

FR RUDY'S REFLECTION
**Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe**
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2025

Holding Fast in Hope



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MCCJ, pastor*

My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

When Pope Pius XI established the Feast of Christ the King in 1925, the world was restless with change. Nations were reeling from the devastation of World War I, political ideologies were rising that sought to erase God from public life, and secularism threatened to displace faith. The Pope saw clearly that the world needed a reminder: Christ alone reigns as King, not in the manner of earthly rulers, but as Lord of the Universe, whose throne is the cross and whose crown is one of thorns. Nearly a century later, this feast remains just as vital. In a world tempted to make power, money, and self-interest into false gods, we proclaim that Jesus Christ is the true ruler of history and the Lord of our destiny.

Pope Paul VI once wrote with profound clarity: "Jesus Christ is the beginning and the end, the Alpha and the Omega. He is the king of the new world. He is the secret of history. He is the key to our destiny." These words capture why this solemnity concludes our liturgical year—all time, all creation, and all hope find their fulfillment in Christ. As we prepare next week to begin Advent, we end the year by acknowledging Christ's supreme authority and entrusting ourselves to his eternal kingdom.



The Gospel today from Luke 23 brings us not to a golden throne but to Calvary. Jesus hangs on the cross, mocked by leaders and soldiers who cannot grasp the paradox of his kingship. "If you are King of the Jews, save yourself," they sneer. Yet his kingship is revealed not in saving himself but in giving himself for us. In the midst of suffering, one of the criminals crucified with him recognizes Jesus's true power and pleads: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." This humble prayer, born of repentance and faith, receives the breathtaking reply: "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Here is the mystery of Christ the King. He reigns not by domination but by mercy; not by force but by love. His kingdom is not of this world, yet it is breaking into this world whenever we live by his command to love God and neighbor. His cross becomes the doorway to Paradise. His final words to the repentant thief remind us that no one is beyond the reach of his grace and that his authority is always used for our salvation.

This feast challenges us to choose our loyalty. Do we serve the passing rulers of this world, or do we give our hearts to the eternal King? To follow Christ the King means to serve with humility, to stand with the poor and forgotten, and to allow his mercy to shape our lives.

As this liturgical year closes, we look to Christ who is indeed our Alpha and Omega, the one who governs history with love. He is our hope, our Savior and King forever.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Rudy

**OUR LADY
OF GUADALUPE
FAMILY OF PARISHES**



**HOLY FAMILY CHURCH
ST. BONIFACE CHURCH
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
ST. LEO THE GREAT
CHURCH
ST. THÉRÈSE LITTLE
FLOWER CHURCH**