



When Worlds Collapse

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

When personal worlds collapse, we can lose our way. The stars that marked our path through life disappear. When everything in life on which we had depended is shaken, we can feel life is not worth living. It happens when someone we love dies, when life-threatening illness lays us low, when a relationship disintegrates without warning. Then the world we once knew is no more. This week's Gospel suggests "when you see these things happening, know that he is near, at the gates" (Mark 13:29). But how can that be?

I met Marguerite and Ken when I came to the parish. A short time later, I received a phone call that Ken had suffered a massive heart attack. He had gone down to the basement for something, and that was where he died. I spent some time with Marguerite, and as you

can imagine, she was wrapped in grief. They'd had a wonderful marriage, she told me, had done everything together. Whatever one did, the other went along. Two years later, Marguerite and I were talking and she began telling me how life had changed for her without Ken. She still missed him terribly. But lately she found herself involved in all sorts of parish activities and services she never would have gotten into, simply because they had always done things together. Without Ken, she found new worlds she never knew existed. For Marguerite, God had opened the gates to new life. ●

Reflect

Has a personal tragedy ever become a doorway to new life for you?

[Jesus said,] "In those days after that tribulation the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light."

MARK 13:24



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St. Thomas More

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Adoration Room at STM
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Emergency Number for all 3 Churches 779-248-2164

CCD Classes

Sunday, November 17th - K thru 5th grades (9:45a-10:45am)

Sunday, November 24th - 6th & 7th graders (9:45am-11:15am)



Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of November 18, 2024

Monday	11/18			† No Mass
Tuesday	11/19	9:00 am	STM	† Purgatory Souls
Wednesday	11/20	5:30 pm	HT	† Gladys & Ivan Hassler
Thursday	11/21	9:00 am	HT	† Alan Hahn
Friday	11/22	9:00 am	STM	† Marie Coutts

Mass Intentions for the weekend of November 23 - 24, 2024

Saturday	11/23	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	† John Balma
Sunday	11/24	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	† Kathy Bonucchi
		10:30 am	St Patrick	† For the Parishioners

The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Feast Day: November 21st

Tradition believes that Joachim and Anne were barren, and for that reason people of the biblical era would have viewed the couple with suspicion and looked down on them. Like any other couple hoping to conceive, Joachim and Anne prayed to God, asking for the blessing of a child. God heard their prayer, and they were grateful to Him. The story of Joachim and Anne like the Old Testament account of the barren Hannah, who begged God for a child and later gave birth to Samuel. Maximus the Confessor, draws out the similarity in his *"The Life of the Virgin"*, comparing the name Hannah and Anna. The Presentation of Mary reminds us of Hannah's willingness to offer Samuel back to God because Joachim and Anne bring the child Mary to the temple in a similar fashion at the age of 3.

The Presentation of Mary highlights the fact Mary chooses God at this point in her life, even if at such a young age. On Dec. 8 the Church celebrates Mary's preservation from Original Sin, called her Immaculate Conception. We could say that God chose Mary, as He foresaw the merits of Christ's death and applied them to Mary. But the Presentation allows Mary to exercise her free will and choose to live her life devoted to God. Mary's choice lends us an example to follow. Each day is an opportunity for us to renew and recommit ourselves to the Lord's service, just as she did in the temple.

Catholics can look back and see Mary's time in the temple, from the age of 3 to 12, as a time of Advent and preparation. God called her to be there, and, in turn, she chose God. Because of this, God prepared her to receive the Savior of the World. The celebration of Mary's presentation in the temple is an anticipation of the Advent we commence around the time of this feast. Throughout the holy season of Advent, with Mary we can listen to the prophecies, watch and pray for the coming of the Dawn From On High. *(Excerpted from simplycatholic.com)*



Thanksgiving Day Mass

As we get ready for this year's Thanksgiving celebration, please be reminded there will be a morning Mass at Holy Trinity at 9:00 am. Come to this Mass so together we can thank God for all the blessings we have received throughout the year.

CCD Next Children's Mass

Our next all class - yes, Confirmation students included - Children's Mass will be on December 8th at Holy Trinity 8:30 am Mass. Please have children at the church by 8:15 am. Thank you.

Christmas Flowers

We will start early this year to take Christmas flower donations to be sure we get our orders on time to the flower shop. Please donate \$25 for each of the deceased family members that you would like to donate Christmas flowers in remembrance of. If you just want to donate money to the Christmas flower fund, any amount will be greatly appreciated. Names will be listed in the bulletin. Flower envelopes are available in back of the churches.



LATEST OFFERING'S

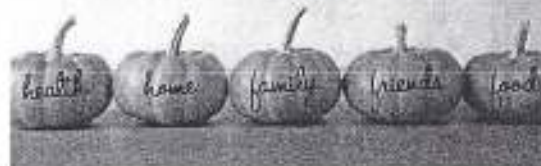
NOV 10TH WEEKEND

HT - \$1,121.00

SP - \$ 307.00

STM - \$1,248.00

What are YOU Thankful For?



CONFESSIONS

CONFESSIONS WILL BE ON

SAT. NOV 23RD AT

ST. THOMAS MORE

IN THE HALL

Dear Padre,

I am confused by Genesis 6:6: "The LORD regretted making human beings on the earth, and his heart was grieved." How can a perfect being regret something he created in his own image?

Sometimes reading an isolated line of Scripture can be confusing. Context is essential. The Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation (*Dei Verbum*), promulgated by Pope St. Paul VI on November 18, 1965, clearly teaches this Catholic understanding of sacred Scripture. A proper appreciation of context, in the example you provided, reminds us that the holy writers of Scripture were not reporting the words of the Lord like an announcer on the evening news. This is not a newspaper account of a witnessed event or a report commenting on the scene that has unfolded. Biblical authors were constrained by their own experience and perception, even as they were inspired by the Spirit of God. When they made a conclusion, they frequently revealed more about their humanity than they did about the divinity they witnessed. The divine is just too wonderful and mysterious for humans to fully comprehend.

The author of Genesis provided a summary of how the experience of the creative activity of God was perceived. It is not the whole story and is perhaps best understood more as a contrast with Genesis 1:31, where we read that on the sixth day, "God looked at everything he had made, and found it very good." ●

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org



Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
November 18	November 19	November 20	November 21	November 22	November 23	November 24
Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday
Rv 1:1-4; 2:1-5	Rv 3:1-6, 14-22	Rv 4:1-11	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	St. Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr	Rv 11:4-12	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Lk 18:35-43	Lk 19:1-10	Lk 19:11-28	Rv 5:1-10 Lk 19:41-44	Rv 10:8-11 Lk 19:45-48	Lk 20:27-40	Dn 7:13-14 Rv 1:5-8 Jn 18:33b-37



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Those who do good, are investing in eternity. When we see a person who is generous and helpful, meek, patient, who is not envious, does not gossip, who is not boastful...who is not rude...this is a person who builds Heaven on earth... What they do will not be lost because good is never lost, good lasts forever.

ANGELUS, ROME, NOVEMBER 14, 2021