
THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

November 26, 2006

Dear Parishioners,

This weekend we celebrate our own parish “patronal feast”, the **feast of Christ the King**. Very recent and super modern, as our Church calendar goes, this feast was introduced in 1925 by Pope Pius XI in the face of World War, atheism, communism and fascism. It celebrates that no earthly king or president, dictator, tyrant or “fuehrer”, can overrule the values and person of Christ.

Next weekend begins **the Season of Advent** – which will seem very short this year, with Christmas Eve coinciding with the 4th Sunday of Advent. The season is fashioned to help us prepare in faith for the light of Christ to enter the darkness of our world and lives. We plan to begin our Advent masses in darkness and silent reflection. Try to come to mass on these weekends a little earlier (or at least right on time!) to join in prayerful reflection and also to avoid injuring yourself or others in the darkness once mass begins.

Here are some other special ways to prepare for Advent: (1) Our extremely popular **Little Blue Books** for Advent are available this weekend and next. We’ve ordered 2,000(!) copies this year, but they do run out very rapidly. No price tag, however a \$1 free will donation per book would help us defray expenses. They make a wonderful way to reflect daily throughout the Advent Season; (2) **Our Parish Family Advent Workshop** is held this Monday, November 27th, in the parish hall from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Pre-registration is necessary; (3) **Our Annual Interfaith Advent Concert** will be held here at Christ the King next Sunday at 4:00 pm. Six neighboring Christian Churches join to make a joyful and prayerful noise. The concert is just over an hour in length followed by refreshments in the parish hall; (4) On Monday evening December 4th a simple evening of quiet prayer will be offered at 7:30 pm in Church – a great way to get into the spirit of Advent. Unfortunately the Tuesday, December 5th evening with Fr. Ronald Rolheiser has been cancelled due to his conflicting commitments.

Several Sundays ago I quoted one of our parishioner-poets, Tom Savignano; many of you asked how you can get copies of his books. After masses today, Tom will make available two of his books: “Prayers and Reminiscences” and “Reaching for the Light.” Each book is \$10 and the entire proceeds go to our St. Vincent de Paul Society (thank you Tom!).

Finally, please don’t forget our annual Holiday St. Vincent de Paul food drive. It continues through Sunday, December 17th. Your contributions of food is greatly needed to assist families through the holiday season.

Your Pastor,
Brian T. Joyce

WEEK AT A GLANCE**SUNDAY**

- The Feast of Christ the King**
- St. Vincent de Paul Fund Drive Continues
- No RE Classes / No Youth Group

MONDAY

- RE Older Sacrament (Gr. 3-5), Parish Hall, 4:00 pm
- Advent Workshop, Parish Hall, 6-8:30 pm, Pre-registration was required

TUESDAY

- Legion of Mary, Ministry Center, following 8 am Mass
- MOMS' Support Group, Ministry Center (Dining Room, Chapel & Library), 9:30-11 am
- Staff Meeting, Parish House, 10:30 am
- RE: Grades 1-5: Grades 1-3, School, 3:40-5:00 pm; Grades 4& 5, Parish Hall, A, B, D, 3:40-5:00 pm
- RE: Grade 7, Parish Hall, 7-8:30 pm
- Rosary and Mother of Perpetual Help Devotion, CVMtg Rm, 7:00 pm, Contact Andy @ 229-3038
- Spanish Prayer Group, Church Vestibule Meeting Room, 7:30 pm

WEDNESDAY

- RE: Grades 1-5: Grades 1-3, School, 3:40-5:00 pm; Grades 4& 5, Parish Hall, A, B, D, 3:40-5:00 pm
- RE: Grade 6, Parish Hall, 7-8:30 pm
- St. Vincent de Paul Meeting, Ministry Center (Chapel), 7 pm
- Weekly Charismatic Prayer Meeting, 6 St. Lawrence Ct., 7:30 pm (for info. Call 932-0395)
- Centering Prayer, Resurrection Episcopal Church (399 Gregory Ln.), 7:30 pm

THURSDAY

- Centering Prayer, Ministry Center (Library), 10:00 am
- RE: Grades 1-5: Grades 1-3, School, 3:40-5:00 pm; Grades 4& 5, Parish Hall, A, B, D, 3:40-5:00 pm
- RCIA, Ministry Center (Chapel), 7:00 pm

FRIDAY

- First Friday, Masses at 8 am (Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 12 noon) & 7:00 pm
- Divorced Ministry Begins, Ministry Center, 7:00 pm, Registration required, (New Grp forming in Spring)

SATURDAY

- Men's Fellowship Group, Ministry Center (Chapel), 7:30-8:30 am, Contact John at 372-7873
- Second Grade Reconciliation, 10:00 am (A-L), 11:00 am (M-Z), Church

