

**WELCOME TO ST. JOSEPH – ST. LAWRENCE PARISH**  
**“Two Churches, One Parish”**  
**Growing as Disciples of Jesus; Making Disciples for Jesus**  
**Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe – November 22, 2020**

St. Joseph of the Valley: 31151 207<sup>th</sup> Street, (Rural) Leavenworth, KS 66048  
 St. Lawrence: 211 West Riley, Easton, KS 66020  
 Parish Mailing Address: P.O. Box 129, Easton, KS 66020

Father Francis Bakyor, Pastor  
 Easton Rectory Phone: 913-773-5712  
 Father's cell: 913-235-6837  
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Website: [www.sjslparish.org](http://www.sjslparish.org)  
 St. Joseph of the Valley Hall: 913-758-9225  
 St. Lawrence Hall & Fax: 913-773-8401  
 “LIKE” us on Facebook for new announcements

**THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE:**

<b>TUES</b>	Nov. 24	06:00 pm	STL	In Gratitude
Adoration will follow Mass until 7:30 p.m. - CANCELLED				
<b>THUR</b>	Nov. 26	09:00 am	STL	Parishioners of SJ-SL
<b>SAT</b>	Nov. 28	05:00 pm	SJV	Irene Schmidling †
<b>SUN</b>	Nov. 29	09:00 am	STL	Jack Rogers †

**Confessions:** SAT-4:30 pm at SJV; SUN-8:30 at STL

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
 Attendance for Masses is limited. We will be seating every other pew. We must continue to practice social distancing (of at least 6 feet). Masks are required to be worn. We are offering four Masses per week. Please do not feel obligated to attend weekend Masses — weekday Masses will work just fine if it fits into your family's schedule. Please see online info for restrictions and guidance.

**Please pray for the sick, especially:** Phil Bell, Susie Beying, Jennifer Brushwood, Carl Davidson, George Dean, Carolyn DeMaranville, Vince Eimer, Tom Flack, Tina Gaspard, Ronnie Gast, Alan Halstead, Marly Heim, Frank Heintzelman, Jim Heintzelman, Lydia Heintzelman, Melanie Herken, Jon Highfill, Trista Highfill, Mark Hund, Arlene Jennings, Wendi Johnston, Michael Jones, Elmer Karczewski, Phillip Leon, Kelly Long, Joyce Lowe, Mary Meinert, Jeni Mettelstedt, Don Navinsky, Kay Nocktonick, Dannie Phillips, Adam Pineau, Mike Pursel, Mary M. Ruhlman, Kim Sachse, Tanner Siebenmorgen, Julie Simonis, Jim (Poly) Sloan, Gary Stafford, Aaron Welch, Louise Wistuba and Nick Yuska.

**Prayer List for Our Soldiers:** ARMY: 1LT Daniel Broaddus, Pvt. David Crook, Lexi (Skaggs) Hargis, Major Bryan Herken, SPC Derrick Hunt, SGT Colby Seifert, William Stradley. AIRFORCE: E-4 Robert W. Herken, TSGT Scott Loecher, E-3 Connor Schuler, A1C Noah Tattershall. NAVY: ADDA Jason P. Herken, YNS1 (SS) Kevin Lansing.

**Prayer for Vocations:** Brother Seelos (Tyler Lunsford).

**OUR PARISH NEWS**

**COLLECTION:** Thank you for your gifts to our parish! Collections received was \$729.00. Last week's on-line collection was \$273.81. Thank you for your generosity.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** There will be a second collection this weekend of **Nov. 22** for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD).

**NOTE MASS TIME CHANGE:** On Thanksgiving Day, **Nov. 26th**, Mass will be held at St. Lawrence at 9:00 AM only. There will be no 6:00 PM service at SJV on that day. We look forward to celebrating with you that day!

