

November 25, 2018

From Fr. Jim . . .

**Feast of Christ the King:** Today we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. Pius XI established this in 1925. At that time, totalitarianism was on the rise with its destructive forces all over the world. Bolshevism reigned in Russia, Fascism in Italy, the blood of civil war flowed in many places, and new dictatorships were springing up everywhere. So against these ominous forces, the Pope proclaimed: Pax Christi in regno Christi: “the Peace of Christ in the reign of Christ.” What threatens the reign of Christ in the world and in our lives today? What confuses us as to whom and what rules? Where can we announce “The peace of Christ in the reign of Christ?” Is Christ the king of our hearts?



**Advent:** Can you believe that Advent begins next weekend? It is the beginning of a new liturgical year – Year c. During this year, we will be hearing from the Gospel of Luke. The Season of Advent is a time for vigilance, watchfulness and waiting for the Lord’s coming – how he has come, is come and for when he will come again. How has he come to you, is coming to you and will come to you with his saving, redeeming merciful grace and love? How can we become prepared to receive him into our lives and hearts more deeply than we have received him before? Please refer to the reflections and prayers that will appear in our bulletin each week.

**What are we going to do for Advent this year?** Live as children of the light and “walk as children of the light and keep the flame of faith alive in our hearts so when the Lord comes, we can go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.” (Rite of Infant Baptism). During the liturgical year of Advent, we will hear the Prophets announce that a light will shine in the darkness of the world. There will be invitations to receive the light of God’s love and grace and to follow this light through this world to the next world. Living our faith with good works and deeds, acts of mercy, prayer, growing in good relationship with the Lord and others is to walk as children of the light. These are ways to keep the flame of faith alive in our hearts and ways to be prepared and ready for the Lord. During Lent, we often ask ourselves, “What Am I going to do for Lent this year?” During Advent, we can ask, “What am I going to do for Advent this year to be prepared and ready for all the comings of the Lord into our lives? For all the existing darkness that still exists in the world, let us live as children of the light and blaze a trail of light with the virtues, works and acts of mercy and faith to announce that the Lord has come, is come and will come again.