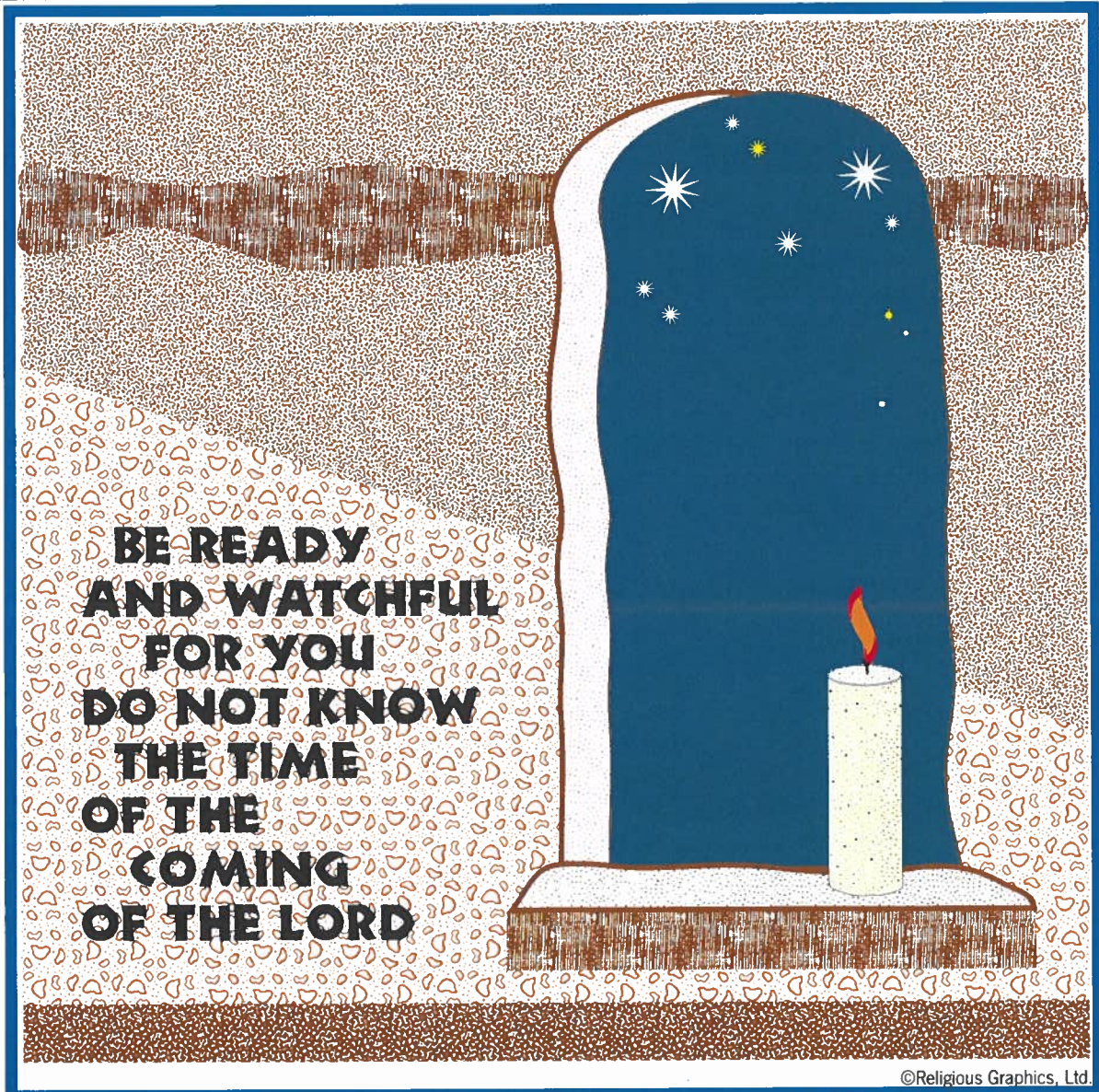


**The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich**

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NOVEMBER 16-17, 2024



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Weekend Masses:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 5:00 pm	Sun. 10:30 am
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:30 am	
St. James	Sun. 9:00 am	

Confessions:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 4:15 pm
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:05-7:20 am
St. James	Sun. 8:35-8:50 am

Church Mailing Address:

207 E. 5th Street

Herscher, IL 60941

Phone: 815-426-2550

Quotable: "In prayer, more is accomplished by listening than by talking."

