

Our Lord Jesus Christ the King

November 25, 2007

I rejoiced because they said to me, "We will go up to the house of the LORD."

-Psalm 122:1

KINGSHIP

The book of Samuel recounts for us today the anointing of David as king of Israel. It was the elders of Israel who declared David king that day, but it was God who called David to shepherd Israel. Thus mandated by the citizens of his kingdom and by his God, David took his place in a long line of kings.

The apostle Paul speaks to us of kingship as well, but on a much higher plane: the kingship of Jesus our Lord. As great as David was, he and all earthly monarchs who came before and after him in their kingdoms around the world are minor kings by comparison to the true King. And lastly, we hear the story of that true King in perhaps his weakest moment: near death, hanging on a cross, taunted by a common criminal and by the world at large.

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK: 25 NOVEMBER

Theme: In Christ, everything continues in being.

Adults: As you think about Jesus on the cross, having compassion for "the good thief," what lesson do you draw from it for your own life?

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5
Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14
Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Michelle Degmetich	Wendy Semon	Margaret Vandergrift	Bob Nute
David J. Brown	Robert Battaglia	Kay De Prima	Terry Roy
Barbara Richmond	Bob Hess	Mary Sparks	Harry Thomas
William Henshaw	Rita Arce	Dan Moriarty	Bill Wart
Schuyler Haynes-Binstock	Art & Rosie Velasco	Larry & Ann Davis	Marcia Garcia
Bonnie Thibault			

"Table of Plenty" Food Ministry ~ Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who has shown a great deal of support to Table of Plenty over the past month. We were experiencing a shortage of food and funds and asked for additional support from the parish. We were pleasantly surprised that as a result of one article in the bulletin many generous parishioners came forward and offered additional help. The donations kept coming in, and Table of Plenty was able to continue providing food to families in need. Also, the food ministry now has ties with a new food bank and is able to purchase food from them at a very low price. We sincerely appreciate all the prayers and generosity that put us in a position to continue serving those in need. Thank you for helping us share the love of Christ in a very practical way.

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink...I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me."
Matthew 25:35,40

Readings for the Week

Monday: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20; Lk 21:1-4
Tuesday: Dn 2:31-45; Lk 21:5-11
Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28;
Lk 21:12-19
Thursday: Dn 6:12-28; Lk 21:20-28
Friday: Rom 10:9-18; Mt 4:18-22
Saturday: Dn 7:15-27; Lk 21:34-36
Sunday: Is 2:1-5; Ps 122; Rom 13:11-14; Mt 24:37-44

Annual Christmas Boutique and Bake Sale

The Ladies of STM Guild's annual Christmas Boutique and Bake Sale will be held on

Saturday, December 1 from 8am until 6:30pm and on Sunday, December 2 from 8am until 1pm in the Church Hall.



Please plan to view a variety of baked goods, candies, jams, and gift items offered for sale.

Raffle tickets for some great prizes will also be available.

Missal reading for November 25th is located on page 90.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, November 25

Our Lord Christ the King
No Coffee and Donuts
See's Candy for sale by KOC after all Masses

Monday, November 26

5:30pm K.O.C. Monday Night Football, main hall
7:00pm Midnight Mass Choir, Church

Tuesday, November 27

1:00pm Basic Computer Class, Computer Lab
1:00pm Psalms Spiritual meeting, small conf. room
6:30pm Peace and Social Justice, small conf. room

Wednesday, November 28

9:30am Mothers and Others, small conf. room
Noon Hot Lunch, main hall
1:00pm 49+ singles, main hall
2:00pm Faith Formation Family Session, main hall
7:00pm Joyful Noise Music Practice, church
7:00pm Breath of the Spirit Prayer Group, library

Thursday, November 29

9:15am Legion of Mary, small conf. room
9:15am Scripture Class, small hall
7:00pm Scripture Class, small hall
7:00pm RCIA Inquiry, small conf. room

Friday, November 30

St. Andrew
9:30am Intercessory Prayer Group
3:00pm Children's Choir Rehearsal, church

Saturday, December 1

Last Day of Ordinary Time
Blessed Virgin Mary; First Saturday
Mother's & Others Children's Gift Collection after Mass
8:00am-6:30pm Ladies Guild Boutique, main hall
9:00am Secular Franciscan meeting, small conf. room
10:00am-First Reconciliation, church
7:30pm Mothers & Others Christmas Concert, church

Sunday, December 2

First Sunday of Advent
Mothers & Others Children's Gift Collection, after Masses
Coffee and Donuts, Ladies Guild
8:00am-1:00pm Ladies Guild Boutique



Happy New Year!

