

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the Lord,

Here at our cluster, we would like to give special attention to the Eucharist beginning today. To celebrate The Solemnity of Christ the King, there will be a Eucharistic Procession beginning with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 2:30 PM at Our Lady of Grace Church, carrying the Blessed Sacrament in procession (it will take about an hour) to Transfiguration Church where Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will take place. Everyone is invited to participate. Please be aware that arrangements need to be made to have transportation between our two churches.

It is our prayer that as we venerate the Blessed Sacrament on the Solemnity of Christ the King, this Sunday, it prepares us to more appropriately celebrate Thanksgiving in our homes and here in our Church.

There are many images that express the intense mystery that is the Eucharist, but the Eucharist as thanksgiving is the most appropriate for November. In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, we read that Eucharist means first of all “thanksgiving”. A simple connection that we can make is that every time we celebrate the Eucharist, we share a Thanksgiving meal. As we celebrate the Eucharist, we are united as one body, one family sharing in the one bread and one cup of Christ.

Many people assume that here in the United States we have celebrating Thanksgiving Day since the time of the pilgrims as a sign of thanksgiving for the harvest season. It was Abraham Lincoln who instituted the holiday in 1863 during the Civil War. He wanted Americans to celebrate the holiday as a sign of unity and thanksgiving to God. As time progressed, the idea of the harvest became part of the experience of Thanksgiving.

Our celebration of Thanksgiving then resembles the meaning of the Sacrament of the Eucharist. My friends, may our Thanksgiving Celebration bring our family and friends together. May our Thanksgiving Celebration be a time of thanksgiving to God who has given us an abundance of gifts for our personal lives and the lives we live as part of a family, our family, and the Church. We celebrate Thanksgiving as a sign of unity and thanksgiving to God who has given us great gifts.

Celebrate Christ the King! Join in Our Eucharistic Procession!
Enjoy Thanksgiving Day here in our Church and with your family!

-Fr. Raphael