

## November 23, 2025

#### A Message from the Pastor

"The world will never be at peace until it returns to the feet of Christ the King." – St. Josemaría Escrivá

We probably can imagine the scene in our Gospel today vividly, as placed before us for reflection is Jesus' crucifixion. A dark yet essential moment to captivate us on the feast of Christ the King-an otherwise joyful and triumphant celebration. Without a doubt though, because of this scene, we are boldly reminded that Jesus is no ordinary king, and kingship for Jesus turns our perspective of earthly kingship upside down. In this scene at Calvary, Jesus is mocked as "King of the Jews." Soldiers gamble for His clothes. Passers-by hurl insults. One of the crucified criminals joins the chorus: "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But a powerful conversion happens in the other thief, dying just inches away-he sees with the eyes of faith. Somehow in a glance, mercy is met in his eyes from the one patiently offering himself on his own cross: "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And with this simple gesture of faith from an unexpected man condemned as a criminal, the answer from Jesus comes, we can imagine, with gentleness yet with unmistakable strength: "Amen, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise" (Lk 23:42-43).

Incredible! That word *today* changes everything. This man facing punishment for crimes committed, overwhelmed with fear and hopelessness will know Jesus' paradise *not* tomorrow, *not* after a lifetime of penance, but *today*. In other words, authentic faith in the heart of the believer can open the doors to the heavenly Kingdom which is not a distant, far-off reality, but rather, it is supremely present in the divine person of Jesus Christ, *who came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many*. Where the King is, *there* is His Kingdom. When He is invoked with trust, he boldly comes to rule with justice. The divine power that has authority over the violence of sin and death humbly now comes to dwell and reign in the hearts of all those who offer him their trust in return.

And so we know well, the Cross is a hinge of history, the moment of deepest darkness loses its grip and victory streams in. "Christ's kingship," says Pope Benedict, "is revealed in the weakness of the Cross—there, power becomes mercy, and death gives way to life." That is precisely why the good thief could cling to hope. From the details of this account, the thief had nothing to offer—no good deeds, no pious or virtuous reputation, only a heart cracked open by sorrow, longing, and desperation. This heart, however, coupled with the recognition that Jesus is truly Lord, Savior, and King was enough. Do we have this conviction of who Jesus is? Do we live striving to be citizens of *His* Kingdom?

St. Augustine captures this even more simply: "Christ is King wherever the heart kneels." Not where our résumé is impressive or where our home or bank account is full, but where the heart kneels. Your heart and my heart are both called to respond likewise, we will ultimately go before the Lord to give an account of our life on earth. What disposition will the Lord find in us? Humility for the sake of making our lives difficult or laden with misery, is not the kind of humility that he seeks. A heart that knows its own failures, or a heart that is aware of its greatest poverty before the Lord—that is the kind of throne that Jesus Christ longs to occupy. He takes his rest there so that we might become conformed to him and share his divine life. A heart that makes a gift of itself to the Lord in this way, finds the truth that life is not lost in the process, but rather it is gained in abundance. This heart while being a servant of the Lord knows the gift of sincere, interior freedom like none other.

Psalm 122 today sings the song of pilgrims on their way home: "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord!" (Ps 122:1). Good for us to recall that the house of the Lord is not only the heavenly realm we long for at the end of our earthly life; but it is also the tabernacle within the depth of our being where he alone offers a heavenly refuge, offering the accompaniment of his presence with every step of ours. The sanctuary within us where the King desires to reign is always in need of renewal, always in need of transformative mercy. What is your response? Will you let him reign in you? Are you willing to love and serve him with every fiber of your being? Let Jesus be King and Lord of your life and you will always be at peace, both now and forever

# Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

#### Please use our new address

If you are sending the mail to 301 Ash Street or 920 N. Mcbride Street it is taking at least a week to receive it. The proper address is:
Our Lady of Pompei/St. Peter Church
P.O. Box 11082
Syracuse, New York 13218
Also, please note the zip code, 13218.

### Holy Name Raffle

Tickets for the Holy Name Raffle are now available! The drawing will be at their May meeting on May 13th. This year 300 tickets will be sold at \$50.00 each. The prizes are as follows: 1st-\$5,000.00, 2nd-\$1,000.00, 3rd-\$1,000.00 and 4th-\$500.00.

If you want a special numbered ticket, it is on a first come- first served! Call Larry Cimino at 315 430 5645 to reserve your tickets or for any questions. They thank you for your support!

