

A Reflection from Fr. Joseph



Today’s Gospel is about power. By calling Jesus a king, the Gospel associates Jesus with power. The Gospel calls us to reflect on what kind of power Jesus has. What kind of power does Jesus exercise? In one sense that question is easy to answer. Jesus has absolute power, because He exercises the power of God. But God’s power is unique. Although it is absolute, it is not coercive. God gives us life, gives us free will and asks us to follow. Although God’s power is absolute, God makes room for our free will and our response. This makes the power of Jesus very different than the power we experience in our lives.

On the other hand, the power in our world is usually coercive power. It is the ability to bend someone to our will, in order to achieve whatever we desire. When Joseph Stalin was told, by his staff, that the Pope objected to his invasion of Poland, Stalin is said to have quipped, “The Pope! How many military divisions does the Pope have?” For Stalin, power was to be equated with coercion, with military force. Jesus’ power is different. Jesus says, *“My kingdom is not of this world.”* Jesus’ power is not the normal coercive way that we experience power in our lives.

The challenge of today’s Gospel is for us to believe that Jesus’ power of love and service is stronger than the power of brutal force. We must decide whose power is greater, the power of Pilot or the power of Jesus? You and I know well that the power of this world, when it is exercised by such men as Joseph Stalin has the power to crush thousands. Dare we believe that the power of Christ is greater? Perhaps an example will help us decide.

At 95 years of age, Norman Borlaug died. Now, most of you don’t know Norman Borlaug. But he was a great man. He was a botanist and he dedicated his life to developing new strains of wheat, wheat that could grow in the most inclement areas of the world. Living in poverty and under great stress in many third world countries, Borlaug worked until he was able to develop a high yield grain that allowed the poorest people of the world to feed their families.

It is estimated today that half of the world’s population is fed by grains that Norman Borlaug developed. So here is what we must decide. Who had the greater power, Joseph Stalin or Norman Borlaug? Whose power should we adopt in our own lives, the power of Pilot or the power of Jesus? What the Gospel challenges us to believe is that the power of non-coercive service is greater than the power of brutal force. We are challenged to believe that we will be more successful in our families, at our jobs and in our lives when we opt for sacrifice rather than manipulation, when we opt for service rather than control.

Our faith tells us that this is the only power that can truly change people’s hearts and build the kingdom of God.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL - 2nd Collection will take place this weekend, at all the Masses.

The purpose of this collection is to provide Christmas Hampers to needy families in our area. Thank you for your generous support!

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

- Mon. Nov. 26th - Rev. 14:1-3, 4b-5; Luke 21:1-4
- Tue. Nov. 27th - Rev. 14:14-19; Luke 21:5-11
- Wed. Nov. 28th - Rev. 15:1-4; Luke 21:12-19
- Thurs. Nov. 29th - Rev. 18:1-2, 21-23, 19:1-2, 9a; Luke 21:20-28
- Fri. Nov. 30th - ST. ANDREW, feast
Rom. 10:9-18; Mat. 4:18-22
- Sat. Dec. 1st - Rev. 22:1-7; Luke 21:34-36
- Sun. Dec. 2nd - FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Is. 63:16b-17, 64:1, 3-8; 1 Cor. 1:3-9; Mark 13:33-37



Youth Ministry Sunday is Dec. 2nd. A 2nd collection will be taken-up, next weekend, at all the Masses. **This Archdiocesan collection assists the Ministries and Outreach Office in providing formation, training, and support for Youth Ministry.**

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- Sat. Nov. 24th 5 pm Mass for Guillermo Vargas, R.I.P.
- Sun. Nov. 25th 9 am Mass for Choy Yat Sheung, R.I.P.
11 am Mass for the dec, memb. Of the Tseung fmly.
5 pm Mass for Parishioners
7 pm Mass for Fe Yap, R.I.P.
- Mon. Nov. 26th 8 am Mass for Charita Wilson, R.I.P.
- Tue. Nov. 27th 8 am Mass for Esther Baldasso, R.I.P.
- Wed. Nov. 28th 9 am Mass for Benjamin Laureola Sr., R.I.P.
7:30 pm Novena Mass Novena
- Thur. Nov. 29th 8:00 am Mass for all the souls in purgatory
- Fri. Nov. 30th 8:00 am Mass for Gus Huggan, R.I.P.
- Sat. Dec. 1st 9:00 am Mass for the int. of Chonie M. Lorenzo

ALTAR SERVERS



- Wed. Nov. 28th - 7:30 PM - Volunteers
- Sat. Dec. 1st - 5:00 PM - C & C Akol, M.Cabuhayan, J.Lanazu, J.Nguyen.
- Sun. Dec. 2nd - 9:00 AM - N.Chao, J & N Yuen.
11:00 AM - R.Bottin, S.Cho, W.Pharm, J.Roque.
5:00 PM - K.Alonzo, A.Babas, P.Casanova, T.Johnson, F & T Le, E.Nguyen, J.Plata.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE NEWS

- **Friendship Day:** Next Sunday after the 9 & 11 am Masses at the entrance of the church. Please join us!



