

## **HOMILY ~ CHRIST THE KING**

### **November 23, 2025**

Last Saturday, my niece, Delaney Doris, came to Mass. Without telling me, she went into the house and placed a bunch of these little figures of Jesus all over. And I loved finding them. They remind me that Jesus is always with me loving me and helping me. It is a big thing right now on Tik Tok. I guess this is something good on social media. Someone left one in the sanctuary on my table and it was there for a while, and then someone took it away. I miss it. It probably does not surprise you to know that I have a lot of religious images in the house and in my office. I think I am used to them being there so I do not notice them like I notice these little figures of Jesus.

Today we celebrate the feast of Christ the King of the Universe. We sometimes think of the kings in history as being wealthy and all powerful, exercising all of their power, authority and control over their subjects. In the Gospel reading, we see the Kingship of Jesus. The crucifixion was the weakest point in his public ministry in the eyes of the world at that time. In the eyes of the people at that time, Jesus could not save himself, he suffered physical torture, and was mostly abandoned by everyone. The cross that appeared to be a place of weakness has become a tower of strength. Through his weakness, he has saved all of us, even the people who condemned and killed him.

Since I was born we have had 12 prior presidents in the United States, 7 of them have been Republicans and 5 of them have been Democrats. All of their administrations have come to an end, and the current administration will come to an end as well. Someone else took over and changed many things. Two thousand years after the crucifixion the Kingdom of God has not come to an end, it has not changed, and it continues to grow. Earthly kingdoms will come and go, but the Kingdom of God will never end. We need to remember that. We need to remember that we are following our King, Jesus.

Jesus came to earth to give us a perfect example of how we are to live our lives. Jesus is a man of great integrity. I like to define integrity as always doing the right thing, even when no one is looking. Jesus

stayed in contact with his Father in prayer and always did the right thing. He carried out the ministry his father was calling him to do, even when it led to great suffering, humiliation and death. Jesus is all powerful and could do whatever he chose to do. He could have thought I am done, everyone is abandoning me. I am going to take the few loyal disciples that I still have, disappear into the hills, and live out the rest of my days in peace. But he did not do that. He saved us.

Look at the people today who are in positions of power. Look at the rich and famous. There seems to be a real lack of integrity there. But, they do impact our lives. Who are you following? Are you following them even when they do not do the right thing? There is such a divide in our country today. Are we blindly following a party or a person in power even when they go against the example that Jesus gave us? Earthly parties and human beings are not perfect. I think we could all agree on that. How can we give them blanket support? I think we have to keep going back to the New Commandment that Jesus gave us. Love your neighbor as yourself. How did Jesus love us? He died for everyone, even those who condemned and killed him. Even after all of the suffering, humiliation and abandonment he still loved all of us. Even one of the lifelong criminals who deserved to be dying on the cross next to Jesus, who probably never heard his preaching or saw his miracles, recognized Jesus and said “Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom.” And Jesus replied “Today you will be with me in Paradise.” Jesus loved him.

We need to remember who our King is, the only one whose kingdom is growing after 2.000 years. We need to remember the law of love. We need to be people of integrity and do the right thing, even when no one is looking, and when they are. Sometimes doing the right thing involves carrying a cross. However just like these little figures of Jesus, most of the crosses we are called to carry are very small in comparison to the cross that Jesus carried. It is by carrying these little crosses every day, doing the right thing, that we find purpose, meaning and fulfillment in our lives. Like with these little figures of Jesus, find a way to remind yourself every day that Jesus is our king.