## Liturgical Ministers

Weekend of November 29 & 30

#### Lectors:

4:00 pm Sandy Laurenti 7:30 am Nick Lore 11:30 am Ralph Torrillo

#### **Eucharistic Ministers:**

4:00 pm Team III 7:30 am Patty Marco 11:30 am Team II

## Religious Education Classes

NO CLASSES weekend of November 30th

## Thanksgiving Bags

Wow, we collected: 107 Food Bags, 3 Turkeys, 2 Hams, 2 Cases of Macaroni Sauce, 2 Cases of Macaroni, 2 Bags of Potatoes, and many monetary donations. As always, our parish rises to the occasion!

The All Faiths Food Pantry was very excited to receive our donations. The food will certainly feed many! Thanks again for your generosity!

#### **Our Mission Statement**

We, the members of Our Lady of Pompei / St. Peter, are called to acknowledge the Lordship of Jesus. As our parish affirms its heritage, we continue to reach out to those in need, bring the gospel to all who will receive it, and be formed in the image of Christ through worship and prayer. We value the talents of each of our members and feel it is the responsibility of all to contribute time, talent and tithe to our faith community.

### Sacrificial Giving

Please contact Fr. Foley if you have any questions about our parish finances.

November 16, 2025-\$5,570.00 Poverty Line-\$162.00 Pantry-\$160.00 Sound System-\$8,510.00

Solvay Bank gave us a Grant for our new ministry,"Walking with Moms" in the amount of \$3,333.00

Thank You! Everyone's generosity is what makes our Church so wonderful!!! Please remember Our Lady of Pompei/St. Peter in your Will.

## Hope Appeal

We are more than halfway there! We have collected \$11,700.00. If you haven't had an opportunity to make your donation yet, please prayerfully do so as soon as possible. It is very important for all of us to participate. For it is together we strengthen our church and serve others. Our goal is \$20,175.00.

#### We Did It .. . .

We have reached our goal of \$40,000.00 for the new Sound System!!! The Vietnamese Community generously donated \$8,430.00, which has put us over the top! The new sound system will be installed after Christmas!

The additional funds, that are restricted for the upkeep of our campus, which is ongoing. So if you didn't have an opportunity to contribute yet, you can make a donation through the use of your "Blue Envelope"

## November 23, 2025

#### This Week We Remember

Monday: November 24

9:00 am Mass at Our Lady of Pompei/St. Peter Mary Kalska / Son, Paul

Tuesday: November 25

9:00 am Mass at Our Lady of Pompei/St. Peter Gloria Albino / Charlene Valentine

Wednesday: November 26

9:00 am Mass at Our Lady of Pompei/St. Peter Meredith Mancini /

The Trininato & Ranczuch Families

Thursday: November 27 Thanksgiving Mass 10:00 am Mass at Our Lady of Pompei/St. Peter For the People Of Our Lady of Pompei/St. Peter

Friday: November 28

9:00 am No Daily Mass at OLP / St. P

Saturday: November 29

4:00 pm Mass at Our Lady of Pompei/St. Peter Ciro Frontale / Wife & Children Henry & Esther Pagano / Family Sandra Colantone / The Mastrogiovanni Family Benny, Terry & Joseph Cimino / Family Robert Antonacci (B)/ Scott & Maria Miller

Sunday: November 30

7:30 am Mass Our Lady of Pompei/St. Peter Christopher Pallotta / Henry & Veronica Pagano

11:30 am Mass at Our Lady of Pompei/St. Peter Pasquale Sisera / Gilda Josie Torrillo (B) / Ralph & Family Mary J. Brice, Ann. / Son, Frank Mary D'Augustino (B) /

Nephews, Anthony & Dom Louis Vercillo / CNY Umpires



## **Eucharistic Angels**

Burning In Loving Memory of Joanna Federico Cox Requested by Mom & Dad



#### **Bread and Wine**

For Masses Celebrated During
The Week In
Loving Memory Of
Jack Reale, 5yr. Ann.
Requested by Jeanette & Family

## Let us pray as one family

Please remember in your prayers the sick of our parishes.

