

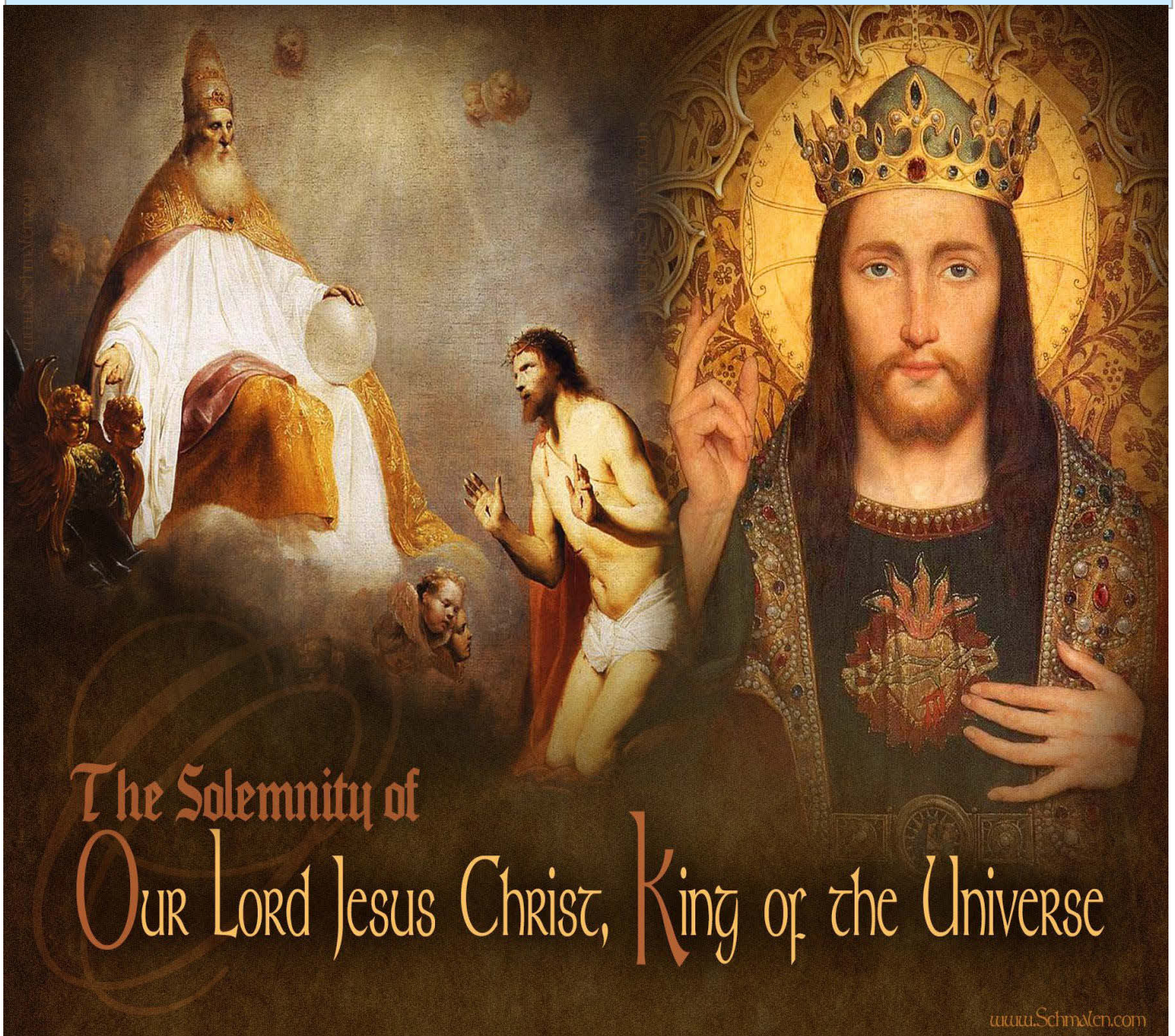


IMMACULATE HEART OF *M*ARY

Parish Mission + Mision Parroquial

*With Mary, we seek to know Christ better and to make him better known through our words and actions.
Con María, deseamos conocer mejor a Cristo y darlo a conocer por medio de nuestras acciones y palabras.*

