



**St. John's Parish**  
Roman Catholic Church

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## JESUS MAKES THE HEARTS FREE

THE SOLEMNITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE -  
NOVEMBER 24, 2024

The Gospel from today's liturgy, the last Sunday of the Liturgical Year, ends with an affirmation made by Jesus who says: "I am a king" (Jn 18:37). He pronounces these words in front of Pilate, while the crowd shouts out that he be condemned to death. He says: "I am a king", and the crowd cries out that he be condemned to death. Quite a contrast. The crucial hour has come. Previously, it seems that Jesus had not wanted the people to acclaim him as king: we recall that time after the multiplication of the loaves and fish when he withdrew by himself to pray (cf. Jn 6:14-15).

The fact is that the kingship of Jesus is completely different than that of the world. "My kingship", he says to Pilate, "is not of this world" (Jn 18:36). He did not come to dominate but to serve. He did not come amid signs of power, but with the power of signs. He was not dressed with precious insignia, but he was naked on the cross. And it was precisely through the inscription placed on the cross that Jesus came to be defined as "king" (cf. Jn 19:19). His kingship is truly beyond human parameters! We could say that he is not like other kings, but he is a King for others. Let us reflect on this: in front of Pilate, Christ says he is a king at the moment in which the crowd is against Him; but when the crowd was following and acclaiming him, he remained distant from this acclamation. That is, Jesus is showing that he is sovereignly free from the desire of earthly fame and glory. And we – let us ask ourselves – do we know how to imitate him in this aspect? Do we know how to govern our tendency to be continuously sought after and approved, or do we do everything to be esteemed by others? So, I ask: what matters? Is it applause or service that matters about what we do, particularly concerning our Christian commitment?

Jesus not only fled from seeking any earthly greatness, but he also makes the hearts of those who follow him free and sovereign. Dear brothers and sisters, he frees us from being subject to evil. His Kingdom is liberating, there is nothing oppressive about it. He treats every disciple as a friend, not as a subject. Even while being above all sovereigns, he draws no dividing line between himself and others. Instead, he wants to have brothers and sisters with whom to share his joy (cf. Jn 15:11). We do not lose anything in following him – nothing is lost, no – but we acquire dignity because Christ does not want servility around him, but people who are free. And – we can ask ourselves now – from whence does Jesus' freedom derive? We discover that by returning to the affirmation he made in front of Pilate: "I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world: to bear witness to the truth" (Jn 18:37).

Jesus' freedom derives from the truth. It is truth that makes us free (cf. Jn 8:32). But the truth of Jesus is not an idea, something abstract: the truth of Jesus is a reality, it is He himself who made the truth within us that frees us from the fabrications and falsity that we have inside, from doublespeak. Being with Jesus, we become true. The life of a Christian is not a play in which you can don the mask that best suits you. For when Jesus reigns in the heart, he frees it from hypocrisy, he frees it from subterfuge, from duplicity. The best proof that Christ is our king is detachment from what pollutes life, makes it ambiguous, opaque, sad. When life is ambiguous – a bit here and there – it is sad, very sad. We must always face our limitations and defects, of course: we are all sinners. But when we live under the lordship of Jesus, we do not become corrupt, we do not become false, inclined to cover up the truth. We do not live double lives. Remember this well: all of us are sinners, yes; corrupt, never, never. Sinners, yes; corrupt, never. May the Madonna help us to seek every day the truth of Jesus, King of the Universe, who liberates us from earthly slavery and teaches us to govern our vices.

**THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING** occurs this Sunday, the last Sunday of the Liturgical Year. It is the titular Feast of our Cathedral Basilica. It is also the celebration of World Youth Day, marked in 2024 in the dioceses worldwide. *“Young people must say to the world: It is good to follow Jesus! You bring us the joy of faith and tell us that we must live the faith always with a young heart!”* Pope Francis. The Season of Advent begins next weekend.

**Upcoming Meeting Reminder:** St. John’s The Catholic Women's League will be having our final meeting of the year on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6pm in the Parish hall. We will be having our Potluck dinner, so please bring something to contribute if you are able and we will also be collecting items to donate to Marillac Place as well as games and fellowship. Hope to see you there and if you have any questions please reach out to Leah at <[leahfriedrich04@gmail.com](mailto:leahfriedrich04@gmail.com)>

**The ST. TERESA OF AVILA CHRISTMAS DINNER** is on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at St. Teresa of Avila Church Hall, 19 Flamingo Drive, Elmira. The meal will begin at 6:30 p.m. Turkey dinner with all the trimmings, beverages and dessert all included! Please sign up through the Parish Office, Tuesday to Friday, 9am - 1pm or by calling 519-669-3387. Meal prices are: Adults \$30; Children 6-12 years \$15 and Children 5 & under are free. Payment can be made by cash, cheque made out to St. Teresa of Avila Elmira or you can e-transfer to [stteresaelmirafund@gmail.com](mailto:stteresaelmirafund@gmail.com) (include for Turkey Dinner in the notes). The last chance to sign up is Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Come out and enjoy a community meal together during this festive season!

## ENGLISH SCHEDULE

### *Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe*

<u>Saturday, November 23</u>	<b>5:00 PM</b>
+Fr. George Stortz	
<u>Sunday, November 24</u>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased	
<u>Tuesday, November 26</u>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
<u>Wednesday, November 27</u>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
For the intentions of Coady's Family	
<u>Thursday, November 28</u>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
<u>Friday, November 29</u>	<b>11:00 AM</b>

### *First Sunday of Advent*

<u>Saturday, November 30</u>	<b>5:00 PM</b>
+Fr. George Stortz	
<u>Sunday, December 1</u>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased	

## HORARIOS EN ESPAÑOL

### *Solemnidad de Jesucristo, Rey del Universo*

<u>Sabado 23 de noviembre</u>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
+Mario Hurtado +Marvin Castillo Courtade	
<u>Domingo 24 de noviembre</u>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
<u>Domingo 24 de noviembre</u>	<b>1:00 PM</b>
Por la Comunidad Parroquial	
<u>Martes 26 de noviembre</u>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
+Pedro Fernández	
<u>Miércoles 27 de noviembre</u>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
+Nestor Sanchez	
<u>Jueves 28 de noviembre</u>	<b>12:00 PM</b>
+Andres Hoyos Mejia	
<u>Viernes 29 de noviembre</u>	<b>12:00 PM</b>

### *I Domingo de Adviento*

<u>Sabado 30 de noviembre</u>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
<u>Domingo 1 de diciembre</u>	<b>11:00 AM</b>
<u>Domingo 1 de diciembre</u>	<b>1:00 PM</b>
Por la Comunidad Parroquial	

## Talleres de Oración y Vida les invita al RETIRO DE ADVIENTO “Destino Materno”, aquí en la parroquia

María es la mejor maestra para conocer a su hijo Jesús. En este Retiro nos encontraremos con Ella para vivir el tiempo de Adviento con otros ojos y así prepararnos para la Navidad. Sábado 30 de Noviembre de 8 am a 2:30 pm, traer: Almuerzo, Biblia, Cuaderno y Lápiz. Se sugiere una donación voluntaria para cubrir materiales. Regístrate a través de la página web: [www.parroquiaguadalupe.ca](http://www.parroquiaguadalupe.ca)