

Week Six

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time November 14, 2021

Appreciating the Word

MOST NEAR US

When have you most felt the presence of God in your life?

If we were asked that question, we might respond by mentioning a certain moment of personal prayer, a particularly inspiring liturgy, a time of retreat, the birth of a child, an instance of creativity, or the sight of an amazing part of God's creation.

We all have moments when God seems particularly present, but there are also moments when God seems to be absent. We sometimes feel that God has abandoned us when a family member or friend dies in a tragic accident, when a doctor gives us a devastating diagnosis, when we lose a job, when a relationship collapses, or when we are hurt by malicious lies and gossip.

This Sunday's Gospel (Mark 13:24-32) may offer us a different perspective.

In this Gospel, Jesus speaks about the days when "the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken." While those images call to mind the end of time, they can also apply to our own lives.

We all have occasions when our personal world is shaken, when things seem to be falling apart, and when sadness and pain darkened the joy of living.

Yet on those occasions, the Lord may not be absent but rather most near us. Jesus tells us to "learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, know that he is near, at the gates."

When our personal lives are in turmoil, we need to realize that God is at our gates.

That was certainly the case for Jesus that first Holy Thursday evening. When the world was crashing down around him as his betrayer led the mob to arrest him, Jesus realized that he was not alone. God was with him.

Then "to strengthen him an angel from heaven appeared to him." (Luke 22:43).

We have a God who is always with us, but particularly so in our moments of pain and sorrow. Just as true friends stand by us not just in the joys of life but also in its sorrows, God, our truest friend, does the same.

We need to remember that when our lives are falling apart, that the Lord comes even closer to us. To use the image of our Gospel, he comes to "gather his elect" into the embrace of love.

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Reflecting on My Life

- +
- Describe a time when you most felt the presence of God in your life.
- +
- What did you learn from that experience?
- +
- How do you feel strengthened by God in everyday activities?
- +
- How do you share your experience with others who might need to hear your story?

Reflecting on My Home

- +
- In what ways does your home express the presence of God in symbols, liturgical seasons or other ways?
- +
- Why is this important?

Reflecting on My Parish

- +
- What are the ways that our parish provides opportunities to experience God's love in deep ways?

Action/Mission – Living Out the Gospel

- +
- Reach out to another person who needs to feel loved and supported.
- +
- Research an organization that could benefit from your love and support.

Reflecting on the Past Six Weeks

- +
- What is a word that expresses your experience over the six weeks with your group?
- +
- As a group, please fill out the evaluation form and give to your small group organizer in the parish.
- +
- Please provide a statement about your small group experience for promotional material.

SEMANA SEIS

trigésimo tercer domingo del Tiempo Ordinario, 14 de noviembre del 2021

Apreciando la Palabra

MÁS CERCA DE NOSOTROS

¿Cuándo ha sentido más la presencia de Dios en su vida?

Si nos hicieran esa pregunta, podríamos responder mencionando cierto momento de oración personal, una liturgia particularmente inspiradora, un tiempo de retiro, el nacimiento de un niño, un ejemplo de creatividad o la vista de una parte asombrosa de la creación de Dios.

Todos tenemos momentos en los que Dios parece estar particularmente presente, pero también hay momentos en los que Dios parece estar ausente. A veces sentimos que Dios nos ha abandonado cuando un familiar o amigo muere en un trágico accidente, cuando un médico nos da un diagnóstico devastador, cuando perdemos un trabajo, cuando una relación se derrumba o cuando somos heridos por mentiras y chismes maliciosos.

El evangelio de este domingo (Marcos 13: 24-32) puede ofrecernos una perspectiva diferente.

En este Evangelio, Jesús habla de los días en que "el sol se oscurecerá y la luna no dará su luz, las estrellas caerán del cielo y los poderes de los cielos serán sacudidos". Si bien esas imágenes recuerdan el final de los tiempos, también pueden aplicarse a nuestras propias vidas.

Todos tenemos ocasiones en las que nuestro mundo personal se ve sacudido, cuando las cosas parecen desmoronarse y cuando la tristeza y el dolor oscurecen el gozo de vivir.

Sin embargo, en esas ocasiones, el Señor puede no estar ausente, sino más cerca de nosotros. Jesús nos dice que "aprendamos una lección de la higuera. Cuando su rama se vuelve tierna y brotan hojas, sabes que el verano está cerca. De la misma manera, cuando veas que suceden estas cosas, debes saber que él está cerca, a la entrada de tu puerta".

Cuando nuestras vidas personales están en crisis, debemos darnos cuenta de que Dios está a justo ahí, a la entrada de nuestra puerta.

