

VIVA!

An Edge Night on the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ,
King of the Universe

EDGE NIGHT OVERVIEW

GOAL

The goal of this Edge Night is to prepare the youth for and explain the Church's celebration of the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. This Edge Night will provide the youth with an understanding of the feast and personal applications to their faith.

SUMMARY

The Edge Night begins with a Gather that is a spin on a Hispanic New Year's Eve tradition. The youth hunt for plastic or chocolate coins hidden around the meeting space and the youth who finds the special coin is king or queen for the Edge Night. The Proclaim discusses Christ's kingship and our participation in His kingship. In the Break, the youth reflect on the upcoming new liturgical year and create spiritual New Year's resolutions to honor our king. The Send will lead the youth through the Act of Dedication to Christ the King prayer and help them meet the other conditions for the indulgence.

MAIN IDEAS

- The Church uses a liturgical calendar that sets aside specific days and seasons to celebrate different parts of our faith.
- This week the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, a day

that reminds us to honor Christ as king and to live as sons and daughters of the king.

- Christ the King is the last Sunday of the liturgical calendar — a sort of Catholic New Year's Eve — and invites us to honor Christ as king throughout the next liturgical year.

ENVIRONMENT

The Solemnity of Christ the King is the last Sunday of the liturgical calendar, making it a sort of Catholic New Year's Eve. Decorate your space with a New Year's Eve feel. Use black and metallic gold and/or silver balloons, streamers, tablecloths, and confetti. Suggest that the youth come dressed up for the Edge Night and give them New Year's Eve hats, glasses, noisemakers, etc. Somewhere in the room, prominently display the phrase, "Viva Cristo Rey."



MEDIA

The Catholic TV Network: "Obscure Saint: Bl. Miguel Agustin Pro" ([youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com))

"How Many Kings," Downhere (*Ending Is Beginning*, Stephen Gause, Mark Heimermann, and Downhere, 2008)

"King of My Heart," Bethel Music (*Starlight*, Chris Greely and Ran Jackson, 2017)



SCRIPTURE

Zephaniah 3:14-15; John 12:12-15, 18:33-37



CATECHISM

783-786, 1163-1165, 1171-1173, 1471-1472, 1478-1479

EDGE NIGHT OUTLINE

GATHER

Edge Night Introduction (5 min)

Welcome the youth, introduce any youth there for the first time, and begin in prayer. Give a brief overview of the topic of the Edge Night, using the following as an example:

This week we join the Church in celebrating the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. We rejoice in the fact that Christ is king over all of heaven and Earth, but we also rejoice because we share in His kingly role. This solemnity is the last Sunday in the Church's calendar, so this special feast day helps us recommit to Christ our king as we head into Advent and a new liturgical year.

Treasure Hunt (20 min)

Before the Edge Night, purchase a plastic or chocolate coin for each youth. Make a special mark on one of the coins and then hide them around the meeting space.

This game is played in a large group. Explain that this game is a take on a Hispanic New Year's Eve tradition where families celebrate New Year's Eve by hiding coins around the house.

1. Tell the youth that there are coins hidden around the meeting space and explain that they are only to find one coin.
2. Mark the start of the game by using a noisemaker and watch to make sure that every youth finds a coin. Once they have found a coin, the youth sit down.
3. Once everyone has found a coin, figure out which youth has the coin with the special mark; this youth gets to be king or queen for the Edge Night.

4. The king or queen can have special treatment during the Edge Night such as sitting in a place of honor, being the first person to receive a snack, or getting to choose a game to play if there is extra time.



STEP IT UP

To add a challenge and make the youth work together as a team, affix all of the coins to the ceiling. Once the youth figure out that the coins are on the ceiling, tell them the Core Team cannot help get them down so they must work together. To make sure the youth can actually get the coins, leave some items around the room that can help them reach the ceiling (e.g., sturdy chairs, a broom or mop with a long handle).

PROCLAIM

“¡VIVA!” Teaching (10 min)

This teaching can be found on pages 16 to 21.

BREAK

New Year's Resolutions (20 min)

Divide the youth into small groups, begin in prayer, and use the following questions for discussion:

- What comes to mind when you think of a king?
- How is Jesus as a king different from the version you described?