No, I am not early. This weekend we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King which marks the last Sunday of the liturgical year. Next Sunday we begin a new liturgical year. December 2nd is the first Sunday of Advent and the first Sunday of the Year of the Lord.

The Liturgical Seasons

Anchor Dates

The anchor dates of the calendar are Christmas, December 25th, and the first full moon after March 20th. All other dates relate to these.

Advent is the first season of the year. The second period of Ordinary Time is the last season of the year.

A Note on Liturgical Days

We usually consider a day to begin at midnight and run 24 hours. However, for the liturgy Catholics have adopted a different way of counting the day when it comes to Holy Days of Obligation.

On Holy Days of Obligation we use the Jewish method of counting the beginning of a day. For the Jews a day begins at sunset. At the setting of the sun and the coming of darkness, they considered the day to have ended and a new day to have begun.

For us, this means we can celebrate Sunday Mass on Saturday evening, at 5:00. This is called the Vigil Mass and is considered a Sunday Mass because by the Jewish tradition a new day has begun. All Sundays are Holy Days of Obligation.

This rule allows us to celebrate Christmas as early as our Vigil or Children's Mass which occurs at 5:00 pm Christmas Eve, or as late as a Christmas night Mass the evening of Christmas Day.

Since the day after Christmas is not a Holy Day of Obligation, that day does not begin until midnight and Christmas is thus extended, from the evening of the previous day until midnight on Christmas Day. In effect it extends the hours during which we may celebrate Christmas to 32 hours instead of 24. (In some places Mass is allowed as early as 4:00 pm.)

When the Holy Day of Obligation falls on Saturday, the Mass for the holy day must be held before Saturday evening as that is always a Mass for Sunday, itself a Holy Day of Obligation.

Liturgical Year Dates

Advent: (December 2nd – December 24th)

Begins 4th Sunday before Christmas.
Ends on December 24th.

Christmas (December 25th - January 13th)*

Begins with Christmas Vigil on Dec. 24th.
Ends on the 3rd - Sunday Baptism of the Lord.

Ordinary Time 1 (January 14th – February 5th)

Begins on the Monday after the Baptism of the Lord.
Ends the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.

Lent (February 6th – March 20th)

Begins on Ash Wednesday which is 40 days before
Easter, not including Sundays.
Ends on the Saturday before Easter.

Triduum (March 20th - 22nd)

The Thursday, Friday and Saturday before Easter
Vigil
Overlaps the Lenten Season and beginning of Easter.

Easter (March 24th – May 11th)

Easter Sunday is the Sunday following the Paschal
Full Moon, the full moon which first falls after
March 20th. The latest it would fall is April 25th.
The earliest it has fallen since 326 AD is March
22nd.
Ends after 50 days, including Sundays, on Pentecost
Sunday.

Ordinary Time 2 (May 12th – November 29th)

Begins on the Monday after Pentecost.
Ends on the Saturday before Advent.

Advent: (November 30th – December 24th)

The New Year Begins Again.

Non Sunday Holy Days of Obligation

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| January 1, | Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God; |
| August 15, | Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary; |
| November 1, | The Solemnity of All Saints; |
| December 8, | The Immaculate Conception; |
| December 25, | The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ. |

Note that every Sunday is a Holy Day of Obligation. It is our obligation to attend Church on these days and to keep these days holy. Sunday is a “mini Easter” celebrating the salvation found in Jesus Christ.

Why We Use the Liturgical Calendar

The Liturgical Calendar allows us to experience the different phases of our experience of Jesus. It gives our year a pattern that helps to build our faith as we re-experience Jesus through our faith practices. In a way it is the breath of the Church as it makes its way through our salvation experiences.

Understanding the Seasons

Advent: Advent brings us to the time before Jesus was born into the world, when the Jews looked for their Messiah. It also reminds us of our present state as we now look for the Messiah to return. Thus Advent folds time, looking back to a world that had not experienced the Son of God and how it anticipated Him, and looking to our own situation as we anxiously await His return.



Christmas: Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus. Note that we do not begin celebrating Christmas until Christmas Eve. When the rest of the world is exhausted from over commercialization and thinking ‘Thank God that is over,’ Catholics are just beginning to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of the Son of God, our Savior, because of God’s love for us.



