



# St. Christopher Parish

**November 26, 2017**

## St. Christopher Church

*Fr. Richard Kelley, Pastor*

*Rev. Thien Nguyen,  
Vietnamese Ministry*

**62 Manchester St.**

**Nashua, New Hampshire 03064**

**(603) 882-0632**

**parish.office@stchrisparishnh.org**

**www.stchrisparishnh.org**

## St. Christopher School

*Mrs. Cindy Clarke, Principal*

**Grades PreK - 6**

**20 Cushing Ave.**

**Nashua, New Hampshire 03064**

**(603) 882-7442**

**(603)594-9253 fax**

**www.stchrischoolnh.org**

## Worship Schedule

Morning Prayer	7:00 AM Weekdays
Daily Mass	7:15 AM Weekdays
Saturday Vigil	4:00 PM
Sunday Mass	8:00 & 10:00 AM
Vietnamese Mass	3:00 PM Sunday
Confessions	3:00-3:30 PM Saturday
Rosary	7:00 PM Tuesday
Eucharistic Adoration	1:00-4:00 PM
	1st Friday of the Month
	September - June

**Welcome New Parishioners! If you would like to register or you have changed your address, please fill out the form on page 5. Those moving from the parish are also asked to contact the rectory. Thank you!**

## Christ the King

Today's Gospel could be seen as an example of what St. Paul is explaining in the second reading. First, he tells us that the resurrection of Christ is not the end of God's reign, but the beginning. Since death came into the world with the sin of Adam, Christ's death saved us from sin and his resurrection saves us from death. Now that he is risen, he will complete his reign over all creation, meaning that everything in creation that turned away from God will now be subject to God. Since Christ had to die before he could rise, the last enemy to be subjected is death; so too do we have to die before we can rise.

When all this happens, everything will show God's glory. God will be seen in all of creation. Jesus will be seen as equal to the Father, not just a man, but the Son of God. The Gospel gives us the image of a king on his throne, surrounded by his subjects. And then comes the final judgment.

The rest of the Gospel is symbolic description of that judgment. I always thought the point of this parable was that we recognize God in the poor, the sick, the homeless, prisoners, etc. But the people in the parable who helped all those in need did not recognize Christ in the needy. That's why he tells them that whatever we do for "these least ones," we do for Christ.

That is actually good news, because it is not always easy to recognize Christ in others. I used to think that once I start seeing Christ in all people, I'll be more willing to help them. But it also works the other way. When you help someone in need, you begin to see Christ there, too. This means that we cannot use not seeing Christ in others as an excuse to put off helping them. ("Sure, I'll help those drug addicts--as soon as I see Jesus in them.") Whether it is a death-row prisoner or a homeless family, we need to take that leap of faith to help, not knowing if we will ever see Christ in them. Remember, God forgives and saves us because we need God, not because we deserve it.

*Tom Schmidt, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.*

## Our Parish Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray for all of the people and programs of St. Christopher Parish. Unite us as a community of believers and grant us the wisdom, grace, and strength to do your will. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. AMEN.

## Our Mission

We are a Roman Catholic parish whose members live and proclaim the saving message of Jesus Christ.

## Our Vision

St. Christopher Church serves as a spiritual home where all are welcome to share in its ongoing commitment to providing opportunities for

- Worship through the celebration of the Sacraments,
- Service through active and compassionate participation in the community,
- Education in God's Word and the Catholic faith, and
- Fellowship through parish events that nurture and support family life.

## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, November 25

4:00 PM Thomas O'Neill, 22nd Anniv.  
by His Family

### Sunday, November 26

8:00 AM Patricia Eckert  
by Family & Friends  
10:00 AM For Parish Intentions  
3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass

### Monday, November 27

7:15 AM Robert Quada  
by Family & Friends

### Tuesday, November 28

7:15 AM Alex Gurskis, Month's Mind  
by St. Christopher Parish

### Wednesday, November 29

7:15 AM No Mass Today

### Thursday, November 30

7:15 AM Mary Kay Desmond,  
12th Anniversary  
by the Desmond Family

### Friday, December 1

7:15 AM Alan Mendel  
by the Mercurio Family

### Saturday, December 2

4:00 PM James Skowron, 6th Anniv.  
by His Father Anthony  
& Family

### Sunday, December 3

8:00 AM For Parish Intentions  
10:00 AM For Parish Intentions  
3:00 PM Vietnamese Mass

### The Sanctuary Lamp Burns This Week:

For Parish Intentions

### Altar Bread and Wine:

The Altar Bread and Wine, which will become the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ at all Masses during November, will be offered for Robert Desjarlais, 24th Anniversary and the Desjarlais Family by John & Claire Hebert.

