

Crisis in the Early Church

After Constantine I defeated Licinius, at the Battle of Adrianople on July 3, 324, he became the sole ruler of the Roman Empire & 300 years of interspersed persecutions of Christians ended. When, the next year, he convened the Church's First Ecumenical Council at Nicaea; more, when this same emperor built the Church's mother church, St. John Lateran, those of St. Peter & of St. Paul (8 churches total in Rome), and established many others throughout Italy & Africa; as well as in Antioch & Jerusalem and, even more, when he founded the church in Constantinople, Sancta Sophia, which Constantius II, a son, finished in 360 AD, Christians everywhere must have felt triumphant; now wed, Church & state would beget peace on earth!

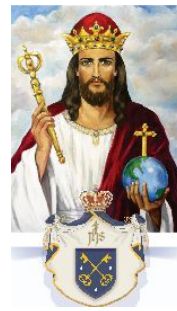
If true, this feeling was short lived. Barbarian invasions, corrupting heresies old & new, a spirit of luke-warmness – a danger whenever peace & comfort are sought from the world – all serviced a gradual decay in the empire & in the Church.

The world: By the early 5th century, pious Christians suffered greatly in the empire; indeed, they would escape if they could. The historian, Dr. Warren Carroll, puts the angst: “Rarely has there been a society so good to flee from as that of the later Roman empire. No Christian could feel at home in it. He stayed in it only out of duty; he left it with joy. The writing of virtually every holy man and woman of this age of the Fathers of the Church pulse with the desire to escape from this profoundly decadent, festering corrupt society if they could do so without failing in essential duties. These men and women truly and genuinely yearned for the austerities of the desert cells and cenacles... nothing could save it (the world)... There was cleansing and expiation to be done; after that, God willing, a new beginning for Christendom. (The Building of Christendom, p.47) [At this time, seeds of monasticism are sown.]

The Church: In ugly detail, a priest of this time, Salvianus of Marseilles, whom St. Hilary of Arles calls an “excellent and most blessed man in Christ,” describes the Roman Church in frightful fashion: “The very Church of God, which ought to be in all the appeaser of God, what else is she but the provoker of God? or, outside some very few, who flee from evil, what else is almost every assembly of Christians but a sink of vices? For how many will you find in the Church, of whom it can be said that he is not either a drunkard, or a glutton, or an adulterer, or a fornicator, or a ravisher, or dissolute, or a thief, or a homicide? And, what is worse than any, these various offenses well-nigh endlessly repeated. For I question the conscience of all Christian men. Of the crimes and offences which we have here enumerated, how many men are there of whom it can be said that he is not guilty of one of them, or perhaps all? You will more readily find a man who offends in all than one who offends in none.” (*De Gubernatione Dei*, liber III, c. 9)

Perhaps exaggerated, Fr. Salvianus' main point was not denied his contemporary. Saints too rue the time: St Jerome, “the world groaned to find itself Arian”; St. Chrysostom, “the skulls of bishops line the walls of hell.” Indeed, Protestants today say the smoke of Satan had so filled the Church in the 5th century as to make it disappear, only becoming visible again in the reformation, 1,000 years later.

To end, Christ said His Church is indestructible (Mt 16:18) & scandals “must be” (Mt 18:8). To know this is a blessing (thank you, Jesus); otherwise, we'd all be protestant.



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.

21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 22, 2023, A.D.

Pastor: Fr. Chris Hathaway, FssP

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Assistant: Fr. Vince Huber, FssP

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Secretary: Susan Hemeryck

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Church Office Hours: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm, Monday - Friday

Christ the King Catholic Church.

Office: 941-924-2777

1900 Meadowood Street

Sarasota, FL 34231

christthekingsarasota.org

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. (On Friday, a 5:30 pm Holy Hour & confession time, precedes the 6:30 pm Mass.)

Saturday at 9:00 am.

Sacramental Emergency: 941-400-5415

The Sunday Mass Schedule is:

7:00 am low; 8:30 am low; & 10:30 am sung & a seasonal 12:30 pm low Mass.

Items on the “Blessing Table” in the hall are blessed after the last Sunday Mass.

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

Sarasota “Lost & Found” now located in the office

In Ocala:

Sunday Mass at 4:30 pm

Monday Mass at 7 am.

1st Saturday Mass at 10:30 am.