Ordinary Time 1 (January 14th – February 5th):

Ordinary Time is when we do what is ordinary for Christians; we study the day to day life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Ordinary time is broken into two parts, the time before Lent and after Easter, but is really one season. We begin counting the Sundays in January (1st Sunday of Ordinary Time) until Lent and then continue that count after Easter as if it had not been interrupted.



Lent (February 6th – March 20th):

Lent is a time of preparation for the Resurrection by remembering how much Jesus Christ suffered for us. It is a time to remind ourselves we have much more than we need and the Son of God happily lived a very simple life which surrounded Him with people to share His love. It is a time in which we try to simplify our own lives, giving up things that are not necessary for a good life and offering up this sacrifice to join in the sacrifice of Jesus.



Christmas Tree Lighting The Town of Paradise is holding a Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at the new Paradise Community Park on December 2nd at 5pm. Our own STM children’s choir has been asked to help lead some of the singing.

Triduum (March 20th - 22nd):

The Triduum is three important holy days of the Church as it celebrates Holy Thursday (The Last Supper), Good Friday (The Crucifixion), and the Easter Vigil (the Resurrection.). All Catholics should make every effort to attend these events which are actually one celebration. We begin the celebration on Thursday and the dismissal is not given until after the Easter Vigil.



Easter (March 24th – May 11th)

Easter is the biggest and most important celebration of the Church. It is the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ and the life everlasting that it means for us. This celebration lasts a full 50 days until the celebration of Pentecost.



Ordinary Time 2 (May 12th – November 29th)

Ordinary Time picks up here where it left off before Lent. With the celebration of Pentecost Jesus hands off His mission to you and me, to the People of God, so we may continue to build His Kingdom on Earth.

Father Steven Joppiano

More Thanksgiving from St. Vincent de Paul

The annual report sent to Sacramento Council & National SVDP: 10.1.06 through 09.30.07

Total receipts	\$14,247.00
Total disbursements	\$13,280.00

People helped: 944 Hours of Service: 759 Rent \$5,716.
Un-reimbursed miles: 3,107 Transportation \$2,879
Utilities \$2,772 Lodging \$912 Safeway vouchers, yearly dues to National Council (\$150), operating expenses (\$133.).

The members of your SVDP Society gratefully acknowledge your donations which have made this possible. Please feel free to join us at our monthly meeting the second Wednesday of the month at 1pm. Call Jan Bolger at 872.2083 for more info..

Preparing for the Holidays

This year we hope you will use the Advent and Christmas seasons to plant the seeds of a gift which lasts forever. As Christians we need to realize the things that have meaning in this life are not found in the Malls or specialty stores. Isn't it time we lived by this reality and our religious holidays should build on these gifts?

This year try not to get caught up in all of the activity. All too often it leads to a stress filled holiday season that leads to a Christmas day not celebrated with joy but the climax of frantic

activity that leaves us with frayed nerves, short tempers, disappointment, and fatigue. Too often, instead of Christmas Day being a time to reflect on the gift of Jesus Christ, too many of us feel a relief it is all over and life can get back to normal.

This year why not change the pattern? Make this Christmas really special by making it about people, not things or processes. If the Christmas dinner is simpler and not perfect, if the gifts are not as many or as large as last year's, if the house does not look so beautiful, none of this will matter if it is a Christmas of the heart.

We can spend the season concentrating on decorating, cooking and shopping ... or we can cut back on these activities and make it about the people we love. The first option will lead to yet another in many Christmases that blend into the past. The latter option will result in stronger relationships, a more unified family, and memories that will last forever and make a real difference in people's lives.

Here are some ideas to make this holiday season great:

Stress family time together. Whether it is just the two of you or many kids are at home, insist on dinners together that are unrushed and uninterrupted by phones. Invite some single friends to join you.

If single, get out and visit. Hold a dinner party for friends or invite them in for tea and coffee. Invite someone to the movies. Look for someone in your same status and spend time together.

Cut back the shopping. Buy something personal that will indicate your care for the person and don't worry so much about spending enough or the number of gifts. Baked cookies can be wonderful gifts and family members can help you prepare them.

Remember the poor. A great family project would be to shop for a gift for a needy child. Find some way to share your bounty. That is the spirit of the season.

Remember the lonely. Look for ways to include singles in your family activities. Visit family members who are alone or invite them out for a movie, to your home for dinner, or just to spend some time together.

Pray together. This is a great season to begin a family tradition of prayer. Say a few standard prayers together and perhaps a reading from the bible. Don't forget the nativity story! Allow the children to pray for the needs they see.