Jim Albanese, Mike Affleck, Shawn Babcock, Nancy Bailey, Arlene Bukowski, Ashley Caiello, Robert Capria, John & Leona Ciferni, Vic Coogan, Catherine Cushman, Linda Deapo, Hank Donohue, Ginny and Erin Donovan, Audrey Emmi, Tenley Farrow, Marilyn Ferretti, Ruth Fabrizi, Ellen Gangemi, Gladys Graham, Robert Greenwood, Joseph Guinto, Jeanne Hammond, Mary Isgar, Carla Johnson, Juanita, Tony Lauretti, Shirley Kerr, Emma Lane, Janna Lavoie, Kay Ledermann, Jackie Limeri, Luciano & Maria Luisi, Judy & Skip Marioritti, Michael & Darlene Morga, Diane Moro, Joe Nicoletti, Peggy Palerino, The Pavia Children, Emily Rosenthal, Faith Setzer, Marion Sherwood, John Sobon, Patricia Soule, Patrick St. Thomas IV, Barbara Traino, Gerry Vaccaro, Shelly Visco, Matthew Watkins, Fred Wheeler. Please notify the parish office, 315-422-7163 if you have a loved one in a hospital, nursing home or is homebound and would like a visit.

## Holiday Office Hours

The Parish Office will be open on Wednesday, November 26 until 11:00am. We are closed Thanksgiving Day and Friday, November 28.

## A Senior in Need

One of our parishioners is in need of someone to go and visit with her a couple hours a week, just to chat. Call the office if interested, 315-422-7163.

## Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

## Walking with Moms

We've been invited as a parish family to consider beginning a new outreach ministry to the Northside that coincides with an effort that began in dioceses around the country about 5 years ago. We know how important it is for us as the Church to continue pouring out mercy for all those who find themselves in need, and this opportunity allows us to help meet a unique need that will have a tremendously positive impact on our neighborhood and even within families in our parish. Certainly a vulnerable population in need are mothers or fathers striving to provide for their children, especially those facing unexpected pregnancies.

"Walking with Moms in Need is a nationwide, parish-based initiative to increase support for pregnant and parenting mothers in need. It works to ensure that any woman who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant, or parenting in difficult circumstances, can turn to her local Catholic Church and be connected with the resources she needs. Volunteers walk with moms throughout the motherhood journey, offering them authentic Christian friendship and ongoing support." (Visit <a href="https://www.walkingwithmoms.com/">https://www.walkingwithmoms.com/</a> for more information)

It is our goal to begin this ministry in the coming weeks, and as part of our annual "Giving-Tree" we will invite the opportunity to stock this new ministry and begin meeting needs immediately! Volunteers will be needed to help organize donations in the parish office as well as offering different windows of time (TBD) to receive family referrals and distribute donations accordingly. Effectively this ministry operates as a way of providing necessities like diapers, wipes, clothing, bottles, etc--that would not normally be available at food pantries, to those who are in great need. We anticipate this as being another way that the parishes in the Northside can collaborate, as well as opportunities for student groups from our Catholic Schools to sponsor as well.

Our friends in Fulton with Fr. Scardella began this ministry and have titled their outreach as "Mary's Closet" and it has been a blessing for many, and also a way of entrusting Mary's motherly care to those in need of her tenderness. We may join them in sharing that name, but are still prayerfully discerning that! Until then, we are excited to begin this new work of mercy as a parish family.

### Looking For The Perfect Christmas Gift? Vienna Boy Choir Tickets Fit The Bill Perfectly!

If you are thinking of that special gift you can get for the special people on your list, you might want to think of tickets for the Vienna Boys Choir Concert. It will be one they will forever remember and treasure. We still have some nice \$75.00 seats available, and we can wrap the tickets in a sweet Christmas box for early giving. Whether you are thinking of gifting others or yourself it is a beautiful way to celebrate Christ's birth. The voices and presence of this world renowned, magnificent group is truly a spectacular blessing for us all to share in.

Please contact us if you are interested in seats, sponsorships, volunteering for the day and/or night before the concert, baking (we are still in need of a few more bakers for anyone that would kindly share their baking talents). And... to submit ads, sentiments and memorials in the concerts program/playbill (this is the last week to do so). The donation is \$50.00 half page/\$100.00 full page or a 'in loving memory of' or 'in honor of' lines (\$10.00). This is a wonderful way to honor your loved ones during this special time of the year. Contact us by visiting in the back of church after masses or call or visit the Parish Offices (315 422 7163) or call Lucy's cell at 315 345 0562. As always, Cash, Checks and Credit Cards are accepted.

As always, many thanks to everyone supporting our Parish in this great event. Whether you are joining us for the concert, sponsoring, placing ads, part of our wonderful committee, volunteering to help, baking, spreading the word, or simply saying a prayer for the concerts success…we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

With much gratitude to our Presenting co-sponsors. . . . The Thomas J Pirro Jr. Funeral Home and The Santaro Companies.



