While some people were speaking about how the temple was adorned with costly stones and votive offerings, Jesus said, “All that you see here—the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down.”

Luke 21:5-6

November 17, 2019

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Adults, $5; Children (ages 6-12), $3; Children under age 6, Free

Tickets available after weekend Masses and at the Parish Office

♦ NO TICKETS SOLD AT THE DOOR ♦

Sponsored by the Saint Frances Cabrini Holy Name Society

Financial Stewardship
For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Report for November 10, 2019
498 donors; 1,403 envelopes mailed (36%)

Weekly Offertory ........................................... $ 9,268
Weekly Off. Online (168 donors) ......................... $ 1,783
Food Bank ................................................... $ 335
Parish Share 2019 ........................................... $ 1,791
Total Collection .............................................. $ 13,177
Over / Under Weekly Off. Budget ................. $ (757)
Over / Under Annual Off. Budget to Date ...... $ (30,399)
Second Sunday of November 2018 ............... $ 10,655
Parish Share 2019 Year-to-date ....................... $ 79,241

Pray for our infirmed and homebound

Pete Ayoob .............................................. Eddie Iosoa
Louis B. (infant) ......................................... Robert Jozani
Rochelle Barness ....................................... E.K.
Steven Cercone ......................................... Pat Kayla
Filomena DeChellis ..................................... Eliaj Kazias (child)
Ida DiNardo .............................................. Hannah K. (toddler)
Linda Ermi ................................................ Robert Konarski
Stephanie F. .............................................. Patrice Leo
Mike Fordyce ............................................. Shirley Loyola
Larry Garuccio ........................................... Sarah Lucci
James George ........................................... Vivian McGinnis
Hallie H. (toddler) ....................................... Edward Mineard
Jeldo Montini ........................................... Angela Ross
Sean S. ....................................................... Mia Scalamogna
Helen Schreiber ........................................ Marjorie Sewasky
Jean Shingleton ........................................ James George
Sue Sokol .................................................. Jean Vickodi
Peter Weisenmiller .................................... Vivian McGinnis
Alan Zanker ............................................. Edward Mineard

Please Note: To be added to this list, a family member is asked to please contact the Parish Office at 724-775-6363 or email info@sfcabrini.us. First Friday Communicants will remain on the list indefinitely; all others will remain for one month unless renewed by a family member.
Religious Education
Contact: Deanna Stacho 724-774-4888, stfranceschl@comcast.net

C.S.I. Middle School Meeting -- Come join us for an Ice Cream Social on Thursday, November 21 at 6:30 p.m. in O'Connell Hall for all 6, 7, and 8th graders.

All 5th Grade Families -- If you have not received your packet from the parent meeting please contact the office.

Reminder -- Class will not be in session the weekend of December 1st for families to celebrate during the Thanksgiving weekend.

Office Hours -- Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Preschool News
Contact: Gayle Piroli 724-774-4888, psdirector@sfcabrini.us

Gas Card Raffle Winner -- We are pleased to announce that the Kendra Groscost, mother of a child in our 3/4 PM preschool program, was the winner of our first $500 Gas Card Raffle for the school year. Our next gas card raffle will be held in February. Stay tuned for details.

Congrats to Kendra!

Parish News
Contact: Parish Office 724-775-6363, info@sfcabrini.us

Adoration for the Solemnity of Christ the King on Sunday, November 24, after the 11:30 a.m. Mass until 5 p.m. concluding with Vespers and Benediction. Please make some time for quiet prayer before the Blessed Sacrament honoring Christ as Sovereign and Lord of all.

Thanksgiving Dinner -- The St. Frances Cabrini Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society would like to ensure that all in our area have a festive meal to celebrate Thanksgiving. They will provide a turkey and all the trimmings and deliver if necessary. Call 724-312-3533 and leave a message if you know of anyone that could use this assistance. All requests will be treated confidentially.

Request For Help -- Our grouping St. Vincent de Paul Societies along with Deacon Bob and the Knights of Columbus of Our Lady of Fatima will be collecting coats, blankets, socks and deodorant. Some of these items will be delivered to the St. Vincent de Paul St. Francis of Assisi Conference at Duquesne University where the students feed and clothe the homeless population in downtown Pittsburgh every Sunday evening during the academic year. The rest of the items will be used to help the needy in our local area. Please drop your donations in the boxes at the front church entrances of our grouping before December 15. Thank you for helping us help others.

Election Day Dinner Thank You -- A special thank you to all who worked the dinner, all who donated cakes, and all who purchased dinners. We are very grateful. We sold 400 dinners, taste buds were satisfied, and good fellowship and camaraderie were enjoyed!

Merchandise BINGO

Sponsored by the Christian Mothers of St. Frances Cabrini this Monday, October 21, at 7 p.m. in O'Connell Hall. Great prizes. Silent Auction. Lunch included in the admission price. For more information, contact Lil 724-378-1870 or Tootsie 724-775-6944.

Heartsaver CPR/AED Training (Adult, Child, Infant) -- A class will be offered on Tuesday, November 19, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. in O'Connell Hall at St. Frances Cabrini. Adults and children 12 and older are encouraged to register to be certified or re-certified. You must be able to kneel to complete this rigorous training. Registration is requested to reserve a spot by Friday, November 15, to Joyce Ott at sfcnurse@yahoo.com or 724-462-5436. The cost of the class is $10. Please bring cash or a check payable to St. Frances Cabrini on the evening of the class. Comfortable clothing is recommended.