—Saint Jane Frances De Chantal

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe				November 23-24, 2024	
Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, Nov. 23 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, Nov. 24 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, Nov. 24 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, Nov. 24 10:30 am	
Celebrant	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	Fr. Ron	
Ushers	Todd Datweiler Roger Jensen Gery Wright Dan Hoffman	Daryl Ferris Dennis Pankey	Arlen Hansen Bob Buente Vic Carlile Dennnis O'Connor	Joe Smolkovich Wayne Bisailion Larry Wolles Jeremy Wolles	
Lector	Dave Emling	Rhonda Berns	Mary Peerbolte	Diane Long	
Eucharistic Minister			Reatta Gohlke	Susan Feller	
Servers				Sydney Weldon	
Greeters			Greeter—Rita Thiesen R. Leader—Reatta Gohlke	Wayne Bisailion	

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, Nov. 18 (SMM)

8:00 am +Igor Dubravec (His Family)

Tuesday, Nov. 19 (SH)

8:00 am +Leland Denault (Terri/Jerry Weakley)

Wednesday, Nov. 20 (SJ)

8:00 am No Mass

Friday, Nov. 22

8:00 am SMM No Mass

Saturday, Nov. 23 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Jim Jepsen (Kathy Jepsen)
+Theresa Gualandi (Mike/Sue Evans)

Sunday, Nov. 24

7:30 am (SH) +Gary Jensen (His Family)
+Vicki Webber (Dale/Marilyn Pfeiffer)
+Dolores Fitch (Her Family)

9:00am (SJ) +Laurie Hansen (K Foods, Inc)
+ Jim & Eleanor McBarnes (Janice/Larry O'Connor)

10:30 am SMM For All the Parish Family

A Look Ahead

Sunday, Nov. 17—Youth Mass at SMM and SJ
Nov. 16/17—2nd collection Campaign for Human Dev.
Monday, Nov. 18—CCW Meeting at SMM 7:00 pm
Sat., Nov. 23—SH Cash Bash
Sunday, Dec. 15—St. James Christmas Pageant, Breakfast, and Raffles

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550
 Deacon – Ron Gagnon— rjgckg@aol.com
 Home—815-933-4077
 Parish Email – smm_sja_sh@yahoo.com
 TriParish web page – www.triparishcatholics.org
 Like us on Facebook triparishcatholic communities
Tri Parish Church office –Barb Riker 426-2550
 Julie Bisailion 426-2550

Bulletin – Debbie Jensen - 426-2550
 debjen04@gmail.com
Religious Education –
 St. MM – Jill Fulton jfulton.stmm@gmail.com
 Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015
 St. James—Tanhya Osenga tosenga81@gmail.com
Parish Nurse – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048
Prayer Line—
 SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 Jdstreefarms@aol.com
 St. James— Mary Offerman—602-670-8888 (call or text)
 Sacred Heart-Marilyn Pfeiffer 815-955-8246 (call or text)
 Terri Weakley— 815-514-8171

Question of the week

How do I balance the vigilance I am called to exercise in anticipation of the end of the world with the comfort I take in God's merciful presence?

Collections Week of Nov. 9-10, 2024

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,629 Seminarian—\$246
St. James—\$2,038 Seminarian—\$439
Sacred Heart—\$1,673 Seminarian—\$287
Thank you for your generosity!

Gospel Shorts— When the Trumpet Sounds

Many of us have what might be called our Bible within the Bible. There are passages to which we turn again and again because we find they speak to a need which we feel keenly. The particular passage chosen will depend upon our need at the moment. But many of us probably do not often turn to apocalyptic passages like Mark 13. The language is not our usual language, the realities depicted seem alien to us, and so we pass over such passages.

Now, however, we are in a time when passages such as Mark 13 speak to us with new power. The events depicted in the verses are remarkably similar to things going on in our modern society. So Mark 13, with its note of urgency and crisis, of watchfulness, and of God's final victory, speaks with new and fresh power to us today. It is a passage for such a time as this.