- If someone were to look at your life, what would they say is the most important thing to you or the “king” of your life?
- Do you think it is good or bad that this is the “king” of your life? Why?
- What could you do in the new liturgical year to make Jesus more of the king of your life?

Pass out a notecard and pen to each person. Instruct the youth to take a few minutes to come up with a New Year’s resolution that will help them make Jesus the king of their lives. After they have finished, have them share their ideas with one another.



STEP IT UP

Similar to the way we focus on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during Lent, have the youth make resolutions in different categories. What is one way they can pray more deeply? What is one thing they can give up — be it altogether or just doing/using less frequently? What is one way they can better serve and love others?

Eighth Grade Adaptation

Use the following questions for a more challenging discussion for eighth grade youth:

- What comes to mind when you think of Christ as king?
- Have you ever made a resolution or commitment and actually followed through?
- Why do you think we often fail when we make resolutions?
- What do you think is the biggest change Jesus would like you to make?

- What has stopped you from making this change for Christ?
- What are some things you can do to follow through on your commitments, especially commitments in your faith?
- Who is one person who could help hold you accountable in your commitment to honor Christ as king?

SEND

Act of Dedication to Christ the King (20 min)

Bring the youth back to the large group and explain the concept of indulgences, using the following as an example:

As Catholics, we believe sin has a double consequence; sin damages our relationship with God and strengthens our bonds to unhealthy things in this world (CCC 1472). To get to heaven, we need God’s grace to repair our relationship with Him, but we also need to work toward putting God first in our lives and not loving other things more than we love Him. Indulgences are one way we can do that (CCC 1471). Indulgences are special prayers that can be said and acts that can be done that give us special graces to help us be less attached to material items and more attached to God (CCC 1478).

This week, on the Solemnity of Christ the King, we can get an indulgence by praying a special prayer: the Act of Dedication to Christ the King. To receive the graces of the indulgence, we need to receive the Eucharist a few days before or after and we need to go to Reconciliation a few weeks before or after. We also need to pray an Our Father and a Hail Mary for the pope and his intentions.

VIVA!

Proclaim Details

To cover the basic information, follow along and craft the talk based off of the bullet points. If the youth are ready to take it deeper, incorporate a few of the Going Deeper call out boxes, picking the ones the youth would relate to the most.



GOING DEEPER

Check inside these boxes for tips and ideas on how to take your youth a little deeper with the Proclaim.

LITURGICAL YEAR INTRODUCTION (optional)

- The Church follows what we call the “liturgical year.” Like the normal calendar year, the liturgical year has seasons and holidays or holy days. Unlike the normal calendar year, though, the entire liturgical year focuses on God. (CCC 1163, 1171)
- The liturgical year consists of the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time. During each of these seasons, we focus on a different aspect of the life of Jesus and are invited to grow in our relationship with God in various ways.
- The liturgical year allows us to see Christ’s life, death, and Resurrection in a new light. It also allows us to actively celebrate the work Christ has done and is doing for us and within us. (CCC 1164-1165)



GOING DEEPER

Using CCC 1172-1173, describe how the liturgical year also celebrates Mary and the saints.

CHECK THE CALENDAR

- *Prominently display the phrase “Viva Cristo Rey” in your meeting space. Point it out and explain that “Viva Cristo Rey” were the last words of a saint, who you will be discussing in a few minutes, and means “Long live Christ the King.”*
- *Come up with a hand signal to use throughout the Proclaim. Tell the youth this hand signal is their cue to cheer, “Viva Cristo Rey!”*
- This week we join the Church in celebrating the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. That is a mouthful, but it means we are honoring Jesus as king.
- *Make the signal and have the youth cheer, “Viva Cristo Rey!”*
- This week’s celebration of Christ the King is a solemnity. Solemnities are special holidays of the liturgical year that highlight important parts of our faith.



GOING DEEPER

Explain the difference between solemnities, feast days, and memorials in the liturgical calendar.

