



THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

November 3, 2024

St. James Catholic Church

*3909 Harrison * Kansas City, Missouri 64110*

"Small enough to know your name, big enough to make a difference."

Reflection from Fr. Garry Richmeier

As we get closer to the end of the liturgical Church year, which ends with Christ the King Sunday on Nov. 24, the scripture readings at Mass start to focus on the end times and the coming of the Reign of God. It coincides with the season of Fall, when the growing season ends and things appear to die. This is a depressing time for many people because we really don't like good things to end, and we really don't like death. And yet we have these scriptures that seem to haunt us with the less-than-desirable prospect of the end.

We tend to have this deep, down feeling that there is something wrong when pleasant things end, but there is something right when unpleasant things end. In reality, all things end no matter what they are -- there is nothing right or wrong about it. And we tend to feel uneasy or even fearful when something ends and we don't know what will take its place. If it's one thing that most of us dislike, it is uncertainty. But that is also par for the course regarding reality.

So how do we manage these sometimes unpleasant feelings? Hindsight is often helpful. How many endings and beginnings have each of us been through in our life? More than we can count. Some have been unpleasant, even traumatic. Some have been pleasant. And yet we are still here to talk about them all. We've survived, albeit with all the accompanying scars and blessings we've collected along the way. Endings and beginnings are continuous and normal if we are alive. To be uncomfortable with them may be human, but we don't have to fear them. That is what the scriptures may be trying to tell us at the end of the Church year. God has created this reality to work this way, complete with the constant beginnings and endings. And if God has designed it, we can trust it. We may never fully understand it, but that is why it is called "faith." So we embrace this ending of another season and another Church year, turning yet another page in life, trusting that it is another step toward the full reign of God.

