



THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

November 17, 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 Sr. Michele Morek, OSU

Chiaroscuro: The painting technique involving dramatic contrasts of light and shadow. That came to my mind when I read the scriptures for the 33rd Sunday of the year. Perhaps fitting as we approach the end of the Church Year and the beginning of Advent. Perhaps fitting for us as we recover from a stressful election?

Look at the contrasts in the readings: "A time unsurpassed in distress"—but with a promise that "God's people will escape." Will it be an awakening to eternal life, or to "horror and disgrace?" But Jesus assures us that—even though the sun will be darkened—somehow life will persist, as seen in the budding of the fig tree. This is a painful time, but it is not the end.

All the scary events are signs that we will see Jesus coming in glory, that his words will not pass away, and that we will be gathered together again. In fact, that

The wise shall shine brightly...and those who lead the many to justice shall be like the stars forever.

That really caught my eye—not only because this quotation from Daniel is on our Ursuline coat of arms, but because it is how I will remember Saint James and you. As I leave this beloved parish to return to my motherhouse in Kentucky, I have been reflecting on the light you have been for me these past six years. Thank you for who you are, for all those whom you have led to justice, and for letting your light shine!