Coffee Shop after the 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Masses. Bring your entire family and enjoy! Consultation and blood pressure readings available by our Faith Community Nurse, Joyce Ott.
Parish News continued
Contact: Parish Office 724-775-6363, info@sfcabrini.us

Holy Name Society Youth Fellowship Award -- Congratulations to Jodi Patterson, this year’s St. Frances Cabrini Youth Fellowship Awardee. Jodi is the daughter of Suellen & Jack Patterson of Center Twp. She is a senior at Central Valley High School and will be attending Penn State to major in Civil Engineering. Jodi is a member of St. Frances Cabrini Youth Group and a 1st Grade CCD Teaching Aide. Jodi’s senior project was painting bible scene murals and refinishing classroom doors at Our Lady of Fatima School.

Around our Grouping

Baptismal Preparation Class will be held at St. John the Baptist on Monday, November 25, at 6:30 p.m. in the Pastoral Center. This class is a one-time requirement for parents wishing to have their child baptized. Topics to be covered include the Sacrament of Baptism, the Rite of Baptism, & the need for suitable godparents who regularly practice the faith to serve as worthy role models and mentors for the child in the ways of faith. Please do not choose godparents until you have familiarized yourself with the necessary qualifications. To register, call the Parish Office at 724-775-3940. The next class will be held at Our Lady of Fatima in December.

Supporting Our Military With Christmas Cards -- The churches in our MACH1 grouping are asked again this year to consider sending Christmas cards for our soldiers who will not be home to celebrate the Christmas season with family and friends. Operation Christmas Cards 4 Troops Overseas. Our campaign last year was a tremendous success and I ask for your support again this year! Please feel free to sign one or as many Christmas cards as you like and it is optional if you want to write a special message to the soldier. Please keep your words simple. Hand-made cards do not need an envelope. Cards should have an envelope that is sealed in. Individual cards should be addressed to “any Service Member” signed by sender. Please seal the envelope and you may drop your card(s) into the mailbox at the entrance of the church through November 24.

Baptism

Wednesday Bible Study -- We will meet on Wednesday, November 20, at 9:30 a.m. in the Faith Formation room located in St. John the Baptist Pastoral Center. We will continue our study of Job Ch. 31-33 in the Ignatius Catholic Study Bible (RSV 2nd Catholic Edition by Scott Hahn & Curtis Mitch). Come enjoy a cup of coffee and a donut. Let’s learn, discuss & share Our Catholic Faith!

Supporting Our Military With Christmas Cards -- The churches in our MACH1 grouping are asked again this year to consider sending Christmas cards for our soldiers who will not be home to celebrate the Christmas season with family and friends. Operation Christmas Cards 4 Troops Overseas. Our campaign last year was a tremendous success and I ask for your support again this year! Please feel free to sign one or as many Christmas cards as you like and it is optional if you want to write a special message to the soldier. Please keep your words simple. Hand-made cards do not need an envelope. Cards should have an envelope that is sealed in. Individual cards should be addressed to “any Service Member” signed by sender. Please seal the envelope and you may drop your card(s) into the mailbox at the entrance of the church through November 24.

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Keep Calm and Attend Youth Mass

Sunday, Nov. 17 - 6 pm
Our Lady of Fatima

“Sing is to pray twice.”
— St. Cecelia
Patron Saint of Musicians
Feast Day, November 22

Thank You For Your Support -- The faculty and students of Our Lady of Fatima wanted to thank you for all you do to support the School. We are grateful and blessed!

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. - Proverbs 11:25

Parish News continued
**Sanctuary & Holy Family Candles**
Contact: Parish Office 724-775-6363, info@sfcabrini.us

The Sanctuary Candle acknowledging the Real Presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle is burning this week in loving memory of †Irma & †Frank DeFerrari from children and grandchildren. May the Most Blessed Sacrament of the Altar be praised, adored and loved in all the tabernacles of the world even until the end of time.

The Holy Family Candle is burning this week in loving memory of †Lois R. Zanella from Nancy, Harry & Harrison Lord. Jesus, Mary and Joseph, in you we contemplate the splendor of true love, to you we turn with trust. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, bless us now and at the hour of our death.


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<tr>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>November 16– Vigil: 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>MB/BB</td>
<td>4:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>†Bartosh &amp; †Gehring Family (Linda &amp; Diane Gehring)</td>
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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>†JoAnn Bishop (Family)</td>
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<td>TS</td>
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<td>†Rosella &amp; †Charles Costanza, Anniv. (Family)</td>
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<td>†Lauren Ruud (Garrett Family)</td>
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<td>RA</td>
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<td>†Leona Fisher (Linda &amp; Pete Masciantonio)</td>
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<td>†Italia Cianfaglione (Family)</td>
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<th>Thursday</th>
<th>November 22– Saint Cecilia</th>
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<td>†Betty &amp; †Frank D’Antonio and †Dan D’Antonio (Family)</td>
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<th>Saturday</th>
<th>November 23– Vigil: Jesus Christ, King of the Universe</th>
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<td>JM</td>
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<td>†Louis Michael (Wife &amp; Family)</td>
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<th>Sunday</th>
<th>November 24– Jesus Christ, King of the Universe</th>
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<td>JM</td>
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<td>†Gabriel Olszanski (Family)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MB</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>†Tillie Morelli, B’day (Jan &amp; Rich Morelli)</td>
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**Readings for the Week November 17, 2019**

**Monday:** 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158; Lk 18:35-43 or (for the memorial of the Dedication) Acts 28:11-16, 30-31; Ps 98:1-6; Mt 14:22-33

**Tuesday:** 2 Mc 6:18-31; Ps 3:2-7; Lk 19:1-10

**Wednesday:** 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b, 15; Lk 19:11-28

**Thursday:** 1 Mc 2:15-29; Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15; Lk 19:41-44

**Friday:** 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; 1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11-12; Lk 19:45-48

