

Dear friends in Christ,

Here we are at the week of Thanksgiving. What does this holiday mean to you? Thanksgiving is a day set aside by our country to give thanks to God for the way in which He has blessed our land. We should attend Mass together as a family and give worship and thanks to our God first of all before we do anything else that day. See the Mass schedule in this bulletin for Thanksgiving Day Masses. Then after we have given thanks to God and have enjoyed a meal with our families, we can sit back and enjoy the Thanksgiving Day football games. As a Catholic family it would be good to reflect upon how much you have to be thankful for as a family and as individuals. Count your blessings and share your thankfulness with other members of your family. We as Catholics realize just how much we are blessed each day. That's one reason why we celebrate the Eucharist, the Mass, every day. Eucharist means "thanksgiving". It is our ultimate thanksgiving prayer to God. We give thanks to the Father for giving us His Son, Jesus. We give thanks for the gift of salvation and for Jesus' dying and rising from the dead. We give thanks to Jesus for giving us His Body and Blood in Holy Communion at Mass, through which we are nurtured and strengthened in our faith. We give thanks for His constant presence with us when we are trying to live a life of faithfulness to Him. Also, we give thanks for the gift of the Holy Spirit who leads us in this life of faith. We give thanks for the gift of the Catholic Church which Jesus gave us through the Apostles. We express our thanksgiving as we give to our Lord in our weekly collections at Mass and in our special collections through the year. With this in mind, have you expressed your thankfulness to our Lord by giving to the annual Catholic Services Appeal? We do need to support our Church not only locally, but in our diocese and throughout the world as it is the Church founded by Jesus through His apostles. Let us give thanks to Him for this great and awesome gift.

Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Granger will be having a Parish Mission beginning next weekend and will continue thru Wednesday, December 4. All of you are invited to make this an important part of your preparation for celebrating the Birth of Jesus at Christmas as we begin the Season of Advent. Let us encourage one another and your families to attend this mission.

Today we celebrate the great Solemnity of Christ the King. Our Gospel reading today is taken from Luke 23:35-43. It is the passage of Jesus on the cross. In this passage the soldiers and the two criminals, who were also nailed to a cross to the left and to the right of Jesus, speak of Jesus as being a King. One of the criminals says, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus responds by saying, "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise." The criminal recognizes that Jesus' kingdom is not of this world. Even though His kingdom is not of this world, we have the opportunity to already be living in His kingdom as is stated in our second reading today taken from St. Paul's letter to the Colossians. This letter expresses the Kingship of Jesus. Do we recognize Jesus as King of our lives? Are we living as if we are living in His Kingdom? Are we trying to be His obedient subjects? If Jesus is truly our King then we will put being obedient to Him and to His Catholic Church as the top priority in our life. We will be faithful to Him and to His teachings. We will try to serve Him to the best of our ability seeking His Will and His guidance in our lives by being in communion with Him through prayer and through faithful reception of the Sacraments. May we all strive to live in His Kingdom so that when our earthly life is completed we will be singing the words of today's Responsorial Psalm, "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord."

Below is the Act of Dedication of the Human Race to Jesus Christ the King. Please pray this prayer with your family sometime today.

Please continue to pray for the Souls in Purgatory during November as we remember those who have died. May they rest in peace.

**In Christ,
Fr. Stephen Nesrsta, farář**

ACT OF DEDICATION OF THE HUMAN RACE TO JESUS CHRIST THE KING

Loving Jesus, Redeemer of the human race, look down upon us as we kneel before you on this feast day. We belong to you and we wish always to be yours. In order that we may be more closely united with you, each one of us freely consecrates himself today to your most Sacred Heart.

We pray, Lord, that you will be king, not only of the faithful ones who have never abandoned you, but that you will be King also of those who have abandoned the faith. We pray especially for them, that they may soon return to their Father's house and to their Father's love.

We pray also that you will be King of those who are kept away from the church because of false opinions or misunderstandings. Call them back, Lord, to the truth and unity of the faith, so that soon there may once again be one flock and one Shepherd.

Grant to your Church, Lord, assurance of freedom and immunity from harm. We pray for peace and tranquility among all the nations of the world. May all peoples praise your divine Heart which has loved us and saved us. To you be glory and honor forever. Amen.

(A partial indulgence is granted to the faithful, who piously recite the above Act of Dedication of the Human race to Jesus Christ the King. A plenary indulgence is granted, if it is recited publicly on the feast of our Lord Jesus Christ the King.)