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2021



The Solemnity of
Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

www.Schmalen.com

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Website: www.ihmbrentwood.com — E-Mail: ihmchurch@ihmbrentwood.com
Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 am-3:00 pm

The Pastor's Page/Página del Pastor

Bishop of the Diocese of Oakland

The Most Rev. Michael C. Barber, SJ

+

Parish Office: (925) 634-4154

Mon-Fri Office Hours: **9 AM - 3 PM**

+

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+

Pastoral Council Chair

George Verret

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Dear families of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

The selection from the book of Daniel presented in today's first reading was part of an attempt to weave a vision of ultimate success for the Jews under persecution. Exactly whom the author had in mind when he refers to "one like a Son of Man" is hotly disputed by scholars today. The fact is, we simply do not know if the author meant anyone in particular or if this is a collective, figurative image of Israel's triumph. What we do know is that the early Christian community seized upon this passage and recognized it as a messianic prophecy, a foretelling of the ultimate triumph of Jesus as the Christ of God. The Lectionary's juxtaposition of this text with today's Gospel narrative of Jesus before Pilate is a wonderful example of how the liturgy "layers" passages with new meaning by inserting them in a particular context.

The celebration of Christ the King allows us to hear these passages with a new depth of meaning in light of our contemporary understanding of how, in Jesus and his resurrection and ascension, we have seen the fulfillment of Daniel's vision of ultimate deliverance. The veiled admission of Jesus before Pilate that he did indeed have a kingdom "not here" takes on new meaning against the cosmic vision of Daniel, who allows us to glimpse the "Ancient One" on his heavenly throne.

We will celebrate Mass this Thursday, November 25 at 10:00am. This is the only Mass celebrated today for Thanksgiving. We have much to be thankful for and we need to remind ourselves of this on this day. Thanksgiving is a good day to be with our IHM family and well as our own families.

On Friday, November 26, from 10:00am to 3:00pm, we will be hosting Vietnamese religious clergy and sisters from the Bay Area. If available, please stop by and say hello to our guests.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.

Fr. Quang

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Queridas familias del Inmaculado Corazón de María,

La selección del libro de Daniel para la primera lectura de hoy forma parte de un intento de tejer una visión del éxito final de los judíos perseguidos. Exactamente qué tenía el autor en mente cuando se refiere a "uno semejante a un Hijo de hombre" es muy disputado por los eruditos de hoy. El hecho es que, simplemente, no sabemos si el autor quiso decir a alguien en particular o si se trata de una imagen colectiva, figurativa del triunfo de Israel. Lo que sí sabemos es que la primera comunidad cristiana se apoderó de este pasaje y lo reconoció como una profecía mesiánica, un anuncio de la victoria final de Jesús como el Cristo de Dios. El contraste que hace el leccionario de este texto con la narrativa del Evangelio de hoy de Jesús ante Pilato es un maravilloso ejemplo de cómo la liturgia da a ciertos pasajes nuevas "capas" de significado mediante la inserción en un contexto particular.

La celebración de Cristo Rey nos permite escuchar estos pasajes con una nueva profundidad de significado a la luz de nuestra comprensión contemporánea de cómo, en Jesús y su Resurrección y Ascensión, hemos visto el cumplimiento de la visión de Daniel de la liberación final. La admisión velada de Jesús ante Pilato que, efectivamente, él tenía un reino pero "no aquí" toma un nuevo significado con la visión cósmica de Daniel sirviendo de fondo, que nos permite vislumbrar al "Anciano" en su trono celestial.

Celebraremos la misa este jueves 25 de noviembre a las 10:00a.m. Esta es la única misa que se celebra hoy por el Día de Acción de Gracias. Tenemos mucho que agradecer y necesitamos recordarlo en este día. El Día de Acción de Gracias es un buen día para estar con nuestra familia de ICM y también con nuestras propias familias.

El Viernes, 26 de noviembre de 10:00am a 3:00pm, tendremos un grupo de clero religioso Vietnamita y hermanas del Área de la Bahía. Si pueden, pasen a saludar a nuestros invitados.

Inmaculado Corazon de maria ruega por nosotros.