**Saturday:** 1 Mc 6:1-13; Ps 9:2-4, 6, 16, 19; Lk 20:27-40

**Sunday:** 2 Sm 5:1-3; Ps 122:1-5; Col 1:12-20; Lk 23:35-43

**Today’s Readings**

**First Reading** -- For those who fear the name of the Lord, the sun of justice will arise (Malachi 3:19-20a).

**Psalm** -- The Lord comes to rule the earth with justice (Psalm 98).

**Second Reading** -- Those who are living in idleness are urged to earn their own living (2 Thessalonians 3:7-12).

**Gospel** -- Jesus foretells the destruction of Jerusalem, the persecution of his followers (Luke 21:5-19).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass (c) 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

**Saints & Special Observances 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Monday:** The Dedication of the Basilicas of Ss. Peter and Paul; St. Rose Philippine Duchesne

**Thursday:** The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Friday:** St. Cecilia

**Saturday:** St. Clement I; St. Columban; Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro; Blessed Virgin Mary
Girls' Night Out
Christmas Dinner
St. Frances Cabrini Church, O'Connell Hall
Tuesday, December 3, 2019, 6:00 PM
(Doors open at 5:30 PM)

Attention, ladies of ALL ages from the MACH1 Parish Grouping - come and enjoy an evening of good food, fun and company! A buffet style Christmas dinner will be prepared for you by Metro Grill of Center Township, with entertainment provided by the Brontë Lucci Vocals.

- Adults - $20.00; Children ages 12 and under - $10.00
- Doors open at 5:30 PM; dinner served at 6:00 PM, followed by entertainment at 7:30 PM
- Soft drinks, water, coffee and tea will be available (BYOB if you like!)
- 50/50 raffle! Terrific door prizes!

Reservations must be received no later than MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2019. No tickets will be sold at the door, no take-out meals, and no refunds. You MUST have a reservation and be present at the dinner to participate in our fabulous door prize drawings.

Please complete and detach the form below, include payment (exact cash or check payable to "St. Frances Cabrini Parish"), and place in an envelope marked "Girls' Night Out." Deposit in the church collection basket at any weekend Mass or at the office of your home parish by November 25, 2019. You may also mail your reservation form and payment to:

GIRLS' NIGHT OUT
c/o St. Frances Cabrini Parish
115 Trinity Drive, Aliquippa, PA 15001

If you have any questions, please contact Jo at 724-378-8972 or Marianne at 724-728-1884. Thank you!

Reservation Form • Girls' Night Out Dinner • Tuesday, December 3, 2019

Your Name_________________________________ Phone #________

Full Name of Each Guest in Your Group___________________________
_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________

*PLEASE NOTE: One reservation form and one check per group - provide first and last names of all guests listed. Reserved seating for groups of 8-12 persons ONLY; open seating for all others attending.

____ Adults attending @ $20.00 each = $_______

____ Children (12 and under) attending @ $10.00 each = $_______

Total Amount Enclosed $_______

Sponsored by the Ladies of St. Frances Cabrini Parish
A man came into the pharmacy and said to the technician, "Do you have anything that will stop hiccups?" The tech leaned over the counter and slapped the man's face.

The man said "What did you do that for?" The tech replied, "Well, you don't have any hiccups now, do you?"

The man replied, "I never did. I came in for my wife out in the car."

I was told that 70% of the population is stupid. I'm obviously with the other 40%.

No matter how hard you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.

A person calls a pet store: "Send me thirty-thousand cockroaches, at once."

Astonished clerk: "What in the world do you want with thirty-thousand cockroaches?"

Caller: "I'm moving out today, and my lease says I must leave the premises in exactly the same condition I found them."
Be Our Guest For
PASTA with a PURPOSE
A benefit dinner for Mary Louise Kohser

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH 2019

B.P.O Elks Lodge
2655 Brodhead Road
Aliquippa PA 15001

12PM—5PM
Open House

Ticket Includes:
• Spaghetti, meatballs, salad, roll, and drink
• Tickets may be purchased at the door or in advance by calling:
  Carol (724-777-4936) or Marty (724-777-9450)

$10 Per person

*Silent Auction*
*50/50*
*Door Prizes*
*Cash Bar*
*Bake Sale*

Mary Louise Kohser would like to enter the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Spring of 2020. She can not enter the convent until she pays down her student loan debt totaling over $40,000. While we understand there are many young men and women in this area with outstanding student loan debt in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, Mary can not pursue her dream of service to the Lord until she is debt free. She is working with The Laboure Society to help accomplish her goal. You can read her vocation story at: www.RescueVocations.org or email Mary directly at: mary@rescuevocations.org.

Please join us in celebrating Mary's vocation!
**Sunday, Nov 17, 2019**  
**THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Love this world—lightly**
Visit the Great Wall of China. Marvel at the Coliseum in Rome. Pray at the Western Wall in Jerusalem. Walk like an Egyptian in the shadow of the Great Sphinx of Giza. Thrill to an adventure in search of Mayan temples in the Yucatan. What you discover at each of these astonishing sites are the ruins of former kingdoms and lost greatness. Such structures are mysterious and compelling, awe-inspiring and a little sad. As the church year winds down and our readings turn apocalyptic, we’re reminded that only three things last: faith, hope, and love. Invest in these!

**Monday, Nov 18, 2019**  
**MEMORIAL OF ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE**

**If at first you don’t succeed**
As a child in France, Rose Philippine Duchesne (1769-1852) watched her mother care for the poor and heard travelers tell stories of the “New World.” It’s not impossible to think that when Rose joined the sisters of the Society of the Sacred Heart, she had hopes of serving the poor in faraway lands. In 1818, after years of teaching in France, Rose and four other sisters were sent to answer a bishop’s request for assistance in his vast Louisiana territory. From New Orleans, the sisters were missioned to Missouri to establish schools. By the time Rose got to Sugar Creek, Kansas in 1841 to open a school for Potawatomi girls, she was 72 and her primary ministry became one of prayer. Indeed, the people she served called her the “woman who prays always.” Saint Rose, help us imitate your perseverance and care for the poor.

