

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (11/4/07)

The beautiful words from Wisdom remind us of the grandeur of God and of our insignificance. Yet God chooses to love us and give us His grace to experience life in the Spirit. He loves us enough to rebuke us and chastise us when we do wrong so that we will abandon our evil ways and return to God's ways. But we have to be paying attention to discern the need for repentance. Avoiding sin and doing good deeds helps keep us on the path of the Lord.

The gospel presents us with the character of Zacchaeus, which initially seems a little comical. But quickly the story turns serious when the Lord invites himself to stay at Zacchaeus' house. Immediately, Zacchaeus responds to the call of the Lord and repents. He promises to make up for any harm he may have done. Jesus declares that salvation has come to this sinner who had wandered away from the Lord.

The central event of human history is the coming of Jesus to offer salvation to humanity. It is an event that some people deny, some people ignore, some people don't understand, and some people respond to with overwhelming joy. Most of us accept that Jesus came to save us, but do we live lives that have been changed by our salvation? Are we shining lights for the world to see and imitate? Do we bring Christ to those we meet in life? If not, we may be very surprised on Judgment day when we arrive at the Master's house and He does not recognize us, as one of our gospels this week reminded us. Salvation is initiated by God, but it is our response that determines whether we enter into the banquet feast of heaven. Let us pray that we shine with the light of the Saved!

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (11/11/07)

The Pastor's Corner will return next weekend.

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (11/18/07)

As we approach the end of our liturgical year, the readings remind us of the ultimate end of all things. We see this also in the seasonal dying of nature. This ought not to scare us but to reassure us that God is at work to bring justice and restore life to His creation. It is easy to get distracted by the commercialization of the holidays and forget about what God wants us to be about with our time. When we see death around us we shouldn't ignore it but actually embrace it in the sure knowledge that all creation is in our loving God's hands. Even the death of loved ones reminds us of the fragility of time. But if we have faith that God is Lord of time itself we will find peace.

Meanwhile, as Paul writes, we need to keep busy about the work of the Lord while we await the end. Time is a gift of God given so that we can accept His offer of forgiveness and new life through our repentance. We are not to spend idle time worrying about the signs of the end but to trust in God and continue to bring His message of love and forgiveness to those we meet in life. Instead of in fear, we approach the year-end holidays with faith and thankfulness for the beauty of all God's gifts to us. The thankful heart is filled with joy. So, joy to us all!

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King (11/25/07)

Thanksgiving Prayer

Dear Lord:

Today we give thanks
For our many blessings
As we pray for those in need.
We give thanks
For our family and friends
As we pray for those who are lonely.
We give thanks for our freedoms
As we pray for those who are oppressed.
We give thanks for our good health
As we pray for those who are ill.
We give thanks for our comfort and prosperity
As we share our blessings with others.
On this day of Thanksgiving,
May the love of God enfold us,
The peace of God dwell within us
And the joy of God uplift us.

Amen.

From St. Vincent de Paul Meals on Wheels