

Spiritually Speaking

Christ invites everyone to His kingdom

By Fr. Thankachan Joseph

In the Catholic Church, usually the 34th Sunday of the liturgical year concludes with the Feast of Christ the King, instituted by Pope Pius XI. This Sunday's readings describe the enthronement of the victorious Christ as the King in heaven in all His glory. Christ rules as King by serving others rather than by dominating them. His authority is rooted in truth, not in physical force, and His kingdom is based on the beatitudes.



Fr. Thankachan Joseph

The first reading from the apocalyptic Book of Prophet Daniel came to importance during a hostile torture of Jews in the second century BC, when it reinforced the faith of the harassed chosen people of God and rises again in the sixth century BC during the captivity of the Jews in Babylon (the Exile). This week's selection (7:13-14) speaks of the promised Messiah. In his vision, Daniel saw God seated on a throne with millions of people serving Him. Into His presence came a human figure ("one like a Son of Man") to whom was given "dominion and glory and kingship, that all should serve him... his kingship is one which shall never be destroyed" (v.14). He would be the King of Kings and the Lord of Glory, and His kingdom would last forever.

The New Testament Book of Revelation has the same apocalyptic character as the Book of Daniel, although that element is not very evident in today's short selection (1:5-8). Its readers were being persecuted, and the author wanted to reassure their faith. This reading also explains how the risen Christ will come amid the clouds as the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end of all things. The Book of Revelation prophesizes that at the end of time, everyone will see the Lord Jesus, even those who have pierced Him.

The Gospel of St. John explains that the Kingdom of Jesus is not a kingdom of this world but a kingdom in the world to come, life after death, life with Jesus forever—or life rejecting Jesus forever. We must choose His Kingdom, or we shall live forever in the domain of Satan. The phrase "Kingdom of God" occurs in the Gospels 122 times, 90 of which are spoken by Jesus. Today's Gospel presents the first part of the trial conducted by Pilate, who questions Jesus about His kingship. In His dialogue with Pilate, Jesus implies that Pilate does not understand the spiritual or transcendent nature of Jesus's kingship ("My kingdom does not belong to this world"). Jesus admits that He is a King but declares that His Kingdom is not of this world but is a larger and eternal kingdom. His authority is rooted in truth, not in physical force. Jesus came to bear witness to the truth: about God and His love, about us and about who we are called to be.

What are we to meditate and take to heart?

- 1) We need to assess our commitment to Christ the King today. Let us remember the truth that He is not our King if we do not listen to Him, love Him, serve Him and follow Him. We become His subjects when we genuinely answer His loving invitation: "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart" (Matthew 11:29). By cultivating in our lives, the gentle and humble mind of Christ, we show others that Jesus Christ is indeed our King and in charge of our lives.
- 2) We need to give Jesus control over our lives. Christ must reign in our lives; we must give Him sovereign power over our bodies, our thoughts, our heart and our will. In every moral decision we face, there's a choice between Christ the King and Barabbas. Whom do we choose?
- 3) We need to follow Christ the King's lesson of humble service to the truth. Christ has come to be of service to others. Hence, we are called to His service - service to the truth. Servant-leadership is the model that Christ the King has given us.
- 4) We need to obey the law of love of Christ the king. "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." Jesus expects a higher degree of love from His followers: "Love one another as I have loved you." Let us resolve to give Him the central place in our lives and promise to obey His commandment of love by sharing what we have with all His needy children.

Unite in favor of independence

To the editor:
Advocates for Common Sense and Liberty (Sons of Liberty) began long before the birth of the American Republic. Perhaps the finishing touches were penned by Robert Paine beginning on January 9, 1776, with the anonymous pamphlet "Common Sense." The pamphlet advocated the American colonies to unite in favor of independence from England. At the time Paine wrote "Common Sense" most colonists considered themselves aggrieved Britons. "This new world hath been the asylum for the persecuted lovers of civil and religious liberty from every part of Europe. Hither they have fled, not from the tender embraces of the mother, but from the cruelty of the monster; and it is so far true of England, that the same tyranny which drove the first emigrants from home, pursues their descendants as well." (Common Sense, 1776) Paine's 47-page pamphlet sold over 500,000 copies and provided the moral, civil and spiritual foundation to convince the aggrieved colonists to declare independence from their oppressor.

The 'Sons of Liberty' was a loosely organized clandestine political organization active prior to "Common Sense" which advanced the rights of colonists to resist the oppression and tyranny of King George. The 'Sons of Liberty' believed "the colonists are by the law of nature free born, as indeed all men are, white or black."

The American Republic presently faces the very same "cruelty of the monster" and the "same tyranny which drove the

first emigrants from home, pursues their descendants as well." The 'Sons of Liberty' became a well-organized paramilitary political organization, shrouded in secrecy, that eventually overcome the tyranny of the British government.