**Wednesday, Nov 20, 2019**  
**Be mindful of your daily bread**
Why do religious traditions usually include dietary laws or restrictions, as well as periods of fasting and abstinence? Perhaps it has something to do with remembering “who we are.” Nothing is more ordinary and everyday than eating (although for many in the world, sadly, it can be a struggle to find anything to eat). Alongside the church’s guidelines on fasting and abstinence during the Lenten season, look for a way every week to incorporate some dietary practice of your own choosing that helps you remember your relationship of dependence on the Creator for your nourishment—both physical and spiritual.

**Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time**

**Monday, Nov 18, 2019**

**TODAY’S READINGS:** Malachi 3:19-20a; 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12; Luke 21:5-19 (159). “The days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone.”

**Tuesday, Nov 19, 2019**

**Man up!**
Some say it’s a man’s world, but it isn’t. It belongs to God. However, today is International Men’s Day. It’s part of “Movember,” when men grow a “mo” (mustache) to draw attention to male health issues, including emotional health. For men, the Good News offers an invitation to heal the emotional wounds of the past; address anger, violence, and abusive domination; deal with relationship dysfunction and grow into wholesome, kind, and holy individuals. Today join with men everywhere to welcome the Son of Man who came to save us all.

**Wednesday, Nov 20, 2019**

**MEMORIAL OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**Thursday, Nov 21, 2019**

**MEMORIAL OF CECILIA, VIRGIN, MARTYR**

**Cecilia, you’re breaking my heart**
Saint Cecilia, patron of musicians, has been inspiring artists and seekers for centuries—from the Baroque composer Handel to today’s music and songwriting legend Paul Simon. Saint Cecilia’s association with music comes from a story recounting how her heart overflowed in song to God, even during a particularly difficult time in her life. What a witness to the power of love! In “Anthem for Saint Cecilia’s Day,” poet W.H. Auden calls upon Saint Cecilia with the words: “Blessed Cecilia, appear in visions / To all musicians, appear and inspire: / Translated Daughter, come down and startle / Composing mortals with immortal fire.” What endeavor in your life are you being inspired to “compose” with “immortal fire”?

**Friday, Nov 22, 2019**

**MEMORIAL OF CECILIA, VIRGIN, MARTYR**

**Saturday, Nov 23, 2019**

**BLESSED MIGUEL AGUSTIN PRO, PRIEST, MARTYR; BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**A drama of faith**
The Sadducees, who say there is no Resurrection” wouldn’t have known what to do with Blessed Miguel Pro. During a period of harsh persecution of the Catholic Church in Mexico in the 1920s, this Jesuit disguised himself cleverly (as a cop, for instance, bringing Eucharist to prisoners in jail). His underground ministry evoked the irreverent humor and daring he’d exhibited since childhood. Falseely accused of a plot to murder the president and denied a trial, he was shot by a firing squad. After forgiving his captors on the way to his execution, he stretched out his arms, Christlike, and voiced the slogan of the Catholic resistance, *Viva Cristo Rey!* (“Long live Christ the King!”) Photos of his execution rallied the resistance. How does his courageous witness inspire you?

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Hope in the Blessings Of Tomorrow

Rev. Mark Suslenko

Malachi 3:19-20a
2 Thessalonians 3:7-12
Luke 21:5-19

We are experiencing a time of upheaval and change. This is true in both our secular and Church worlds. Structures and systems are changing rapidly. The way we conduct our political, societal, and religious business is so vastly different today than it was even a short time ago. While some may see this as a time of despair and gloom, it really can be an opportunity for cleansing, change, and hope. History shows that every so often a time of purification and reevaluation is needed. The old ways of doing things simply are not working anymore, and we are called to examine again our fundamental roots. We tend to cling to the concrete and familiar and get very anxious when those things are threatened.

Yet, Jesus couldn’t be clearer: “All that you see here — the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down.” Our physical churches, structural systems and institutions, governmental protocols, doctrines, traditions, and the like all give testimony to something greater, but they are not that “something greater” in and of themselves. People who have lost their physical securities due to fire or natural disasters learn this valuable lesson the hard way. Hard lessons are also being learned in the life of our Church. Chanceries and church institutions must change and conduct business differently. Parish life is changing. Consolidating parishes and the closing and selling of churches are events happening in many dioceses. People are feeling the grief that comes with loss and change, but is this a time of sadness and despair only or a time of hope and the birth of something new?

Malachi reminds us that for those “who fear my name, there will arise the sun of justice with its healing rays.” The Son of Justice has arisen and brings healing rays. Can we allow Justice Incarnate to pierce through the clouds of change, sadness, and darkness and burst forth through our current experience with his healing rays? We easily forget that God is in charge and is ever faithful. When our
familiar structures are taken away, the essence of His presence and the mission of the Gospel remain. While we may be attached to certain buildings, traditions, protocols, ideologies, systems, routines, and the like, we must remember that they only serve as pointers to something greater and are not ends within themselves. This is difficult to do but necessary.

When we suffer, it is hard to find hope in the blessings of tomorrow. We only see our pain and loss. The sadness can lead to anger, and the anger can cause us to throw in the towel and walk away. What has that accomplished? Suffering is always an opportunity, and the call within all suffering is the invitation to a life that is new. This newly discovered life may even find us a bit happier than we were before and more focused, purposeful, centered, and convicted to our original mission. Christianity and the Catholic Church, in particular, have to find their path toward credibility once again. The end of that journey may look a lot different than it does today, but it will be more true to our tradition and more honest.

