

**The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe**



By God's grace, we have been restored from a seemingly hopeless state of mind related to family addiction. Helping others who are in need has now become a way of life for us. This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King as our liturgical calendar nears its conclusion before Advent. We can look with hope for the return of our King as we gaze at the world through the lens of service.

Family members of addicts and alcoholics often have a distorted understanding of what it means to be of service. Our tendency to seek the approval of others can make it tough to maintain healthy boundaries. Just as others extend a welcoming hand to us when we arrive to the rooms of recovery, we must maintain our own fit spiritual condition by sharing the fruit of our recovery with others wondering how to navigate a loved one's addiction. Most of us enter recovery thinking our situation is too unique. Honest sharing, humble friendships, and being available to others keeps us balanced and hopeful.

As we explore this Sunday's Gospel Reading, ask God to direct your thoughts to who you might help, remembering that we can only give what we receive:

Jesus said to his disciples:

*"When the Son of Man comes in his glory,
and all the angels with him,
he will sit upon his glorious throne,
and all the nations will be assembled before him.
And he will separate them one from another,
as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.
He will place the sheep on his right and the goats on
his left.*

*Then the king will say to those on his right,
'Come, you who are blessed by my Father.
Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the
foundation of the world.*

*For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
a stranger and you welcomed me,
naked and you clothed me,
ill and you cared for me,
in prison and you visited me."*

Authentic connections with newcomers to recovery provide an opportunity to give back what we've been freely given, even if we're early in our own journey. We can't make anyone get sober, but we can offer hope to others impacted by the family disease of addiction. Doing so deepens both our faith and recovery.

Perhaps you are in a position where you feel you are most in need—rock bottom as it is sometimes referred. Embrace the hand that reaches out to you and know your identity as a beloved son or daughter of God, with whom He is well pleased. A new life awaits you, even if you can't fully see it today.

Our fellowship is rooted in the body of Christ healing the body of Christ. It is a true gift to be in recovery as few lifestyles offer such genuine opportunities to live under the reign of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Let us conclude by reflecting on the words of Jesus:

*“Amen, I say to you,
whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine,
you did for me.”*

Reflection Questions

- How are you currently committed to serving others in your recovery fellowship, at your church, or in your community?
- How has being of service to others strengthened your own recovery? How do you balance this with the compulsion to seek approval from others?
- How has your life been shaped by the service and self-sacrifice of another person?

Prayer of Service and Thanksgiving

Lord,
Thank you for never giving up on your pursuit of me.
Every step of my recovery journey has been paved by you,
and you have crafted me beautifully.
Please allow me to see the world through your lenses
so that I may be of maximum service to you
and to those around me.
May I do for others what your love has done for me.
In all things, give me a heart that seeks the weary, the lonely, and
the hopeless so that, one day, we may all be united in your heavenly
kingdom.
Amen. —*Twelve Steps and the Sacraments*, p. 168-169

Sunday Mass Readings this Week

First Reading: Ezekial 34:11-12, 15-17

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46