Sacred Heart is looking for basket donations, items to include in baskets, and auction items (both silent and live) for their Cash Bash which will be held on Saturday, November 23. Please contact Kendall Wenzelman or Terri Weakley for more information. As always, your help and support are so

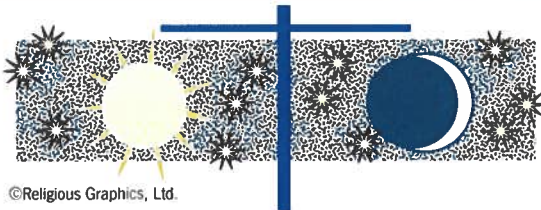


Mark your Calendars! The St. James Christmas Pageant/ Breakfast and Basket Raffle will be held on December 15.

If you would like to donate a basket for our raffle, please have it to the church by December 8.

If you have any questions, please contact Tahnya at 815-530-4406 or at the religious ed office.

Set up will be done on December 11.



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Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

- ◆ CCW meeting Monday, November 18 at 7 pm. Join us for the meeting and some pizza.

St. James—

- ◆ *Christmas is coming! Please join us Tuesday, December 10th for church cleaning at 5 pm and Christmas decorating at 6 pm. We'll take any time you can donate. Thanks!*
- ◆ We are collecting winter wear accessories (mittens, hats, etc) in the hallway of St. James for the Salvation Army. Thanks to all who participate!
- ◆ **Christmas Pageant/ Breakfast, Basket Raffle Dec. 15**

Sacred Heart—

- ◆ The week of November 17th, the St. Joseph candle burns in prayer for Aaron Mills.
- ◆ We will be doing the setup for the Fundraiser on the 20th at 6. There is a sign up sheet for workers in the back of the church. Thank you all for your help.

All Parishes—

- ◆ **Dartball Practice!** Come one, come all! Your TriParish Knights Dartball team will be holding practice on the following dates: Nov. 17, Nov. 24, Dec. 1, Dec. 15. If you've ever wondered what it's all about, or just want to try your hand, please join us. The team will be holding practice at St. James at 7:00pm in an effort to improve their standing in the league.
- ◆ **Adult Religious Ed Class—No Class Wednesday, Nov. 21**
- ◆ **Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.**
- ◆ **Thank you to all who provided refreshments for the mission's social time. Thank you also to everyone who attended the sessions, sang beautifully, and welcomed Fr. Jim to our community. Pictures to come next week.**

Catholic Charities provides outpatient counseling in DuPage, Will, Grundy, Kendall, Kankakee, Ford, and Iroquois counties. We offer individual, group, family, and couples therapy, including specialized services like anger management and preventative education programs.

Our services are available to those in financial need, and we accept most major insurance. If you or a loved one are struggling with anxiety, depression, substance use or relationships issues, we are her to help.

Call 815-723-0331 for more information, to verify insurance coverage, or to schedule an appointment. We are now accepting in new clients. or more information about the programs and services provided by Catholic Charities, visit catholiccharitiesjoliet.org.

Obscure saint of the week: St. Aignan of Orleans (Nov. 17) was born to the nobility. His parents were Hungarians who had fled to the Dauphine area of modern France to escape Arian persecutions. He lived as a hermit in a cave. Aignan was also the spiritual student of Saint Evurtius of Orléans. Later he became a priest, monk, and abbot of the Saint Laurence Abbey in Orléans, France. Aignan went on to become the bishop of Orléans. He organized the defense of Orléans during the invasion of Attila the Hun, met with Attila and prevented him attacking the city in 451.



Obscure saint of the week: St. Florinus of Remus (Nov. 17) Legend says that his father was a Saxon and his mother a Jew who converted to Christianity. The two met while they were both on pilgrimage to Rome, they married, and then settled in the Val Venosta in the Italian Tyrol region. He was educated by Father Alexander at the parish of Saint Peter in Remüs (modern Ramosch), Switzerland; previous minister's there include Saint Othmar of Saint Gall. Ordained in Unterengadin, Switzerland. He served as the parish priest at Saint Peter's in Remüs, living like a hermit and caring for the poor. Florinus was a miracle worker who turned water to wine which he then gave away to the poor.