We need to learn how to see life through God's eyes. It is this vision and this vision alone that will bring redemption and salvation to our lost and broken world. Contemplating God's glory and living contemplative lives frees us from passing structures, ideologies, and safety nets and brings us into the wonder of transformation and resurrection. Are we not called to bring people to a new hope? How can we even begin to do this if we are hanging on to bitterness, afraid of trying something new, falling victim to rumor and gossip, getting involved in petty debates, and losing the bigger picture of who we are called to be. We need to find joy.

It really doesn't matter what building we gather in for worship as long as we gather. It doesn't matter if the people around me are the same families that have been there for 50 years, as long as there are people whom we call brothers and sisters. God will be present where two or three are gathered. As long as we can be united in the Eucharistic presence of Christ, then all is well. The core life, teaching, and witness of the Church are what will remain because they live in the hearts of all believers. They become part of the stories we share and the fabric of our lives.

There are many wounded and hurting souls eager to hear the life-giving message of the Gospel. This is a time and opportunity where justice can be restored, and we can rediscover where God is calling us to be. We are called to look forward, not backward, because the goal of all that we do is preparation for the time Christ will come again. We do not know the day nor the hour ... nor is any of that necessary. If we are truly sincere and committed to pursuing a love relationship with God, then it doesn't matter when He comes.

We have to resist putting things in boxes and running to our safety nets of familiarity and long-standing traditions. Any prophet or herald who has ever made a difference in our world has left all of those things and ventured out into the unknown, often with nothing. This is as true for the original disciples as it was for St. Francis of Assisi and St. Teresa of Calcutta. God can heal our growing pains. We need to trust in God's presence, listen honestly to each other's stories, rely on the help of the Holy Spirit, absorb the healing rays of Christ's justice and mercy, and forge ahead. Tomorrow will look differently than today and that's okay.

Prayer
Let nothing disturb you.
Let nothing frighten you.
All things will pass away.
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things.
Whoever has God lacks nothing.
God alone suffices.
Amen.
— *Let Nothing Disturb You (attributed to St. Teresa of Avila)*

*Rev. Mark Suslenko*
17 Nov 2019

SUNDAY SUMMARY

Malachi 3:19-20a  The day of fire and the sun of justice are on their way.

Psalm 98:5-6, 7-8, 9  God will rule the earth and its people with justice.

2 Thessalonians 3:7-12  The one unwilling to work will learn to diet.

Luke 21:5-19  Destruction and persecution will surely come, but also the time of witness.

The inner word

What’s in your heart?

Trust in God but tie your camel, the Arab proverb shrewdly recommends. We are in the world but not of the world and need to combine the qualities of serpents and doves in our dealings in the marketplace.

- Describe a time in your life that felt apocalyptic: destructive, chaotic, transforming, final. What had to be surrendered, and what came to life through that experience?
- When have you looked to a political or religious leader with hope for a better plan? Were your hopes realized or disappointed?
- How do you sometimes “make like a Thessalonian” and surrender your responsibility to the world in favor of religious practices?
- Jesus said the temple of his day would be thrown down when worldly power passes. What aspects of modern religious life might be unmasked as worldly on the day of the Lord?

Exploring the word

Apocalypse (any day) now

Is it me, or is it the times? Apocalyptic writings used to seem so surreal and unbelievable that those parts of the Bible—say, Revelation, Daniel, Ezekiel, Malachi, and snippets of Paul and the gospels—just didn’t have a hearing in me. I dismissed those passages as morbid and fantastic, products of an age that didn’t have its act together and could only envision release from its chaos in terms of total annihilation. Well, guess what: These days, apocalyptic literature has the whole world sitting up and paying attention. It’s starting to make sense and sound unhappily familiar. Lately, we begin to suspect those times are ours, and that vision is not so outrageous after all.

Apocalyptic feeling is the sort of thing that comes around every few generations. Human history is remarkably messy, and depending on when and where you are born, your window on the world may make John of Patmos sound like a man of understatement. It’s no accident that both Hebrew and Christian scripture end with apocalypse. Malachi is the proper end of the Hebrew scroll, and the last line of the prophecy was originally “Lest I come and strike the land with doom” in verse 24. “Doom” being such a pessimistic note on which to end, the rabbis went back and repeated verse 23 as a coda: “Lo, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, Before the day of the Lord comes, the great and terrible day.” This is supposed to be more comforting. Whether or not we hear it that way, of course, depends on where in the theater of history we are sitting.

Malachi’s problem
The prophecies of Malachi, literally “my messenger,” are from the post-exilic period, when the temple is already rebuilt and running. But things are not as good as such circumstances might imply. Unsurprisingly, starting over after the return from Babylon led to complications: what to do with the reality of foreign wives and their idolatrous ways, and how to deal with careless liturgical practices at the temple. Near-contemporary prophets like Haggai and Zechariah were more optimistic about the nation making a comeback. They believed that a refurbished temple and new leadership were signs that a bright new day for Israel was dawning. Their prophecies reflect an enthusiasm for the future that Malachi no longer shares.

What went wrong? The hoped-for reign of Zerubbabel most predominantly. Back in the time of the exile, Jeremiah prophesied that the royal house of Israel, then led by one Jehoiachin, was through. God snatched the messianic line of kings from the royal hand like a signet ring and tossed it into the dust bowl of history. No heir of Jehoiachin would ever sit on the throne in Israel. But after the exile, Haggai exuberantly disagreed, calling Jehoiachin’s grandson Zerubbabel a new signet ring that would rule with God’s full blessing. Zechariah seconded the motion with a coronation prophecy, and even Ezekiel anticipated such a time. But the name of Zerubbabel was later expunged from the text and replaced with the name of the man who would actually ascend to leadership, Joshua his assistant. The sequence of events is unclear, and it could be that foreign powers intervened before the line of David could be reestablished. But the prophecy of a return to the era of the messiah-king was not fulfilled. This plunged the nation and its current prophet into a mood of fatalism. God was obviously not going to be moved on this score, and without the blessed house of David in charge, cataclysm seemed like the best way out of the cul-de-sac of history in which they were marooned.

