

Dear Padre,

Why does the Church continue to use the image of a king to describe Jesus? He didn't act like a king or expect his followers to treat him like one.

Hereditary kings ruled most nations in the ancient Near East. In Egypt, the king was actually recognized as a god. In Israel, God was considered the one true king, and God's covenant was the treaty that united God and the people.

But the time came when the Israelites thought they needed to strengthen themselves militarily and politically. Then the elders came to Samuel and asked him to appoint a king to govern them like other nations (1 Samuel 8:5). The three great kings of Israel (Saul, David, and Solomon) were considered instruments of God but were also subject to existing legal codes.

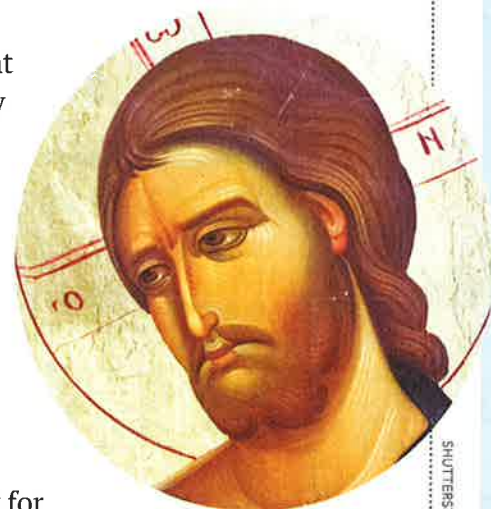
Throughout the New Testament runs the theme that Jesus, a descendant of the royal Davidic line, is a ruler or king. The Magi first proclaimed Jesus king, saying they were looking for the "newborn king of the Jews" (Matthew 2:2).

At the heart of Jesus' message was the good news that all people could enter the kingdom of God if they rejected sin. Jesus used the parable of the mustard seed (Mark 4:30-32) to show that his kingdom will grow until everyone can be embraced within its branches. This kingdom, first manifested in simplicity and love in the Galilean countryside, is to reach its fulfillment in a great love among all people. Jesus as king is an image that should lead us to recognize our commitment to love and service to others in his kingdom.

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Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



SHUTTERSTOCK

Calendar

Monday

NOVEMBER 22
St. Cecilia,
Virgin and Martyr
Dn 1:1-6, 8-20
Lk 21:1-4

Tuesday

NOVEMBER 23
Weekday
Dn 2:31-45
Lk 21:5-11

Wednesday

NOVEMBER 24
St. Andrew Dũng-Lac,
Priest, and Companions,
Martyrs
Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17,
23-28
Lk 21:12-19

Thursday

NOVEMBER 25
Weekday
Dn 6:12-28
Lk 21:20-28

Friday

NOVEMBER 26
Weekday
Dn 7:2-14
Lk 21:29-33

Saturday

NOVEMBER 27
Weekday
Dn 7:15-27
Lk 21:34-36

Sunday

NOVEMBER 28
First Sunday of Advent
Jer 33:14-16
1 Thes 3:12-4:2
Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Daybreaks inspires during our Church's holiest seasons. Leading Catholic voices inspire the faithful with daily reflections & prayers for Advent and Lent. Including: Fr. Ron Rolheiser, Dr. Mary Katharine Deeley, Sr. Dianne Bergant, Fr. Paul Turner, and more at Liguori.org.



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

Jesus asks us to allow him to become our king....But we must not forget that Jesus' kingdom is not of this world. He will give new meaning to our life—at times even put us to difficult tests through our mistakes and our sins—merely on the condition that we not follow the logics of the world and of its "kings."

ANGELUS, NOVEMBER 25, 2018

Our Parish COMMUNITY

November 21, 2021

Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe (B)
Dn 7:13-14 / Rv 1:5-8
Jn 18:33b-37

Your Majesty

This is an interesting form of address. It is not really a title like *Queen* or *Lord*. Nor does it identify a function ascribed to royalty, as does *ruler*. It refers to a status of excellence. It belongs to the position of royalty itself rather than the person in that position. Just what is majesty and why do we attribute it to some people? Originally people believed that royal individuals were descendants of the gods. This probably explains the notion of royal majesty. The readings for today's feast show that Jesus turned the ideas of kingship and royal majesty upside down.

The son of man in Daniel was a heavenly being upon whom "dominion, glory, and kingship" (7:14) were bestowed by God. The kingship of this figure is universal and everlasting. In the Gospels, Jesus frequently identifies with this title. When he does so, he is making a claim about his identity. The passage