The Sunday gospel in everyday English

“Following those hard times,
Sun will fade out,
moon cloud over,
Stars fall out of the sky,
cosmic powers tremble.

“And then they'll see the Son of Man enter in grand style, his Arrival filling the sky—no one will miss it! He'll dispatch the angels; they will pull in the chosen from the four winds, from pole to pole.

“Take a lesson from the fig tree. From the moment you notice its buds form, the merest hint of green, you know summer's just around the corner. And so it is with you. When you see all these things, you know he is at the door. Don't take this lightly. I'm not just saying this for some future generation, but for this one, too—these things will happen. Sky and earth will wear out; my words won't wear out.

“But the exact day and hour? No one knows that, not even heaven's angels, not even the Son. Only the Father” (from Mark 13).

Reflection — Do We Welcome Strangers?

Do we welcome strangers? Here are five familiar excuses for not welcoming newcomers:

1. *They might already be a member. (If you don't know them, isn't it about time you did?)*
2. *I might have already met them. (Try, “You look familiar. Have we met before?”)*
3. *They might attend all the time at the other service. (Then say, “It's wonderful you've been a member for 40 years. I've heard your name often. I'm so glad we finally met.”)*
4. *I can't remember their names. (Admit your memory lapse and make a point to remember or write it down this time). Someone their own age should greet them. (Some of our best memories are of children and grandparents. We all need friends of all ages).*

You can't be embarrassed in church. We're all Christians and we care about each other. For every one person who resents your mistakes, there will be 20 who are thrilled that you spoke to them. Take a chance. It's worth it!



If you haven't purchased your Cash Bash ticket yet, you need to do that now! Sacred Heart Church is selling tickets for their “**Fall Cash Bash**” which will take place Sat., November 23 from 4p.m. till 8 p.m. in the church hall. Tickets are \$50 a piece and will admit 2 adults with a chance of a 1st Prize of \$1,500 or \$500 2nd Prize. There will be games of Euchre and Bunco (with a buy in by 5pm) & Black Jack. The evening will include basket raffles, silent & live auctions, 50/50's and plenty of food and drinks.

Catholic Snacks , Get Fed
Five ways to help the poor souls in purgatory

And one way to receive a plenary indulgence.

Even though All Souls Day has passed, we should continue to pray for the Holy Souls in purgatory.

In fact, the Church dedicates the entire month of November to these suffering souls, urging us to remember them in our prayers.

Here are 5 ways to pray for the Holy Souls this month:

1. Visit a Cemetery (and Gain a Plenary Indulgence!)

One of the most impactful acts of prayer for the Holy Souls is visiting a cemetery, where a plenary indulgence, applicable only to the Holy Souls, is available each day from November 1st - November 8th. A plenary indulgence removes all temporal punishment due to sin, so it is a wonderful gift to give to the Holy Souls. To gain the indulgence, follow these steps:

Visit a cemetery and pray for the deceased. Fulfill the usual conditions for a plenary indulgence: go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, pray for the intentions of the pope (for example, an Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be), and be free from all attachment to sin, even venial sin.

The confession may be completed within a few weeks before or after the indulgenced work and can count for a number of plenary indulgences.

Holy Communion and the prayers for the Holy Father must be done for each work (preferably on the day of the work, but they can be done several days before or after).

2. Pray the Rosary or Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Both the Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy are powerful ways to intercede for the souls in purgatory. The Rosary brings the consolation of our loving Blessed Mother to souls in need. Similarly, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, especially when prayed at 3 p.m. (the Hour of Mercy), is a plea for God's mercy on all souls, especially those suffering purification.

3. Offer the Sacrifice of the Mass

Attending Mass is one of the greatest acts of charity we can perform for the deceased. The Holy Mass is the most powerful prayer because it is Christ offering Himself, the most perfect Sacrifice, to the Father. You can even arrange for Masses to be offered specifically for deceased loved ones or for the forgotten souls in purgatory. You can also offer your reception of Holy Communion up for a soul in need.

4. Perform Acts of Sacrifice and Charity

We can also aid the Holy Souls by offering up sacrifices and acts of charity, such as fasting, abstaining from favorite foods, or giving alms. Any small sacrifice can become a source of grace for these souls when we offer it with love.

