

Sunday Newsletter

J.M.J.

XXIV and Last Sunday after Pentecost

11-24-2024

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Table of Contents

*Part 1: Epistle & Gospel**Part 2: Weekly Ordo & Mass Schedule**Part 3: Announcements**Part 4: Sermon**Part 5: Weekly Catechism Home Lessons*

Part 1: Epistle & Gospel

EPISTLE (Col. I. 9—14.) Brethren, We cease not to pray for you, and to beg that you may be filled with the knowledge of the will of God, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding: that you may walk worthy of God, in all things pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God: strengthened with all might according to the power of his glory, in all patience and long-suffering with joy, giving thanks to God the Father, who hath made us worthy to be partakers of the lot of the saints in light; who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of the Son of his love, in whom we have redemption through his blood, the remission of sins.

GOSPEL (Matt. XXIV. 15—35.) At that time, Jesus said to his disciples: When you shall see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place: he that readeth, let him understand: then they that are in Judea, let them flee to the mountains: and he that is on the house-top, let him not come down to take anything out of his house: and he that is in the field, let him not go back to take his coat. And woe to them that are with child, and that give suck, in those days. But pray that your flight be not in the winter, or on the Sabbath. For there shall be then great tribulation, such as hath not been from the beginning of the world until now, neither shall be: and unless those days had been shortened, no flesh should be saved: but for the sake of the elect, those days shall be shortened. Then, if any man shall say to you: Lo, here is Christ, or there: do not believe him: for there shall arise false Christs and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders, insomuch as to deceive (if possible) even the elect. Behold, I have told it to you beforehand: if therefore they shall say to you: Behold, he is in the desert, go ye not out; Behold, he is in the closets, believe it not. For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and appeareth even into the west, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. Wherever the body shall be, there shall the eagles also be gathered together. And immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be moved: and then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven, and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with much power and majesty: and he shall send his angels with a trumpet and a great voice, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the farthest parts of the heavens to the utmost bounds of them. And from the fig-tree learn a parable: when the branch thereof is now tender, and the leaves come forth, you know that summer is nigh. So you also, when you shall see all these things, know ye that it is nigh, even at the doors. Amen I say to you, that this generation shall not pass till all these things be done. Heaven and earth shall pass, but my words shall not pass.

Part 2: Weekly Ordo & Mass Schedule

This upcoming week's TLM Mass Schedule & Parish Ordo

Note: TLM on Thanksgiving Day will be at 7:00am.

Date & Time	Day of Week	Mass	Color	Gloria/Credo	Preface	Commemoration(s)	Notes
11/24/2024 Noon	Sunday	XXIV and Last Sunday after Pentecost	Green	g,c	Trinity		
11/25/2024 8am	Monday	St. Catherine of Alexandria	Red	g	Common		
11/26/2024 8am	Tuesday	St. Sylvester	White	g	Common	St. Peter Alexandrinus	
11/27/2024 8am	Wednesday	Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal	White	g	BVM		
11/28/2024 7am	Thursday	Requiem: In Missis Cotidianis Defunctorum	Black		Requiem		
11/29/2024 8am	Friday	St. Saturninus	Red	g	Common		
11/30/2024 NO TLM TODAY	Saturday	St. Andrew	Red	g,c	Apostles		
12/1/2024 Noon	Sunday	1st Sunday of Advent	Violet	c	Trinity		

Part 3: Announcements

1. More Information on Notes & Announcements
 - a. Please visit embercatholic.com to read this Sunday's Newsletter, which contains the following announcements, sermon notes, links, and Sunday Catechesis Home Lessons.
2. Debate over whether December 9, 2024, is a Holy of Obligation for those who attend the TLM
 - a. This year December 8 falls on a Sunday.
 - i. In the Novus Ordo Calendar, the 2nd Sunday of Advent takes precedence over the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.
 1. As a result, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is transferred to Monday, December 9, 2024. [December 9, 2024 is therefore a Holy Day of Obligation.](#)