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** We are soliciting volunteers who would like to serve as our Parish Director of Religious Education (DRE), leading the effort to teach our children about their Catholic faith. The DRE performs a number of crucial functions: coordinating CCD enrollment and the necessary paperwork, developing the CCD calendar, recruiting and assisting teachers and other volunteers, working with the Archdiocese and teachers in curriculum development and resource procurement, communicating with parents and the parish council, and ensuring all teachers are Virtus trained. Please prayerfully consider this incredibly fulfilling role within our parish. We are also open to co-DREs if that is an approach that works for you. The parish council does not anticipate starting CCD classes before October, allowing the new DRE time to prepare. If you are interested please contact: Jason Nichols, phone: 913-683-2661 or email: [jnichols@dfamilk.com](mailto:jnichols@dfamilk.com) OR Sharon Wagner, phone: 913-683-4495 or email: [w5cattle@aol.com](mailto:w5cattle@aol.com).

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** We are searching for a volunteer to clean the rectory twice a month. POC is Sharon Wagner, phone: 913-683-4495 or email: [w5cattle@aol.com](mailto:w5cattle@aol.com).

**SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY:** The Finance Council is happy to announce that the parish will be accepting applications for one or more scholarships for Catholic school (K-16) attendance during the 2021-2022 academic year or Catholic camp attendance during summer 2021. The scholarship is made possible by donations specified for Catholic Education. Interested applicants should fill out the application form, attach either a report card or transcript, and provide contact information for a reference. Applications are **due by April 1, 2021**. The link to the application form is available on the parish website and parish Facebook page. If you cannot access the application form one of these ways, send an email to [angela.broadus@gmail.com](mailto:angela.broadus@gmail.com) to request the link. LINK: <https://forms.gle/TZprrU6dvCQ9wa9n7>

**CHRISTMAS MASSES SCHEDULE:**  
 Below is the schedule for the upcoming Masses for this holiday season. We hope that you can join us!  
 Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 5:00 pm SJV  
 Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 10:00 pm STL  
 Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am STL

**OTHER NEWS IN OUR ARCHDIOCESE**

**ABORTION AND PUTTING OUR FAITH INTO ACTION**  
 In a culture and world that is hungry for the Truth, we are often challenged to put our faith into action. For example, many of our politicians profess their Catholic faith, but try to divorce the faith which they proclaim from their policies, particularly as this relates to LIFE issues. However, as Christ's followers and as Catholics, we are called to integrate our faith into all aspects of our lives. In fact, we are called to make our faith evident in all our actions and decisions. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells us not

to hide our light under a bushel basket, but let our light shine before others (Mt 5:15-16). Defense of the unborn---the most vulnerable and defenseless human beings in our society, is undoubtedly the most important aspect of integrating our faith and actions. After all, LIFE is the most important gift that God gives us!

**STEWARDSHIP:** *Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe*  
 "...whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers, you did for me."  
 (Matthew 25:40)

Most of us are generous when it's convenient for us. We are generous when we have the time or the money. But, generosity is the opposite of that. It means giving of one's time, money, compassion, forgiveness or mercy when it's not convenient; when it's not on our schedule, but on the other person's schedule.

**ADVENT SILENT RETREAT WITH ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST:** Christ's Peace House of Prayer will offer this special retreat from **December 4** at 5:30pm- **December 6** at 4:30pm. Come, prepare your hearts for the coming of the Lord this Advent as we look to St. John the Baptist to show us how to prepare the way. This will be a silent retreat. There will be conferences, Eucharistic Adoration, Mass, Confession and time for private prayer, reflection and walking. Cabins/Courtyard Rooms: \$170 Single/\$250 Couple or Single Guest Rooms: \$100 (Meals Included). To attend, send an email to: [info@christspeace.com](mailto:info@christspeace.com) or call 913.773.8255.

**XAVIER SCHOOL:** The Xavier community is praying for our parish families during these uncertain times. We appreciate the continued support and prayers from our local parishes as we put our trust in God's will.

**THE "VALUE THEM BOTH" PETITION** We will begin to pray weekly for the passage of the Value Them Both amendment with a petition during the Prayer of the Faithful. What is VALUE THEM BOTH? VTB is the proposed state constitutional amendment for life supported by the Catholic Bishops of Kansas. The amendment is crucial because the Kansas Supreme Court recently created a nearly unlimited "right" to abortion in our state. This means that all of our existing pro-life laws including bans on taxpayer-funded and late-term abortions, and parental consent requirements will be considered unconstitutional once challenged. The VALUE THEM BOTH amendment will reverse the Supreme Court ruling and once again allow Kansans, through their elected representatives, to pass laws that will help protect mothers and their unborn babies from the abortion industry. Please pray for passage of VALUE THEM BOTH.

