Thirty-Third Sunday — November 16, 2025

From the Desk of Fr. Leo

A certain religious sect, the members of which seem to like to knock on our doors, has predicted the end of the world five times – all between the twentieth and the twenty first century. Scientists assure us that one day, billions of years from now, the world will end because the sun, a source of energy, will exhaust its fuel. The Church teaches that the world, and indeed the universe will end, but not in the way or at the time that either this religious sect or some scientists believe.

Jesus taught that the time for the end of the world is hidden within the plan of God the Father. In fact, Jesus dismissed questions about when all of this will happen as insignificant. And so, the Church teaches us that "we do not know the time for the consummation of the earth and of humanity." (Vatican II's Constitution on the Church in the Modern World., #39).

The Scriptures and other teachings of the Church call us to understand that God purifies what he has created, but he does not destroy it. God directs what he has made toward perfection, not annihilation. And so, the Church also teaches us through the Vatican Council that "We do not know how all things will be transformed. As deformed by sin, the shape of this world will pass away, but God is preparing a new dwelling place and a new earth where justice will abide and whose blessedness will answer and surpass all the longings for peace in the human heart."

An example of how God works underlies this Sunday's Gospel. Jesus predicted that the Jerusalem temple would be destroyed. This prophecy was fulfilled about forty years later, on August 9 in the year 70 A.D., to be exact, when the Roman soldiers set fire to the structure. It was a sorrowful day for God's people, and yet we believe that the physical temple was replaced by Jesus himself who said, speaking of his own body, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."

The truth about the end of the world is based on both the power and the love of God. God's power gives him complete control over the universe, and his love for his creation moves him to bring it to perfection. That perfection will be achieved when Christ comes again, "The Lord will come to rule the world with justice."

During the liturgy of the Eucharist, we acknowledge that Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again. As people of faith, we should look forward to the second coming of Christ without anxiety; we should not dread it as some think we should. That is why we also pray to God the Father, "Lord, protect us from all anxiety as we await in joyful hope for the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ."

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	**November 18**	**11:00AM**
Marcelina Morales†		Your Children
Wed.	**November 19**	**11:00AM**
Living Memorial		
Thur.	**November 20**	**11:00AM**
Thanksgiving		Buenaflor-Roth Family
Fri.	**November 21**	**11:00AM**
Chloe Bañaga (birthday)		Lola
Sat.	**November 22**	**4:30PM**
Gen Heuser †		Trudi
Sun.	**November 23**	**9:00AM**
Myrna Leal † (healing)		Andrea Delsid
Port Costa		**11:00AM**
People of the Parish		

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