Readings for the week of November 17, 2024

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

Monday:
Rv 1:1-4; 2:1-5/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/
Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday:
Rv 3:1-6, 14-22/Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5/
Lk 19:1-10

Wednesday:
Rv 4:1-11/Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 19:11-28

Thursday:
Rv 5:1-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/
Lk 19:41-44

Friday:
Rv 10:8-11/Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131/
Lk 19:45-48

Saturday:
Rv 11:4-12/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10/Lk 20:27-40

Next Sunday:
Dn 7:13-14/Ps 91:1, 1-2, 5 (1a)/Rv 1:5-8/
Jn 18:33b-37

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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

I recently moved into a new neighborhood. On my first evening I went grocery shopping and could not find my usual favorite Greek yogurt. Strangely, my heart started to race. All the losses of my previous life hit me. So many of my old friends, habits, comforts, and predictable experiences had fallen away. There I stood, a grown man, crying like a little boy whose world was falling apart in the dairy aisle.

This week, Jesus describes what to do when one world ends, and another begins. Does it apply to the end of time? Yes. Does it apply to the end of our individual lives? Yes. It also applies to every "world" we inhabit throughout our lives, in school, family, friendships, work, play and so on. First, the sun, moon, and stars fall. The old, familiar ways of running things suddenly stop working. Light fades. Things fall apart. It's awful. But, second, Christ comes "in the clouds." Jesus, the Son of Man, replaces those old powers with himself as the prime governing principle. Third, he sends out his angels to "gather his elect from the four winds." He re-integrates the fragments into a new integrated whole. "Summer is near," he concludes. A new world begins.

Is your world crumbling? Are your sun, moon, and stars falling from the sky? Learn to discern the pattern of the Cross and Resurrection at work in it. This is the power we touch in the Mass. Jesus is coming precisely in this transition from the old to the new world. It doesn't make our losses easy. But it does make it possible to glimpse the dawning of a summer, a new beginning, the life of the world to come.

— Father John Muir

(PRACTICING)
CATHOLIC

The End of the World

"It's not the end of the world."

If I had a brick for every time my mother said this to me growing up, I could have built a castle. One that comes complete with a moat whose bridge I could dramatically pull up so I could sulk, in the window of the highest turret, sighing loudly so every passerby would know how I suffered.

Because sometimes we act like it's the end of the world — whether we are a little kid angered by a playground snub, a teenage girl flipping out over an assignment for English class or a college student distraught that she got scheduled for four opening shifts in a row at the coffee house where she works (yes, these are all examples taken straight from my life, why do you ask?).

And sometimes, it really *does* seem like the end of the world. We lose someone we love to cancer. We miscarry a child before we even get to see his tiny face. The rent is due, and the bank account is overdrawn (also all examples taken straight from my life).

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that when the sun is darkened and the moon no longer gives light, we must look for him, because his time is near.

He's talking about *The End of the World*. The big one, the apocalypse. But why do I think he's also talking about the end of the world — those sufferings large and small, real and imagined, that make us feel like the sky is caving in?

In both instances, he draws near to us.
So let us look for him.

— Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that?
Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do Catholics pray to Mary and the saints?

Answer:

One of the statements of faith we make when we pray the Nicene Creed and the Apostles Creed is that we believe in "the communion of saints." The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that this communion (another word for community) includes all the faithful on earth, the souls in Purgatory, and the blessed women, men, and children who are in heaven. This teaching is grounded in our belief that, through Baptism, we are united with Christ and to one another with bonds that are stronger even than death.

And so from the time of the early Church, Christians have turned to other believers for prayers and assistance, including those who have gone before us, confident that God hears the prayers of all of His children. While we ask the saints (and one another) for prayers and support, we remember that the saints join us in prayer. But it is God who blesses and sanctifies us.

When we think of Mary and the saints in heaven, we have to remember that we can turn to them for intercession and assistance because they were faulted, limited human beings, just like us. This means that they are able to understand our struggles, doubts, fears, joys, and hopes. But as we learn their stories, we can also begin to recognize that they stand out in the history of the Church because they persevered in their commitment to follow Christ. Whether they were ordained, vowed religious, martyrs, husbands, wives, or even children, they show us that holiness is possible. We can not only follow their example but also benefit from their prayerful support.

Our devotion to the saints and gratitude for their witness, prayers, and protection should also be an inspiration for us, especially when we become aware of the needs of others or when others ask us to pray for them. We are called to share the blessings we receive. This is also part of our own journey of growing in holiness.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:
"It shall be a time unsurpassed in distress
since nations began until that time.
At that time your people shall escape." (Dn 12:1)

Psalm:
You are my inheritance, O Lord! (Ps 16)

Second Reading:
For by one offering
he has made perfect forever those who are being consecrated. (Heb 10:14)

Gospel:
"And then he will send out the angels
and gather his elect from the four winds,
from the end of the earth to the end of the sky." (Mk 13:27)

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Live The Liturgy

Inspiration of the Week

It sometimes feels like God is silent, like he sets himself apart from us and our struggles on earth. But Jesus reminds us of the fig tree, who can feel the coming of spring deep within itself. In the same intuitive way, we know the voice of God. Listen.

Observances for the week of November 17, 2024

Sunday:	33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday:	The Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles; St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, Virgin
Thursday:	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Friday:	St. Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr
Saturday:	St. Clement I, Pope and Martyr; St. Columban, Abbot; Bl. Miguel Agustin Pro, Priest and Martyr
Next Sunday:	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Saint of the week

St. Justin Martyr (c. 100 – 165) was a second century apologist whose detailed texts which show the depth of the Catholic tradition were meant to dispel rumors of the early Church practices during the Roman persecution. An eyewitness account of his martyrdom still survives today.

Prayer of Seasons

As the seasons change,
be with me.
As my life shifts and shapes,
be with me.
As I face what the future holds,
be with me.
As I seek the beauty to be found today, help me to find you there.

Amen.

"And then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in the clouds' with great power and glory, and then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the end of the earth to the end of the sky." - Mk 13:26-27

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

The prophet Daniel foresaw a time of great distress and ultimate judgment for the living and the dead. Who supports you when you are feeling anxious or are deeply worried?

Second Reading:

The author of Hebrews emphasizes Jesus's death as the final offering for the forgiveness of sins, making us "perfect forever" in eternal life. What do you find most curious about the idea of being perfect in eternal life?

Gospel:

Jesus speaks to his disciples about the signs that will accompany his Second Coming, even though only God the Father knows the exact time. How should one best prepare for this unknown future?

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Liturgical Life

"Amen, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." - Mk 13:30-32

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