

33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time (B-2021)
St. Patrick - Milford

*The sun will be darkened;
 the moon will not shed its light.
 Stars will fall out of the sky and
 the heavenly hosts will be shaken.*

St. Mark places us in a rather somber mood as we come to celebrate the next to the last Sunday of Ordinary Time for this Church year. He talks to us about the end of the world. It's a theme that has a chilling effect on our lives because no one of enjoys thinking about the end of this life as we know it.

Next weekend, we celebrate Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. A week later, it will be Advent and that will inaugurate a new Church year for us --- a time to start all over again. We will be reminded that we live an Advent every day of our lives as we wait in joyful hope for His second coming. What does this Gospel mean for us today? Rather than give a normal homily, I thought that I would like to prayerfully reflect with you about our READINESS - our PREPARATION for the inevitable day when our world will come to an end.

To think about new next life in eternity demands a living and vibrant faith right now! To think about the end demands that we slow down and examine where we are in our relationship with God and how much we have allowed the mysteries of Jesus' birth, death and resurrection penetrate our lives. We all want to live with God in eternity but Jesus continually insisted that eternity will be ours only to the extent that we are living and working and praying for holy lives in this world - that we are servants to each other - that our lives are focused on love and forgiveness. ARE WE READY FOR THE END?

The letter to the Hebrews tells us today that the Lord is forever perfecting those who are being sanctified. We are "the sanctified" - we are God's treasures - His Elect - His Chosen. The Lord is offering us every opportunity to shape us and form us into His likeness. ARE WE COOPERATING? ARE WE READY TO MEET HIM FACE TO FACE?

Thinking about the end of this world and looking to a life in eternity with God demands an examination of conscience and a prayer of contrition. Let's begin together and ask the Lord:

Lord, please forgive my failure to pray - my failure to recognize your presence - my failure to express my faith, hope, and love. Forgive my short-tempered tongue - so often the dart I hurl at those closest to me - loved ones who are the nearest targets of my irritable, moody self - that comes to the surface when I am tired or disappointed, or embarrassed, or hurt.

Forgive my infidelity to those to whom I have committed myself - my family, my friends, my neighbors - all the people you have called me to love and to serve.

Forgive me Lord, forgive my preoccupation with myself - for the goods that so many others seem to have acquired effortlessly and that I lack and want - and really don't need.

Forgive my failure to control the blind compulsions of my nature - my failure to discipline my appetites for food and drink - for sexual expression - for status and position in my world.

Forgive my failure to work as I ought - my failure to praise you and to lift up my brothers and sisters - to proclaim your healing word --- to be the Christian you have called me to be.

Thank you Lord, for giving me life in this world and let me use wisely the remaining time that I have here on earth. May my life give YOU glory!

Dear friends, the Lord's plan for us is peace and NOT destruction. Let us be watchful and opened to His will for us for the rest of our days so to be truly worthy to meet Jesus when He comes.

"Keep us safe O God, you are our hope!"