Padre Quang

Weekday Masses/Misas Diarias

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:00AM (English) - Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday: 8:00AM (Bilingual)

Saturday Vigil Mass

5:00PM (English)

Sunday Mass/Domingo Misa

7:30am (English) 9:00AM (English) - 10:45AM (Español) - 12:30PM (English) - 2:00PM (Spanish)
5:00PM - Traditional Roman Rite (Latin)

Confessions

Tuesdays 6:00PM - 7:00PM — Saturdays 3:30PM - 4:30PM

Prayers & Weekly Scriptures/Oraciones y Lecturas de la Semana

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK INTENCIONES PARA MISAS DE LA SEMANA

Sat. Nov. 20th

8:00 am Joel Vega - Special Intention
5:00 pm † Manuel (Chato) Torres

Sun. Nov. 21st

7:30 am Pat Larson - Birthday
9:00 am † Repose of the soul of Lourdes "Gin"
Carranceja

10:45 am † Jesus Oseguera
12:30 pm † Juan and Clara Galvis
2:00 pm † Rosalino Fernandez
5:00 pm IHM Parishioners

Mon. Nov. 22nd

8:00 am † Jack McNamara

Tues. Nov. 23rd

8:00 am † For all the souls in purgatory

Wed.. Nov. 24th

8:00 am † Demesia Rodriguez

Thurs. Nov. 25th

10:00 am Thanksgiving for all the blessings

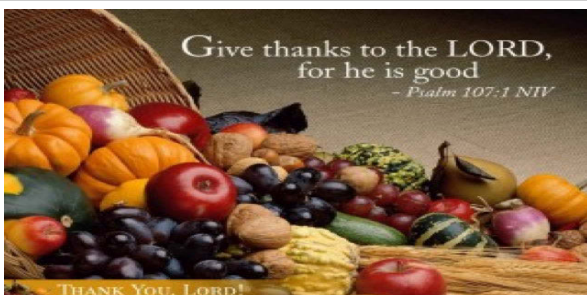
Fri. Nov. 26th

8:00am Jesus David Zermeno - Birthday

**We will not have Adoration
this week on Thursday,
November 25 or Friday,
or November 26.**

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**No Habra adoracion esta
semana el jueves 25 de noviembre o
viernes 26 de noviembre.**



Sick Relatives & Friends Parientes y Amigos Enfermos

Ryan McCloud, Ramon Antonio Toledo, Lyndsey Burrow, Chris Heuer, Meghan Heuer, Jan Cooper, Louise Delia, Art Silvergleid, Dcn. Ron Horan, Gina Lilly, Giselle Honore, Kay Aviani, Patti Hitch, Dawn Lanphere.*****

Mary McCann, Terese Brantome, Cecile Cansino, Paulina Cabada, Sheila Currier, Ann Hyde, Mia Eternal, John Wisniewski, Elizabeth Carranza, Joel Rivera, Barbara Vasquez, Baby Griffin Hinman, Michael Oscar Frank, Maria Guadalupe Oseguera, Victor Bustos, Joe Stiglich, Josephina Gonzales, Nico Gracia-Medrano, Gordon Mahl, Carolyn Daddona, Barbara King, Joe Oliver, Susan Rossillon, Barbara Crandell, Arthur Patrick Peña (son), Arthur Peña, Mayra Gutierrez, Tammy Brown, Lucrecia Barajas Oseguera, Brian Castillo, Nikkie, Ignacia Galban, Irma Perez, Elisabel Oseguera, Carol Chavez, Jack McLean, Marge Perez, Cardinal Raymond Burke, Nellie Asinas Cruz, Dave Esser, Aida Oseguera, Anita Beral, Karissa Tikalsky and Family, Manuel Soliz, Ronald Block, Marion Cichon, Alex Jimenez, Diane McClellan, Katherine Jordan, Brian Hou, Robert Baker, Gene Buxa, Romeo Cruz, Jovita Umali, Marge and Larry Cragle, Sandy Heinisch, Franchesca Taylor, Frank Vargas, Ramona Hernandez, Lisa Corson, Ann and Dan Callahan De Palma. Teresa Saunders, Dennis Saunders, Eloisa Presaido Gonzalez, Felix Gonzalez, Jr., Armando Torres, Kristie Ann Velarde, Fran and Craig Adami, Dean Chromy, Gregoria Gonzalez, Linda Rogers, Carol Chavez, Carmen Rogers, Jorge Suarez, Laura Vecchio.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA

Monday: 503:Dn 1:1-6, 8-20 (Ps) Dn 3:52-56
Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday: 504:Dn 2:31-45 (Ps) Dn 3:57-61
Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday: 505:Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28
(Ps) Dn 3:62-67 Lk 21:12-19

Thursday: 684A: Sir50:22-24 Ps 138:1-5
1 Cor 1:3-9 Lk 17:11-19

Friday: 507:Dn 7:2-14 (Ps) Dn 3:75-81
Lk 21:29-33

Saturday: 508:Dn 7:15-27 (Ps) Dn 3:82-87
Lk 21:34-36

Sunday: 3:Jer 33:14-16 Ps 25:4-5, 8-9,
10, 14 1 Thes 3:12-4:2
Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Lectura

Primera lectura

Dn 7, 13-14

Yo, Daniel, tuve una visión nocturna:
Vi a alguien semejante a un hijo de hombre,
que venía entre las nubes del cielo.
Avanzó hacia el anciano de muchos siglos
y fue introducido a su presencia.
Entonces recibió la soberanía, la gloria y el reino.
Y todos los pueblos y naciones
de todas las lenguas lo servían.
Su poder nunca se acabará, porque es un poder
eterno, y su reino jamás será destruido.

Salmo Responsorial

Ps 93: 1, 1-2, 5

El Señor reina, vestido de majestad

Segunda Lectura

Apoc 1, 5-8

Hermanos míos: Gracia y paz a ustedes, de parte
de Jesucristo, el testigo fiel, el primogénito de los
muertos, el soberano de los reyes de la tierra;
aquel que nos amó y nos purificó de nuestros
pecados con su sangre y ha hecho de nosotros un
reino de sacerdotes para su Dios y Padre. A él la
gloria y el poder por los siglos de los siglos. Amén.

Miren: él viene entre las nubes, y todos lo verán,
aun aquellos que lo traspasaron. Todos los pueblos
de la tierra harán duelo por su causa.

"Yo soy el Alfa y la Omega, dice el Señor Dios, el
que es, el que era y el que ha de venir, el
todopoderoso".

Evangelio

Jn 18, 33-37

En aquel tiempo, preguntó Pilato a Jesús: "¿Eres
tú el rey de los judíos?" Jesús le contestó: "¿Eso lo
preguntas por tu cuenta o te lo han dicho otros?"
Pilato le respondió: "¿Acaso soy yo judío? Tu
pueblo y los sumos sacerdotes te han entregado a
mí. ¿Qué es lo que has hecho?" Jesús le contestó:
"Mi Reino no es de este mundo. Si mi Reino fuera
de este mundo, mis servidores habrían luchado
para que no cayera yo en manos de los judíos.
Pero mi Reino no es de aquí".

Pilato le dijo: "¿Conque tú eres rey?" Jesús le
contestó: "Tú lo has dicho. Soy rey. Yo nací y vine
al mundo para ser testigo de la verdad. Todo el
que es de la verdad, escucha mi voz".

Credo de Nicea

Creo en un solo Dios, Padre todopoderoso, Creador
del cielo y de la tierra, de todo lo visible y lo
invisible.

Creo en un solo Señor, Jesucristo, Hijo único de
Dios, nacido del Padre antes de todos los siglos:
Dios de Dios, Luz de Luz, Dios verdadero de Dios
verdadero, engendrado, no credo, de la misma
naturaleza del Padre, por quien todo fue hecho; que
por nosotros, los hombres, y para nuestra salvación
bajó del cielo, **y por obra del Espíritu Santo se
encarnó de María, la Virgen, y se hizo hombre;**
y por nuestra causa fue crucificado en tiempos de
Poncio Pilato, padeció al tercer día, según las
Escrituras, y subió al cielo, y está sentado a la
derecha del Padre; y de nuevo vendrá con gloria.
Para juzgar a vivos y muertos, y su reino no tendrá
fin. Creo en el Espíritu Santo, Señor dador de vida,
que procede del Padre y del Hijo, que con el Padre y
el Hijo recibe una misma adoración y Gloria, y que
hablo por los profetas.

Creo en una iglesia, que es santa, católica y
apóstolica. Confieso que hay un solo bautismo para
el perdón de los pecados. Espero la resurrección de
los muertos y la vida futura del mundo. Amen.