Ese fue ciertamente el caso de Jesús la noche del primer Jueves Santo. Cuando veía que el mundo se derrumbaba a su alrededor, en el huerto de Getsemani, cuando su traidor se aproximaba con una multitud para arrestarlo, Jesús se dio cuenta de que no estaba solo. Dios estaba con él.

Entonces, "para fortalecerlo, se le apareció un ángel del cielo". (Lucas 22:43).

Tenemos un Dios que siempre está con nosotros, pero especialmente en nuestros momentos de dolor y tristeza. Así como los verdaderos amigos nos apoyan no solo en las alegrías de la vida sino también en nuestros dolores, Dios, nuestro verdadero amigo, hace lo mismo.

Necesitamos recordar que cuando nuestras vidas se desmoronan, el Señor se acerca aún más a nosotros. Para usar la imagen de nuestro Evangelio, viene a "reunir a sus elegidos" en el abrazo del amor.

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Reflexionando sobre mi vida

- Describe un momento en el que más sentiste la presencia de Dios en tu vida.
- ¿Qué aprendiste de esa experiencia?
- ¿Cómo se siente fortalecido por Dios en las actividades diarias?
- ¿Cómo comparte su experiencia con otras personas que podrían necesitar escuchar su historia?

Reflexionando sobre mi hogar

- ¿De qué maneras expresa su hogar la presencia de Dios en símbolos, tiempos litúrgicos u otras formas?
- ¿Por qué es esto importante?

Reflexionando sobre mi parroquia

- ¿Cuáles son las formas en que nuestra parroquia brinda oportunidades para experimentar el amor de Dios de manera profunda?

Acción / Misión - Viviendo el Evangelio

- Comuníquese con otra persona que necesite sentirse amada y apoyada.
- Busque una organización que pueda beneficiarse de su amor y apoyo.

Reflexionando sobre las últimas seis semanas

- ¿Cuál es una palabra que expresa su experiencia durante las seis semanas con su grupo?
- Como grupo, complete el formulario de evaluación y entréguelo al organizador de su grupo pequeño en la parroquia.
- Proporcione una declaración sobre la experiencia de su grupo pequeño como material promocional.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER 14

Las lecturas de la semana del 14 de noviembre

Sunday: Dn 12:1-3/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 [1]/Heb 10:11-14, 18/Mk 13:24-32

Monday: 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63/Ps. 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158 [cf. 88]/Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday: 2 Mc 6:18-31/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [6b]/Lk 19:1-10

Wednesday: 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b and 15 [15b]/Lk 19:11-28

Thursday: 1 Mc 2:15-29/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15 [23b]/Lk 19:41-44 Dedication: Acts 28:11-16, 30-31/ Ps 105:2-3, 36 -37, 42-43/Mt 14:22-33

Friday: 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/1 Chron 29:10bcd, 11abc, 11d-12a, 12bcd [13b]/Lk 19:45-48

