

*Our Lady of Lourdes Church*

The Solemnity of Christ the King

November 22, 2009

Readings:

Daniel 7:13-14

Book of Revelation 1:5-8

John 18:33-37

Fr. Bob Spencer

This weekend we celebrate many things as a church. This Sunday is the feast of Christ the king. A feast in which we use medieval language to state who Jesus is for us. A king is a ruler. A king has power and authority. Many kings in the past have felt that they had all that through some sense of divine right: that they were chosen by God. But in this celebration we say that there is only one who can truly say that they are divine: Jesus Christ. And his power and authority are not like any earthly ruler because in everything he is also a servant for his people showing us time and time again that he rules with compassion and forgiveness. He rules with mercy and he is always calling us to something better and is always calling us to be part of his kingdom and that connects us to something greater than ourselves. He offers what the world cannot: redemption, salvation, a true sense of purpose and a true and lasting sense of peace.

It's a fitting way to end this church year by reminding ourselves of Pilate's question in the gospel when he asks Christ if he is the king of the Jews, the king of people who believe and trust in their God. As we end this year and prepare to begin a new one next Sunday with the arrival of Advent, we answer that question for ourselves by the way we live, by the way we pray, by the way we treat others and by the way we worship with one another.

And this weekend, at our liturgies, we celebrate just a few ways that the love of God is present to us. At our two previous masses, we celebrated the most basic gift of God and that is the gift of new life as we celebrated the baptism of several children and welcomed them into this community of faith. And we prayed for them that their parents and family and this entire community will continue to show them the way of God's blessings and that all of us may be the best of examples for them. Also, at the end of our liturgies we have been asking all those liturgical ministers who help us worship and give praise to God to come forward, to be blessed and to be commissioned in their various roles.

We are not a church of private worship and never have been. It takes many people to make our celebrations show us that we are part of the body of Christ that is found in his people. At this liturgy, we will celebrate the active presence of God in the lives of individuals whose own journey of faith leads them to celebrate the Eucharist for the first time, and to be confirmed in the faith that God has bestowed upon us.

At the end of our Gospel reading today, in the words of Jesus, he tells us, "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." As we prepare for a new church year, may the Lord continue to open our hearts to his voice and the many different ways that our king speaks to us, in a way that is gentle, in a way that is persistent, and in a way that shows us only his love for us and the love we should hold for members of his creation.

At this time, we will join with Kimberly, Emily, Virginia and Robin their initiation in to the life of the church. May we welcome them, and continue to be examples of Christ's love to them.