Faith, Joy and Hope - best ways for a better

One of the major biographers, George Weigel, called Pope St. John Paul II a "Witness to Joy and Hope." To the thousands of young people who gathered in Toronto, Canada in 2002 for World Youth Day, John Paul II spoke these words: "Although I have lived through much darkness under harsh totalitarian regimes, I have seen enough evidence to be unshakably convinced that no difficulty, no fear is so great that it can completely suffocate the hope that springs eternal in the hearts of the young. . . Do not let that hope die. Stake your lives on it." These words help us see why St. John Paul II was a witness to joy and hope. St. John Paul's hope was grounded in the conviction that the ultimate victory belongs to Christ, a victory he has already won on the cross. It was a hope founded on the promise of Jesus at the Last Supper: "In the world you will have tribulation, but take courage for I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). St. John Paul II lived through the loss of all his family, the horror of the Second World War, Communism, being shot and almost killed, bowel cancer, Parkinson's disease, and many more trials, yet he never lost faith and hope. For John Paul II, the power that gave him strength to live came from Christ. With Christ, he explained, evil would be overcome and hope would triumph in every place and circumstance. My beloved brothers and sisters, as you see, today's world desperately needs joy, hope for the future, and pure love. There are worrying signs in our society that people are losing faith, hope, and love; they leave the Church, the holy sacraments, and they stop attending Mass and receiving the Holy Eucharist. People are numbing themselves with drugs, falling into despair, and with alarming frequency, dying through different circumstances. We are constantly tempted to lose hope and faith when confronted with the many challenges we face today—the scourge of demonic racism and a worldwide economic recession. That's why St. John Paul II sends us to Christ again saying that He has already overcome all things and is still present and active in the world, even through all the passions, pandemics, and social tensions of this age. His love will overcome all evil, darkness, and despair. How can we nurture and share this

hope and love in simple and everyday ways? First of all by Holy Mass, daily prayers, the holy rosary, and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Through prayer, we allow the Spirit of hope to become alive again in our hearts — the Spirit that St. Paul described as being "poured into our hearts as the love of God" (Rom. 5:5). Through the Holy Eucharist and daily prayer, our faith and hope will be founded in God and not some shallow optimism that shows us today's world. I wish you all that this time of Advent will encourage you to never give up on hope and joy that comes from Christ Himself. Never doubt, never tire, and never be discouraged. There is no evil to be faced that Christ does not face with us. There is no enemy that Christ has not already conquered. There is no cross to bear that Christ has not already carried for us and does not bear with us now. So, be not afraid.

Next Week is the Diocesan Collection for the Retired Religious

Next weekend, on Dec. 17th & 18th, at Holy Spirit Catholic Church & Christ the King Mission we welcome a Eucharistic Evangelist Team at each Mass, who will be sharing their testimony about the Eucharist and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Gumbo Fund Raiser - Christ the King

Dear parishioners, friends and visitors. It's that time again...Christ the King Catholic Church in Latimer will be taking orders for seafood gumbo this Christmas Season!! \$50 for a gallon or \$25 for a half gallon. Sign-up sheets will be in the back of the church in Vancleave and Latimer starting this weekend or you can contact Deacon Norbie or Pam Leach at 228-209-0698 to place your order. The deadline to order is Dec. 14th. Orders can be picked up at Christ The King on Dec. 17th and 18th after Mass.

Advent Penance Service Holy Spirit Catholic Church and Christ the King Mission

We will have an Advent Penance Service on Monday, December 19th at 6:00 p.m. for Holy Spirit Catholic Church and Christ the King Mission at Holy Spirit Catholic Church. Three priests will be available to hear your confession.

Mass Schedule For the Nativity of the Lord A Holy Day of Obligation

Saturday, December 24th Vigil Mass:

Christ the King: 4:00 p.m. with Fr. Bob Holy Spirit: 4:00 p.m. with Fr. Peter

Sunday, December 25th Solemnity Mass:

Christ the King: 9:15 a.m. Holy Spirit: 11:00 a.m.

We will not have a 4:00 p.m. Mass at Holy Spirit

Parish Charities

Our Food Pantry is asking for donations of the following items for Christmas:

Gravy mix, Corn bread mix, Cream potatoes mix, Corn, Peas, Green Beans, Cake mix, Icing, canned sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, canned pumpkin, evaporated milk and mini marshmallows.

HOMEBOUND VISITS: Fr. Peter is able to visit the homebound parishioners and Minister to them the Sacraments of Confession, Communion and Anointing. Contact the Parish Office if you would like him to visit your relative.

MASS FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS: You can have Masses offered for the deceased as well as for living family and friends (\$10 stipend per Mass). Mass cards and envelopes are available at the Parish office. We strongly advise that you contact the office if you wish to have a Mass celebrated on a specific date. If a Mass Intention has already been scheduled for that date, your Mass Intention will be scheduled on the next available date.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Fr. Peter is available for Confession every day, before daily Mass and after, or by appointment.

CK & HS COMBINED ACTIVITIES

K of C Meeting: 1st Wed. of the month at 7pm.- KC Hall

Parish Charity: Tuesdays- 4:30pm.-5:00pm

Boy Scouts Troup 826: Michael Rosas -Tuesdays-6:30pm- HSCC

HOLY SPIRIT ACTIVITIES: 6705 Jim Ramsav Road, Vancleave, 39565

Altar Society - Margaret Brenke, President Maintenance - Mark Hopkins 2nd & 4th Saturday.

Bible Study - Wed. after 8:00am Mass and Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall.

CHRIST THE KING ACTIVITIES 10601 Daisy Vestry Rd, Latimer, MS 39565

Altar Society/Flowers - Tina Shoemaker, President. Please contact her at (228) 238-3791.

Stewardship				
Date	Holy	Christ the		
	Spirit	King		
12/4	6,282	301.90	Offering	
	516	456	Bldg. Fund	

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for vocations to the Priesthood. Diaconate, and Religious Life. Please pray for our seminarians:, Chris Collins, John Olivier, Deacon Adam Frey, Marcelo Gois, and Jacob Lott,; and permanent deacons: our Service Men & Women: Robert Brown, Chad Parker, James Griffith, Scott Fisher, Patrick Ekhlas, Josh Iler, Michael Ferencak, Bruce Spearnock, Kris Moe, Joshua Cook, Adriana Hill-Cook and Matthew Ekhlas; those in nursing or assisted living homes and those who are ill: Maria Kmiecik, Rhonda Borries, Richard Arquelles, Pam McKay, Jane Benoit, Nathan Smith, Doug Borries, Pat & Pete Dacri, Bunny & Albert Lechner, Joe Martin, Albert Santa Cruz, Thomas Newman. Sandra Hill, Beverly Reese, Mary Osterman, Nell Kieff, and Miguel Saavedra.

MASS	LECTOR	Altar Servers
Sat Dec 17 4:00 p.m. CK	Gene Higginbotham	
Sun Dec 17 6:00 p.m. HS	Doris Santa Cruz	
Sun Dec 18 9:15 a.m. CK	Pat Fast	Daniel Yennie
Sun Dec 18 11:00 a.m. HS	Mark Hopkins	Cooper Flurry Addison Smith Brileigh Brown
Sun Dec 18 4:00 p.m. HS	Katherine Rushing	