Take time off together. This is a great time to go off on a family adventure, be it Christmas tree shopping, looking at the decorated houses, or some Christmas entertainment.

Attend Mass together. Christ is the reason for the season and Church is where we meet Christ in His real presence, in the Word, in the Sacraments, and in each other. Make sure all the family gets into the proper spirit by focusing on God. Church is an obligation but should be a joyful experience as well and one that gives great hope as well as community.

Encourage family projects. Too often members of the family go their own way. A family should do things together whether it's a project in the yard, preparing the house for guests, or something fun you can all do together.

Go on a date. If the kids are grown and you are a couple alone, go out on dates and treat each other as you would someone you are trying to impress. Make it fun but take it seriously. You are there to entertain each other and to rekindle that spark that brought you together the first time. If single and you don't have a date, invite a friend out.

Attend Church activities: There are many activities in the Church this time of year and you are welcome to join them. Check the bulletin each week to see what is going on.

Contemplate the reason for the season. This season is all about the birth of Christ. It is a wonderful gift from God, for God to be born as one of us. An even greater gift, our salvation and everlasting life. Remember this gift and see the generosity in others that reflects that gift. All love is a reflection of God's love. Imagine the love of one who would give us Jesus Christ. Remember the love demonstrated in that life.

God loves you!. Remember this love does not wait for us to be better Christians. The love of God is already upon us, even as He calls us to improve ourselves and follow the way of His Son. Share that love with those around you and allow them to share it with you.

Father Steven Foppiano



Time is running out! Please call the office for your appointment

to have your picture taken. You will receive a free 8" X 10" portrait as well as a free parish directory. Your participation also helps the parish to get more pages to display our activities and ministries. There is no hard sell and no obligation to buy anything.

The final two days are: **Friday, December 7th**, from **3:00 pm to 9:30 pm** and on **Saturday, December 8th**, from **10:00 am to 5:00 pm**. Please contact the office as soon as possible as appointment times are being filled in.

Christmas Benefit Concert Featuring Fret Not Gospel

The Fret Not Gospel Band will be performing on Saturday, December 1st from 7:30-9pm (doors open at 7) in our church. Fret Not plays old-time American roots gospel, from the traditions of the black and white rural churches, in the way done in the old days. The group believes in the excellence of old-time music and performs for charities and other worthy causes. Visit www.fretnotgospel.com.

This is a benefit concert for the Table of Plenty food ministry. Fret Not has graciously offered to travel from Oakland, play at no charge, and donate proceeds from CD sales to Table of Plenty. Non-perishable food items may be donated at the door and monetary donations will also be accepted during a collection for Table of Plenty. Admission is free~no tickets required.

Plan on attending the concert to begin this year's Christmas season with a lively evening of inspiring music, while supporting Table of Plenty and those it serves.

Sacrificial Donations November 17-18, 2007

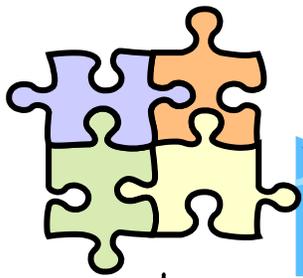
Sunday Collections	\$	5,459.00
Thanksgiving Baskets	\$	556.00
Youth Group	\$	60.00
Table of Plenty	\$	255.00
Human Development	\$	445.00
	\$	6,775.00

Thank you for your generosity!

Daily Mass Intentions November 24-December 2, 2007

Sat.	8:30am	Chuck Waelbrock †
	5:00pm	Holy Souls
Sun.	8:00am	Thomas Morris †
	10:30am	People of St. Thomas More
	5:00pm	Kimberly Mc Gregor †
Mon.	8:30am	Holy Souls
Tue.	8:30am	Holy Souls
Wed.	8:30am	Lisa White †
Thur.	8:30am	Holy Souls
Fri.	8:30am	Deceased Legion of Mary Members †
Sat.	8:30am	Gay Rodrigues †
	5:00pm	Intentions of Leo & Gertrude Valentine
Sun.	8:00am	People of St. Thomas More
	10:30am	Alfred Ulibarri †
	5:00pm	Mark Acuna †

† Denotes deceased †



Between the ROCK...and a Good Space

Volume III

Issue 4

"Today you will be with me in Paradise."

ROCK At-A-Glance

Sunday, 25 November
FEAST of CHRIST THE KING
10:30am — Children's Liturgy

2:30pm — The ROCK
Grades 9-12
5pm — ROCK...the Liturgy!

