

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John  
Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ,  
November 21, 2021**

**UNMASKING THE LIES**

We live in a time of false advertising, fake news, broken promises, exaggerated claims, and hypocritical behavior. The truth is darkened by falsehoods and blotted out by lies. We have become accustomed to taking everything with more than a touch of skepticism and disbelief.

We should not be surprised with the lies and deceits in our world. They were present from the first moment that people walked this earth.

In Sunday's Gospel, Jesus says that he came into the world to proclaim the truth and to unmask the lies of Satan.

Jesus testified that real freedom and fulfillment were to be found not by doing what we wanted but in following God's will.

Jesus testified that money, power, fame, and status would always keep us wanting something more, and would never fill the space in the human heart meant for God.

Jesus testified that our futures would be determined not by worldly standards but by how well we loved God and how we responded to the needs of the poor, vulnerable, and the hurting.

Jesus testified that marriage was not just a human institution, but a creation of God meant to mirror God's lasting covenant with his people.

Jesus testified that in spite of the evil and turmoil that Satan stirs up in this world, God's kingdom would come and the light would overcome the darkness.

Because Jesus testified to the truth, he was a threat to those who were living according to the lies and falsehoods of his day, and so he was condemned.

Today, Christians are persecuted for that same reason. Those who have bought into the lies of Satan do not like being challenged by those living according to the truth proclaimed by Jesus.

As this liturgical year comes to an end, we honor Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

Attentively at your service in our Lord.

Father John Carlos