From the Pastor



November 22, 2026

Dearest Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Viva, Cristo Rey! Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. This feast was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925, in the aftermath of the First World War. He was concerned that the rise of secularism and Communism in Europe. He was also concerned about an attitude that placed God in his "place" rather than recognizing Him as Creator, and thus sovereign, of all creation. So, what to do? Establish a feast celebrating the very thing he was concerned about.

This feast was originally placed on the Sunday before the *Solemnity of All Saints.* The idea was that there is a progression from Christ the King, to the "Church Triumphant" (heaven) to the "Church Suffering" (purgatory). In 1969 this feast was moved to the last Sunday of the liturgical year, the idea being that the recognition of Christ as king and living under his reign is the end point to which all things are ordered and go. Thus, we now end the liturgical year with the feast of Christ the King.

I have always found the celebration of this feast to be a wonderfully appropriate prelude to the season of Advent which we celebrate next Sunday. Before we prepare for the coming of Christ in glory (the first two weeks of Advent) and before we commemorate the coming of Christ in the flesh, we recall Who it is that is coming and Who it is that we prepare for. Think about it.

On another note, we are just a few weeks out from the kick-off of this year's *Diocesan Annual Appeal*. On kick-off weekend I stated that I would like to see us complete the appeal by Christmas. The goal for Newman Parish for this year is $52,835. We are now past $32,715. This is an excellent start. We are over 60% there. Some have pointed out that, in the past, a suggested amount was communicated to the parish. I'm sorry I wasn't aware of that. However, the diocesan goal divided by the number of parish households (215) would mean we need an average of $245.75 from each household. I'm well aware that some are able to do more (and, indeed, have) and some are not able to give at this level. I trust that all will do their best.

Finally, our annual financial report and Works of Charity collection will be mailed out at the beginning of December. Please, keep an eye out for these.

"May Christ our Lord help us all with His bountiful grace, so that we may know His holy will and perfectly fulfill it." (*St. Ignatius of Loyola*)

Fr. Michael

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NEWMAN

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On Living the Vocation to the Holiness

This week we observe our national celebration of ***Thanksgiving***. I was originally going to say "our national act of Thanksgiving", but too often, I think, we forget why and to Whom we offer this thanksgiving.

While the centerpiece of most celebrations is either a family or community dinner, that should not be the whole of it. Our contemporary celebration finds its origin in a 1863 proclamation of President Abraham Lincoln, who proclaimed a day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens." And so, we are called upon to recognize this national holiday as a day of thanksgiving to God.

Beautifully, the holy Mass is precisely this! Indeed, the word *eucharist* means *thanksgiving*. So, our ultimate act of thanksgiving is participation in the Eucharistic Liturgy, the Mass. It would seem to follow, then, that we all ought to, as far as we are able, include our own participation in holy Mass as the centerpiece of our celebration. I know, turkey dinner taking second place to Holy Communion would seem, to the outside observer, very strange. But when you know what, or Who, Holy Communion is, it isn't even a contest. Truly!

Why is holy Mass the most perfect act of thanksgiving possible in this life? Now THAT is a great question. We find the answer in the Gospels: John 6, Matthew 26:26-30, Mark 14:22-26, and Luke 22:14-23, along with St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians 11:23-25; we also find the answer in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. See paragraphs 1359-1361. We see in these paragraphs that holy Mass is the perfect act of thanksgiving because it is NOT our act of thanksgiving, it is the perfect act of Jesus Christ to which we are joined through our participation in the Mass.

So, I invite and encourage your participation in holy Mass on Thanksgiving Day. It is, indeed, better than a turkey dinner…but the turkey dinner IS, indeed, the gravy on top. Happy Thanksgiving!



Join us for Mass on Thanksgiving Day,
Thursday, November 26
9:00am