SUNDAY

- First Sunday of Advent / Second Collection for School, RE and Youth Ministry**
 - Concern America Crafts / St. Vincent de Paul Fund Drive Continues
 - RE Program for 3 yr. olds (B), Room D, During 9:15 Mass
 - Pre K/K: Pre K program, Parish Hall, A, B, C; K Program, CTK School, during 9:15 Mass
 - No Children's Liturgy Of the Word**
 - RE Older Sacrament (Gr 6-8) Class, RE Office, 10:40 am
 - Jr./Sr. Confirmation, Parish Hall, 10:45 am
 - Advent Ecumenical Concert, Church, 4:00 pm**
 - Youth Group, Parish Hall, 7-9 pm
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Annual Sausage Fundraiser – The Knights of Columbus Council #5811 is accepting orders for their Annual Gourmet Sausage Fundraiser. Available varieties are Polish, Sweet Italian, Linguisa, Chorizo and Apple Cinnamon. All orders will be ready for pick-up at the Parish Hall on Saturday, Dec. 9th and Sunday, Dec. 10th after all.

Bereavement Ministry – This ministry offers a rewarding service opportunity. We contact families of recently deceased parishioners, offering a listening ear and a closer link to our community. Ministers attend one meeting a month on a Saturday morning and make one or two phone calls/month to surviving family members. For more information contact Al Garrotto (252-1008, algarrotto@comcast.net).

Holy Names High School Open House – We are an all-girls Catholic high school with a curriculum that meets all the academic requirements for major universities and provides the young women of the Oakland Archdiocese a values-based, college prep education. 100% of our students over the last ten years have gone on to college. Holy Names Open House date of November 30, 2006, 7:00-9:00 pm, 4660 Harbord Drive, Oakland, 94618 (510-450-1110 ext.119); website: <http://www.hnhsoakland.org>

Santa Claus and Parish Christmas Party sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. All children through age ten years of age can visit with Santa plus enjoy cider, hot chocolate, donuts and fun activities on Sunday, December 10th from 11:30 am to 2:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Please bring an unwrapped toy for a needy local child and receive a raffle ticket.

Christmas Without Limits? Each year Christmas shopping seems to be pushed earlier and earlier, and stress increases during Advent and Christmas. Learn how to set healthy boundaries for yourself to make sure the holidays become more meaningful “holy days”. Dr. Kay Rossi will be speaking regarding setting healthy family boundaries, Tuesday, Dec. 12 from 7-9 pm in St. Bonaventure Church’s chapel. Dr. Rossi is sponsored by two St. Bonaventure groups: Family Life Ministry and Women’s Christian Fellowship.

Have you ever thought about becoming a Catholic Priest? You are invited to attend a Discernment Retreat, 4pm on Friday, Jan. 26 through 1pm, Sun., Jan. 28, 2007 at St. Patrick’s Seminary to better understand if a vocation to the ministry of God’s priesthood is for you! Single Catholic men, 21 years of age or older, are invited to explore the possibility of a priestly vocation. For further information, please see your parish priest.

U.S. Bishops call for change on Iraq policy

The nation's Catholic bishops, saying the United States needs to move past the "shrill and shallow debate" of midterm Congressional elections, declared that the goal in Iraq should be justice and peace, rather than victory, and that the nation should withdraw its forces at the earliest opportunity, consistent with a responsible transition.

The bishops unanimously authorized a public statement calling for the nation to "seriously examine alternative course of action" in Iraq.

The bishops, who have consistently expressed moral concerns about the war said the "terrible toll" in Iraqi and American lives now requires a discussion driven by "moral urgency, substantive dialogue, and new directions."

"Because the war was such an election issue and became very partisan, our hope is, now that the elections are over, that all of the national leaders will come together and try and work together for a reasoned solution and transition out of Iraq without abandoning the people of that country." Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston said in an interview after the vote, "We asked them not to go in in the first place, but now that we're there, we're looking for a withdrawal that would be as soon as possible, but at the same time without abandoning the people that are there and causing a worse situation

O'Malley said the United States should do a better job getting assistance from the international community, particularly Muslim nations, in securing Iraq. He added that lasting peace in the region will require finding a way to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The bishops, who are the spiritual leaders of the nation's largest religious denomination, are joining a chorus of religious leaders speaking out against the Iraq war. Yesterday's statement is the 18th such attempt by the Catholic bishops to influence the debate over Iraq.

"We hope our nation has moved beyond the divisive rhetoric of the recent campaign and the shrill and shallow debate that distorts reality and reduces the options to 'cut and run' versus 'stay the course,'" said the statement. "Our nation needs a much more substantive civil, and nonpartisan discussion of ways to plan and secure a responsible transition in Iraq."

Outside after mass:

- Tom Savignano great poetry book (after many requests) \$10 with all proceeds to St. Vincent de Paul Society.
- Advent **Little Blue Books** (so very popular!) a \$1 donation welcomed.
- Girl Scout nuts and chocolates to support our great kids.
- Christmas Music C.D.'s entitled: "A Time for Christmas – Traditional Christmas Carols in a Non-traditional Style" by Vintage Trio (www.vintagetrio.com).