It is documented that only 5 percent of the American colonists actively supported the American Revolution. Those Patriots that risked their lives, their families, their fortunes, their heritage were fully convinced their cause was ordained of God, the one and only God of the Holy Bible. Patrick Henry warned, "Guard with jealous attention the public liberty." Tyranny is pursuing the liberty of the American people. Advocates for Common Sense and liberty is a loosely organized body of eastern Oregon citizens committed to guarding and preserving our liberty and way of life blessed unto us by our founding forefathers. This battle will not be won without risking our lives, our families, our fortunes and our very heritage.

I thank God for those with courage and commitment to battle for our Republic against the tyranny (vaccine mandates) and sophistry (CRT) of those powers that oppress us. Never forget the price of our liberty (paid for by veterans, forefathers, political prisoners) when you are forced to accept a foreign substance in your body or your child's or a mask over your face. Soon, very soon, those vaccinated will be forced to take a booster and then another...to keep their paper copy of the new liberty.

Stuart Dick, Irrigon

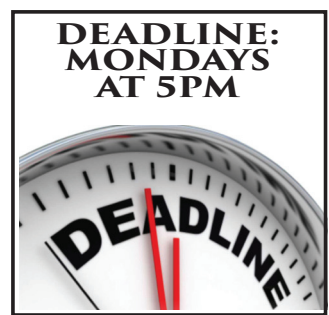
Primary election filing deadlines set

According to Bobbi Childers, Morrow County Clerk, deadlines for candidates filing for a position in the primary election is March 8, 2022. The first day candidates could file was September 9. The election will be held May 17, 2022.

Two nonpartisan positions are open in Morrow County; county commissioners, positions two and three. In a county nonpartisan race (Nonpartisan Office – County ORS

249.031), a candidate does not run as a member of a political party. County nonpartisan offices include justice of the peace, county clerk, county assessor, county treasurer, and sheriff; it may also include county commissioner. ORS 249.002. Those interested should check with the county clerk for specific qualifications.

Check the website at <https://sos.oregon.gov/elections/Documents/county-city-district-candidates.pdf> for more information regarding filing.



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Small businesses try to navigate through Covid

To the editor;
With everything going on in this crazy world, we are all trying to navigate through, reading statistics, listening to the news, debating with your friends/family/neighbors over who believes or does not believe what. We are exhausted as a nation. Who is telling you the truth, who is forcing your mind to be one way or the other? Who can you turn to anymore? I know for me, the daily routines are getting harder and harder, it can get overwhelming with the amount of information we are thrown.

I, myself have written a few letters to the editor, trying to help not only myself, but my fellow man, from the dehumanization that I feel we are all under. I have made points in prior papers, with facts, statistics and major research. So today, I am reaching out to you as a small business owner, navigating through Covid-19. We all have said, just get through this (what they are throwing upon us this moment) and things will get better. After almost 2 years now, I can honestly say I do not see how it is getting better.

Inflation is out of control; gas prices are skyrocketing, jobs are jeopardized. And as a small business, we feel every penny, painfully. While the news is "feeding the agenda" this causes us to suffer from the customer base who is not willing to use their own common-sense. I truly miss some of you who no longer come in. While the Covid-19 card is being played in our world, this is affecting every factory, every worker, every truck driver and every business. The list is endless.

I have said many times, and will continue to believe, Covid-19 in a sick way has been my blessing in disguise. You may say "what?" "how?" It has taught me to grow as a person, to stand harder on my own two feet, it has taught me to adapt. I no longer take for granted the life I have been blessed with. I spend my days figuring out how to make my

dollar stretch further, what can I do to make my business better and stay around longer. I have had to stop relying on my vendors, as most of the time they are unable to provide me my essentials, and have had to spend my time searching, scouring and coming up with solutions, running from one store to the next trying to find anything.

And this is perpetuating the problem in the world. By my vendors losing a customer, it is a major snowball effect. I know you feel the pressure too while you are shopping. Why? While our government is playing around with our minds, our money and our livelihoods, they are destroying so many people on such a personal level. How many nights have you stayed awake wondering, panicking over where or how you are going to take care of your bills, find and afford the next meal for your family? As a business owner, my answer is nightly. My product, the cost of goods, my staff, the list goes on and on for us.


I know people say, it's just a mask, it's just a shot. We are no longer in a stage of "for the greater good." We are in a stage where our government wants our businesses to fail which allows them to keep control of the businesses that rely on them. We need to open our factories, open our ports, start supporting people with jobs. Our nation is in trouble.

We are truly blessed to be a part of this community. We will always stay loud and stand proud. Because, as hard as it is sometimes, you and I are not alone. We want to thank each and every one of you who has patiently been by our side. We will fight, we will conquer this. And please, when you think it's just a mask, just a shot, remember, it's our livelihood, it's our belief in the freedom of choice.

The next meeting will be November 21 at 3 p.m. at Two Old Hags Pizza. You are not alone. Hope you can join us.

Dawn Brosnan

Ione Community Church
470 E Main Street,
Ione, Oregon
Church School & Adult Study at 10:00 am
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"You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."
Jeremiah 29:13
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