5. Pray the "Eternal Rest" Prayer

The "Eternal Rest" prayer is a traditional and simple way to remember the Holy Souls. You can pray it anytime, especially when passing by a cemetery or in moments of quiet:

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

In this month of November, let's remember our connection to the Holy Souls and dedicate our prayers, sacrifices, and Masses for them. Our prayers can truly make a difference, hastening their entrance into the eternal joy of heaven, where they will surely intercede for us in turn.

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The Power of a Visit

One day I rang a doorbell in a casual sort of way,
'Twas not a formal visit and there wasn't much to say.
I don't remember what I said — It matters not, I guess.
I found a heart in hunger, A soul in deep distress.
He said I came from Heaven and I often wondered why;

He said I came to see him when no other help was nigh.
It meant so little to me, to knock at a stranger's door,
But it meant Heaven to him and God's peace forever more.

Questions Catholics Ask What are Sacramentals?

Let's start with the more familiar word from which this term is obviously derived. A *sacrament* is formally defined as an outward sign instituted by Christ to give grace. By definition, these three stipulations limit the number of signs that can be considered sacraments to those connected in some way with an action or command from the life of Jesus. The early church had no set list of sacraments, and local customs celebrated as many as a dozen, including, for example, the office of widowhood. The Council of Trent (1545-1563) recognized seven moments in the life of the church as sacraments, and Eastern Orthodox churches agreed on these: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, the Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony, and Holy Orders.

Other holy acts and practices do not appear on this list. There's no set list of these *sacramentals* because there can be no limit to the ways in which people through history experience grace. For this reason, sacramentals are difficult to define.

Making the sign of the cross is a sacramental, and so is the holy water that may accompany this self-blessing. Praying the Stations of the Cross, saying the rosary, or washing feet on Holy Thursday are actions considered as sacramental. Wearing a medal or scapular as an act of faith is sacramental. But the items themselves—Stations and rosaries, medals and scapulars—are also called sacramentals. Ashes received at the start of Lent and blessed palms from Holy Week are on the list, as are candles, icons, or other images used in prayer.

According to the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, the prayers and rites used in administering the actual sacraments are sacramental. Funerals, exorcisms, and blessings of catechumens and candidates are too. But not all moments in which we receive or impart grace come in church settings. The annual blessing of the home in January counts, as well as the blessings parents give to their children at bedtime. Some cultures practice a blessing of new cars. Other folks are glad to have their businesses or places of work consecrated to God's purposes.

Having worked in a rectory, I can vouch that nearly anything can and has been blessed by believers seeking God's grace for the user: skateboards and tricycles, new prayer books and saints' statues, pets and trees. If we seek the church's intercession and hope to make holy some occasion of human life, there's something of a "sacrament" in that.

Scriptures: Matthew 6:3-4, 17-18; 9:20-21; 19:13-15; 21:8; 26:6-13; 27:57-60; Mark 7:32-35; 8:22-25; 9:14-29; Luke 7:36-50; 23:50-56; John 9:1-7; 12:1-8



There's no set list of these *sacramentals* because there can be no limit to the ways in which people through history experience grace.

There are two different opportunities for you to place a wreath on a Veteran's grave for the holidays. One is for a gravesite at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery and the other is for veterans that are buried in local cemeteries. The information for both opportunities is below. Thank you in advance for showing support for our veterans.



WREATHS — across — AMERICA

LIVE ★ WITH ★ PURPOSE

Wreaths Across America is a yearly campaign to have a wreath placed on every gravesite at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood. The cost is \$17 to sponsor a wreath. For more information, call Debbie at 815-953-6492. There are forms in the entrance of all three parishes. These wreaths will be placed on the gravesites on December 14. You may designate a particular grave or just sponsor a wreath for a grave that does not have a sponsor. For ordering wreaths online, follow this link- <https://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/pages/16036/Overview/?relatedId=167754> or go to Facebook—Wreaths Across America Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

Anyone interested in sponsoring a wreath for our parish veterans at St. Peter and Paul cemetery may do so by contacting Lori (lmtdeders@hotmail.com, or 815-955-3375) or by using this website <https://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/pages/172360/Overview>. You may also sponsor a wreath at any of the other local cemeteries with the same contact info above. Also, we will be seeking volunteers to lay the wreaths on December 14. Ceremony at the Legion at 11AM and placing wreaths immediately following.