Arrangements can be made to donate the monthly Altar bread and wine in honor of a loved one by contacting the rectory at 882-0632 during business hours. Mass intentions can also be scheduled by calling the rectory.



**FR. KELLEY** - I will be away from the parish for most of the week while I am on my priest annual retreat. All parish activities continue as usual. Please take a special look at the daily Mass schedule for the week ahead.

**MOVING** - The Corpus Christi Food Pantry and the Nashua Offices of New Hampshire Catholic Charities are moving. Both are relocating to the former Infant Jesus Convent, 3 Crown Street in Nashua. The former convent has been renovated for these new services. It takes effect at the end of the month and we trust that this will be a good move for everyone.

**FIRST PENANCE** - the children in the First Penance program will receive the sacrament for the first time on Saturday, December 2nd here at the church. We congratulate these children and their families.

**GOOD NEWS** - Much of what we read in the news is not good, to say the least. However, there are occasions when we read about something that has happened which can truly 'lift up your spirits'. Recently something took place at the high school I attended (Catholic Memorial in West Roxbury, Massachusetts) which did just that.

There was a man who died in West Roxbury. He was homeless, had no family, but it was learned that he was a veteran. The students banded together and made sure that he was given a proper burial. They purchased a casket and he was given a Military Funeral along with a Mass of Christian burial which took place at the school chapel. I learned that it was a teachable moment especially for the young people.

In times such as this when so much of the news is bad, it is good to realize that many good things are happening as well. The students and administration at Catholic Memorial truly carried out one of the works of mercy - to bury the dead.

## Religious Education News

### Sunday Morning Class 8:30-9:45 AM

November 26-NO CLASS-Happy Thanksgiving!

December 3 -- Regular Class --First Sunday of Advent

December 10 -- Regular Class -- Second Sunday of Advent

### Monday Evening Jr High Class 6:30-7:45 PM

November 27 -- Regular Class

December 4 -- Regular Class

December 11 -- Regular Class

### Sacrament Preparation Class dates:

November 26 -- NO CLASS-Happy Thanksgiving!

December 2 -- Reconciliation Service at 10:00 AM. Please arrive no later than 9:40 A.M. Please come downstairs afterward to pick up certificates and books/notebooks!



St. Christopher's would like to welcome Ricky Guay to the parish and his new spiritual home.



## First Friday Eucharistic Adoration

**December 1  
1:00-4:00 PM**

*Come get into the spirit of the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons in the most special way...spend time with the Lord during our Eucharistic Adoration! Advent begins on December 3!*

## Youth Group News

There is NO youth group this week. Hope you had a happy Thanksgiving and we'll see you on December 5th! For any questions, email Emily Murphy at youthministry@stchrisparishnh.org.

## Christmas Worship

*Because Christmas Eve lands on a Sunday, our worship schedule will be a bit different this year. Please make a note in your calendar of the Sunday and Holy Day Obligation Mass schedule for December 23 through January 1!*

**Saturday, December 23**  
4:00 PM Vigil

**Sunday morning, December 24**  
9:00 AM  
(Please note, no 8:00 or 10:00 AM Mass.)

**Sunday Evening, December 24**  
**Christmas Eve**  
4:00 PM (both upstairs & downstairs)  
9:00 PM

**Monday, December 25**  
**Christmas Day**  
9:00 AM

**Saturday, December 30**  
4:00 PM  
**Sunday, December 31**  
8:00 and 10:00 AM

**Monday, January 1**  
**Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God (New Year's Day)**  
10:00 AM



## Have the Best Advent Ever

**St. Christopher Parish wishes you the best Advent ever! To begin this spiritual season, please pick up your copy of the Little Blue Book with daily reflections for the Advent and Christmas season. The books are located in the alcove and foyer beginning Nov 25 and 26.**

Just in time for Advent! You can subscribe to receive (via email) FREE daily reflections from Dynamic Catholic entitled "Best Advent Ever". Please follow these instructions to begin receiving your daily readings and "have the best Advent ever":

