



## **Solemnity of Christ the King**

This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. This Solemnity marks the end of the liturgical year and the beginning of a new one --- Advent begins next Sunday (can you believe it!). This Solemnity has an important message for all of us. The message is really summed up in Pilot's question "you are a king then?" and the Lord's response "yes, I am a King". The Solemnity was proclaimed by Pius XI in order to combat the error – propagated at the time by communism and atheistic regimes – that man doesn't have a soul nor is he called to an eternal relationship with God. The Pope reasserted that indeed the human person has an immortal soul, the state isn't supreme (God is!) and we are called to eternal union with the Creator of all things. As well – Jesus being not just "a king" but the King of kings has rights that we need – as human beings - to acknowledge and defend. One of those rights is the virtue of religion which is defined as to render to God that which is his due. And that which is due to God is worship and the greatest form of worship is that which God himself has established – it is the Sacrifice of the Cross which we are blessed to have made available to us by way of the Mass. There are many implications that flow from this Solemnity which I will speak about in the Sunday homily.

This is the last day (this Sunday) to fill out the form for the Senior's Luncheon that will take place next Sunday, December 2nd following the 11:30am Mass. This is always a fun-filled event and very well received by the senior parishioners of the parish. Don't forget to submit your form so that you do not lose out on the fun!

This is an early notice and reminder to book December 20th into your schedules. From 7:00pm till "whenever" Corpus Christi will have a Penance Celebration. There will be 3 other priests + myself and Fr. Henry available to hear confessions before the celebration of Christ's birth. This really is the best gift we can give the Lord – a heart that is renewed, refocused, and reborn ... forgiven and strengthened along the journey of life towards union with God. I encourage everyone to plan, during the season of Advent, to receive the sacrament of Penance (or Reconciliation) whether it is here or any parish in the Archdiocese.

I will expand on this in future pastor's corners – let us not wait for Advent to "just happen". Let us use this time (even this week before it begins) to get our sights adjusted, perhaps a spiritual plan in place so that we can really prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. We will all be busy (that is not so much the point) but we can – if we plan properly - keep our priorities in place: God first, family, shopping/social gatherings. Give time to God and he will give you the time you need to accomplish the many things that are ahead.

Let us pray that this time leading up to Christmas is one that is focused on the celebration of Christ's birth. Let us also pray that the Catholics Come Home "campaign" is fruitful in reaching Catholics who have fallen away or left the Church – that they realize the doors are always open and that if God takes us (who go to Church) then they have every reason to take heart and perhaps be open, once again, to practicing the faith.

Lastly, there is a new app for the Archdiocese of Vancouver – go to the apple app store and type in Vancouver Catholic – you will see the app. This helps with Mass & Confession times throughout the Archdiocese.

United in Prayer under Christ the King,

*Fr. Hamilton*