

Nov. 25-26, 2017

Thoughts from the pastor,

I have not gotten any farther on my book this past week, but I am really hoping that on this Feast of Christ the King, the Lord will give me some time to finish the last chapter since it is all about the Kingdom and the King.

This is a great weekend to do a little meditation on how we approach the King of Heaven and His Son, Christ the King of kings. The biggest thing that I have hopefully shared with you is that we are not in a position to demand things of God. A king is the boss and not his subjects, even if they are his family members. Mary is a perfect example of that. When responding to God the Father, via Archangel Gabriel, she said: "I am the handmaid of the Lord." At the Wedding Feast at Cana, she did not order Jesus. She just let Him know the circumstances, "They have no more wine." I'm sure she gave Him chores when He was a child, but He was thirty at this point and she knew who He was. A queen mother has influence but does not control her son who is the king.

I told you the foolish way I responded to God when He was telling me what I needed to do. I am happy to say that it didn't take me too long to realize that He was the boss. Too often we let Him know that if He doesn't do things the way we expect, we are going to turn away. The scariest thing about this kind of attitude is that He will let us go away from Him, but He will not conform to our demands.

It is when we are in situations like this, that we don't like, that we feel our helplessness. We realize we don't have the power to make the world revolve around us. Two year olds are learning that lesson, which is why we have the terrible two's. If we don't teach them that they don't rule, they become spoiled tyrants. They become almost impossible to live with. The last few Sundays, we have heard that people who don't live up to the expectations of the King don't end up living with him. They get thrown out where "there is wailing and gnashing of teeth."

This doesn't mean that it is of no use to accept God as our King. He has provided so much for us. But now He is watching to see what we will do with His gifts. That will determine whether we will receive the inheritance.

Next week we will be starting a very short Season of Advent. It is three weeks and a day. That is not a whole lot of time to prepare ourselves to be there for the birthday of the King. So I am suggesting that you take a good look at the Reconciliation schedule to see how you can get the wedding garment taken care of and the oil for our lamps. As you can see from our Nativity stained-glass window, the shepherds left a lamb. What will you offer the Lord? What He wants is a contrite and humble heart, in other words, one that is ready to know Him, love Him, and serve Him in this world so we can be happy with Him in the next. Another way of giving a gift to the Lord is to remember that whatever we do for the least of our brothers or sisters we do for him.

By the way we did get another stained-glass window put in this week. It is an image of St. Paul teaching at the Areopagus in Athens. It is in next to the entrance of the Parish Center.

God bless you,
Fr. Frank