1. Go online to  
DynamicCatholic.com<<http://dynamiccatholic.com>>
2. On top of Home Page: "Free Resources"
3. Under Free Resources select: "Best Advent Ever"
4. Select: "Sign Up"
5. If you select the box below, you can sign up for both the Best Advent and Best Lent Ever Programs.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is also offering daily scripture readings by email. To subscribe to the USCCB daily scriptures readings:

1. Go to their website, <http://usccb.org>
2. On top of Home page, select "Subscribe"
3. Select Communication method, "email"
4. Page down to Communications, "Sign up to daily readings"

### **This Week's Parish Activities**

An early bulletin deadline did not allow us to list events for this coming week. Please check the event calendar on the parish website at [www.StChrisParishNH.org](http://www.StChrisParishNH.org) for the current schedule of events for the week.

## We're Here for YOU at St. Christopher Parish!

### **Rectory Hours:**

Monday - Friday 9:00-3:00

### **Rectory Phone:**

882-0632

### **Email:**

[parish.office@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:parish.office@stchrisparishnh.org)

### **Parish Life - Linda Sanborn**

[lsanborn@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:lsanborn@stchrisparishnh.org)

### **Bookkeeper - Jean Dickson**

[bookkeeper@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:bookkeeper@stchrisparishnh.org)

### **Director of Music & Organist -**

Carol Ann Skabo

[music@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:music@stchrisparishnh.org)

### **Religious Educ. - Christine Mercurio**

[cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org)

### **Confirmation - Deacon Jim Daly**

[deaconjim@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:deaconjim@stchrisparishnh.org)

### **RCIA - Joe Mercurio**

[rcia@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:rcia@stchrisparishnh.org)

### **Youth Ministry - Emily Murphy**

[youthministry@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:youthministry@stchrisparishnh.org)

### **Parish Council - Elizabeth Cote**

[ecote@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:ecote@stchrisparishnh.org)

### **Finance Committee -- Tom Nardone**

[tnardone.work@gmail.com](mailto:tnardone.work@gmail.com)

### **Bulletin - Marta Nissen**

[bulletin@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:bulletin@stchrisparishnh.org)

Bulletin submissions are due one week before publication.



**Like St. Chris Parish on Facebook!**



**Join our Parish Email List!**



**Due to an early bulletin deadline, we are unable to report last week's Offertory at this time. Please check back here to get caught up!**

**Thank you for supporting your Spiritual Home!**



### **Nashua's Diocesan Catholic Schools**

[www.NashuaDiocesanSchools.org](http://www.NashuaDiocesanSchools.org)

St. Christopher School  
Grades Pre-Kindergarten - 6  
882-7442

[www.stchrischoolnh.org](http://www.stchrischoolnh.org)

Infant Jesus School  
Grades Pre-Kindergarten - 6  
889-2649

[www.ijschool.org](http://www.ijschool.org)

Nashua Catholic Regional  
Junior High School  
Grades 7 & 8  
882-7011  
[www.ncrjhs.org](http://www.ncrjhs.org)

## **New Inspirational Materials**

Please visit our kiosk for new inspirational CDs and book titles for Christmas! We have (or will have soon) 5 new CDs and 2 new book titles, including several copies of each. All are priced very reasonably. Might be a great Christmas gift for family and friends!

New CD titles: *God Made Man; Journey through Advent; The Mystery of Christmas; The Rosary; Prepare the Way*

New book titles: *Joy to the World; Saints Of Our Times*

## **St. Christopher Online Giving**

Winter weather will be here very soon and that means ice and snow may make it difficult for some people to get to church. Unfortunately, parish bills keep growing during the winter, including increased heating costs and snow removal expenses. You can make sure your parish support doesn't stop just when we need it the most. Check out our simple, safe and secure online giving program at [www.StChrisParishNH.org](http://www.StChrisParishNH.org). We are most grateful to all those who make every effort to give consistently whether electronically or through the weekly offering basket. It really helps us plan and meet our budget!

## **Got Cards?**

Help us spread some Christmas Cheer! The Religious Education program will be participating in a service project to create hand decorated Christmas cards for delivery to several area nursing home residents as well as the retired priests at the Bishop Peterson residence. We are collecting your unwanted (old and new) Christmas cards. These will be cut (any names/messages will be removed) and repurposed to create a new Christmas message for a resident who may benefit from a heartfelt Merry Christmas from a youngster. Please place your donated cards in the labelled collection boxes located at the entrances to the church over the next few weeks. When the box is gone- we have enough! Our project takes place on December 17th. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Please contact Chris Mercurio at [cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org](mailto:cmercurio@stchrisparishnh.org) with any questions.