Monday, 26 November
6:30pm — The ROCK
Grades 7-12

Tuesday, 27 November
RCIC — Time Change!!!
5:30-6:30pm
HAPPY BIRTHDAY MELISSA!

Wednesday, 28 November
3:30-4:45
ADVENT FAMILY FAITH
FORMATION DAY!
3:30pm — Arrive to classroom
4:00pm — Family Formation
4:30pm — Closing Prayer
4:45pm — Dismissal

Thursday, 29 November
The ROCK
Grades 6-8

Friday — 30 November
3:44pm — MAGIS

Saturday, 1 December
10am — Faith Formation
FIRST RECONCILIATION!
2nd Graders/Families arrive
to church at 9:45am!

Sunday, 2 December
1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
10:30am — Children's Liturgy
2:30pm — The ROCK
Grades 9-12
5pm — ROCK...the Liturgy!
RITE OF ACCEPTANCE!

Got questions about Youth
Ministry at St. Thomas More?
Contact Colleen at 877.4554
colleen@stmparadise.com



NOVEMBER ALTAR OF REMEMBRANCE... Thanks to everyone who brought in pictures for the Altar of Remembrance this year! We will hopefully continue the tradition of collecting pictures of your departed family members, friends, and loved ones during November in 2008! We are a Catholic Christian community who are called to become part of the communion of saints — ordinary people who lived extraordinary lives!!! Let's continue to remember these special people throughout the entire year! Thank you!

THANK YOU to the 2007 Thanksgiving Basket Team!

Lauryn Gregorio	Michael Gregorio
Alysha Sanchez	Marissa Sanchez
Kendal Hasek	Savanna Stephens

...and the Hallmark (Card-Making and Blessing) Team:

Faith Formation Kindergarten Class Community
Faith Formation 1st Grade Class Community
Faith Formation 4th Grade Class Community
Junior High Faith Formation Team

...and thanks also to **Table of Plenty** and the **Knights of Columbus!**
REMEMBER THE IMPACT!!!



Congratulations to our big winner from the 6th grade who brought in the most money of all the participating young people (and beat out everyone else!) during the Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive — **JESSE BALLOU!!!** ROCK ON, Jesse!

SECRET ANGELS NEEDED to help supply Polaroid film for Christmas Carnival on 12/9!!! Please contact Colleen at 877-4554 if you can arrange to donate some film for our instant cameras!!!

WE ARE STILL SEEKING PRAYER SPONSORS for our 10 children and young people preparing for sacraments this year! Please contact Colleen at 877-4554 to be assigned someone to pray for!

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: 25 NOVEMBER

Theme: *In Christ, everything continues in being.*

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5
Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14
Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

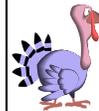
Adults: As you think about Jesus on the cross, having compassion for "the good thief," what lesson do you draw from it for your own life?

Young People: In the end, as today's Gospel shows, Jesus never seems to stop forgiving. In your life, what role does forgiveness play? How have you learned to forgive others?

Children: Jesus is always kind to those who love him. How do you show your love for Jesus? 6



Random Thoughts...in the midst of our understanding and perception of what it means to be "king," this Sunday we find Jesus looking less like a king than anyone around — as he hangs on the cross. However, we also find him at the same time modeling the most king-like behavior we will ever know — Jesus' words from the cross are the reason for our salvation. What sort of world would we live in if our "kings" were understanding, forgiving, welcoming, and loving to all?



Congratulations and thanks also to junior Caesar Vega and his Monday Night Live Youth Ministry Cast in their staggering performance of the Grocery Outlet version of the 12 Days of Christmas!

FAITH FORMATION STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Don't forget about upcoming dates:
28 November — Family Faith Formation
28 November — Quick Choir Check-in
30 November — Choir Rehearsal
1 December — First Reconciliation (2nd)
5 December — Reconciliation Service
12 December — Faith Formation
14 December — Choir Rehearsal
19 December — Faith Formation
21 December — Choir Rehearsal
24 December — 5pm Family Vigil Mass

We are still seeking more Faith Formation team members - remember - we're a flock! We continue to pray that those still discerning their call will continue to come forward. Our community honors our personal Baptismal promises as well as those of the families and children in our community when we do more than contribute - when we really commit - to developing our faith community by being heralds of the Gospel! Please contact Colleen to find out more about being part of a fun, diverse, dedicated, and hardworking ministry! 877-4454! Thx!

