

**For The Bulletin Of  
November 18, 2018**



**THE 33<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME**

*From Father Robert*

“The end of the world is at hand!” says the placard carried by the devout believer on the side of the street. Each age has had its share of true believers who maintained that the world was doomed, ready to be destroyed by God Who was waiting for only a few moments before bringing down His fiery wrath on the heathens. In Jesus’ own day, and in the decades that followed, apocalyptic fever was high. Messianic expectation combined with a desire for God’s judgment of the wicked were saturating the environment. And yet, the world continued, and Rome dominated for hundreds of years afterward. At the turn of the first millennium monasteries and convents were filling up with those who understood that the thousand year reign of the saints (understood as the church) was quite literally being fulfilled, after which the dragon who had been locked up for one thousand years would be released (Revelation 20:2-6).

What other more definite sign would one need than the authority of scripture to know that the end was near? Yet, the year 1,000 came and went, followed by 1,001, 1002, and on to the present day. The monasteries and convents gradually lost some of their devoted converts from only a few years earlier.

In our own day there are many prophecies and predictions about the end of the world, a “black pope” (the Jesuit pope, as Jesuits wear black?), and more oddball fanciful extrapolations of various sorts. Preaching about the end of the world with zany predictions about pending doom can certainly attract attention and might even bring in the parishioners and churchgoers, but is it accurate?

In today’s gospel perhaps the most significant line is at the end, when Jesus says, “But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.” Despite that rather stark, plain sentence, we have all undoubtedly heard some say, “Jesus says nobody knows the day or hour, but He doesn’t say anything about the month or the year!” And then the wild predictions start again. Such interpretations miss the mark wildly.

Rather than worry about when the world will end, it might be more productive to wonder about my own personal end. That is, when will I die? How have I prepared myself for that eventual end? How have I lived my days knowing that nothing I accumulate on earth will be taken with me when I pass from this life? We know that we are definitely going to experience our own personal end, our own death. We are less likely to be here for the end of the world.



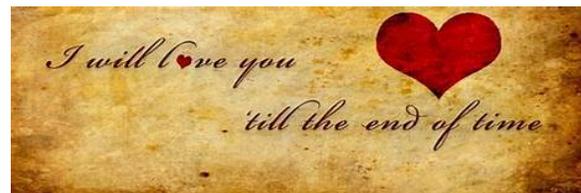
### ***Living The Paschal Mystery***

Our life on earth is part of the paschal mystery, the dying and rising of Christ. All of creation is wrapped up in this paschal mystery. The food I consume each day was one living, but is transformed into energy that nourishes me. There is as natural cycle of life and death. And I know that my life is but a small part of the grand story of the cosmos, the earth, evolution, and life itself. Creatures have been on this earth for hundreds of millions of year, and they will continue to live on this earth far beyond the time of my passing. My time here is a grace. It is a free gift. Nothing I did or will do earned my own existence, and nothing I can do can guarantee my number of days. My time on this earth is limited. My life will come to an end; of that I can be sure. But the paschal mystery continues. The cycle of life, death, and new life will continue. Since our time here is limited, it seems best to make the most of it, to enjoy the life-giving relationships we share, to acknowledge and love those we care about, and to grow in deeper communion with our God, the source of all goodness and life.

### ***About Liturgy: The “End” Times***

With the recent celebration of All Saints and All Souls, and now the final days of this Liturgical Year, the church is fully focused on the “end time,” also called the *eschaton*, the days of fulfillment of all that God has promised. Despite the doom and gloom message some may see in today’s gospel, our Christian focus on the end time is one of joy and is a constant throughout the year because it is at the very heart of what we do at every Eucharist. At every Eucharist, we remember what the Father has done for us through Jesus, His Son. This remembering of Christ’s death and resurrection never keeps us looking backwards into the past. Rather our *anamnesis*, our memorial, always propels u to the future promise, the *eschaton* in which Christ even now is gathering all creation to Himself to present it as a final gift of sacrifice and praise to the Father.