SQUIRETTES NEWS

- Successful Senior's Luncheon: A good time was had by all those who attended our soup luncheon last Sunday. A special thanks to Imelda Bateria and her team.

- Poinsettia Sale: Next Sunday after the 9 and 11 am Masses at the entrance of the church.



ANNOINTING OF THE SICK

Will be held in our church this coming Wed., Nov. 28th, at our Novena Mass at 7:30 pm.

PROJECT ADVANCE

"Live gratefully, give generously"

Thank you so much to everyone who gave to our annual Project Advance appeal. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and support. Please be reminded that the deadline to fulfill your pledges is December 31st.

SHRINE NEWS

Laminated St. Jude prints, from the original painting by Tilly Milton, are available for \$12 at our Shrine store. We only have 7 available but will accept your order to laminate.



The picture is a beautiful keepsake and addition to your altar, especially if you are a St. Jude parishioner.

RCIA & ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Are you interested in finding out more about the Catholic faith? Know someone who might be? Come or invite them to join our parish program called RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adult). The program is suitable to anyone who is interested in learning more about our faith, for Catholics who have not yet received the sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion and for those who would like to deepen their faith, whether you were baptized or not. For more info call the parish office (604) 434-6700.



PARISH FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY - Next Saturday, Dec. 1st, following the 5 pm Mass in the school gym. Hosted by the CWL.

Adults \$2.50 and children under 5 are free. Tickets will be sold this weekend after all the Masses at the entrance of the church. Limited seating (only 250 tickets available). If anyone wishes to bring a small plate of their home made dessert, from their culture, to share is welcome to do so.

SCHOOL NEWS

School Mass: This Wednesday at 9 am. Join us!

Care Day: Friday, Nov. 30th. The theme will be the 80's.

Don't forget to bring in your twoonies.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Up-Coming Events

Stewardship Reflections

"Jesus answered, 'My kingdom does not belong to this world.'"

(John 18:36)

How often do we put all our time and energy into building a kingdom here on earth, forgetting that life here is short? The real kingdom is in the next life. Yet, how much time and energy do we invest in working for that eternal kingdom?

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Heart of the World – An Ignatian Retreat for Young Adults

Join us for – an Ignatian Retreat for men and women, ages 18-40, who would like to have an experience of Jesus Christ through Ignatian contemplation, and learn tools of discernment and prayer for everyday life. A retreat to kindle hearts to go set the world on fire on Friday, November 30, at 6:30 pm and Saturday, Dec. 1, from 8:30 am to 8 pm at St. Peter's Parish, New Westminister. Led by retreat leader: Fr. John O'Brien, SJ. Cost: \$30 (Saturday lunch and dinner included). No overnight at site.

Please bring a Bible, journal, and generous hearts, and please arrive punctually. To register visit: <https://rcav.org/event/heart-of-the-world>

Quo Vadis – Men's Discernment Events

Join us for: Snacking and Chatting with Priests on Friday, Nov. 30, at St. Patrick's Parish rectory, Vancouver. Begins with Mass at 7 p.m. Open to single Catholic men ages 18+ who want to answer the question: What is God calling me to do with my life? To register or for more info please call 604-443-3254.

ANNOUNCING AN UPCOMING RETROUVAILLE WEEKEND FOR COUPLES - Nov. 30 - Dec. 2 2018

Is your marriage going down the right road . . . or is it a little off track? Life can be difficult, and so can the challenges you face in marriage. Does the distance between you seem wide? Are you already separated? Looking for a better way? Retrouvaille can help and offers hope for a better relationship. For more info call 604-530-6710.

Pro-life Mass and Prayer Vigil

Join us for a peaceful, prayerful vigil for unborn children and their parents on Saturday, Dec. 1. Mass is at 9 a.m. at St. Patrick's, Vancouver, followed by the Rosary.

DOMESTIC ABUSE SERVICE - Our Lady of Good Counsel Society

invites you to come and enjoy our **Gala evening Rhinestones & Angel Wings** on Saturday December 1st 2018 at St. Matthews Elementary School Gym in Surrey. Tickets are now available through the Domestic Abuse Services (DAS) office (604) 585-6688. Great dinner, live music, fabulous auctions, and great company

LITTLE FLOWER ACADEMY is accepting applications from prospective Gr. 8 candidates for the 2019/20 school year. All students wishing to apply must sit the Entrance Exam on Saturday, Dec. 8, 2018. To apply please fill out the online form on our school website www.lfabc.org/apply or contact Kathi Wilson at 604-738-9016 xt. 114.

