

Homily Summary – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Main Themes:

- *The Last Things*: As the liturgical year draws to a close, we are reminded to reflect on the end times and Christ's Second Coming. This reflection challenges us to live with purpose, hope, and vigilance.
- *St. Michael and Eternal Choices*: St. Michael's protection reminds us of God's care during times of distress (Daniel 12:1). Our choices determine whether we are among those who rise to "everlasting life" or "everlasting contempt" (Daniel 12:2).
- *Be Ready*: Jesus warns in Mark's Gospel that signs will precede His return. We do not know the day or hour, so we must live with hearts prepared and lamps of faith burning brightly (Mark 13:24-32).

Key Scripture Passages:

- *Daniel 12:1-3*: "At that time your people shall escape, everyone who is found written in the book."
- *Psalms 16:5*: "You are my inheritance, O Lord!"
- *Mark 13:24-32*: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

- CCC 1038: "The resurrection of all the dead will precede the Last Judgment."
- CCC 1041: The Church calls all to conversion in preparation for the Last Judgment.

Practical Steps for Living the Gospel:

1. **Prioritize God**: Make Him your treasure, as the Psalmist says, "You are my inheritance, O Lord" (Psalm 16:5).
2. **Embrace Confession**: Trust in God's mercy to renew and restore your soul. Avoid presumption of forgiveness, which neglects sincere repentance (CCC 2092).
3. **Serve Others**: Jesus teaches that serving our neighbor is serving Him (Matthew 25). Consider participating in a St. Vincent de Paul Society to live out this mission.

Reflection Questions:

- Am I ready for Christ's return, or do I fear it?
- Do I live each day with my heart prepared to meet the Lord?
- How can I more faithfully love and serve God and my neighbor?

Mary and St. Michael:

Mary's unwavering trust in God at the Annunciation inspires us to say "yes" to His will. St. Michael, our guardian during times of great distress, strengthens us through prayer, especially the St. Michael Prayer.

Takeaway Message:

God's love calls us to vigilance and service, preparing us for eternal life. By making Him our treasure, repenting through Confession, and loving our neighbor, we live as His disciples and shine His light in the world.

Rap Summary:

The stars may fall, the sun may fade,
But God's kingdom shines, it won't degrade.
Be vigilant, love, and serve your kin,
Through Christ's mercy, we're cleansed of sin.

Final Encouragement:

Let us recommit ourselves to Christ, trusting in His mercy and striving to live with readiness, love, and purpose. In Him, we find our peace and eternal joy.

Reasons to come to Mass each weekend

Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Exodus 20:8 - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

Luke 22:19 - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

Acts 2:42 - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

John 6:53-54 - "So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'"

Psalms 122:1 - "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

Matthew 18:20 - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Colossians 3:16 - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith

- Check out the resource list available on www.frmerkley.com
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>