Scan to give



Liturgical Calendar for the Upcoming Week

DATE	FEAST	CLASS/COLOR
Sun 10-22	21 st Sunday after Pentecost	2/G Propagation of the Faith
Mon 10-23	St Anthony Mary Claret	3/W
Tues 10-24	St Raphael Archangel	2/W
Wed 10-25	St Isidore, the Farmer	3/W Ss Chrysantus & Daria
Thu 10-26	St Evaristus	3/R
Fri 10-27	Feria	4/G
Sat 10-28	Ss Simon & Jude, Apostles	2/R
Sun 10-29	Christ the King	1/W No comm. of 22 nd Sunday

Mass Intentions for the Upcoming Week in Sarasota

Sun 10-22	(7 am) Peter Katz	rb R Speer
	(8:30 am) Mike & Mary Meza	rb M Meza
	(10:30) <i>Pro-populo</i>	
	(12:30 pm)	Resumes November 5
Mon 10-23	(12 pm) Bishop Joseph Strickland	rb M/M L Truong
Tues 10-24	(7 am) John A Kitko+	rb MF Kitko
	(9 am) Intentions of the Pastor	rb a tertiary
Wed 10-25	(7 am) Dr Kenneth A Gordon+	rb S Gordon
	(9 am) Joseph D	rb KD
Thu 10-26	(7 am) FssP Confraternity intentions	rb J&J Mikluscak
	(9 am) a loved one	rb anonymous
Fri 10-27	(9 am) Special intention	rb C Labrecque
	(6:30 pm) M/M Patrick DiGiacinto	rb C DiGiacinto
Sat 10-28	(9 am) Tom Costo+	rb Clough family
Sun 10-29	(7 am) Thomas & Patricia++	rb M F Polansky
	(8:30 am) Poor Souls in Purgatory	rb L de Saizieu
	(10:30 am) <i>Pro-populo</i>	
	(12:30 pm)	Resumes November 5

Today's 10:30 am Music: Entr: Hail Holy Queen, #908; Asperges, #567; Mass VI, #718 & Credo IV, #780; Exit: O Sacrament Most Holy, #903. No coffee & donuts today, but we can still play soccer!

Today, after the 8:30 am & 10:30 am Masses, for those joining the Confraternity, we will pray one decade of the Rosary followed by the Confraternity prayer (as found in your materials); afterwards, you may claim your certificate.

Last Sunday's Collection: cash \$4,764.00; on-line \$1,184.00; CFA \$434.00.

Total souls: 450: 7 am-46; 8:30 am-181; 10:30 am-223. (Ocala, 395)

This Week: Monday, Vespers (4:30 pm); Tuesday, Holy Face devotions (10:15 am) & Book Club (6:30-8 pm); Thursday, Vespers (4:30 pm), Youth Cat. (5-6 pm); Friday, staff meeting (3:30 pm), Vespers (4:30 pm), Holy Hour (5:30 pm), Mass (6:30 pm); Saturday, Vespers (4:30 pm).

Next Sunday, October 29, the Feast of Christ the King, we will have our Eucharistic procession & annual parish picnic after the 10:30 am Mass. Although the meal will be catered, we need volunteers to help with drinks, desserts & clean-up. There is a sign-up sheet for this in the vestibule.

Please pray for: Roberta Speer, Meza family, Schroll family (10/22); Johnson family (10/8); Jacob, James & Avery Ford (10/1).

2023 CFA status at CtK as of October 14, 2023 : \$123,000.00 assessed by the diocese; \$88,765.06 pledged (72.17% of goal); from 42.99% of 221 households; \$77,520.16 paid. (from dioceseofvenice.org) **Thank you for your support!**

Regarding our plans to expand the church, please know this Wednesday, Oct. 25, CtK will present its idea to Bishop Dewane. In short, CtK hopes to extend the church towards Meadow Road and increase our church occupancy to 400 souls; per coding, this also means we must add parking which will be relocated to our field. Also, at the same time, the idea of a new & larger social hall, with larger kitchen, will be presented, but as a later phase of our work. Please keep this in your prayers.

Things to Know at Christ the King (CtK)

Sunday Best: Sunday is a day given especially to almighty God. In part, we show this by how we dress at the holy Sacrifice of the Mass on this day. When sitting, a woman's dress should reach below her knees, cover her shoulders, and rest near the pit of the throat; a man should wear a suit & tie, or, at least, a collared shirt & clean slacks.

Baptism: we ask that all families be active, registered parishioners 6 months prior to receiving this Sacrament.

First Holy Communion & Confirmation: your child's regular attendance at our catechism classes is anticipated of them before receiving these sacraments.

Matrimony: arrangements with the parish should be made at least 6 months in advance of a wedding date; participation in a priest conducted marriage preparation program is required.

Regarding Confession, as often time is limited to deal with situations in Confession, please know that the priests at CtK are available to meet with you outside confession times to help you with your spiritual dilemmas; simply call the office to arrange an appointment with either priest.

If you are new to the parish, it would please the pastor to meet with you; you may arrange an appointment through the secretary.

Thinking of joining the Catholic Church? Please contact the office; individual instruction will be arranged with our priests.