## **Respect Life Essay Contest**

The NH Knights of Columbus is again sponsoring a Student Respect Life Essay contest, open to Junior High (grades 6,7,8) and Senior High (grades 9,10,11,12) students in NH. The NH Knights of Columbus will make up to six cash awards of \$100. The theme is: "How would you respond to claims that Pro-Life denies a woman's 'choice' " ?" The deadline is midnight on December, 15, 2017

Essays may not be longer than 500 words; typed, and submitted as a PDF or Word Document and emailed to [matu19@comcast.net](mailto:matu19@comcast.net). Include student name, age, grade, school, parent name and address, phone, parish and email. Students may obtain help and information from parents, teachers, friends, and the internet, but the essay itself must be their own work. Further contest details may be obtained from KofC NH contest chairman John P. Matuszewski (434-4098) or KofC NH State Pro-Life Chairman Ron Distasio (595-7837).

## **Yoga for Seniors on Monday!**

Have you thought about becoming a little more active to improve your overall health? Consider joining the St. Christopher Yoga for Seniors class on Monday mornings at 8:00 am in the Church Hall. Yoga for Seniors is a class that moves the whole body through a series of seated and standing yoga poses to increase flexibility and range of motion, improve balance and core strength, and help promote stress reduction and mental clarity. Classes are provided free of charge to St. Christopher's seniors. Please regularly check the bulletin or the [www.stchrisparishnh.org](http://www.stchrisparishnh.org) web site for the up-to-date schedule. If school is cancelled or delayed due to weather, there will not be a class that day.

### **Upcoming class schedule:**

December 4 – Regular Class at 8:00 AM  
December 11 – Regular Class at 8:00 AM  
December 18 – Regular Class at 8:00 AM  
December 25 – NO CLASS – Christmas Day  
January 1 – NO CLASS – New Year's Day  
January 8 – NO CLASS  
January 15 – Yoga Class 8:00 am

## Knights of Columbus News

The Knights of Columbus will be selling religious Christmas cards at the Holiday Stroll in the St. Patrick Parish Center on November 25 and after masses on November 26 and December 2 and 3, while supplies last.

We will also be serving hot chocolate outside the Parish Center on Main St. during the Stroll. Donations will be accepted.

Our Officers/planning meeting for December 5 will be at the Pennell Center at 7:00 PM instead of 7:30 because it will be our annual pot luck Christmas Party. All our Knights and their families are invited to attend and bring a dish or dessert. There will be a yankee swap as well. For more information, contact Grand Knight Rob Everett at rje7@hotmail.com.

## Corpus Christi Corner

Thank you to all who donated groceries and money to the Corpus Christi Food Pantry Brown Bag Appeal. It was a big success! Here are the numbers: The St Chris School Brown Bag Appeal in late September had a few bags come in after the initial pick up at the school. They added another 58.7 pounds to their overall total, bringing it to 948.6 pounds. The Parish Brown bag brought in 1,328.6 pounds. The total from the money envelopes came to \$1,020. We are truly blessed to have such generous donations, thank you all so much for your continued support.

Suggested items for the month of November are: Stuffing, gravy, canned carrots, canned peas, muffing mix, canned pasta, graham crackers and white rice. There are baskets at each of the church entrances for your donations.

## Low Gluten Hosts Available

Low gluten hosts are available at any mass for those who cannot eat wheat. To receive a low gluten host during communion, please arrive at least 10 minutes before Mass, come to the Sacristy and tell Fr. Kelley of your need for the low gluten host.



## From the Families of Nazareth

### Who Are the Least Brothers of Christ?

"For Christians, the poorest one, the smallest, is in reality the greatest, because Jesus sided totally with him to the point where, when one receives one of these, he receives Himself."

