



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2016

SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

A crown of service

The church calendar reflects events in the wider world. In the case of today's feast, it is a relative newcomer to the calendar, having been instituted in 1925 at a time when the world was disillusioned with Christianity after the carnage of World War I waged in supposedly Christian Europe. Secularism was on the rise and today's feast was an effort to assert Catholicism's independence from secular states, but the feast's lofty title is also a call to humility, ironically, because Christ's "kingship" is servant leadership, washing-the-feet-of-others leadership. Dare to join the royal household.

TODAY'S READINGS: *2 Samuel 5:1-3; Colossians 1:12-20; Luke 23:35-43 (162)*. "Jesus, remember me when you come into your Kingdom."

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21

MEMORIAL OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Belong to God, as Mary did

You can't find an account of the presentation of Mary in the Bible. But there is a story about this event in the [Protoevangelium of James](#). In this account, Mary is born to a barren Joachim and Anna, who present Mary at the temple when she is 3 years old. According to this legend, Mary lived at the temple until the age of 12. This second-century writing is not included in our sacred scripture, and we do not really know how or when Mary was presented at the temple. What we do know and what this feast honors is that throughout her entire life, Mary belonged to God. Take time today to sit in silence and imagine that you are walking with Mary. Be content to simply be in her presence.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Revelation 14:1-3, 4b-5; Luke 21:1-4 (503)*. "From her poverty she has offered her whole livelihood."

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

MEMORIAL OF CECILIA, VIRGIN, MARTYR

Sing praises to the unsung

The saints are lifted up as examples of how to live lives of holiness, but what about those saints who are canonized but we don't know much about? Saint Cecilia, the patron saint of music, is one such saint. Much of her story is unconfirmed, yet countless people take inspiration from the stories of her courage and faith. While we may not know the details of her life, we can be assured that by inspiring the sweet music of so many, Cecilia has earned her place among the heavenly hosts—a saint whose holiness resounds in the beautiful music of our church.



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

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TODAY'S READINGS: *Revelation 14:14-19; Luke 21:5-11 (504)*. "Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; let the sea and what fills it resound."

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

MEMORIAL OF CLEMENT I, POPE, MARTYR

Drop anchor

Little is known about Pope Saint Clement I, but it appears he may have succeeded Saint Peter as the bishop of Rome. He is the first Apostolic Father of the Church—those early Christian leaders who personally knew some of the 12 apostles. To be that first crucial link through whom the apostles taught the church! Given his role, it's fitting that Clement's symbol is the anchor, which happened to be the method of his martyrdom by drowning. Do you make the church your anchor in life? How can you help ground others in Christian living?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Revelation 15:1-4; Luke 21:12-19 (505)*. "By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24

PROPER MASS FOR THANKSGIVING DAY

Thanks be to those who inspire

On this national day of giving thanks, think about the people in your life from whom you have received the gift of faith. Who brought you to the church for Baptism? Who taught you about God and how to pray? Who took you to Mass? Who inspired you by the way they lived their faith? Perhaps you will think of parents or grandparents, special teachers or other friends. Whoever it is, they deserve your thanks. On this day of thanksgiving, be mindful and grateful for the gift of faith.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Revelation 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a; Luke 21:20-28 (506)*. "Happy are they who have been invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb."

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Give thanks by giving

In 2008 President George W. Bush signed a law designating the day after Thanksgiving as Native American Heritage Day to honor the contributions of Native Americans to the United States, which started before the country existed with the help they gave to the Pilgrims. Let's follow their example today and reach out to newcomers to this land—many of whom, like the Pilgrims, are refugees fleeing persecution. Let's befriend them and help them succeed in their new home—the way it was done unto our ancestors.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Revelation 20:1-4, 11—21:2; Luke 21:29-33 (507)*. "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26

The straight talk on prayer

Do you think of prayer as "talking to God"? What about *listening*? A different, if somewhat crude description of prayer, might be: "Show up, shut up, and pay attention." *Show up*: Set aside a regular time and place for prayer, 10 minutes a day, every day, and keep to it. *Shut up*: A relationship is distorted if one party does not listen to the other but dominates with a litany of woes. Close your prayer book for a while. Rest silently in God's embrace. *Pay attention*: to signs of God's presence around you, even in hard times. Then, perhaps, you will have something entirely different to say to God.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Revelation 22:1-7; Luke 21:34-36 (508)*. "Let us come into his presence."