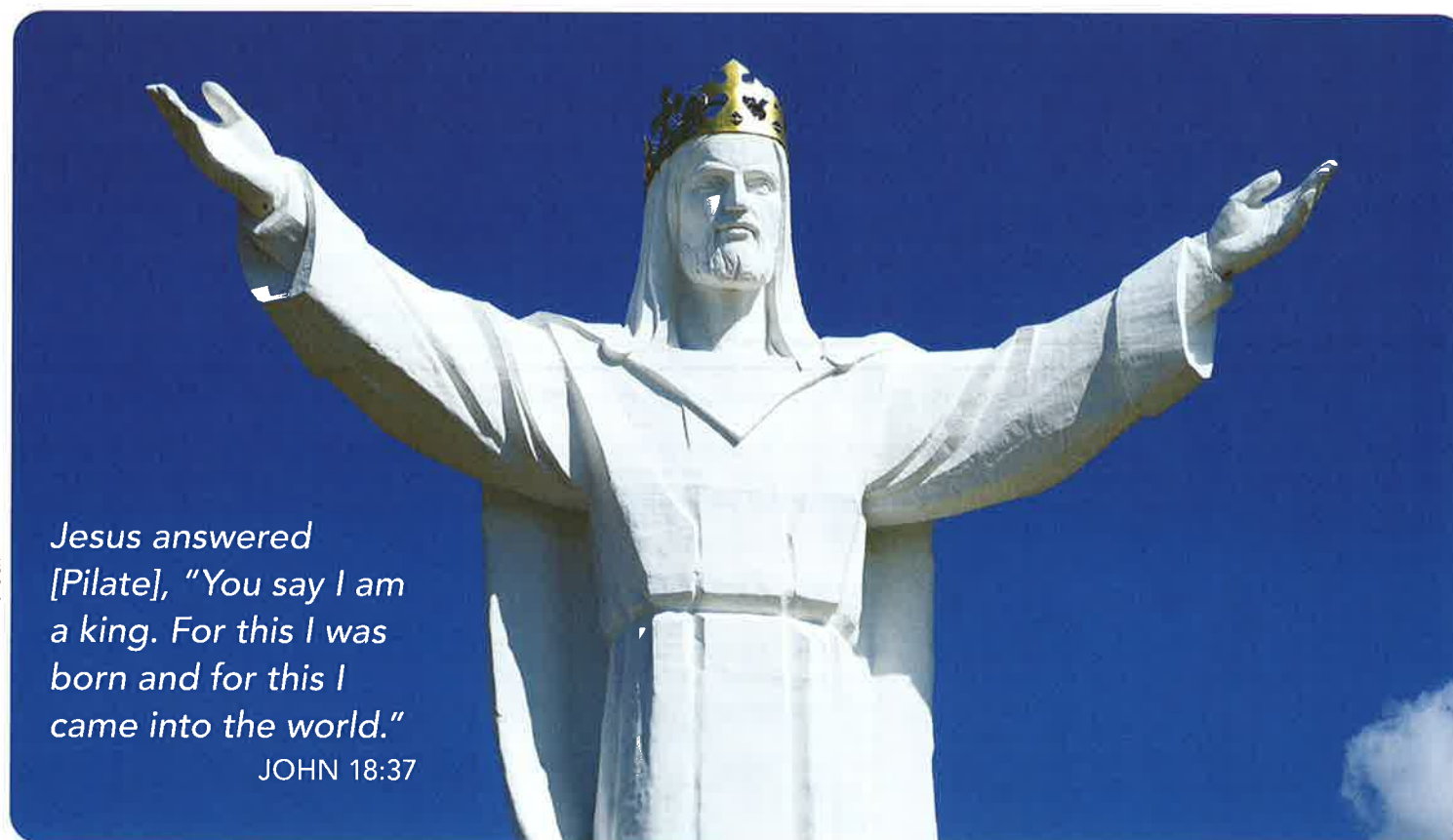
from Revelation depicts Jesus like this son of man, a heavenly being who comes "amid the clouds" (1:7) as "the ruler of the kings of the earth" (1:5).

In the Gospel scene, Jesus is interrogated about his identity. He insists that his kingship springs from love and service, not power and force. It's clear that his royal majesty flows from who he is, not from any political position he might hold. To call him king, as we do with today's responsorial psalm, was a very dangerous political statement for his early followers, for it claimed that Jesus is Lord, not Caesar.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ Do you think Jesus was naive about power politics? Why or why not?
- ★ What influence does Jesus exercise over your life as your king?



Jesus answered [Pilate], "You say I am a king. For this I was born and for this I came into the world."

JOHN 18:37

KRZYSZTOF SŁUSARZYK / SHUTTERSTOCK



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May Thy Kingdom Come!

Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here." [John 18:36](#)
Today, on the final Sunday of our Church year, we celebrate the glorious Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Next Sunday begins Advent. On this day we profess the profound truth that our Lord is King! He is the King of all things. He is King of the Universe. And He is King of Heaven and all spiritual realities. However, in the Gospel passage quoted above, Jesus responds to Pilate who was questioning Him about whether or not He was the King of the Jews. Jesus is clear that He is a King, but that His Kingdom does not belong to this world. So where is His Kingdom?

We can look at Jesus' statement from two points of view. First of all, if Jesus would have claimed that He were an earthly king, one with civil authority, then Pilate would have judged Him to be guilty of trying to overthrow the Roman authority. This would be unlawful and would be punishable by death. In that case, Jesus could have been found legally guilty of violating civil law. But Jesus was purely innocent. He was morally perfect in every way, and that included His obedience to all legitimate civil law. But Jesus was a King. He was The King of all Kings! Therefore, so as to exercise His Kingship, He declared that His Kingdom was not of this world. In other words, it was not a Kingdom that was in competition with the Roman authorities or any other civil authority. To that, Pilate did not know how to respond.