- The Solemnity of Christ the King is the last Sunday of the season of Ordinary Time. Next Sunday begins the season of Advent and is the start of the new liturgical year. In a way, the Solemnity of Christ the King is a Catholic New Year’s Eve.

- *Make the signal and have the youth cheer, “Viva Cristo Rey!”*

KING ME

- You have probably heard the idea of Jesus being king before. In a world where few countries have kings anymore, Jesus’ kingship can be difficult to understand.
- You are not alone if you have difficulty imagining Jesus as king. When Jesus preached about the Kingdom of God, many people — even some of the apostles — misunderstood Him.
- They thought Jesus would gain political power. They thought He would rule a kingdom and defeat military enemies. But Jesus meant something entirely different.
- On Palm Sunday — which is the Sunday before Easter — we remember when people crowded the streets to praise Jesus and declared Him king as He rode into Jerusalem.
- The days following Jesus’ magnificent entrance into Jerusalem show what His kingship and the Kingdom of God are all about.
- After riding into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, Jesus celebrated the Passover with the apostles.



GOING DEEPER

Explain that the Passover is a traditional Jewish feast but this particular Passover is called “the Last Supper” and is the first time Jesus celebrates the Eucharist and teaches His disciples to do the same.

- After the Passover, Jesus is betrayed and handed over to the authorities.



GOING DEEPER

Using the Passion narratives in the Gospels, go into more detail about what Jesus did between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, highlighting how these actions relate to His kingship.

- *Read John 18:33-37.*
- Jesus explains to Pilate what many of Jesus’ followers misunderstood. Jesus is not the king of a country. He is a king who has come to witness to the truth and bring about the Kingdom of God.
- *Make the signal and have the youth cheer, “Viva Cristo Rey!”*
- Christ as king does not mean Jesus gloats in power over us. Christ as king means He loves us enough to suffer for us and lay down His life — which He did when He died for our sins on the cross.
- Jesus’ kingship and the Kingdom of God are about love and sacrifice.
- *Make the signal and have the youth cheer, “Viva Cristo Rey!”*

PRO TIP

- When we are baptized, we become the children of God and are called to share in Christ’s kingship. (CCC 783-785)
- All of us are called to be kings like Christ the King and imitate Jesus by loving and serving others, even to the point of laying down our lives for others by putting others first and helping those who are most in need. (CCC 786)



GOING DEEPER

Using CCC 786 and the tenets of Catholic Social Teaching, explain how our kingly service requires a preferential option for the poor and vulnerable.

- *Make the signal and have the youth cheer, “Viva Cristo Rey!”*
- One example of someone who truly understood the kingship of Christ and knew that he was called to live like Jesus did is Bl. Miguel Pro.
- Miguel Pro lived in Mexico about 100 years ago. He became a priest during a time when it was dangerous to be Catholic in Mexico.
- Instead of rejecting his faith, Miguel served just like Christ our king. He served the spiritual needs of the Catholic people and the material needs of the poor in his community.
- He served as secretly as he could but was eventually captured. Like Jesus, he was sentenced to death. As he stood before his executioners, Bl. Miguel Pro’s last words were:
- *Make the signal and have the youth cheer, “Viva Cristo Rey!”*
- It is unlikely that we will be called to die for our faith, like Bl. Miguel Pro and Jesus, but that does not mean we cannot participate in Christ’s kingship in other ways.



GOING DEEPER

Share the story of St. Jose Sanchez del Rio, who died for his faith just shy of his 15th birthday. He also died proclaiming the words, “Viva Cristo Rey” and serves as a great example of dedication and love of Christ lived out from a young age.

- We are preparing for Advent and a new liturgical year. The Solemnity of Christ the King is a great day to make a sort of New Year’s resolution for ways to serve Christ this Christmas and all year long.
- *Invite the youth to share ways they can serve Christ and others.*
- To be kings like Christ, we must love and serve. Show your love for Christ by finding more times and ways to pray and sacrifice. Show your love for and service of others by going out of your way when someone needs help. Use Bl. Miguel Pro as an inspiration; consider making his last words a special motto and prayer for your life.
- *Make the signal and have the youth cheer, “Viva Cristo Rey!”*

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