November 17, 2024

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dn 12:1-3 | Heb 10:11-14, 18 | Mk 13:24-32

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

My brother-in-law inherited his father's company. Although he studied business in college, he knew years before receiving his degree that, provided he was faithful to his studies, he would have a comfortable job waiting for him after graduation. We may not all inherit the same economic opportunities as my brother-in-law, but, as Christians, we are heirs of infinitely greater spiritual ones. *You are my inheritance, O Lord*, the psalmist says. This phrase reveals the tremendous goodness of God who not only created us but who, in baptism, extended to us an invitation and a promise: provided we are faithful to him, we are heirs of eternal life. Nothing short of eternity will be sufficient to express our thanksgiving to him for this gift.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Daniel's words in today's first reading remind us not only of the gratitude we owe to God but also of our responsibility to help souls who have gone astray from following him. *Some shall live forever*, the prophet says, but *others shall be an everlasting horror and disgrace*. The reality is that eternal life is not guaranteed us - not because God does not offer it freely, but because we are free to reject his offer. My brother-in-law, if he had neglected his studies in college, would never have equipped himself to run the family business. His father may have wholeheartedly desired to give the company to him, but doing so would have been irresponsible if his son did not want to take the helm. Likewise, God's mercy is abundant; but we can nevertheless say "no" to God by choosing not to follow him. As Christians seeking (although imperfectly) to follow the Lord, we have the dignity of cooperating with God in order to draw the souls who have gone astray back to him. By word, example, prayer, and sacrifice, we can help others experience the joy of knowing God in this life and of living forever with him in the next.

PRAY The Church especially devotes the month of November to praying for the souls in Purgatory. These individuals died in a state of friendship with God but are still in need of purification. God is indeed their *inheritance*, but they experience pain because they do not possess him yet. One way to remember to pray for the Holy Souls is to conclude grace before meals in this way: "Bless us, O Lord ... May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace."

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 17, 2024: Dn 12:1-3 | Ps 16:5,8-11 (1)
| Heb 10:11-14,18 | Mk 13:24-32

Do you have an unending problem? Where's Jesus? In today's Gospel reading, Jesus speaks of his Second Coming. And here he hasn't even finished his first coming! How confusing it must have been to the disciples.

They grew even more confused after Jesus ascended to heaven but delayed coming back. They remembered him saying that "this generation" will not pass away until all these Second Coming events have taken place, yet time passed, the apostles began to die off, and Jesus still had not returned. The misery of living in this world continued.

Think of your own unending problem. Don't you wish Jesus would hurry up with his Second Coming and destroy all evil? Notice what Jesus said: "When you see these things happening, know that I am near, at the gates." He didn't pin down a date.

So what was he trying to convey? His nearness!

For the past 2,000+ years, we have all been part of "this generation" that will not pass away before his Second Coming. It's the generation of Christian humanity, the Body of Christ on Earth in the form of Church community, the generation of children who have been adopted by God the Father through the sacrifice and resurrection of God the Son.

The final era ("last days") of salvation began on the first Pentecost and will continue until the Second Coming of Christ. It is the age of the Holy Spirit; Christ's earthly ministry is continued through us empowered by his Spirit.



The lesson in the fig tree is that we can discern when summer is near. In other words, we can discern – in good times and in bad – that Jesus is near to us in his Holy Spirit.

Jesus is right now at "the gate" of your next step on the journey to heaven. A gate is meant to be opened so that we can pass through it. Jesus is opening the gate right now

for you – the gate of holiness, the gate of love. Step through it to live in the fullness of the mission he has planned for you here on earth.

Reflect & Discuss:

- † What problems are you waiting to be rescued from? Is Jesus really taking too long, or does he have a bigger, better plan?
- † What will you do to become more aware of his nearness, his comfort, his joy and peace to help you endure the long wait?
- † What are the signs that the Church gives us that help us discern the nearness of Christ?
- † What other "fig trees" has Jesus given to you that increase your hope and patience and endurance?