Fast-forward to Jerusalem A.D.

Five centuries after the exile, the hope of the nation was invested in the Jerusalem temple. The throne of David seemed irretrievably lost to history, and puppet kings like the Herodians were a national joke. The temple was the center of divine authority, not to mention the last stand of national identity, and if God were ever going to rescue the nation from its oppressors and reestablish the messiah-king of Israel, it would be from this spot, Mount Zion.

Imagine then in this context hearing the words of Jesus dismissing the temple like a pile of stones easily thrown down! If even the temple should not be viewed as the fortress of God’s presence and the emblem of Israel’s future, then where might one look for such things? It was no use to explain that the house of David had at last arrived to claim its kingship; that the presence of God could not come more fully into their midst than where it stood right now; that the hour they were waiting for was this one. Jesus had been proclaiming the Kingdom for some years now. Those who had ears had already heard, and those who didn’t, wouldn’t.

The arrival of Jesus in Jerusalem was the apocalypse, “the great and terrible day,” come blazing like an oven to reduce evildoers to stubble. For others it was the arrival of the son of justice with healing in its rays. Once again, our seat in the theater of history affects which reality is coming our way.

Applying the word

Do the kings and the temples matter?

Obviously, the time to trust in the citadels of worldly power is past. Heaven knows we still need to vote, affiliate with a church and creed, make a living and not a nuisance of ourselves, consider carefully and critically the wars and cataclysms of our time. The world still engages us mightily, and we should responsibly return the favor. But we must not be deceived in these endeavors that the goal of our efforts is in this vortex of messy history. All that we see here—a day will come when it will all be thrown down. No king can promise us safety, and no temple can guarantee our righteousness. The one thing that matters is our moment of testimony. When all is said and done—and it will be—in whom is our trust?

Related scripture links

Connecting the dots about Zerubbabel: Jer. 22:24-30; Hag. 2:20-23; Zech. 6:11-15

The hope of the messiah king: 2 Sam. 7:8-16; 1 Chron. 17:4-14; Ps. 89:20-38; Isa. 7:10-16, 8:23-9:6; Mic. 5:1-4; Jer. 23:5-6; Ezek. 34:23-24, 37:24-28
The temple’s importance: Isa. 2:1-5, 56:7; Mic. 4:1-3; Mal. 3:1; Ezek. 40-47; Matt. 12:6, 21:12-16; Mark 11:15-17; Luke 19:45-46; John 2:14-22; 1 Cor. 3:9-17; 2 Cor. 6:16; Eph. 2:19-22

Alice Camille

Alice Camille is a religious educator, scripture commentator, and author of many books including This Transforming Word and other titles found at alicecamille.com.

In other words

The Sunday gospel in everyday English

One day people were standing around talking about the Temple, remarking how beautiful it was, the splendor of its stonework and memorial gifts. Jesus said, "All this you’re admiring so much—the time is coming when every stone in that building will end up in a heap of rubble."

They asked him, "Teacher, when is this going to happen? What clue will we get that it’s about to take place?"

He said, "Watch out for the doomsday deceivers. Many leaders are going to show up with forged identities claiming, ‘I’m the One,’ or, ‘The end is near.’ Don’t fall for any of that. When you hear of wars and uprisings, keep your head and don’t panic. This is routine history and no sign of the end."

He went on, "Nation will fight nation and ruler fight ruler, over and over. Huge earthquakes will occur in various places. There will be famines. You’ll think at times that the very sky is falling."

“But before any of this happens, they’ll arrest you, hunt you down, and drag you to court and jail. It will go from bad to worse, dog-eat-dog, everyone at your throat because you carry my name. You’ll end up on the witness stand, called to testify. Make up your mind right now not to worry about it. I’ll give you the words and wisdom that will reduce all your accusers to stammers and stutters."

“You’ll even be turned in by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends. Some of you will be killed. There’s no telling who will hate you because of me. Even so, every detail of your body and soul—even the hairs of your head!—is in my care; nothing of you will be lost. Staying with it—that’s what is required. Stay with it to the end. You won’t be sorry; you’ll be saved” (from Luke 21).


Homily stories

MYOB

One summer, years ago, I was an activities counselor in charge of 16 young boys, ages 5 to 10. I would often load them into a big van and off we’d go on fun adventures. Joey, a high-school kid from the same childcare institution, was assigned to help me, and thank God for that, because while I drove he had the unenviable task of keeping the boys in line.

“He’s on my side of the seat!” one boy would whine. “He’s eating my corn chips!” another would shout. At the start of most trips the boys would elbow and nudge one another, wrestling like lion cubs until Joey would settle the boys with a game, a story, or occasional threats.

Saint Paul faced the same challenges with the Thessalonians. Though he had recently helped them establish a Christian community, some of them felt entitled to eat though they were unwilling to work, and others were minding everyone’s business but their own.

It’s hard to pay attention to our own lives. It’s tempting to be caught up in everybody’s business but our own. But growth in Christian spirituality demands that we live our own life and mind our own business.
While we are to be responsive to the needs of others, we are, in the end, responsible for our own lives and our own faith.

Tom McGrath

Tom McGrath is the vice president for product development at Loyola Press. He was a co-founder of TrueQuest Communications and, prior to that, director of publishing at Claretian Publications. He is author of Raising Faith-Filled Kids <http://www.loyolapress.com/raising-faith-filled-kids.htm> and The Meal Box <http://www.loyolapress.com/the-meal-box.htm>.