- b. However, in the Traditional Calendar, the 1st Class Feast of the Immaculate Conception [takes precedence](#) over the 2nd Sunday of Advent.
 - i. As a result, those who attend the TLM on Sunday, December 8, 2024 are attending the Mass of the Immaculate Conception on the typical date of this feast.
- c. The question arises: Do those who attend the TLM on Sunday, December 8, 2024, also have to treat Monday, December 9, 2024 as a Holy Day of Obligation (i.e. avoid servile labor and attend Holy Mass)?
 - i. [Some](#) say yes.
 - ii. However, Fr. Vidrine and I both agree that those who attend the TLM on Sunday, December 8, 2024, are not obligated to attend Mass on Monday, December 9, 2024.
 1. Between us, we consulted three Canon Lawyers.
 - a. Two said those who attend the TLM on Sunday, December 8, 2024, are not obligated to attend Mass on Monday, December 9, 2024.
 - b. A third Canon Lawyer initially thought that Monday, December 9, 2024 was a Holy Day of Obligation for all. However, a few days later, he followed up with me and informed me that a high-ranking Canon Lawyer he respected said, “The obligation follows the feast. So if the feast is celebrated liturgically on Sunday, then there is no obligation on Monday.”
 - iii. Friendly reminder: The priests of the Diocese of Lafayette have the faculty to “dispense persons, in individual cases and for a just cause, from the obligation of observing a day of precept.”
3. Seminarian Connor Williams:
 - a. Please Send Letters & Alms to [ICK](#) Seminarian Connor Williams:
 - i. 517 Elm St. Rockford IL, 61102
 - ii. givesendgo.com/GD8EE (for online donations/messages)
4. Thanksgiving Day
 - a. TLM on Thanksgiving Day will be at 7:00am.

Part 4: Sermon

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. **“For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and appeareth even into the west, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.” - These words are taken from today’s Gospel. +**
- 1.2. As today is the last Sunday of the Liturgical Year, we will examine some of the last things: Judgement, Heaven, & Hell, by [quoting and paraphrasing Fr. Spirago’s work “The Catechism Explained.”](#)

2. THE PARTICULAR JUDGMENT

- 2.1. **Immediately after death follows the particular judgment. Our works shall be revealed at our death (Ecclus. xi. 29).**
 - 2.1.1. As lightning cometh out of the east and appeareth even into the west, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be " (Matt. xxiv. 27).
 - 2.1.2. Christ will sit as Judge in the particular judgment. He will examine our whole lives, and will deal with us as we have dealt with our fellow men.
 - 2.1.3. At our death, when Christ comes to us, our whole life will be revealed to us with the rapidity and clearness of lightning.
 - 2.1.4. Our most secret deeds will be brought to light: "For there is not anything secret that shall not be made manifest, nor hidden that shall not be known and come abroad" (Luke viii. 17).
 - 2.1.5. We must give an account even of every idle word that we have spoken (Matt. xii. 36).
 - 2.1.6. God is, as it were, a mirror, reflecting most perfectly the image of him who looks into it. " With what measure you mete, it shall be measured to you again" (Matt, vii. 2).
- 2.2. **The Sentence given at our particular judgment.**
 - 2.2.1. After the particular judgment, the souls of men go into hell, or heaven, or purgatory.
 - 2.2.1.1. The sentence of the judge is carried out at once (Luke xvi.).
 - 2.2.2. The Church has defined (at the Council of Lyons, ii., 1274) that those who have not sinned after Baptism, and those who having sinned after Baptism, have expiated those

sins on earth or in purgatory, are received at once into heaven; while those who die in mortal sin descend at once to hell.

- 2.2.3. They are very few who enter heaven at once, for : " Nothing defiled can enter heaven" (Apoc. xxi. 27). According to Bellarmine it is seldom even that a just man escapes purgatory.

2.2.3.1. All have it in their power to be saved, but not all use their graces.

2.3. Word of Caution

- 2.3.1. We should not confuse the particular judgment with general judgment;

2.3.1.1. In the particular judgment the soul receives its punishment or reward for the evil or good it has done.

2.3.1.2. In the General Judgement, the body shares punishment or reward as the instrument of the soul.

3. HELL

3.1. Hell is the abode of everlasting torment. (Matt, xxv. 46).

3.1.1. Hell is both a place and a state. As a place, it is situated beneath the earth.

3.1.2. With good reason St. John Chrysostom exhorts us not to inquire so much where hell is as how to avoid it.

3.1.3. Hell is sharply defined from heaven; between them yawns a chasm (Luke xvi. 26). The lost are separated from the saints (Matt. xxiv. 51).

3.1.4. The torments of hell are terrible; for the damned never see God, they are in the company of evil spirits and in fire, they endure great anguish of mind, and after the resurrection, will have to suffer in their bodies.

3.2. Christ calls hell an "unquenchable fire" (Mark ix. 44),

3.2.1. Because the sensation of burning is the greatest pain which man can conceive on earth. In other places He speaks of the " outer darkness " (Matt. xxii. 13) because the damned never see God, the source of eternal light.