Saturday: 1 Mc 6:1-13/Ps 9:2-3, 4 and 6, 16 and 19 [cf. 16a]/Lk 20:27-40

Next Sunday: Dn 7:13-14/Ps 93:1, 1-2, 5 [1a]/Rv 1:5-8/Jn 18:33b-37

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

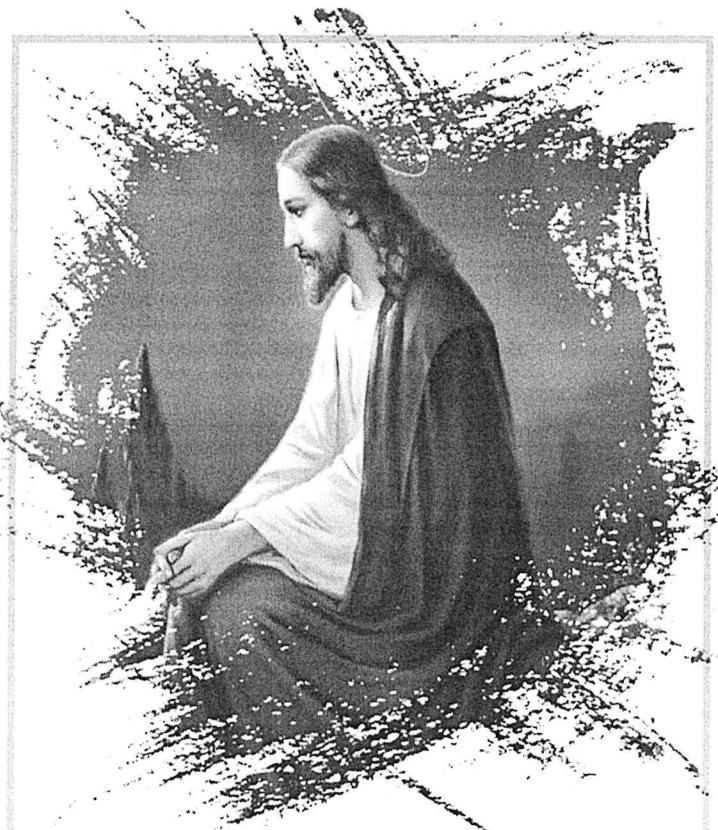
November 14, 2021

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"And then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in the clouds' with great power and glory." Take a moment to ponder these words from today's Gospel. How does this image make you feel? For people to truly understand the significance of this message, something profound has to happen within. If we find ourselves reacting with a sense of dread or fear, we have to step back and ask why. Our answer will reveal a great deal about our relationship with God. It's hard to fall in love with a God of whom we are afraid. God does not want us to be afraid. Nor does He want us to align our wills to His in order to avoid some kind of horrendous eternal consequence. That sounds like too much of a superficial power play on the part of God who continues to seek out His children in love.

In order for these words to carry any type of significant meaning for us, they have to resonate with and touch us on a deeper level. They have to be able to connect some dots and have meaning for us in order for this promise to change our lives. Sometimes we get preoccupied with the uncertainty of our deaths. Not knowing when or how we will eventually die can be unsettling. But, more so than needing an answer to the "when" of death, the "what" of death answer we provide has more significance. What happens to us when we die? Whether we die during the natural course of our lives or when Christ comes again, the experience is the same. If we believe that we are meant to live in union with God eternally and that death completes and does not diminish us, then it is worth our time and effort to wait in vigilant hope of the Lord's coming in glory. Our journey back to God is something beautiful to be desired, not dreaded or feared.

Sadly, many folks believe that life is no more than a random occurrence without any purposeful direction or meaning. Death is simply death and nothing more. For them, the Second Coming of Christ and God's eternal promise have no meaning. When we understand the truth about who we are, it changes things up. We then can see ourselves as works in progress who have the choice to either resist the inspirations of the Divine Artist or give into the wonderful creativity of His will. Life awaiting the fullness of Christ to come becomes an unfolding of Divine surprises and abundant joy. God is eternally merciful, forgiving, and welcoming. It is only when we directly reject this gift and turn our backs on Love itself that we have anything to fear. ©LPI



"HEAVEN AND EARTH WILL PASS AWAY, BUT MY WORDS WILL NOT PASS AWAY." - MK 13:31

33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"PODRÁN DEJAR DE EXISTIR EL CIELO Y LA TIERRA, PERO MIS PALABRAS NO DEJARÁN DE CUMPLIRSE".

- MC 13, 31

33rd DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

VIVIR LA LITURGIA - INSPIRACIÓN DE LA SEMANA

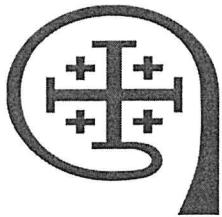
Todo ser humano hace y responde una pregunta existencial muy importante. ¿Qué nos sucede cuando morimos? La respuesta que proporcionemos determinará cómo trazamos el curso de nuestra existencia. También determinará si la Segunda Venida de Cristo será de algún interés para nosotros. Para muchos, la vida es simplemente un suceso aleatorio sin una intención significativa o sentido al respecto. Para estas personas, su eventual muerte y el fin de la tierra tal como la conocen, tienen poca importancia más allá de sus consecuencias personales. Pero, para las personas de fe, nuestra muerte natural y la Segunda Venida de Cristo tienen enormes implicaciones. Es de estas cosas que nuestra fe dice mucho y puede traer una comprensión y una dirección agudas que el mundo secular simplemente no puede proporcionar. Aquí es donde la llamada a la vigilancia y las virtudes primordiales de la fe, la esperanza y el amor se vuelven útiles y significativas. Somos trabajos en progreso que pueden resistir las inspiraciones del Artista Divino o ceder a la maravillosa y sorprendente creatividad de su voluntad. ©LPI

Yo tengo designios de paz, no de aflicción, dice el Señor. Ustedes me invocarán y yo los escucharé, y los libraré de la esclavitud dondequiera que se encuentren.

Please help us keep this updated.