In this context, the Christian approach to death and the end of what we know as the world around us is not a time for worry or anxiety. Rather, like the psalm that is prescribed as the common psalm for the final weeks of Ordinary Time, as we approach the nearing of our own end, we too can say with the psalmist, “let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord” (Psalm 122).





Thank you to all those who have prepared Thanksgiving Baskets for our annual outreach. The baskets will be distributed tomorrow morning by our St. Vincent de Paul Society and our Knights of Columbus who will add a turkey to each basket. On behalf of all of us, I would also like to thank the students, families, and faculty of our adopted parochial school of St. Peter Martyr who also have participated once again in this year's outreach. Last year, they contributed 50 baskets! As I write this article, they have not yet delivered their baskets, but I trust they will equal last year's effort, if not exceed it. Thank you for touching Jesus in the families who will receive these gifts making it possible for them to have Thanksgiving.



You are invited to the Vigil Liturgy for **Marianne Teresa Siino** tomorrow evening, Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. here in our church and to the Memorial Funeral Liturgy on Tuesday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m., followed by a reception in our parish hall.

Marianne was the Secretary and Kindergarten teacher at our adopted parochial school of St. Peter Martyr, a member of our parish, and attended regularly the Vigil Liturgy on Saturday afternoon. Please keep her siblings and her family in your thoughts and prayers as they prepare to give her into God's loving and eternal embrace.



Our Annual Thanksgiving Day Liturgy will take place this coming Thursday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 a.m. The reflection/homily this year will be given by **Dave and Stacia DeBuhr** and the music will be under the direction of our Organist/Director of Music/Artist-in-Residence, **Don Pearson along with Our Parish Choir and Cantors**. Please also bring your bread/rolls and wine for your thanksgiving dinner to be blessed at the conclusion of the liturgy.



You are invited to work with the members of our Art & Environment Committee on Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> as the environment for liturgy is transformed from Ordinary Time to the beginning of the new Liturgical Year and the Season of Advent. Many hands are needed to help

put things away and prepare the environment for Advent. We begin at 9:00 a.m. on that day; coffee and pastries are provided mid-morning, and if we need to go into the afternoon to complete the work, we also provide lunch. This is a wonderful opportunity to exercise your Stewardship of both Time and Talent! Come and meet your fellow parishioners, make new friends, and experience the joy of helping to create a beautiful environment for worship.



Thank you to all those who come faithfully each Saturday morning to clean and prepare the church and parish hall for the weekend: **Al Cosce, Alfred Madoshi, Jun Bajet, Carole Miller, Jean Rogers, and Mency Osborne.**

...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall throughout the week: **Steve Rojek, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, Harlan Young and Fr. Robert.**

...to **Dilcia Aparacio** who does such an excellent job of washing, ironing, and caring for the Sacred Linens.

...to our Sacristans and Altar Guild who prepare the sanctuary for the celebration of Eucharist each week:

**Peter Degl'Innocenti, Pam and Rich Confetti, Vincent Rodriguez, Harlan Young, Monika Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, Nancy Santos and Rose Salamanca.**

...to **our counting teams** who are here every week to count the weekly collections.

...to our volunteers who assisted in the parish office last week:

**Jeannine Ford, Melodye Costanza, Rowena Cayaban, Yvette Young, Sharon Cissell, Joe Fanfa and Bev Iacona.**

...to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week's donations: **Frank Zamora and Barbara Jackson.**

...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Dave Costanza (Lead), Carole Miller, Vangie Parrilla, Belen Farin, Beth Enea, Richard Enea, Kathy Augusta, Vince Augusta, Rowena Cayaban and Sherry Webb.**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot Security who kept watch over our vehicles during the weekend Liturgies: **Don Benson, Steve Rojek and Tony Gumina.**

***Report of Sunday Mass Attendance***

Attached to my insert this week, you will find the October Mass Attendance figures for both this year and last year for your review. I wanted to make this information available to all parishioners.