*Andre Daigneault, The Way of Imperfection (Ft. Collins, CO. IAMF, 2016), 77.*

*Join our regular Thursday night schedule of meetings at 94 Walden Pond Dr., Nashua to pray and share together our experiences of God's love, and support our responses to that. We begin at 7:00 PM, and look forward to seeing as many of you who are able to attend.*

## Breakfast with St. Nicholas

FREE for the whole family!  
Donations accepted to benefit the  
St. Christopher St. Vincent dePaul Society

**Sunday  
December 10**

**Following both  
8:00 AM and 10:00 AM  
Masses**

*Sponsored by  
St. Christopher Parish Council  
and  
St. Christopher School Parent Group*



*Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands.  
Protect them as they protect us.  
Bless them and their families,  
For the selfless acts they perform,  
For us in our time of need.  
And give us peace.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus,  
Our Lord and Savior. Amen.*

Please pray for the following service people from our parish:

Children of William & Yvette Berthelotte:  
Maj. Brian Berthelotte (Army);  
Maj. Mark Berthelotte (Air Force);  
LCDR Brad Berthelotte (Navy)

Grandson of William & Yvette Berthelotte:  
PFC Matthew Berthelotte (Marine)

Son of John & Alana Kocsis:  
Sgt. John Kocsis III (Army)

Son of Joseph & Sue Strob:  
Maj. Rob Strob

Grandsons of Pat & Kaye Heffernan:  
Sgt. Eamonn Garber (USMC)  
LCPL Nicholas Garber (USMC)

Son of David & Patricia Taylor:  
SFC James Taylor (Army)

Grandson of Lorraine St. Pierre  
PFC Alexander St. Pierre (Army)

Sons of Laurie Allard and Grandsons of Madeleine Kopka:  
AT3 Michael Allard (Navy)  
AME2 Joseph Allard (Navy)

Daughter of John Soltis:  
Lt.Col. Kristen Soltis (USAF)

Son-in-law of John Soltis:  
Lt.Co.I James Habeck(USAF)

Grandchildren of Dan & Sue Tracy:  
2Lt Brittany DesLauriers (Army)  
PV2 Gavin Tracy (US Army)

December 1  
(died 1581)

**St. Christopher Parish  
Community Outreach**

**Parish Prayer Line**  
*Overwhelmed by life, by care?  
May we help with our prayer?*

St. Christopher's Prayer Line --  
24/7 from us to Heaven!

**Call the Prayer Line**  
(Coordinator Maureen Brown)  
882-8634

**Go online to**  
www.stchrisparishnh.org

**Send email to**  
prayerhotline@  
stchrisparishnh.org

**Prayer Shawls**

Our prayer shawl ministry, Creating for our Community, gathers once a month to knit, crochet, and pray as they create beautiful prayer shawls. If you know of someone who could benefit from the gift of a Prayer Shawl, whether they are having difficult time, or simply need the comfort of Prayer wrapped around their shoulders, please contact the rectory at 882-0632.

**Outreach Ministry**

If you are homebound and cannot attend Mass and would like to receive communion, please call the Rectory 882-0632.

**Senior Companions**

Are you homebound? Would you enjoy a visit? Your parish wants to stay connected with you! If St. Christopher is your spiritual home, how about a visit from one of your fellow parishioners? To arrange a visit, please call the Rectory at 882-0632.

**St. Edmund Campion**

Edmund was born at London in England. He was the son of a Catholic bookseller who was converted and became an Anglican. When he grew up he planned to join his father in business but received a scholarship to Saint John's College in Oxford.

He was a very popular young English student and a very good speaker. In fact, Edmund was chosen to deliver a welcoming speech to Queen Elizabeth when she visited his college. Some students were very attracted by his happy nature and his many talents and made him their leader. Even the queen and her chief ministers were fond of this handsome young man. The Queen wanted to make him a Deacon in the Church of England.

But Edmund was troubled about his religion, as he believed that the Catholic Church might be the only true Church. He did not hide his feelings, and the government, which was persecuting Catholics, became very distrustful of him.

Edmund knew that he would lose the queen's favor and all his chances of a great future if he chose to become a Catholic. The young man prayed about it and decided to become a Catholic anyway.

After he had escaped from England, Edmund studied to become a priest. He entered the Society of Jesus. When the Holy Father decided to send some Jesuits to England, Father Campion was one of the first to go.

The night before he left, one of the other Jesuit priests wrote over his doorway: "Father Edmund Campion, martyr." Although he knew what danger faced him, the holy priest set out cheerfully. In fact, he had many a laugh because of his disguise as a jewel merchant.

In England he preached with great success to Catholics who had to meet with him in secret. Spies of the queen's men were everywhere trying to catch him. He wrote: "I won't escape their hands much longer. Sometimes I read letters that say 'Campion has been caught!'"

It was a traitor who finally had Edmund captured. The government officials who had been so fond of him visited Edmund in jail. Even Queen Elizabeth came.

