



## SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

November 24, 2024

### *St. James Catholic Church*

*3909 Harrison \* Kansas City, Missouri 64110*

*"Small enough to know your name, big enough to make a difference."*

### *Reflection from Ben Babaran*

Last week, I could not sleep because a series of 6 typhoons battered our hometown. As a frail human being, the news brought me to my knees each day. Thanks to my faith, I was able to turn to someone who alone can give me hope and peace – my King and my God!

As we enter the week of Thanksgiving, I thank my parents and ancestors who nurtured that faith in me. I even go farther by thanking the Spaniards who colonized the Philippines in 1521 for bringing the Catholic faith to the Filipino natives.

Unfortunately, the European conquistadores brought also the monarchy of Queen Isabela with them and the European church traditions that copied the titles and dresses of lords and princes of Europe. The solemnity we are celebrating Sunday is just the opposite of that kind of rule and pomp. The image of Christ on the cross proclaims a king who offers love and salvation, mercy and forgiveness, respect and acceptance.

The crucifix is the glorious sign of God's reconciling love for us all. It is an image of our God becoming one like us feeling all our frustrations and disappointments. Our King is very present in our most shameful moments.

As I continue to reflect on Sunday's solemnity, I would like to share Gerald Darring's beautiful explanation on "**What is the Kingdom of God? What is the Kingdom of Christ the King?**" (St. Louis University: Center for Liturgy): The Kingdom of God is a space. It exists in every home where parents and children love each other. It exists in every region and country that cares for its weak and vulnerable. It exists in every parish that reaches out to the needy. The Kingdom of God is a time. It happens whenever someone feeds a hungry person, or shelters a homeless person, or shows care to a neglected person. It happens whenever we overturn an unjust law, or correct an injustice, or avert a war. It happens whenever people join in the struggle to overcome poverty, to erase ignorance, to pass on the Faith. The Kingdom of God is in the past (in the life and work of Jesus of Nazareth); it is in the present (in the work of the Church and in the efforts of many others to create a world of goodness and justice); it is in the future (reaching its completion in the age to come). The Kingdom of God is a condition. Its symptoms are love, justice, and peace.

Dear St. James parishioners and friends, I am happy that St. James reflects all of Gerald Darring's explanation on "What is the Kingdom of God?" Jesus Christ is king! We pray today that God may free all the world to rejoice in His peace, to glory in His justice, to live in His love.

Maligayang Pagsasalamat sa inyong lahat! (Happy Thanksgiving to all!) I give my sincerest thanks to Fr. Mike Roach, Fr. Don Farnan, who have been my pastors here at St. James. To Fr. Garry Richmeier, who is the pillar of St. James, maraming salamat (thank you very much) for your listening presence. Above all, to the parishioners of St. James, thank you for all your support. God bless....