**NEW YEAR'S SPIRITUAL REFLECTION AND PLANNING RETREAT:**  
 To be held at Christ's Peace House of Prayer, 22131 Meager Road - Easton, KS, Friday, **Jan. 8th** starting at 5:30pm and ending on **Jan.10th** at 4:30pm. Set aside time this year to focus on spiritual growth, Create growth goals for various roles, Devise steps to reach goals and Write a vision statement for the year. The structure of the retreat will allow ample time for you to do work on your plan. We will be providing resources and ideas to incorporate in your plan. There will be time to brainstorm and share our plans with others as well as time to meet with a spiritual director if you prefer to speak on an individual basis. Private Time for Prayer/Reflection, Daily Eucharistic Adoration, Praying of the Liturgy of the Hours, Confession and Mass at the local parish will also be available. The suggested donation is \$170/Single or \$250/Couples for the Cabins and Courtyard Rooms or \$100 for the Single Guest Rooms (Meals Included). To attend, send an email to: [info@christspeace.com](mailto:info@christspeace.com) or call 913.773.8255.

**PLEASE** – There are a large number of other Archdiocesan announcements that could not fit in the space available. They will be posted on our church website listed above as a 2<sup>nd</sup> page to this bulletin.

Bulletin Items: Contact Kim Sachse, 913-775-0690 Or Email [Sjslparish@gmail.com](mailto:Sjslparish@gmail.com). Mass intentions may be scheduled with Kim as well. MUST SUBMIT BY 9 pm TUES FOR INCLUSION.

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**Nov. 15, 2020**

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**(FOR POSTING ON THE CHURCH INTERNET SITE)**

**NATIONAL ADOPTION AWARENESS MONTH** – is held in November, a special time to pray for and celebrate families that have grown through adoption. As people of faith, we know that adoption is a loving and beautiful way for a child to be welcomed into a family. We ask God to bless all of those whom adoption is a part of their life story – an adopted child or a child waiting for their forever home, parents placing their child for adoption, adoptive families, couples in waiting, and those with a loved one touched by adoption. This is also a time to raise awareness of the more than 110,000 children in foster care in the United States, waiting to be adopted. St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus, please pray for us! Visit [www.archkck.org/foster](http://www.archkck.org/foster) to learn more.

**FREE INFIDELITY WORKSHOP:** Free 3 Days Live Virtual Workshop beginning **Nov 30 @6:30.** Truth to Trust: Surviving and Thriving after infidelity in Marriage. Infidelity in marriage couples can leave couples raw, in an emotional space filled with a lot of hurts, anger and shame, and mistrust. But it doesn't have to be that way. It happens to us, and we came out on the other side 43 years later and happier we ever been. Can the relationship be normal again? Equally important how long will it take before your heart heals to begin to trust and love again? That's what we want in marriages! We can help! On Nov 30 we are hosting a free virtual live 3 days' workshop where we will be teaching Truth to Trust Surviving and Thriving After Infidelity in Your Marriage Workshop. Interested – like their facebook page for more information: [https://www.facebook.com/MarriedCouplesCoachingCouples/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](https://www.facebook.com/MarriedCouplesCoachingCouples/?modal=admin_todo_tour)

**PROJECT CHRYSALIS MASS November 30.** You are cordially invited to join us for the Project Chrysalis Metro Mass for those who have lost children or grandchildren. Church of the Ascension, Monday, November 30th, 7:00 p.m. (This Mass is open to all in the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas and the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph). If you would like to celebrate with us and wish to reserve a memory candle, please RSVP no later than Monday November 23 to Patty (pbilling@kcascension.org or 913-681-3348) Information needed: correct spelling of the name of the deceased, your relationship, your name, and whether you plan to be present

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**CATHOLIC CHARITIES SNOWBALL 2021**

