



BLD Trenton



Community News

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We have hope for eternal life when we honor and exalt Jesus as our Sovereign King.

PROMISE:

"...you will be with me in Paradise." (Lk 23: 43)

WORD:

2 Sm 5: 1-3/ Ps 122: 1-2, 3-4, 4-5/ Col 1: 12-20/ Lk 23: 35-43

ORDER:

- You shall shepherd my people. (2 Sm 5: 2b)

DIRECTIONS:

- Seek and gather the lost and invite them to the community.
- Guide and nourish them with the Word of God, love and prayers.
- Protect them from the temptations of the flesh, the world and the devil by being actively involved in their lives.

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November 18, 2022

The Perfect King

REFLECTION:

The liturgical year of the Church ends in the celebration of the Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, which reminds us again that Christ has dominion over everything and everyone. On this occasion, we are taught and reminded that Jesus' kingdom is not of this world, but is an everlasting kingdom.

On this Sunday's gospel, Jesus is manifested to us as a ruler different from our own concept of a king. He is depicted that His throne is the cross, His crown is made of thorns and He is in the company of two known criminals. Yes, Jesus is King but is far different from earthly kings, political leaders, and financial kingpins that the world knows. Instead of wealth, power and prestige, Jesus proclaims a kingdom of truth and life, of holiness and grace, of justice, love and peace. He does not rule through power, force and might. He rules through virtuous qualities of forgiveness, mercy, compassion, and truth.



While nailed to the cross, Jesus reveals Himself as a king who distributes His gifts most generously – the gift of forgiveness to those who crucified Him, the gift of heaven to a repentant thief, the gift of His mother's love to the whole of mankind. He was always aware that He was sent by the Father to be Lord and King, for all His words and actions were with authority: "All power in heaven and on earth has

been given to me," (Mt 28:18). He had authority to forgive sins (cf. Mt 9:6), over unclean spirits (cf. Lk 4:36), over death (cf. Jn 11:38-44, Mt 9:18-25, Lk 7:11-16).

Jesus' preaching which started with the beatitudes, concludes now by reminding us of what really matters on earth. At the time of judgment, His criterion for judgment would be aligned along the path of His public ministry – a kingdom of service, not of power, to serve and not to be served. To gain eternal life, disciples are expected

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Tending the Flock

He Gives More Than Is Asked For

The Gospel according to St. Luke presents, as in a great painting, the kingship of Jesus at the moment of his Crucifixion. The leaders of the people and the soldiers taunt "the first-born of all creation" (Col 1:15) and put him to the test to see whether he has the power to save himself from death (cf. Luke 23:35-37).

Yet precisely: "on the Cross, Jesus is exalted to the very 'height' of the God who is Love. It is there that he can be 'known'.... Jesus gives us 'life' because he gives us God. He can give God because he himself is one with God" (Benedict XVI, Jesus of Nazareth (English translation, Doubleday, New York, 2007, pp. 349 and 354).

From the One who "is before all things, and in him all things hold together" (Col 1:17) the so-called "Good Thief" straight away receives forgiveness and the joy of entering the Kingdom of Heaven. "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise" (Lk 23:43). With these words, Jesus, from the throne of the Cross welcomes every human being with infinite mercy.

St. Ambrose comments that this "is a beautiful example of conversion to which one should aspire: forgiveness is very quickly offered to the thief and grace is more

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Toms River, NJ 08754

The Lord's Provision

November 11, 2022

Tithe : \$ 450.00
Love Offer : \$ 186.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

Yoyoy Quiapo	11/19	Vange Hermesen	11/23
Rolfe Retuya	11/19	Judy Guerrero	11/23
Dave Smith	11/21	Vincent Palecki	11/23
Adrienne Alquiros	11/22	Jeff Sarmiento	11/23
Clemen Durante	11/23	Marilyn Roy	11/24

Anniversary

Brooksie & Ruby Brooks	11/19
Mike & Rouinna Crocco	11/20

Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Mama Mary's visit - Beth Felibrico 732-995-7407
For Prayer Service - Bert & Cora Velez 732-688-1541

*Let us go up to the house of the Lord,
rejoicing and giving thanks
in the name of the Lord.*

Open Hearts



Let us all feel called to expand our horizons – open hearts, please! Not closed, hard hearts. Open your hearts because we are all brothers and sisters... Broaden your horizon, be open, expand your interests and let's dedicate ourselves to knowing about others. If you dedicate yourself to knowing about others, you will never be threatened. But if you are afraid of others, you will be threatened. Each and every person is needed in order for the journey of fraternity and peace to progress. I can give my hand, but if there is no hand from the other side, it doesn't do anything. May Our Lady help us on this journey!

~ Pope Francis



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to follow the path of the Master in serving all people, especially the poor and the neediest. Jesus did nothing but good and He sacrificed himself to save us from our sins. We should be grateful for this and in return, be faithful servants of the Lord by being good role models and inspirations to others.

Can there be any greater proof that the Lord constantly listens to our voice until literally the last seconds of our life; that He always listens to our prayers and pleas? The good thief was blessed for his extraordinary prayer, "Jesus, remember

me when you come into your kingdom," (Lk 23:42). This thief saw things as they were – he realized his own sinfulness; then he saw who Jesus really is, and he asked for mercy. Then his request was immediately answered.

Those who truly repent, even if it is in the final moments of life, will be forgiven by God and taken to heaven to be with God. God always listens and is ready to forgive; but remember, not all may be given one last chance to repent. St. Augustine warned, "Do not despair; one of the thieves was saved. Do not be compla-

cent; one of the thieves was damned."

God and His Truth will triumph over all, over everything, good or bad, that happens in this world. Those who occupy a position of leadership among God's people are especially challenged by Jesus' example. Greatness in God's kingdom is not a matter of having influence, prestige or power. It is serving others and helping them enter the kingdom. It is striving to follow Jesus and be like Him in all His perfect ways. Then we may hope to hear Jesus' reassuring words: "... you will be with me in Paradise," (Lk 23:43).

Adapted from www.bldworld.org

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abundant than the request; the Lord in fact", St. Ambrose says, "always gives more than is asked for.... Life is being with Christ because where Christ is there is the Kingdom" (Expositio Ev. sec. Lucam X, 121: ccl 14, 379).

When we contemplate depictions of Jesus inspired by the New Testament — as an ancient Council teaches — we are led to "understand... the sublimity and the humiliation of the Word of God and... to remember his life in the flesh, his Passion and his salvific death, and the redemption that the world derived from it" (Council in Trullo, [691 or 692], can. 82).

~ Pope Benedict XVI
Angelus Message, November 21, 2010



Send your prayer requests to:
<https://www.bldtrenton.com/intercessory>