Readings

First Reading

Dn 7:13-14

As the visions during the night continued, I saw
one like a Son of man coming,
on the clouds of heaven;
when he reached the Ancient One
and was presented before him,
the one like a Son of man received dominion,
glory, and kingship;
all peoples, nations, and languages serve him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
that shall not be taken away,
his kingship shall not be destroyed.

Reponsorial Psalm

Ps 93: 1, 1-2, 5

The Lord is king, he is robed in majesty.

Second Reading

Rv 1:5-8

Jesus Christ is the faithful witness,
the firstborn of the dead and ruler of the kings of
the earth.
To him who loves us and has freed us from our
sins by his blood,
who has made us into a kingdom,
priests for his God and Father,
to him be glory and power forever and ever Amen.
Behold, he is coming amid the clouds,
and every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him.
All the peoples of the earth will lament him.
Yes. Amen.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega,"
says the Lord God,
"the one who is and who was and who is to come,
the almighty."

Gospel

Jn 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."

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary, and became man.**
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of
life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.





November 21, 2021

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Dn 7:13-14 | Rv 1:5-8 | Jn 18:33b-37

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Many Americans have a fascination with royalty. We love to follow the royal family in real life and via the binge-worthy *Crown* series on Netflix. As royal-watchers know, the crown isn't all it's cracked up to be! History and experience, too, show that earthly kingdoms include their share of divisiveness, betrayal and, at times, a total disregard for other people. Jesus gives us a different kind of kingdom and kingship to aspire to – one based on truth not fiction, and born of suffering and not succession. Jesus did not seek earthly glory but endured a crown of thorns and death on a cross to establish the kingdom of heaven – a kingdom that perfects us and unites us with the Holy Trinity. So it is fitting that as we end the liturgical year, we honor Jesus as King of the Universe – heaven, earth, and all creation. Jesus established his kingdom by sacrificing himself out of love for us. By our baptism we have a share in this holy identity, and therefore, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we have the authority and power to proclaim Christ's Kingship to all the world by our words and deeds. In this way we are able to serve the one true king, and participate in building God's kingdom on earth.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Some people aren't shy about saying where they stand: I'm especially fascinated by bumper stickers. We don't like to talk about politics or religion, but somehow it's OK to proclaim our most deeply held beliefs as we tool down the highway. As we celebrate Jesus as King of the Universe, it's a good time to ask ourselves: Is Jesus king of *our* universe? If so, how do we proclaim it? Bumper stickers can be fun, but sharing our belief in Jesus as our Savior requires human interaction. Introverts like me may find it difficult, but we can witness to our faith in a number of ways: Yes, through conversation, but also through the priorities we choose and the examples we set. As members of the kingdom of God – present on earth but not yet fully realized – our baptismal vocation is to participate in Christ's priestly, prophetic, and kingly mission. We can ask Jesus to help us find the words and actions that best help us do so.

PREPARE Advent starts next Sunday! Just as we prepare for major holidays like Christmas and Thanksgiving, we can start roughing out an Advent "menu." How will we observe as a family this year? What are our goals for the season? What can I accomplish in the week ahead to free up Advent for prayerful preparation?

Oracion San Miguel

San Miguel Arcángel,
defiéndenos en la batalla.
Sé nuestro amparo contra la
perversidad y asechanzas del
demonio. Reprímale Dios,
pedimos suplicantes,
y tú Príncipe de la
Milicia Celestial,
con el divino poder de Dios,
arroja al infierno a Satanás
y a todos los espíritus malignos
que andan dispersos
por el mundo
para la perdición de las almas.
Amén.



Prayer to St. Michael

St. Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle,
be our protection
against the wickedness and
snares of the devil.
May God
rebuke him we humbly pray;
and do thou, O Prince of the
Heavenly host,
by the power of God,
cast into hell Satan
and all the evil spirits
who prowl about the world seeking
the ruin of souls.
Amen

Information/Información

St. Vincent de Paul for Friday's Food Pantry

For the weekend of November 28, 2021, please bring canned milk. THANK YOU!

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Para el fin de semana del 28 de noviembre, 2021 por favor traigan leche enlatada. GRACIAS!!!

