

Homily for Sunday Mass
November 17, 2019
Year C – Luke 21:5-19
----Father Michael Grant George Cadotte----

Next Sunday is Christ the King Sunday and that my sisters and brothers marks the end of our church year and we begin a new Church year the Sunday after with First Advent. Sandwiched between and that is quite the perfect little fact we will come back to in just a moment.

The Prophet Malachi gives us a dart warning of those who do not live an upright and just life that they will be judged by their collective deeds and their just reward will reduce them down to their roots. The bright spot in this proclamation is that Malachi says that those, "...who fear (that is love and follow God) ...there will arrive the sun of Justice with its healing rays" (Mal 3:20).

In our New Year's Eve traditions, we often sing "auld Lang syne" which we can roughly translate into 'days gone by.' Not a bad idea but I suggest we have it on the wrong day. As we leave this liturgical year next week, I ask that each of us look back on the year past since last Advent and take an account of our life. Not in what social, monetary, job related, or political success / concern, but rather in how we did spiritually. Are we ending the year feeling closer to God and knowing we were faithful to show God's love shining through our actions and our spirit?

How can we do this? There is so much craziness in the world today with political turmoil, global climate emergencies, hunger, and just basic lack of human dignity for so many. By what right should be green light all of that and put on a happy Jesus face when we know he would not approve of any of it? We don't. What we do is look inward to our core faith and live those Gospel values that Jesus was reaching out to you today to remind us all. Yes, Jesus warns us that in looking ahead, unlike Malachi looking back, there will be war, natural disasters, outbreaks, and closer to home personal challenges, betrayals, and family conflict. What Jesus has given us is a way to survive this without giving in on ourselves nor our faith. Jesus is telling us to take that look backward, sure up our failings, and don't just continue to shine forth the spirit of love, the Spirit of God, but do so even stronger, brighter, and with more energy. For, "...not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives..." (LK 21:19) says our Lord.

There is a scene at the end of a movie where the main character is driving through the city streets moments before the destruction of the world and people are running all over the place and there is great turmoil. In the midst of this grand scene of pending doom the camera focuses in on a couple just holding each other in a loving embrace. They are at peace. *That* is the person we should all strive to be, a person at, despite the ups and downs of life, is a peace with what we have done and how we have lived. A person that knows that we will persevere as Jesus promises and a person that has the salvation of Jesus Christ burning deep within their sole.

So maybe we should all take an account of our year and prepare ourselves to continue forward, not in our current faith, but in an even stronger determination to truly live out our faith in our daily lives. To be the eyes and hands of Jesus Christ throughout the entire world. And let us also, despite all the negative that we can certainly count in our minds, also take time to be thankful for the countless blessings God has given us as well. Don't think God has? Then start small and make a list of little things that are good and watch that list grow. Then, this

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Thanksgiving Day find a small quiet place to truly say thank you to God for your blessings and pray for the strength to move into the new year with an even greater resolve.

AMEN

---Citations---

The New American Bible: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2010

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