Homily stories

The battle within

Apocalypses begin and end in the heart of each believer. The journey toward divine revelation, as any mystic will tell you, is an interior trek. The dark night of the soul is nothing less than the battle of the good and evil within us. We try to be loving people; honest in our business dealings and service to the community; faithful to our friends and family; prayerful and thankful to God for the goodness and mercy we receive each day. But even with the most rigorous spiritual discipline, we cannot avoid the fight for our soul. And as Jesus advises us, we cannot prepare our testimony in advance, because we have no way to know when the battle will begin or what will trigger it.

Make no mistake though, at some point you will find yourself fighting the good fight against apathy, anger, doubt, pride, resentment, or greed. You will feel unhappy, unappreciated, and unloved. It will be a hellish time, but don’t despair. On the other side of your trials awaits a loving God. Apocalypses have their rewards.

Patrice J. Tuohy

Patrice Tuohy, co-founder of TrueQuest Communications and publisher of PREPARE THE WORD, is an award-winning writer, editor, designer, and author of a number of articles on Catholic life.

Prayers

Penitential Act & Prayer of the Faithful

Penitential Act

Invitation

In the presence of God, let us pray for God's gracious forgiveness.

Invocations

- Our God protects us from evil. For the times we have not chosen the good, Lord, have mercy.
- Our God calls us to be disciples. For the times we have listened to false prophets, Christ, have mercy.
- Our God want us to work for the kingdom of God. For the times we have not done that work, Lord, have mercy.

Prayer of the Faithful

The universal prayer

Gathered in faith in a God who has promised us justice, let us turn with confidence to God in prayer.
For all those who suffer from war and violence, disaster, disease, and persecution, that they may find the strength to endure through the power of God's healing Spirit, we pray to the Lord.

For those who work, that they may receive just compensation, and that they may labor in a spirit of prayer, giving glory to God, we pray to the Lord.

For the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, for all who work to address poverty in this country, and for our parish community, that we may follow Christ's example of love and solidarity with the poor, we pray to the Lord.

God of justice, you prepare a place for all who honor your name. Grant that our patient waiting for the coming of your Son will bear fruit in eternal life. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Quotes

Perseverance is the sister of patience, the daughter of constancy, the friend of peace, the cementer of friendships, the bond of harmony, and the bulwark of holiness.
—Bernard of Clairvaux

In order that your prayer may be real, you must deal with the arduousness of work. . . . Your prayer becomes whole when it is of a piece with your labor.
—Rule of Taizé

By patient endurance you will win life for yourselves, although to this must be added wholehearted thanksgiving, and prayer, and humility. For you must be ready to bless and praise your benefactor, God the savior of the world, who disposes all things, good or otherwise, for your benefit.
—Nilus of Ancyra
What does the *Catechism* say about Assisted Suicide?

God’s creative action is present to every human life and is thus the source of its sacred value. Each human life remains in a relationship with God, who is the final goal of every man and woman.

The Fifth Commandment calls us to foster the physical, spiritual, emotional, and social well-being of self and others. For that reason, it forbids murder, abortion, euthanasia, and any life-threatening acts. We are called to create the culture of life and work against the culture of death.

Regardless of the motives or means, euthanasia consists of putting to death those who are sick, are disabled, or are dying. It is morally unacceptable.

Catholic moral tradition has always taught that we can discontinue medical procedures that are burdensome, extraordinary, and disproportionate to the outcome. However, respect for every human being demands the ordinary treatment of the dying by the provision of food, water, warmth, and hygiene. Ordinary treatment is always a moral requirement.

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**Saint of the Week**

**ST. ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE**

**1769-1852**

**FEAST DAY: NOVEMBER 18**

Growing up in a prosperous French family, Philippine joined the Visitation nuns, but returned to her family during the French Revolution. In 1804 she entered the Society of the Sacred Heart. After much preparation, she led a missionary journey to Missouri in 1818. She set up the first free school west of the Mississippi, Sacred Heart houses and Novitiate, and a school for Indians. Despite frontier hardships and ill health, she persevered in her early dream of serving Native Americans.

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Popular Devotions

The faith of the Christian people has developed numerous forms of popular piety and devotions. The religious instincts of the Christian people have always found ways to surround sacramental life with helps to benefit more effectively from them. Popular devotions have proven to be powerful forms of prayer and to be of spiritual benefit to many.

These forms of piety include praying at the Stations of the Cross; making pilgrimages to the Holy Land, Rome, Marian shrines, and shrines of other saints; lighting candles in church; having throats blessed on the feast of St. Blaise; joining in Corpus Christi processions; wearing medals of the Blessed Virgin and the saints; and honoring sacred relics. Some materials that form part of the Church’s liturgical rites, such as the ashes received on Ash Wednesday and the palms distributed on Palm Sunday, are also sacramentals.

Devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Divine Mercy of Jesus, and the Blessed Mother are frequently part of parish life and often include a novena, nine days of prayer associated with the devotion. Prayer groups such as those sponsored by Charismatic Renewal, Cursillo, Marriage Encounter, and Teens for Christ have both a strong liturgical foundation as well as a vibrant devotional component.

The praying of litanies (a series of invocations of the Blessed Mother or the saints) and the use of icons, holy pictures, and statues as supports for prayer are also forms of popular devotion. The faithful do not worship pictures and statues; they venerate or honor the Virgin Mary and the saints and worship and adore only God. The veneration of Mary and the saints ultimately leads to God. Among the forms of popular devotion, the rosary holds a unique position because of its relationship to the mysteries of Christ and the faith of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

This article is an excerpt from the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults (Washington, DC: USCCB, 2006) 297-298. Copyright © 2006, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington DC. All rights reserved. Photo: Getty Images.
What does the Church say about Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide?

