

ON THE LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST FOR US & OUR OBLIGATIONS TO LOVE HIM

(adopted from St. Alphonsus Liguori's sermon for 4th Sunday of Advent)

The Savior of the world, of whom the prophet said, "all flesh shall see the salvation of God," has already come. He came for love for us; he suffered & died for love of us. Let us consider the love we owe to Jesus Christ in gratitude for the love he has for us. (Again, numbering belongs to the source as do all cases, even the divine pronouns.)

1. "Christ," says St. Augustine, "came on Earth that men might know how much God loves them." He has come, and to show the immense love which this God bears us, he gave himself entirely to us by abandoning himself to all the pains of this life, and, afterwards, to the scourges, thorns, sorrows and insults of his passion; indeed, he chose to be abandoned by all when he hung on infamous tree of the cross.

2. Jesus Christ could save without dying, without pain. One drop of his blood could suffice; indeed, one prayer offered to his Eternal Father - due its infinite value - could save the world, even a thousand worlds. So great is God's love for us, however, he wished to shed not part of his blood, but all of it, by dint of torments. So his side was pierced to drain it of love. Tell me, if the vilest man on this Earth had done for you what Jesus Christ did, could you remember his love for you, and not love him?

7. So great did Jesus burn with love for us that he not only wished to die for our redemption, but during his whole life he sighed ardently for the day on which he should suffer death for the love of us. Hence, during his life, Jesus used to say, "I have a baptism wherewith I am to be baptized; and how am I straitened until it be accomplished." (Lk 12:50) and, when the time came, he said, "With desire I have desired to eat this pasch with you before I suffer." (Lk 22:15)

10. He who loves wishes to be loved. "When," says St. Bernard, "God loves, he desires nothing else than to be loved." Jesus said, "I am come to cast fire upon the Earth, and what will I but that it is kindled" (Lk 12:49), which the Church prays, "We beseech thee, Lord, that thy Spirit may inflame us with that fire which Jesus Christ cast upon the Earth, and which he vehemently wished to be kindled." How can we be inflamed with love for God? Imitate David. "In my meditation a fire shall flame out." (Ps. 38) Meditation is the blessed furnace to kindle the holy fire of divine love.

14. **I end**, by recommending that you henceforth meditate every day on the passion of Jesus Christ. I shall be content, if you daily devote 15 minutes to this meditation. Let each at least procure a crucifix & keep it in his room, and from time to time give a glance at it, saying: "Ah! my Jesus, thou hast died for me, and I do not love thee." If you suffered injuries for a friend, you would be pleased when he remembered this and spoke of it with gratitude; but you would be displeased if he did not. Just so, frequent meditation on his passion, pleases Jesus; but its neglect provokes him. Let us not wait until the hour of death to place in our hands the crucifix; let us not wait till others remind us what Christ suffered for us. Let us, during our life, embrace Jesus Christ crucified; keep always united to him, in order to live and die with him. His will be a happy death who now thinks often & fondly of him crucified for love for us!



CHRIST THE KING Catholic Church

An apostolate of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter
preaching the Gospel & sanctifying souls
according to the liturgical books of 1962.

4th Sunday of Advent

December 20, 2020

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The Daily Mass Schedule is:

Monday at 12 noon

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 7:00 am and 9:00 am

Friday at 9:00 am and 6:30 pm

Saturday at 9:00 am.

The Sunday Mass Schedule is:

7:00 am low; 8:30 am low; 10:30 am sung; and 12:30 pm low.

[The bookstore will open after the 8:30 am & 10:00 am Masses; items on the "Blessing Table" in the hall will be blessed after the 12:30 pm Mass.]

Confessions are heard in the confessional box ½ hour before Mass.

In the Diocese of Venice, the Sunday obligation is dispensed until sometime after the New Year.

In Ocala:

Sunday Mass at 4:30 pm

Monday Mass at 7 am.

1st Saturday Mass at 10:30 am.

Liturgical Calendar for the Upcoming Week

DATE	FEAST	CLASS/COLOR	COMMEMORATION
Sun 12-20	4 th "Rorate" Sunday of Advent	1/V	
Mon 12-21	St Thomas	3/V	Feria
Tues 12-22	Greater Feria of Advent	3/V	
Wed 12-23	Greater Feria of Advent	2/V	
Thu 12-24	Vigil of Christmas	2/V	
Fri 12-25	The Nativity of Our Lord	2/V	St Anastasia at Dawn Mass
Sat 12-26	St Stephen	2/V	Day in the Octave
Sun 12-27	Sunday in the Octave of Christmas	1/V	



