week's digital focus continues today, which is recognized as Electronic Greetings Day. Pope Francis' 2020

encyclical *Fratelli Tutti* considers how the internet is a powerful tool and how it's our job to use it in a way that makes the world better. "We need constantly to ensure that present-day forms of communication are in fact guiding us to generous encounter with others," he writes. Make time today to send an encouraging email or ecard to someone who needs to hear from you.

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28; Luke 21:12-19 (505). *"The writing I will read for you, O king, and tell you what it means."*

**Thursday, Nov 30, 2023****Be a first responder**

Is there an Andy, Andre, or Andrea in your life? Whether they know it or not, they bear the name of the Apostle Andrew, one of the fishermen Jesus famously called to be "fishers of men." The Eastern church recognizes Andrew as the first to be called by Jesus. Tradition has it that Andrew was crucified on an X-shaped cross because he felt unworthy to die on a cross identical to Christ's. Andrew led the way in accepting Jesus' invitation to follow him. How will your life today respond to that invitation?

FEAST OF ANDREW, APOSTLE

TODAY'S READINGS: Romans 10:9-18; Matthew 4:18-22 (684). *"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."*

**Friday, Dec 01, 2023****Compassionate in the face of controversy**

St. Vincent Medical Center in Manhattan, now closed, was in the eye of the AIDS epidemic storm of the 1980s and 1990s. A Catholic hospital run by the Sisters of Charity, St. Vincent opened its doors to care for those who were sick and dying from AIDS. Some staff disagreed with this stance and left. But not the sisters. They stayed true to Jesus' command to care for the suffering, especially those cast aside by society. They entered into dialogue with the gay community, activists, and hospital administrators to better understand their patients and how best to serve them. May we remember their unwavering commitment and compassion—and do likewise.

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 7:2-14; Luke 21:29-33 (507). *"Know that the Kingdom of God is near."*

**Saturday, Dec 02, 2023****Be a freedom fighter**

The term *modern slavery* covers practices such as forced labor, debt bondage, forced marriage, and human trafficking ... situations of exploitation enforced by violence, coercion, or deception. Here's the shocking news: Modern slavery has increased significantly in the past five years. Ten million more people, largely women and children, were trapped in modern slavery in 2021 compared to 2016, bringing the total estimate to 50 million worldwide. Our God is a God of freedom, who releases us from bondage of all kinds. On this U.N. International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, raise your voice in a phone call, email, or letter to elected officials. Let's put an end to this!

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 7:15-27; 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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# Calling all Children! Christmas Play Saturday December 9th at 1pm

The children of Saint Margaret’s parish prepare a gift for the Christ Child. They honor His birth by retelling the Christmas story for their family, friends and all of our parishioners.

***Speaking parts (3<sup>rd</sup> grade & up) ~***

*Rehearsals are 6—7pm*

*November 3, 7, 9, 15, 17, 21,*

*December 1, 4,*

*Dress Rehearsal December 7*

***Cast Party to Follow Pageant***

## Faith Formation

### 2023/2024 Minutes with the Pastor/Director

<u>Date</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Level</u>
11/26	—1&2	1/21	—1&2	3/10	—1&2	5/5	—1&2
12/ 3	—6&7	1/28	—6&7	3/17	—6&7	5/12	—6&7
12/10	—3,4&5	2/4	—3,4&5	4/ 7	—2,3&4	5/19	—3,4&5
12/17	—1&2	2/11	—1&2	4/14	—1&2		
1/7	—6&7	2/25	—6&7	4/21	—6&7		
1/14	—3,4&5	3/3	—3,4&5	4/28	—3,4&5		



## Parish Social Ministry

### Food Pantry Needs

PLEASE bring all donations to the front door of the Parish Center during office hours or bring to the box in the rear of the Church.

*We are in need of Toothpaste, Bar Soap, Peanut Butter, Cereal, Shampoo, Toilet Paper and Grape Jelly*

***A very special THANK YOU to all!***

