

Fr. Simon Sez

Today, we celebrate the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe. In our second reading of St. Paul to the Colossians, he tells us to give thanks to the Father for delivering us from the power of darkness and transferring us to the kingdom of his beloved Son. Through Jesus Christ everything in heaven and earth was created and now reconciled through the blood of the cross. “He is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he himself might be preeminent.” Jesus Christ is our Head and our King. He must have primacy in every aspect of our lives.

In the Gospel reading we are given the account of the people jeering at Jesus as he hangs on the cross with the inscription hanging above his head, “This is the King of the Jews.” Two criminals are crucified with Him. One reviled Jesus. The other rebuked him saying, “Have you no fear of God, for you are subject to the same condemnation?”

Do we recognize Jesus as our King, giving Him primacy in every aspect of our lives? Do we fear God by giving Him reverence and due praise and worship? Do we realize the condemnation justly ours if we are separate from Christ our Savior and His Body, the Church. If so, then, we are ready to beg the Lord like the “good” thief to remember us by welcoming us into His Kingdom not only upon our death but here and now on earth as we enter into His Church. We do this by repentance and forgiveness of our sins in Baptism and Penance and by giving Him due praise and worship every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation at Mass in church. Realizing this great gift of redemption our hearts fill with joy with the Psalmist of today as we join in with him proclaiming the refrain, “Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.”

Diocese Announcements: For a full list of upcoming events and available Church ministries visit the diocese website www.sfcatholic.org. Catholic Family Services offers a full range of counseling services at many locations around the diocese. If you or someone in your family is in need of some assistance, call 1-800-700-7867 for an appointment.

IRA Charitable Tax Advantage: Each IRA owner over age 72 can make an IRA charitable rollover that is tax-free and not included in adjusted gross income. An IRA charitable rollover may fulfill your required minimum distribution (RMD.) Our parishes are grateful for the financial gifts that you share with us. Call David Vetch at 605-218-0072 or email dvetch@ccfesd.org for more information.

Kingdom of the Son: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Solemnity of Christ the King



2 Samuel 5:1–3, Psalm 122:1–5
Colossians 1:12–20, Luke 23:35–43

Week by week, the Liturgy has been preparing us for the revelation to be made on this, the last Sunday of the Church year.

Jesus, we have been shown, is truly the Chosen One, the Messiah of God, the King of the Jews. Ironically, in today’s Gospel we hear these names on the lips of those who don’t believe in Him—Israel’s rulers, the soldiers, a criminal dying alongside Him.

They can only see the scandal of a bloodied figure nailed to a cross. They scorn Him in words and gestures foretold in Israel’s Scriptures (see Psalm 22:7–9; 69:21–22; Wisdom 2:18–20). If He is truly King, God will rescue Him, they taunt. But He did not come to save Himself, but to save them—and us.

The good thief shows us how we are to accept the salvation He offers us. He confesses his sins and acknowledges he deserves to die for them. And he calls on the name of Jesus, seeking His mercy and forgiveness.

By his faith he is saved. Jesus “remembers” him—as God has always remembered His people, visiting them with His saving deeds, numbering them among His chosen heirs (see Psalm 106:4–5).

By the blood of His cross, Jesus reveals His Kingship—not in saving His own life, but in offering it as a ransom for ours. He transfers us to “the kingdom of His beloved Son,” as today’s Epistle tells us.

His kingdom is the Church, the new Jerusalem and House of David that we sing of in today’s Psalm.

By their covenant with David in today’s First Reading, Israel’s tribes are made one “bone and flesh” with their king. By the New Covenant made in His blood, Christ becomes one flesh with the people of His kingdom—the head of His body, the Church (see Ephesians 5:23–32).

We celebrate and renew this covenant in every Eucharist, giving thanks for our redemption, hoping for the day when we too will be with Him in Paradise.