Today and always, God desires that His glorious Kingdom reign in every way. God begins by reigning in our souls. He invites us to invite Him to enter in and take control of our lives. He desires to be the ruler of every passion, desire, thought and action that is ours. When this happens, His Kingdom is firmly established within us.

It also needs to be pointed out that Jesus wants His Kingdom to grow. First, it must grow in the minds and wills of all people. But from there, He wants every person to then work to conform every part of our society to the governance of Him as King. This means that as the hearts of civil leaders are converted, they will be called to enact laws that fully support and build up God's Kingdom on earth. It means that business leaders, as they convert, are called to govern their businesses in accord with the will of God so that their businesses contribute to the establishment of God's Kingdom here and now. It means that as the leaders of our schools, sports programs, social programs and the like all invite Jesus to reign in their hearts as King, The King of the Universe will then guide them to conform all of their endeavors to His will and to the continued upbuilding of His Kingdom.

The first duty of the Christian, in regard to the governance of every aspect of society, is not to impose God's law from without, as a ruthless authoritarian would. Rather, it is to convert minds and hearts so that God's governance comes forth from within. As God's Kingdom is established in the lives of His people, all objectively grave evils embedded within our earthly laws must be overturned. For example, the legalization of abortion stands out as perhaps the greatest of moral evils, since it involves the taking of a completely innocent life. This and countless other immoral earthly laws must be replaced by the laws of God as hearts and minds are converted to His Truth.

Reflect, today, upon your duty to help bring forth the Kingdom of God here and now. Start by seeing your duty to allow God's Kingdom to grow within you and your family. From there, be open to the many ways that God wants to use you to help others do the same. As you do, do not be afraid to work toward the external establishment of God's Kingdom in all that you do and in all that falls within your responsibility. Jesus is King, and He desires to reign everywhere. Cooperate with Him, and His Kingdom will indeed come.

My glorious King, I choose You as King of my life, and I dedicate to You all my actions and endeavors. Please use me to further Your Kingdom. I pray for wisdom, prudence and courage as I am sent forth by You to help bring forth Your merciful and just reign in the lives of all people and within the entire Universe that You created. May Your Kingdom come and Your will be done! Jesus, I trust in You. Source of content: mycatholic.life

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

| Date | Day | Time | Place | Intention |
|-------|-----------|---------------|------------|-----------------------|
| 11/22 | Monday | No Mass Today | | |
| 11/23 | Tuesday | No Mass Today | | |
| 11/24 | Wednesday | No Mass Today | | |
| 11/25 | Thursday | 8:00 AM | Bridgeport | Thanksgiving |
| 11/26 | Friday | No Mass Today | | |
| 11/27 | Saturday | 5.30 PM | Dalton | † Shane Ernest |
| 11/28 | Sunday | 8.00 AM | Bayard | † Ted Tafoya, Jr. |
| 11/28 | Sunday | 10.30 AM | Bridgeport | † Bruno & Jairo Ramos |

ALL SOULS
617 P STREET
BRIDGEPORT NE 69336

MASS TIME
Sunday — 10.30 AM

Thanksgiving Mass
@ 8:00 AM, Thursday
November 25

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| ADULTS | \$390.00 |
| CHILDREN | |
| PLATE | \$52.00 |
| SUBTOTAL | \$ 442.00 |
| MASS STIPEND | \$100.00 |
| TOTAL | \$ 542.00 |
| HEAT/AC | \$100.00 |
| BUILDING FUND | |
| APPEAL GOAL | \$5425.00 |
| DONATIONS | \$1575.00 |
| BALANCE | \$3850.00 |
| DONOR GOAL – 22 | TOTAL-7 |

- Prayer line requests may be made to Carolyn-262-0453 or Teresa-262-0439.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



SACRED HEART
1003 AVE B
BAYARD NE 69334

MASS TIME
Sunday – 8:00 AM



OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| ADULTS | \$515.00 |
| CHILDREN | |
| PLATE | \$72.00 |
| SUBTOTAL | \$ 587.00 |
| MASS STIPEND | |
| TOTAL | \$ 587.00 |
| BUILDING FUND | |
| APPEAL GOAL | \$3457.00 |
| DONATIONS | \$1410.00 |
| BALANCE | \$2047.00 |
| DONOR GOAL – 13 | TOTAL-5 |

- Prayer line requests may be made to Paula-586-2992.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



SAINT MARY'S
718 FRANCIS ST
DALTON NE 69131

MASS TIME
Saturday – 5:30 PM



OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| ADULTS | \$510.00 |
| CHILDREN | |
| PLATE | \$60.00 |
| SUBTOTAL | \$ 570.00 |
| MASS STIPEND | |
| TOTAL | \$ 570.00 |
| BUILDING FUND | \$2000.00 |
| APPEAL GOAL | \$5836.00 |
| DONATIONS | \$2750.00 |
| BALANCE | \$3086.00 |
| DONOR GOAL – 18 | TOTAL-7 |

- Prayer line requests may be made to DeAnn-249-1735.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.