But none of their threats or promises could make him give up the Catholic faith. Although they made him suffer, he still defended himself and his fellow priests so well that no one could answer him. But the enemies of the Church condemned him to death anyway.

Before he was put to death, St. Edmund forgave the man who had betrayed him. He even helped save the man's life. He was tortured in the Tower of London, then hanged, drawn and quartered. Parts of his body were displayed as a warning to other Catholics at each of the four city gates. St. Edmund Campion died in 1581.

**Welcome!**

*St. Christopher Parish welcomes all visitors to our Spiritual Home! If you are interested in joining the parish, please complete the form below and either drop it in the Offertory Basket or mail it to the Rectory. One of our Parish staff members will be in touch. Registration forms are also available online at [www.StChrisParishNH.org](http://www.StChrisParishNH.org).*

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_



## Family Connection to this Week's Gospel



**Gospel Reading:** Matthew 25:31-46

**Jesus teaches that when the Son of Man comes in glory, he will judge the nations, separating the sheep from the goats.**

In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches us that we will be judged on only one thing: the acts of mercy we have shown to the least among us. Jesus identifies with the least ones; thus we serve Jesus whenever we serve one of the least ones. The Church calls the actions that Jesus described in today's Gospel the Corporal Works of Mercy. These works are to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to bury the dead, to shelter the homeless, to visit the sick and imprisoned, and to give alms to the poor. In these actions we show God's compassion and mercy to those in need.

As you gather as a family, recall the list of the Corporal Works of Mercy. Talk about some concrete examples of how your family might do these actions in your community and then discuss why it is important that we do these things. Read Matthew 25:31-46. Ask: Why does Jesus say we ought to do these works of mercy? (Because whenever we show mercy to another person, we show mercy to Jesus himself.) Choose one Corporal Work of Mercy that your family will act upon this week. Pray together that your family will see and serve Jesus in the least ones among us. Pray the Lord's Prayer or an Act of Love.

Reprinted from <http://www.loyolapress.com>

## Prayer to Saint Michael

With so many challenges confronting us these days, we need help and strength to meet them head on. Please join us in praying daily that through the intercession of Saint Michael, we will remain faithful and strong in the Lord's service and in defending the Truth which resides in the Church!

*St. Michael the Archangel defend us in battle; be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do Thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, thrust into hell, Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl around the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.*



## About Our Catholic Faith:

### The Feast of Christ the King



On the Roman Catholic liturgical calendar, today is the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, more commonly known as the Feast of Christ the King.

On the last Sunday of the liturgical year (next week is Advent!), this feast reminds us that whatever earth powers may do or ask of us, Christ is the true king that should reign in our hearts.

In the aftermath of the First World War, in the midst of the rise of Communism in Russia, and during the 16th centenary of the Council of Nicaea (325), Pope Pius XI instituted the feast in his 1925 encyclical *Quas Primas*, though its first celebration took place in 1926.

While the world was increasingly telling Christians that they must compartmentalize their religion and give their highest allegiance to the government, Pope Pius XI wrote regarding the feast:

If to Christ our Lord is given all power in heaven and on earth; if all men, purchased by his precious blood, are by a new right subjected to his dominion; if this power embraces all men, it must be clear that not one of our faculties is exempt from his empire. He must reign in our minds, which should assent with perfect submission and firm belief to revealed truths and to the doctrines of Christ. He must reign in our wills, which should obey the laws and precepts of God. He must reign in our hearts, which should spurn natural desires and love God above all things, and cleave to him alone. (*Quas Primas*, 33)

---Reprinted from [www.churchpop.com/2014/11/23/8-things-didnt-know-feast-christ-king/](http://www.churchpop.com/2014/11/23/8-things-didnt-know-feast-christ-king/)

## Prayer for Vocations

O Holy Spirit, Spirit of wisdom and divine love, impart Your knowledge, understanding, and counsel to youth that they may know the vocation wherein they can best serve God. Give them courage and strength to follow God's holy will. Guide their uncertain steps, strengthen their resolutions, shield their chastity, fashion their minds, conquer their hearts, and lead them to the vineyards where they will labor in God's holy service. Amen.

In the Words of  
*Pope Francis*

"Faith is a great life companion, allowing us to feel the presence of a Father who never leaves His creatures alone."

**Pope Francis I @ Pontifex  
November 15, 2017**