3.2.2. It is probable also that the fire of hell is not like fire as we know it on earth.

- 3.2.3. Our fire destroys; that of hell does not consume but rather preserves, as salt preserves meat (Mark ix. 48) ;
- 3.2.4. Our fire gives light, while in hell there is darkness (Matt. xxii. 13).
- 3.2.5. Our fire warms, while the fire of hell is accompanied by an insupportable cold, and moreover it is much more painful;
- 3.2.6. "Our fire," says St. Vincent Ferrer, " is cold in comparison with that of hell."

3.3. The tortures of the damned are eternal.

- 3.4. Satan with his followers is cast into a pool of fire and brimstone, where he will be tormented day and night forever (Apoc. xx. 10). In hell there is no redemption, for the day of grace is gone (John iii. 36).

3.5. The torments of the damned are not all alike, but vary according to the sin.

- 3.5.1. According to St. Thomas, they are as various as the sins committed on earth; they depend on the nature, number, and gravity of the sin.
 - 3.5.1.1. Those who have lived in pleasure shall be punished by a corresponding amount of suffering and torment (Apoc. xviii. 7).
 - 3.5.1.2. The inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrhah will have a lighter judgment than that city which rejected the apostles (Matt. x. 15).

3.6. The souls of those who die in mortal sin go to hell.

- 3.6.1. A [unconfessed, unrepented] single mortal sin, done however secretly, is enough to send a man to eternal perdition.
- 3.6.2. The following also go to hell: the enemies of Christ (Ps. cix. 1), all those who refuse to believe in the Gospel (John iii. 18), the impure, thieves, covetous, railers (1 Cor. vi. 10), all who have neglected the talents given to them by God (Matt. xxv. 30).

4. HEAVEN.

- 4.1. **Heaven is an abode of everlasting joy.**

- 4.1.1. Heaven is both a place and a state.
- 4.1.2. It consists in the vision of God (Matt, xviii. 10), and in the peace and joy of the Holy Spirit (Rom. xiv. 17) ;
 - 4.1.2.1. This vision of God is the source of untold happiness.
 - 4.1.2.2. " The blessed," says St. Bonaventure, " rejoice more over God's blessedness than over their own."
 - 4.1.2.3. " If the contemplation of creation is so sweet," says St. Charles Borromeo, "how much more so must be the contemplation of the Creator ! "

4.2. The joys of heaven are unspeakably great.

- 4.2.1. The blessed are free from even the slightest pain;
- 4.2.2. They enjoy the vision of God and the friendship of all the inhabitants of heaven.
- 4.2.3. Of the joys of heaven, St. Paul writes : " Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man, what things God hath prepared for them that love Him" (1 Cor. ii. 9).
- 4.2.4. Hence this great joy banishes all sadness. The blessed in heaven also love one another; they are as one (John xvii. 21).

4.3. The joys of heaven last forever.

- 4.3.1. Christ says : " The just will enter into everlasting life." His reward is eternal, the only one worthy of Him. Were it not so, the joy of heaven would be incomplete from the fear of its coming to an end.

4.4. The happiness of the blessed varies according to their merits.

4.5. Only those souls enter heaven which are free from all sin, and from the penalty due to sin.

- 4.5.1.** According to the Council of Florence, the souls only of those who after Baptism have not sinned, or who, if they have sinned, have done perfect penance on earth or in purgatory, can enter heaven. "Nothing defiled can enter heaven" (Apoc. xxi. 27).

4.6. Heaven is won by suffering and self-denial.

- 4.6.1.** St. Paul writes: "By many tribulations must we enter the kingdom of God" (Acts xiv. 21).
- 4.6.2.** Christ's words are: "He that loveth his life shall lose it, and he that hateth his life in this world keepeth it unto life eternal" (John xii. 25).
- 4.6.2.1.** i.e., he who goes after all the joys and pleasures of this world will be damned, and he who despises them will be saved.
- 4.6.3.** There is no blessedness without self-denial.
- 4.6.4.** The greater efforts we make to secure salvation, the greater will be our joy.

5. THE RESURRECTION OF THE BODY

5.1. "By a man came death, and by a man the resurrection of the dead " (1 Cor. xv. 21).

- 5.1.1.** Our Saviour redeemed mankind body and soul.
- 5.1.2.** Christ on the Last Day will raise the bodies of all men from the dead, and unite them to the soul forever.
- 5.1.3.** God's justice demands that the body should take part in the triumph.