THE PRAYER LIST: Please pray for the physical and spiritual well-being of parishioners and friends: Carol Freely, Gloria Hansberger, Lola Plungis, Caitlin Czeh, Noreen Dixon and John Dixon, Teresa Powers, Jim Then, Mary Jean Castro, Rose Kepler, Pam Bosselait, Sean Hayes, Bob Rivers, June Berube, Thomas Todaro, Frank and Donna Kamienski, Ronald Derrickson, Sue Hanson, Mark Hanson, Mark and Cheryl Lauer, Susan Rogers, Salvatore Martorano, Denise Discuillo, Kent Thomson, Nicole Cadavid, Kevin Monahan, Laura Marshall, Carol Lagemann, Bill Lagemann, Priscilla Sibley, Briana Evens DiScuillo, Mark Urban, Roger Mason, Carmen Sherry, Kelly Gillette, Gary Neverick, Charles Hayes, Kathy Linde, James Molenda, William "Bill" Fox, Don Samsel, Heather Shivo, Jean Mauger, Peter Stanich, Sharon Donofrio, Elaina Roche, Chelsea Avitable, Daniel Aiden Richardson, Irene, Kelsy Palmer, Bridie Healy, James Dixon, Sam and Debbie Coccia, Kennedy James Kraft, Jimmy Wigal, Loretta Voghel, Ronald Solomon, Beth Miller, Morie and Angie Pollard, Bernard Swann, Thomas Martorano, Katie Molenda, Tim Vance, Kevin Hamilton, Marie D'Andrea, Ronald Blank, Dennis Allen Main, Charles Wokutch, Fran Garrity, Gertrude Delitta, Bob Arias, Terry Youman, Travis Schrift, Phyllis Schaffer, Suzie Gordon, Rebecca Trustee, Joyce Sgro, Guy Aliotta, Daniel Bireley, Kathy Walsh, Brendan Horstman, Lynn Clark, Marion Fallone, Richard Greff, Janette Polon-Ramirez, Ray Kilpatrick, Maggie Heverly, Maureen Florio, Christi Rippy, Susan McGuffin, Devin Rinaldi, Christina Powell, Anna Schwartz, Sandy Lagasse, Joe Hughes, Maria Soto, Marcella Fahey, David Bartlewski, Cheryl Scerba, Andrew Zepada, David Larkins, Joshua Thomas, Bob Gagne, Karen Catania, Arlene Forman, Rachel Wesselius, Rita Williams, Barbara Geschlecht, and Joe Abate.

WHEN YOU OR A LOVED ONE IS IN THE HOSPITAL: Would you like an Extraordinary Minister to bring communion? Would you like a priest to administer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick? Please call the office and let us know.



St. James New Mission/Vision Statement

Go and make disciples/Vayan y hagan discipulos

A community of joyful disciples/Una comunidad de discipulos alegres

Pastoral Staff

Pastor Father Oscar Borda, ext. 222
Email oborda-rojas@charlestondiocese.org
Medical Emergency Number—when you need a priest: **843-457-4012**
Deacon Tim Papa
Executive Assistant Paula Loehr, ext. 221
Director of Evangelization/Religious Education Director Suzanne McDonough, ext. 234
Director of Evangelization Felipe Castillo, ext. 229
Youth Minister Taylor Lilly, ext. 235
Secretary Kathy Caughey, ext. 224
Maintenance Director Earl Videan, ext. 232
Director of Music Gene Borkes
Organists Bradley Hardee, Laura Candler-White
RCIA Sunday, 10:00AM-12:00 Noon
Blood Pressure Screening postponed until further notice
Eucharistic Adoration Daily in the Chapel
..... Check the schedules for an open hour
Pro-Life Lori Videan, 843-503-3607
Ladies Guild 3rd Monday, 10:00am (Sept.-June)
Knights of Columbus 4th Degree 4th Monday, 7:00pm
Knights of Columbus 2nd Wednesday, 7:00pm
Catholic Charities 1-855-377-1357
Diocesan Office of Child Protection Services 843-853-2130 ext. 209
Diocesan Victim Assistance Minister 800-921-8122
Safe Environment Coordinator Taylor Lilly, ext. 235

To email staff members, use
first initial, last name@stjamesconway.org

Parish Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9:30AM - 3:30PM

Religious Education/Catecismo: Call office

Infant Baptism: The Sacrament is normally celebrated during a weekend Liturgy. Please call the office to register for the preparation process. Suzanne McDonough, ext. 234.

Marriage: By arrangement at least six months before the proposed wedding. Paula Loehr, ext. 221.

Ministry to the Sick: Call to request visitation. Please let us know when loved ones are in the hospital.

Bulletin Articles: Items of communal interest must be at parish office no later than 9:00am Monday. Kathy Caughey, ext. 224.

New Parishioners: Welcome! There are several ways you can register, on our website, or by stopping by the church office during office hours.

Altar Flowers \$150: Call the office to arrange donations in memory of a loved one, or in honor of a special occasion.

Religious Articles are available for purchase Monday-Friday, 9:30am-3:30pm. Special orders are always welcome. Contact the church office at 843-347-5168.

Columbarium: Available to all registered Catholics of the Diocese. Call the church office for more information.

Tree of Life: This is a great way to remember your loved ones or honor a special occasion. Donations start at \$250. Contact the parish office for details.

Prayer Chain Request: If you have a special need we would like to help you pray. Simply call Shirley at 843-397-2318.