Due to COVID-19, many businesses have closed their doors, and many jobs have been lost. As more and more families are facing financial hardships, they are turning to Catholic Charities for help. Your support to our mission has never been more critical as we continue to provide help, hope and hospitality across our 21-county service area. Snow Ball 2021 is sure to be unforgettable as the event shifts to an entirely virtual experience. Guests will host their own version of Snow Ball in their homes, much like the founders who started Snow Ball with a potluck dinner and a small gathering of family and friends over 47 years ago. Register now to join us on Saturday, **January 16, 2021.** Our hope is to expand, engage and celebrate hundreds of Snow Ball parties across the agency's 21-county service footprint and beyond! <https://catholiccharitiesks.org/special-events/snow-ball/> or Theresa Gaul 913.433.2068

**MARCH FOR LIFE & TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST**

We made the difficult decision not to take a delegation to March for Life in January in DC. But this opens up the possibility for teens to attend the Teens Encounter Christ (TEC) retreat. We will provide a small group retreat experience for high schoolers on **January 16-18, 2021** at Prairie Star Ranch (PSR). We will be following social distancing and other safety procedures that allowed Camp Tekakwitha to happen. TEC is a 3-day retreat based on the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ. TEC involves 16 and older adolescents encountering Christ in a way that many have never experienced before. On a TEC retreat, you will have the opportunity to grow in your relationship with Christ through talks, group discussion, individual reflection, prayer, and sharing in the Sacraments. The weekend retreats are led by a team of youth, adults and a priest as spiritual director. To sign up go to: [www.sunflowertec.org](http://www.sunflowertec.org)

**SAVE THE DATE:** Jan 21st, 2021 *Kansas Mass, March & Rally for Life in Topeka!* The annual Kansas Mass for the Legal Protection of the Unborn, and the March & Rally for Life will take place this year in Topeka, KS on Thursday, January 21st, 2021. 10:30 am Mass with the Kansas Bishops – Livestreamed! 12:00 pm March to the State Capitol for the Kansans for Life Rally All are invited to join in the March for Life from the Topeka Performing Arts Center to the state capitol for the Kansans for Life Rally at the capitol steps. Stay tuned for more detailed information and the livestream links.

Visit the [www.archkck.org/prolife](http://www.archkck.org/prolife) website for continued updated information and details on the day's event.

 **RESOURCES** 

**PRAYER FROM POPE FRANCIS DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick. At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith. You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need. We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee, joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us. He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

**“THE HISTORY & LEGACY OF IMMACULATA HIGH SCHOOL”** is now available for purchase from the publisher, Lulu.com. Access the link to order from Facebook pages “Forever Raiders”, “Immaculata High School Alumni” or “The History & Legacy of Immaculata High School”. Direct link is: <http://www.lulu.com/shop/mary-ann-sachse-brown-and-marti-sachse-judson/the-history-legacy-of-immaculata-catholic-high-school-in-the-first-city-of-kansas/hardcover/product-24157407.html> This is a keepsake hardcover 120 page book with nearly 300 images. Available in color (best quality) or black and white.

**NEW FOSTER CARE WEBSITE:** You can make a difference in the lives of vulnerable children in Kansas! Sadly, every day in Kansas, children are removed from their homes by no fault of their own for a variety of reasons. Each of these children is a precious, unique gift from God who deserves a loving and safe environment where he or she can THRIVE! Because care of the orphan and works of mercy are part of the mission for all baptized Catholics, the Church is the solution to an overwhelmed Kansas foster system which is facing increased needs due to COVID-19.

Please visit the new Archdiocesan Foster Care Ministry Website at [www.archkcks.com/foster](http://www.archkcks.com/foster) to learn how you can help vulnerable children in our community and support the families who have answered the call to love and protect these children. If you are currently fostering or have adopted your child/ren from foster care, we want to connect with you to support you on your journey! Please join the Archdiocesan Foster Family by registering here: [www.archkck.org/fostercaredatabase](http://www.archkck.org/fostercaredatabase)

**THE CATHOLIC GUIDE FOR END-OF-LIFE AND ESTABLISHING OF ADVANCE DIRECTIVES**

The Ethics Council that serves Archbishop Naumann has produced a comprehensive resource for end-of-life planning titled “Catholic Guide For End-Of Life and Establishing Of Advance Directives”. The purpose of the guide is to assist the faithful in making wise decisions in accordance with the teachings of our faith about complex treatments in grave illness or as life's end approaches. It also includes two Appendices for a Durable Power of Attorney and an Advance Directive form. For a free digital copy of the Guide, visit [www.archkck.org/prolife-end-of-life-care](http://www.archkck.org/prolife-end-of-life-care).

**SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM - ADULT TRAINING (VIRTUS)**

Effective Immediately In light of the current health conditions, one prudent and preventative measure we are taking is to make the VIRTUS Protecting God's Children for Adults training available Online as an option. Effective immediately, due to COVID-19, the Archdiocesan requirement for attending a VIRTUS Protecting God's Children for Adults workshop live session will be suspended and the option of the online version of the module can be offered in lieu of live training. This is a temporary safety precaution, and parishes may still offer the live training session available as an option if they prefer as long as the local county and state ordinances in effect at the time of the event are followed. Please note, the training must still be completed prior to participants working around youth, but the requirement may now temporarily be met by completing the online Protecting God's Children module. Individuals needing to attend a session will be offered the option of the online module at the time of registration. They will still need to follow the background screening and policy completion process at the time of registration. Individuals who are already currently registered for an upcoming live session, may log back into their account and change to the online module. These procedures will be reviewed and updated periodically as needed and are in place to protect you, those you work with, and your family. Please stay safe and healthy and continue to pray for all our brothers and sisters in Christ! We are praying for all of you and your families. If you have questions, please contact Sandy Vielhauer at [svielhauer@archkck.org](mailto:svielhauer@archkck.org) or Jenifer Valenti at [jvalenti@archkck.org](mailto:jvalenti@archkck.org). May God bless you and keep you safe.

**PLANNED GIVING BRIEF:** Our Catholic Church has spanned the centuries and the globe and through all previous pandemics and disasters has been a source of charity to all through its parish priests and religious. We invite you to make a grateful response to God for these gifts by planning a deferred gift to your parish. Visit [CatholicPlannedGiving.org](http://CatholicPlannedGiving.org) to learn how to accept this invitation.



Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas  
Office of Stewardship and Development  
plannedgiving@archkck.org

CatholicPlannedGiving.com

# Thanksgiving

## SHARING LIFE'S GIFTS



You've spent this challenging year persevering with faith to provide for your family and neighbors in need.

The Office of Stewardship and Development is grateful for the abundant gifts you have returned to your parish and the Archdiocese during this year of uncertainty. It shows your faith in Christ and His Church.

Thank you!

This information is not intended as tax, legal or financial advice. Gift results may vary. Consult your personal financial advisor for information specific to your situation.  
20AD14

## A Recipe for Success...

...is a grateful response to God for His abundant gifts in your life.

This Thanksgiving, during Covid-19, we are thankful for the Eucharist, which means "thanksgiving", because during this time we have hungered for this life giving Feast of Christ's Body, Soul, and Divinity that is the font of the life of grace.



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*Solemnity of Christ the King. (11/22/2020)*

*Texts:*

*First Reading. Ez. 34:11-12, 15-17*

*Second Reading. 1Cor. 15:20-26,28*

*Third Reading. Mt. 25:31-46*

*Theme: Jesus Christ the Universal King*

*Congregation: St. Joseph of the Valley- St. Lawrence Parish, Easton/ Kansas.*

The Solemnity of Christ the King, which every Catholic throughout the entire world is celebrating today, is a new thing. The Church has existed for almost more than 2000 years, but this Solemnity is less than 100 years old. It was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925. He explained his reasons for doing so in an encyclical letter called "Quas Primas."

First, he explained that throughout liturgical feasts have been instituted in response to popular needs that arise in the life of the world and the Church (#22). He gives examples of feasts in honor of the martyrs, of the celebration of Corpus Christi, and the Sacred Heart.

Then he explains which need this new celebration addresses. Pope Pius XI was writing this encyclical in 1925, when the world was still trying to recover from World War I, which had devastated Europe and shattered modernity's hopes of unlimited progress based solely on human reason. It was also only a few years after the Russian Bolshevik Revolution which had given birth to the world's first explicitly atheist totalitarian regime: Soviet communism. Everywhere the pope looked, he saw the human societies abandoning Christian values and trying to build paradise on earth through other means.