5.2. After the resurrection, we shall have the same bodies as we now have.

- 5.2.1.** All the risen bodies will be without defect and immortal.
- 5.2.2.** The bodies of the just will be glorious and those of the wicked hideous.
- 5.2.2.1.** The bodies of the just will resemble the glorified body of Christ (Phil. iii. 21), and will have the following properties:
- 5.2.2.1.1.** They will be impassible (Apoc. xxi. 4),
- 5.2.2.1.2.** Shining like the sun (Matt. xiii. 43),
- 5.2.2.1.3.** Swift as thought,
- 5.2.2.1.4.** Capable of penetrating matter.

5.2.2.1.5. The beauty of the body will be in proportion to that of the soul (Rom. viii. 11 ; 1 Cor. xv. 41)

5.3. Belief in the resurrection is a great help to us; it consoles us in our sufferings and comforts our relatives and friends when we come to die.

6. THE GENERAL JUDGMENT.

6.1. Immediately after the resurrection [of the dead] the general judgment will take place.

- 6.1.1. Christ has often said that after the resurrection all man kind will be assembled before Him to be judged.
- 6.1.2. The general judgment will take place in order that God's wisdom and justice may be made manifest to all creatures.
- 6.1.3. Christ will be Judge in order that the honor of which He was robbed may be restored to Him before all creation.
- 6.1.4. He will reveal all, even the most hidden things, will exact an account from all men of the works of mercy they have or ought to have performed, and by a final sentence separate forever the good from the bad.

6.2. The Day of Judgment is unknown to us, though certain signs have been revealed which are to herald its approach.

- 6.2.1. The knowledge of it would be of as little use as the knowledge of the hour of our death. Christ gave some signs of the approach of the Last Day (Matt. xxiv. 3, etc.), so that Christians might remain steadfast and courageous. The signs are :

6.2.1.1. **The Gospel shall be preached to the whole world** (Matt, xxiv. 14).

6.2.1.2. **The greater part of mankind will be without faith** (Luke xviii. 8; 2 Thess. ii. 3) and immersed in things of earth (Luke xvii. 26, etc.).

6.2.1.2.1. Mankind will be much as they were in the days of Noe (Matt. xxiv. 38).

6.2.1.3. Antichrist will appear.

6.2.1.3.1. Antichrist is a man who will give himself out to be Christ, and by the help of the devil will perform many wonders (2 Thess. ii. 9). He will be a

terror by the persecution which he will raise (Apoc. xx. 3-9). It is probable that he will choose for his kingdom Jerusalem and those places where Christ lived. Our Lord will kill him on the Last Day (2 Thess. ii. 8). Types and forerunners of Antichrist have existed from time to time (1 John ii. 18), "for the mystery of iniquity already worketh " (2 Thess. ii. 7).

6.2.1.4. Enoch and Elias will return and preach penance.

6.2.1.5. The Jews will be converted.

6.2.1.6. Dreadful signs will appear and great tribulations will come upon mankind.

6.2.2. St. Augustine recommends us to do now as we should do if tomorrow were to be the Last Day ; then we shall have no occasion to dread the coming of the Judge.

Part 5: Weekly Catechism Home Lessons

Excerpts from [Baltimore Catechism No. 3](#)

On the Last Judgment and Resurrection, Hell, Purgatory and Heaven

Q. 1371. When will Christ judge us?

A. Christ will judge us immediately after our death, and on the last day.

Q. 1372. What is the judgment called which we have to undergo immediately after death?

A. The judgment we have to undergo immediately after death is called the Particular Judgment.

Q. 1373. Where will the particular judgment be held?

A. The particular judgment will be held in the place where each person dies, and the soul will go immediately to its reward or punishment.

Q. 1374. What is the judgment called which all men have to undergo on the last day?

A. The judgment which all men have to undergo on the last day is called the General Judgment.

Q. 1375. Will the sentence given at the particular judgment be changed at the general judgment?

A. The sentence given at the particular judgment will not be changed at the general judgment, but it will be repeated and made public to all.

Q. 1376. Why does Christ judge men immediately after death?

A. Christ judges men immediately after death to reward or punish them according to their deeds.

Q. 1377. How may we daily prepare for our judgment?

A. We may daily prepare for our judgment by a good examination of conscience, in which we will discover our sins and learn to fear the punishment they deserve.

Q. 1378. What are the rewards or punishments appointed for men's souls after the Particular Judgment?

A. The rewards or punishments appointed for men's souls after the Particular Judgment are Heaven, Purgatory, and Hell.

Q. 1379. What is Hell?

A. Hell is a state to which the wicked are condemned, and in which they are deprived of the sight of God for all eternity, and are in dreadful torments.

