

## Our Lord Jesus Christ the King



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

### Thanksgiving from a Larger Viewpoint

Thanksgiving Day is meant to be a Day of Thanks to God, the giver of all gifts; but when God is pushed to the outskirts of our lives and culture, it's easy to forget to whom we owe thanks. There is a deep connection between "gratitude" and "humility." Humble hearts tend to be grateful hearts. Gratitude flows from a softened heart, from a heart that is aware of things bigger than itself; a self that can locate itself humbly, within the immensity of the world and the entire universe. In a 2001 book titled *The Hand of God*, pictures taken from the Hubble telescope present the universe to us in a way never before seen by any previous human beings. Such things can help us to put Thanksgiving in perspective as it did for those men and women who actually witnessed such images first hand. Former astronaut John Glenn said in 1998, from the space shuttle *Discovery*:

*I don't think you can be up here and look out of the window as I did the first day and see the Earth from this vantage point, to look out at this kind of creation and not believe in God. To me it's impossible—it just strengthens my faith. I wish there were words to describe what it's like . . . truly awesome.*

Astronaut James Irwin, commenting on the view of the earth rising over the edge of the moon, said:

*The earth reminded us of a Christmas tree ornament hanging in the blackness of space. As we got farther and farther away it diminished in size. Finally it shrank to the size of a marble, the most beautiful marble you can imagine. That beautiful, warm, living object looked so fragile, so delicate, that if you touched it with a finger it would crumble and fall apart. Seeing this has to change a man, has to make a man appreciate the creation of God and the love of God.*

When astronaut Alan Shepard looked back at the earth as he traveled toward the moon, he could only weep at its majesty. Approaching the earth from space, the astronauts had a gradually increasing view of home.

In a similar way we can gradually get a perspective on what we should be grateful for, as we humbly look at the mystery that surrounds us. Gratitude requires humility. Paul's famous statement in Philippians 4:11 that he had learned, whatever his state, to be content, is another way of saying he was grateful for the condition he was in, whatever it was.

### Today is the Feast of Christ the King

Today is the Feast of Christ the King, the LAST Sunday [34<sup>th</sup>] of the Church's calendar year. Accordingly, the liturgical themes are on the coming of the end times. Our attention is drawn to the final coming of Jesus when all creation will welcome its true king. We are also reminded of our own personal end time, of the approach and inevitability of our death and encounter with Christ the judge and redeemer. While these kinds of themes may not be pleasant, it is important to spend time being aware of our own mortality and the fleeting aspect of all worldly possessions and accomplishments. Human life, as we know, is a journey. It is important for us to stop and take stock of the final destination of our journey, Heaven. In all journeys, course corrections are needed and re-commitment is often necessary. These last days of the Church's year are excellent opportunities to meditate on course corrections and renewal possibilities.

### This Week at St. AJ

#### Saturday, November 22

9:00AM Mass *Intentions of Josephine Nguyen*  
4:00PM Confessions  
5:30PM Vigil Mass *Joseph Zielinski*

#### Sunday, November 23      **Our Lord Jesus Christ the King**

10:00AM Mass *Rose, Joseph Candeloro & Maryann DeMarco*  
11:30AM Mass *Intentions of the Nguyen Family*  
5:00PM Mass *David Abbott*  
10:00PM Mass *Intentions of Students of our area Universities*

#### Monday, November 24

7:30AM Mass *Intentions of the Nguyen Family*  
1:00PM Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*

#### Tuesday, November 25

7:30AM Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*  
12:05PM Mass *Derek Alderson*

#### Wednesday, November 26

12:05PM Mass *Vera Rogers*  
1:00PM No Mass at Drexel

#### Thursday, November 27

#### **Thanksgiving Day**

9:00AM Mass *Michael Dobrowolski* (Only Mass of the Day)

#### Friday, November 28

9:00AM Mass (Only Mass of the Day)

#### Saturday, November 29

9:00AM Mass *Holy Souls in Purgatory*  
4:00PM Confessions  
5:30PM Vigil Mass *Malcolm Mackenzie*

### Fr. George: Flower Donation

The two sprays of flowers on either side of the Altar today have been donated by Fr. George Strausser in loving memory of his parents. We are interested in offering anyone who wishes to do so, the opportunity of donating altar flowers on a particular Sunday throughout the year in memory of loved ones. We anticipate this program to begin in the New Year. We will not need altar flowers in Advent, and the Christmas decorations including flowers are donated by parishioner contributions through their regular envelopes and through the St. Agatha - St. James Parishpay website: ParishPay.com. We intend to work through a local florist who would know our Church and who would give parishioners a very competitive price. More information to follow. If you have any ideas about florists or the program itself, please share them with Fr. George.

### Day of Sanctification for Priest in Philadelphia

In response to the Holy Father's call to grow in holiness, the priests of the Archdiocese gather each year for a day of prayer and reflection on the priesthood. This year the Day of Sanctification will be held on November 24 at St Charles Borromeo Seminary. We ask you to remember in prayer the priests of your parish and all priests. Ask Almighty God and His Son Jesus Christ to bless His priests and give them a deeper faith and a stronger zeal for souls.

### Looking Ahead: Important Dates

- Monday, December 1

Parish Penance Service will be held in Church at 7:00 PM.

- Monday, Dec. 8 – Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception  
Holy Day of Obligation. Mass schedule in Bulletin Nov. 30.

- Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve Vigil Mass

This year, St. Agatha-St. James will celebrate a Vigil Mass of Christmas at 8 PM instead of a Midnight Mass.

- On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, Dec. 21, and Sunday, Dec. 28 [Holy Family], and Sunday, Jan. 4 [Epiphany], there will be NO 10 PM MASS.