

## Homily Summary – Solemnity of Christ the King (2025)

### Main Points

#### 1. Christ the King: A King Who Chooses Us

- Jesus is not a distant ruler but a King who desires friendship with us (John 15:15).
- By surrendering to Him, we find unexpected freedom, joy, and purpose.
- Christ's kingship is rooted in humility—He reigns from the Cross (John 18:33–37).

#### 2. Christ the King in Father Greg's Life

- Fr. Greg's personal testimony: growing in awareness of Christ's gentle leadership and discovering the peace that comes from placing Him first.
- Allowing Christ to be King is a lifelong journey of trust, surrender, and grace.

#### 3. Parish Life as an Expression of Christ's Kingdom

- Our new parish website highlights many ways to get involved: ministries, groups, prayer opportunities, service, and outreach.
- Participation in parish life is one way of letting Jesus reign in our hearts, families, and community.

#### 4. Christ at the Center of Advent

- The upcoming Colamici concert is an opportunity to start Advent focused on Christ.
- Inviting others to worship, pray, and encounter beauty is an act of evangelization—offering others a chance to meet the King.

#### 5. Christ the King in the Lives of the Young

- This week's Confirmations at our two elementary schools reveal the Holy Spirit forming our young people into strong witnesses for Christ.
- In Confirmation, Christ strengthens His children for mission (Acts 1:8).

#### 6. Christ the King in RCIA

- With 18 RCIA participants and many celebrating the Rite of Acceptance, we see tangible signs of God drawing hearts to Himself.
- These candidates are freely choosing to follow Christ the King and enter His Church.

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### Key Scripture References

- **John 18:33–37** – Jesus declares His kingship before Pilate.
- **Colossians 1:12–20** – Christ is the image of the invisible God and King of creation.
- **Revelation 19:16** – “King of kings and Lord of lords.”
- **John 10:10** – Christ comes that we may have life abundantly.
- **John 15:15** – Jesus calls us friends, not servants.
- **Matthew 28:18** – “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.”

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### Key Catechism References

- **CCC 668–674** – Christ's kingship over heaven and earth.
- **CCC 450** – Calling Jesus “Lord” means recognizing His sovereignty over our lives.
- **CCC 544–550** – Christ inaugurates the Kingdom of God.
- **CCC 1285–1310** – The Sacrament of Confirmation equips the faithful for mission.
- **CCC 1427** – Conversion is a lifelong turning of the heart toward Christ.

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### Reflection Questions

1. Is Jesus truly King in every part of my life—my decisions, priorities, relationships, and habits?
2. Where might Christ be inviting me to surrender more deeply so I can experience greater freedom and peace?
3. How can I help build Christ's kingdom in my parish through prayer, service, and involvement?
4. How will I intentionally put Christ at the center of my Advent season?
5. What can I learn from those receiving Confirmation or entering RCIA about choosing Christ boldly and joyfully?

### **Rhyme summary:**

Jesus Christ is our most loving King.  
We trust Him, and let Him guide everything.  
The more we give to Him, the better things are.  
If we want more peace and love in our life, He'll help us go far.

Through so many ways, God invites us to let Him in.  
Whether through parish groups, Confirmation, RCIA, or the forgiveness of our sins.  
So how can I make Christ King more today?  
If I asked Him how to do so, what would He say?

### **Some Scriptural reasons to come to Mass each weekend**

**Exodus 20:8** - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

**Acts 2:42** - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

**Hebrews 10:24-25** - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

**Luke 22:19** - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

**John 6:53-54** - "So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'"

**Matthew 18:20** - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

**Psalms 122:1** - "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

**Colossians 3:16** - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

### **Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith**

- Check out the resource list available on [www.frmerkley.com](http://www.frmerkley.com)
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>