Q. 1380. Will the damned suffer in both mind and body?

A. The damned will suffer in both mind and body, because both mind and body had a share in their sins. The mind suffers the "pain of loss" in which it is

tortured by the thought of having lost God forever, and the body suffers the "pain of sense" by which it is tortured in all its members and senses.

Q. 1381. What is Purgatory?

A. Purgatory is the state in which those suffer for a time who die guilty of venial sins, or without having satisfied for the punishment due to their sins.

Q. 1382. Why is this state called Purgatory?

A. This state is called Purgatory because in it the souls are purged or purified from all their stains; and it is not, therefore, a permanent or lasting state for the soul.

Q. 1383. Are the souls in Purgatory sure of their salvation?

A. The souls in Purgatory are sure of their salvation, and they will enter heaven as soon as they are completely purified and made worthy to enjoy that presence of God which is called the Beatific Vision.

Q. 1384. Do we know what souls are in Purgatory, and how long they have to remain there?

A. We do not know what souls are in Purgatory nor how long they have to remain there; hence we continue to pray for all persons who have died apparently in the true faith and free from mortal sin. They are called the faithful departed.

Q. 1385. Can the faithful on earth help the souls in Purgatory?

A. The faithful on earth can help the souls in Purgatory by their prayers, fasts, alms, deeds; by indulgences, and by having Masses said for them.

Q. 1386. Since God loves the souls in Purgatory, why does He punish them?

A. Though God loves the souls in Purgatory, He punishes them because His holiness requires that nothing defiled may enter heaven and His justice requires that everyone be punished or rewarded according to what he deserves.

Q. 1387. If every one is judged immediately after death, what need is there of a general judgment?

A. There is need of a general judgment, though every one is judged immediately after death, that the providence of God, which, on earth, often permits the good to suffer and the wicked to prosper, may in the end appear just before all men.

Q. 1388. What is meant by "the Providence of God"?

A. By "the Providence of God" is meant the manner in which He preserves, provides for, rules and governs the world and directs all things by His infinite Will.

Q. 1389. Are there other reasons for the general judgment?

A. There are other reasons for the general judgment, and especially that Christ Our Lord may receive from the whole world the honor denied Him at His first coming, and that all may be forced to acknowledge Him their God and Redeemer.

Q. 1390. Will our bodies share in the reward or punishment of our souls?

A. Our bodies will share in the reward or punishment of our souls, because through the resurrection they will again be united to them.

Q. 1391. When will the general resurrection or rising of all the dead take place?

A. The general resurrection or rising of all the dead will take place at the general judgment, when the same bodies in which we lived on earth will come forth from the grave and be united to our souls and remain united with them forever either in heaven or in hell.

Q. 1392. In what state will the bodies of the just rise?

A. The bodies of the just will rise glorious and immortal.

Q. 1393. Will the bodies of the damned also rise?

A. The bodies of the damned will also rise, but they will be condemned to eternal punishment.

Q. 1394. Why do we show respect for the bodies of the dead?

A. We show respect for the bodies of the dead because they were the dwelling-place of the soul, the medium through which it received the Sacraments, and because they were created to occupy a place in heaven.

Q. 1395. What is Heaven?

A. Heaven is the state of everlasting life in which we see God face to face, are made like unto Him in glory, and enjoy eternal happiness.

Q. 1396. In what does the happiness in heaven consist?

A. The happiness in heaven consists in seeing the beauty of God, in knowing Him as He is, and in having every desire fully satisfied.

Q. 1397. What does St. Paul say of heaven?

A. St. Paul says of heaven, "That eye hath not seen. nor ear heard, neither hath it entered into the heart of man what things God hath prepared for them that love Him." (I. Cor. ii., 9.)

Q. 1398. Are the rewards in heaven and the punishments in hell the same for all who enter into either of these states?

A. The rewards of heaven and the punishments in hell are not the same for all who enter into either of these states, because each one's reward or punishment is in proportion to the amount of good or evil he has done in this world. But as heaven and hell are everlasting, each one will enjoy his reward or suffer his punishment forever.

Q. 1399. What words should we bear always in mind?

A. We should bear always in mind these words of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ: "What doth it profit a man if he gain the whole world and suffer the loss of his own soul, or what exchange shall a man give for his soul? For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then will He render to every man according to his works."

Q. 1400. Name some of the more essential religious truths we must know and believe.

A. Some of the more essential religious truths we must know and believe are:

1. That there is but one God, and He will reward the good and punish the wicked.
2. That in God there are three Divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, and these Divine Persons are called the Blessed Trinity.
3. That Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, became man and died for our redemption.
4. That the grace of God is necessary for our salvation.
5. That the human soul is immortal.