Mass Intentions for the Upcoming Week in Sarasota

Sun 12-20	(7 am) Poor souls in Purgatory (8:30 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (10:30 am) George Hemeryck (12:30 pm) <i>Priest's intentions</i>	rb L de Saizieu rb his daughters
Mon 12-21	(12:30) William & Mary Figlesthaler	rb Courville family
Tues 12-22	(7 am) Scott Tocher (9 am) Cornelia Abrams Luscombe+	rb T Tocher rb D Came
Wed 12-23	(7 am) Rita Wallace+ (9 am) Thomas Purcell+	rb P Johnston rb S Shenko
Thu 12-24	(7 am) FssP Confraternity (9 am) Blessed Virgin Mary	rb Shehwen family rb a friend
Fri 12-25	(12 am, Midnight Mass) Altar servers at CtK (8:30 am, Dawn Mass) <i>Pro-populo</i> (10:30 am, Day Mass) All unborn babies	rb R & D Gabriel rb CtK parishioners
Sat 12-26	(9 am) Isaac Ray Neeley+	rb M Neeley
Sun 12-27	(7 am) <i>Priest's intentions</i> 8:30 am) <i>Pro-populo</i> (10:30 am) Julianne Weinmann (12:30 pm) Joan Marie Kitko+	 rb C Plowman rb Shehwen family

MERRY *almost* CHRISTMAS!

Fathers Hathaway & Mahowald thank you for your many kind cards & gifts given them over this most festive season. *Deus retribuat vos!*

Please, avoid parking on the grass (esp. when wet). G. Fried Flooring America, to our NE about 75 yards ("It's a trudge!"; "Offer it up!"), allows us use of their 30-space-beautiful-asphalt-parking-lot; if our beautiful church lot is full, **please** fill up these spaces before parking on the grass, to help keep it beautiful, too.

This week & Christmas schedules:

In Sarasota – Monday, KoC does NOT meet; Tuesday, adult Catechism (6-7 pm); Thursday, Christmas carols (11 pm); Friday, Christmas Day, there are three Masses - Midnight Mass at 12 am, Dawn Mass at 8:30 am, and Day Mass at 10:30 am.

In Ocala - Thursday, Christmas carols (11:30 pm); Friday, Christmas Day, there are three Masses: Midnight Mass at 12 am, Dawn Mass at 8 am, & Day Mass at 8:30 am (Holy Communion will be distributed at the Midnight & Day Masses only).

Up-coming: Come join Christ the King church for an Epiphany & Parish anniversary potluck party on Saturday, January 9, at noon in the field. Please bring folding chairs, food to share and rosary! CtK became a parish on January 11, 2017! There is a hope to have a roasted Florida wild hog to eat!

Last Sunday: collections for CtK - \$3,291.00 & CFA- \$ 750.00.

Last Sunday attendance: about 250 souls (halos were too bright to count.)

Please remember to pick-up your 2021 offertory envelopes from the vestibule.

Christmas caroling will again take place at the Sarasota Planned Parenthood, in conjunction with the "Peace in the Womb" caroling event around the nation, coordinated by the Pro-life action league. The event will take place Tuesday, Dec. 22 from 10:15 am-11:00 am. Please join in the chorus of voices seeking to bring light to this dark place.

Please pray for: Ralph Johnson & Gregory Balmes (12/20), Mandi Baker, Sandy Curran, Came family, & Ryan Parker (12/13); Jason Moyer & Bill & Barbara Wis (12/6); Fr. Simeon & Emilee Hogan (11/29); Joseph Bolus & Luke Rubino (11/29); Tom Costo, Serah DeHetre & Amber Dion (11/22); and Cecilia & Virginia Vargas (12/3). (Prayer requests are posted for one month; renewable.)

Thank you for your generous response to the 2020 Catholic Faith Appeal at Christ the King church. We ask that you please make pledge or payments through the church collection, making checks payable to Catholic Faith Appeal; or, if you pledge directly on-line, please let us know the total amount; we are trying to independently track all monies pledged from CtK.

As of Dec. 10, status of CFA at Christ the King: \$17,144.00 pledged; 23.48% of goal from 22.66% of 128 households; payments being \$16,809.00. (from Diocese of Venice.org)

New Year's (Friday, Jan. 1, 2021) Schedule:

In Sarasota – Masses at 7:00 am, 8:30 am, 10:30 am & 12:30 pm; no 6:30 pm Mass.

In Ocala – Mass at 6 pm

Epiphany (Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021) Schedule:

In Sarasota – Masses at 7:00 am, 9:00 am & 6:30 pm.

In Ocala – Mass at 6:00 pm.

[Epiphany holy water will be made at First Vespers (Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021) at 6 pm at both places; you are welcome to attend.]