Intentional euthanasia, sometimes called mercy killing, is murder. Regardless of the motives or means, euthanasia consists of putting to death those who are sick, are disabled, or are dying. It is morally unacceptable. The emergence of physician-assisted suicide, popularized by the right-to-die movement, seeks to legalize what is an immoral act. Its advocates plan to achieve this on a state-by-state basis.

Suicide is gravely sinful whether committed alone or aided by a doctor. Serious psychological disturbances, anxiety, fear of suffering, or torture can diminish the responsibility of the one committing suicide. The question is often asked whether persons who have committed suicide receive eternal salvation. Although suicide is always objectively sinful, one “should not despair of the eternal salvation of persons who have taken their own lives. By ways known to him alone, God can provide the opportunity for salutary repentance. The Church prays for persons who have taken their own lives” (CCC, no. 2283). The pastoral care of family and friends of those who have taken their own lives is an important focus for the Church’s healing and compassionate ministry.

Catholic moral tradition has always taught that we can discontinue medical procedures that are burdensome, extraordinary, and disproportionate to the outcome. However, respect for every human being demands the ordinary treatment of the dying by the provision of food, water, warmth, and hygiene. Ordinary treatment is always a moral requirement.

There is also extraordinary treatment. The Church recognizes that some medical treatment may not provide benefits commensurate with the risks of certain medical procedures. Extraordinary medical treatment may not be morally required and can even cease in certain cases, depending on the benefits to the sick person and the burdens it will or may impose. For example, in instances when a person has been declared brain-dead, the patient can be disconnected from mechanical devices that sustain breathing and the heart since there is little hope of the person’s recovery.
THE CATHOLIC CHURCH HAS A LONG HISTORY OF HELPING COUPLES TO PREPARE FOR MARRIAGE. IT HAS LEARNED A GREAT DEAL THAT CAN BENEFIT ANY COUPLE, REGARDLESS OF RELIGION.

Because the Catholic Church wants couples to form strong, lasting marriages, couples who wish to marry in the Catholic Church are asked to:

- Contact and meet with your parish priest as soon as you are engaged.
- Take at least six months to intensively prepare for your marriage. This goes beyond choosing a date and church, reserving a place for the reception, and picking out dresses. It means using this time to delve more deeply into your relationship and approach this momentous day with prayer and reflection.
- Attend an approved marriage preparation program. There are many different formats for marriage preparation programs ranging from intensive weekends, to a weekly series, to “in home” mentor couple programs. To find what programs are available near you, contact your diocesan family life office. Catholic marriage preparation programs are usually presented by a team of lay married couples and a priest or deacon. They are not restricted to Catholics, but they are always in keeping with Church teaching.
- Most dioceses ask couples to take a marriage preparation inventory (such as FOCCUS, PMI, or PREPARE). These are not “tests” to determine whether you can get married in the Church, but rather discussion starters to assess what issues you already agree on and what you might need to discuss further.

Most importantly at the time of your engagement, the Church welcomes you to this sacrament of Marriage in the spirit of Jesus who said:

>This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.

>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.

>(John 15:12-13)

For more information, visit [www.ForYourMarriage.org](http://www.ForYourMarriage.org), and initiative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.
We begin our prayer:
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Grant us, we pray, O Lord our God, the constant gladness of being devoted to you, for it is full and lasting happiness to serve with constancy the author of all that is good. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

(Collect, Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Reading (Lectio)
Read the following Scripture two or three times.
Luke 21:5-19

While some people were speaking about how the temple was adorned with costly stones and votive offerings, Jesus said, "All that you see here-- the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down."

Then they asked him, "Teacher, when will this happen? And what sign will there be when all these things are about to happen?" He answered, "See that you not be deceived, for many will come in my name, saying, 'I am he,' and 'The time has come.' Do not follow them! When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for such things must happen first, but it will not immediately be the end." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues from place to place; and awesome sights and mighty signs will come from the sky.

"Before all this happens, however, they will seize and persecute you, they will hand you over to the synagogues and to prisons, and they will have you led before kings and governors because of my name. It will lead to your giving testimony. Remember, you are not to prepare your defense beforehand, for I myself shall give you a wisdom in speaking that all your adversaries will be powerless to resist or refute. You will even be handed over by parents, brothers, relatives, and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name, but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

Meditation (Meditatio)
After the reading, take some time to reflect in silence on one or more of the following questions:

- What word or words in this passage caught your attention?
- What in this passage comforted you?
- What in this passage challenged you?
If practicing lectio divina as a family or in a group, after the reflection time, invite the participants to share their responses.

**Prayer (Oratio)**
Read the Scripture passage one more time. Bring to the Lord the praise, petition, or thanksgiving that the Word inspires in you.

**Contemplation (Contemplatio)**
Read the Scripture again, followed by this reflection:

What conversion of mind, heart, and life is the Lord asking of me?

Many will come in my name, saying, “I am he,” and “The time has come.” Do not follow them! What false paths am I tempted to follow? How do I discern the path to which God is calling me?

You will be hated by all because of my name. When have I suffered ridicule or teasing because of my faith? When have I shown bias toward others because of their faith?

By your perseverance you will secure your lives. When do I struggle to remain faithful? What supports my faith in difficult times?

After a period of silent reflection and/or discussion, all recite the Lord’s Prayer and the following:

**Closing Prayer:**

Sing praise to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and melodious song.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn sing joyfully before the King, the LORD.

Let the sea and what fills it resound, the world and those who dwell in it; let the rivers clap their hands, the mountains shout with them for joy.

Before the LORD, for he comes, for he comes to rule the earth, He will rule the world with justice and the peoples with equity.

(From Psalm 98)

**Living the Word This Week**

*How can I make my life a gift for others in charity?*


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