SCHEDULE O, F SECOND COLLECTIONS

December 5, 2021 - Facility Improvement
December 12, 2021 - Christmas Flowers

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FECHAS DE SEGUNDAS COLECTAS

5 de diciembre, 2021 - Fondo del Mejoramiento de las Instalaciones
12 de diciembre, 2021 - Flores para la Navidad

Nights of Reflections at IHM

We are having Nights of Reflections at IHM on December 2 at 7:00pm in English and on December 9 at 7:00pm in Spanish in the Church.

We look forward to seeing you!

CONTRA COSTA FOOD BANK



The Contra Costa Food Bank Mobile Produce Distribution Program distributes FREE produce on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month in the IHM parking lot from 12:00 noon to 1:00pm to families in need. This program is only for low-income families.

For more information, please call Ralph at: 925-437-3509.



Our very best wishes for a Happy and Healthy Thanksgiving to all the families in the IHM community. Our office will be closed on Thursday, November 25 as well as Friday, November 26.

Les deseamos muchas felicidades por el Día de Gracias a todas las familias de la comunidad de ICM. La oficina de la parroquia estará cerrada el jueves, 25 de noviembre y el Viernes 26 de noviembre.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

O God, we thank you for this earth, our home;
For the wide sky and the blessed sun,
For the salt sea and the running water,
For the everlasting hills
And the never-resting winds,
For trees and the common grass underfoot.
We thank you for our senses
By which we hear the songs of birds,
And see the splendor of the summer fields,
And taste of the autumn fruits,
And rejoice in the feel of the snow,
And smell the breath of the spring.
Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty;
And save our souls from being so blind
That we pass unseeing
When even the common thorn bush
Is aflame with your glory,
O God our creator,
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Oracion de gracias

Oh Dios, te damos gracias por esta tierra, nuestro hogar;
Por el amplio cielo y el bendito sol,
Por el mar salado y el agua corriente
Por las colinas eternas
Y los vientos que nunca descansan,
Por los árboles y la hierba común bajo los pies.
Te agradecemos por nuestros sentidos
Por los que oímos los cantos de los pájaros
Y ver el esplendor de los campos de verano,
Y saborear los frutos del otoño,
Y nos regocijamos con el tacto de la nieve,
Y oler el aliento de la primavera.
Concédenos un corazón abierto a toda esta belleza;
Y evita que nuestras almas sean tan ciegas
Que pasemos sin ver
Cuando incluso el arbusto espinoso común
se enciende con tu gloria,
Oh Dios, nuestro creador,
que vives y reinas por los siglos de los siglos.

Information/Información

Weekly Calendar/Calendario Semanal

DATE/TIME: MEETING: LOCATION:

Mon. Nov. 22nd

8:00am	Men's Fellowship Group	Library
5:00pm	Legion of Mary/Eng	Library
7:00pm	Men of St. Joseph	Library
7:00pm	Escuela de la Cruz/Sp	Luke
7:00pm	Bible Study/Sp	Hall A

-

Tues. Nov. 23rd

10:00am	IHM Crafters	Hall C
6:00pm	Legion of Mary/Sp	Chapel
7:00pm	Spanish Parent Meeting	Church

Wed. Nov. 24th

9:00am	Perpetual Help	John
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Thurs. Nov. 25th

THANKSGIVING DAY

Fri. Nov. 26th

9:00am	Vietnamese Religious	Church
10:00am	Vietnamese Religious	Hall
ABC		
3:30am	Bible Study/Eng	Library
7:00pm	Divine Mercy/Sp	Luke
7:00pm	Confirmation Adult/Sp	John

Sat. Nov. 27th.

9:00am	Lord of the Rings	Hall C
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Italian Catholic Federation Spring Fundraiser

The ICF needs your help in raising funds for the upcoming scholarship program. We are selling See's Candy for distribution before Christmas. Please help us help High School and College students achieve their goals in colleges of their choice.

Order sheets can be downloaded from the IHM Website, picked up in the church vestibule, or can be e-mailed to you! Final date to order will be November 30th, with distribution to be at the parish office on December 12th 9AM-3PM.

