

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

A business owner decides to take a tour around his business and see how things are going. He goes down to the shipping docks and sees a young man leaning against the wall doing nothing. The owner walks up to the young man and says, "Son, how much do you make a day? The guy replies, 150 dollars. The owner pulls out his wallet, gives him \$150 and tells him to get out and never come back. A few minutes later, the shipping clerk asks the owner, "Have you seen the UPS driver?? I asked him to wait here for me!

Dear Friends,

As we approach the end of the liturgical year, the Church presents us with readings that remind us of the ultimate destiny of humanity and the world. Today's Gospel from Mark speaks of cosmic upheaval, the coming of the Son of Man, and the fulfillment of God's kingdom. At first glance, these words might seem unsettling, even frightening. But if we delve deeper, they are a message of profound hope and reassurance.

How many of us want to see Christ's second coming? How do we feel about our own end of life? There is always hope that we will meet Christ in heaven when we get there.

A farmer, known for his calm demeanor, was once asked how he managed to stay at peace, even during stormy seasons. He replied, "When the skies are calm, I prepare my farm. I strengthen the barn, secure the roof, and store enough provisions. So, when the storms come, I don't need to worry—I know I'm ready."

All the readings talk about the end and give us hope. In the first reading, Daniel prophesies about a time of great distress but also promises deliverance for those whose names are written in the book of life. This is a reminder that our ultimate destiny lies not in the trials we face but in the eternal life God offers to the faithful.

Jesus uses the fig tree to teach about signs of the times. Just as seasons change, signaling new beginnings, the challenges and signs we experience today point toward God's ultimate fulfillment of His promises.

There's a story of a lighthouse keeper who diligently tended his light every night. One stormy evening, a ship was saved because of his steadfast work. When asked why he continued his task so faithfully, he said, "I don't know when the ships might pass, but I do know they depend on my light."

Like the lighthouse keeper, we are called to shine as beacons of faith and hope, even amid life's storms. Our perseverance can lead others to God's saving light. Be a Light for Others: Encourage and inspire others through acts of kindness, sharing your faith, and living with integrity. Like the lighthouse keeper, your light might guide someone to Christ.

Let us Pray: Heavenly Father, in times of uncertainty, remind us of Your steadfast love and promises. Help us to live as faithful witnesses, prepared and hopeful for the day when Your Son will come again in glory. Amen.