Pope Pius XI instituted today's Solemnity as a way to remind the world that to reject Christ, either in private life or in public life, is to reject our only hope, and to accept him is to accept salvation. As Pope Pius XI wrote: When once men recognize, both in private and in public life that Christ is King, society will at last receive the great blessings of real liberty, well-ordered discipline, peace and harmony. That these blessings may be abundant and lasting in Christian society. It is necessary that the kingship of our Savior should be as widely as possible recognized and understood, and to that end nothing would serve better than the institution of a special feast in honor of the Kingship of Christ." (Quas Primas, #19,21)

There is a story of a good King who loved his subjects so much that he decided to leave his palace to dwell with the people in their ordinary habitation in the inner cities of the kingdom. The people found it incredible that the King could abandon the comfort and luxury of the palace to stay with them in their low standard habitation. They accepted with joy.

Every day, the King would follow them in their daily activities, eat with them and even play with them. He made himself available for them for direction, advice, and all manner of assistance. After sometime, the people became conversant with the presence of the King that most of them could no longer connect with awe that goes with loyalty. Most people took him for granted and would often pass him without greeting. Some would appear before him in rags and others would even speak to him as they would to an ordinary person in the Kingdom.

With the progress of time, a more significant majority of the people lost touch with the King entirely and didn't feel the need for the King. In fact, most of them would tell stories and display the pictures of "powerful Kings" from other powerful kingdoms who live in magnificent palaces and attract great admiration and fear of their subjects. The king became so insignificant to the people that nobody knew when he left the Kingdom to an unknown place. Just very few who were loyal noticed and followed him.

Sometime later, the Kingdom started experiencing a lot of problems and was disintegration as strange Kings besieged the kingdom from various directions. At this point, the people began looking for their King to help, but it was too late. They could not find the King, and they could not trace his whereabouts.

Could this be like our encounter with Jesus Christ the King of Kings and Lord who humbled himself to come among us and became like us in all things except sin (Phil.2:6-8, Heb.4:15)? Do we recognize the privileges of having Jesus Christ always with us?

Kings live in palaces and wield enormous influence over their subjects. In a typical Kingdom, subjects serve the King with fear and trembling, and the King is not usually accessible; some people live their whole lives without making a personal experience with the King. Today, as we celebrate the solemnity of Christ the King, our attention goes to one of the most significant images and characteristics of God in the Old and New Testament, namely, shepherd.

Going back through the scriptures, we could see a pattern of God's choice of shepherds among the Patriarchs, Judges, Kings, and Prophets (Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Gideon, Saul, David, Amos, Ezekiel). There is something about shepherding that is so special that God adopts it to describe his relationship with us.

In the New Testament, our Lord Jesus Christ takes the image of the shepherd when in the Gospel of John 9:10:11 he says, "I am the good shepherd" and goes further to elaborate on the functions of the good shepherd which relates to the details of Psalm 23. Furthermore, before his passion and death, our Lord declares that he is a King though His kingdom is not earthly (Lk.23:3, Jn. 18:33-37)

Jesus Christ the King is unlike the Kings of this world. Earthly Kings stay in their palaces, and their subjects provide for them and protect them even with their lives. Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Shepherd- King who provides for the sheep, knows each one by its name and also lays down his life for them (Jn.10:11-18).

Beyond the celebration of Christ as our universal King, there is the need for us to recognize, appreciate and cooperate with the presence of the King of Kings in our lives. We could recall in our opening story that we could become too accustomed to the presence of the King among us that we fail to give him honor and acknowledge his power working in us. Are we not getting used to his presence in our Churches that most of us do a lot of banal things inside the church which includes but not restricted to making phone call, chatting on social media, hating and gossiping just to mention but four?

Our Lord Jesus Christ will be happy that we are proclaiming him the universal King today, but he will be happier if we could acknowledge his presence and follow his words; "the sheep that belong to me hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me" (jn.10:27). Our Lord will be happier if we make him the lord and King of our lives. Today, there are many "kingdom and kings" that we have allowed into our lives and which are also misdirecting our lives. They are in modern technology, fashion, consumerism, and secularism.

A very typical we could ask ourselves today is: who is the king of my life? If we declare that Jesus Christ is the king of our lives, we should make his Lordship real in our lives by fearing God and walking in his ways (Psalm 128:1)

May you have a resounding celebration of Christ the Universal King and may you proclaim with your lips today manifest in your life.

Fr. Francis Bakyor.