Contact: Pat Rebollar, 925-679-7481,
rebolmom@aol.com
 Alt Contact: Linda Kortuem, 925-625-4131



**Keep in touch with
us via email and text!**

Parish events, ministry news,
time sensitive information,
devotions & more



To sign up online:
ihmbrentwood.flocknote.com

OR text the word
TOKNOWCHRIST
 to 84576



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Linda Kortuem

@ICF-BRANCH-432



venmo

Ministry Meetings/Reuniones de Ministerios

+

Confessions / Confesiones

Tuesday/Martes: 6:00 - 7:00PM
Saturday/Sabado: 3:30 - 4:30PM

Devotions/Devociones

Monday to Friday/Lunes a Viernes
7:30AM

Holy Rosary/Santo Rosario

+

Wednesday/Miércoles
8:30AM

Mother of Perpetual Help Novena Novena Madre del Perpetuo Socorro

+

Friday/Viernes
8:30AM

Divine Mercy Chaplet Novena Coronilla a la Divina Misericordia

This Sunday, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe. It is the last Sunday of the liturgical year. On this day, we contemplate the kingship of Jesus our Redeemer.

Blessed John Paul II said that "if it is assessed according to the criteria of this world, Jesus' kingship can appear 'paradoxical'. Indeed, the power he exercises does not fit into earthly logic. On the contrary, his is the power of *love and service* that requires the gratuitous gift of self and the consistent witness to the truth (cf. John 18, 37)."

In this Sunday's Gospel, we will hear Saint John's account of Pilate's interrogation of Jesus before the sentence of crucifixion. Pontius Pilate asks Jesus: "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus answers: "My kingdom does not belong to this world." He then goes on to answer Pilate's subsequent question "Then you are a king?" by stating "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."

This dialogue between Pilate and Jesus reminds us that Our Lord's kingship is real, yet it is unlike political kingship. He did not come to rule over peoples and territories. For Him, to reign was to serve! His throne was the cross where He revealed His power, the power of love. With this power, Christ the King set people free from the slavery of sin and reconciled them to God the Father. Throughout His earthly life, Jesus witnessed to the truth that God is love. On Calvary, He witnessed this truth to the full with the sacrifice of His own life. He conquered Satan, the "ruler of this world" (John 12:31).

Our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, has spoken of the power of Christ the King in this way: "It is not the power of the kings or the great people of this world; it is the divine power to give eternal life, to liberate from evil, to defeat the dominion of death. It is the power of Love that can draw good from evil, that can melt a hardened heart, bring peace amid the harshest conflict and kindle hope in the thickest darkness."

Jesus told Pilate that He came into the world to bear witness to the truth. During this Year of Faith, we are called to embrace this truth more deeply. When we embrace this truth, the truth of the Gospel, the truth of Jesus, the truth of Love, we are not guaranteed success in this world. Remember, Christ's Kingdom is not of this world. But we are assured of the peace and joy that only Christ can give us. This is a lesson we learn from the lives of the saints and martyrs of the Church.

In this Year of Faith, the Church invites us to be renewed in our faith in Jesus Christ, the King of the Universe, and to be authentically converted to Him. He alone gives us true life. He alone is our salvation. We need to be ardent witnesses of the faith to those who do not believe or whose faith has grown lukewarm. We are witnesses when we follow and imitate the King who reigned through self-giving love and service. Following Christ in our increasingly secularized world can entail great sacrifices, but our faith in Him strengthens us and frees us from all our fears and insecurities so that we can live in freedom and happiness.

We gather in our churches this Sunday, as we do every Sunday, to worship Christ our King. We celebrate the memorial of His death and resurrection. The King of the Universe comes to us under the humble forms of bread and wine to nourish us with His true Body and Blood. Our Eucharistic King strengthens us to overcome evil with good, and hatred and violence with forgiveness and love. It is our choice whether or not we wish to accept and serve a king whose kingship is not based on human power, but on loving and serving others. When Pope Pius XI instituted the feast of Christ the King in 1925, he wanted to remind Christians that their allegiance was to their spiritual ruler in heaven as opposed to earthly supremacy claimed by dictators at that time. In our day, we need this reminder that our first allegiance must be to Christ the King, especially as we face the temptations of our growing culture of secularism and relativism. Our promotion and defense of religious liberty is also vitally important so that we are indeed free to serve our King through the Church's many ministries of service in society.

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