

*St. Philip the Apostle*  
Roman Catholic Church

**Friday, November 27, 2020**

-- Friday of the Thirty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time

-- Fr. Sherdel's Morning Mass Intention: ***Special Intention of  
Joan Zinszer***

**First Reading: Revelation 20:1-4, 11 – 21:2**

I, John, saw an angel come down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the abyss and a heavy chain. He seized the dragon, the ancient serpent, which is the Devil or Satan, and tied it up for a thousand years and threw it into the abyss, which he locked over it and sealed, so that it could no longer lead the nations astray until the thousand years are completed. After this, it is to be released for a short time.

Then I saw thrones; those who sat on them were entrusted with judgment. I also saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, and who had not worshiped the beast or its image nor had accepted its mark on their foreheads or hands. They came to life and they reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

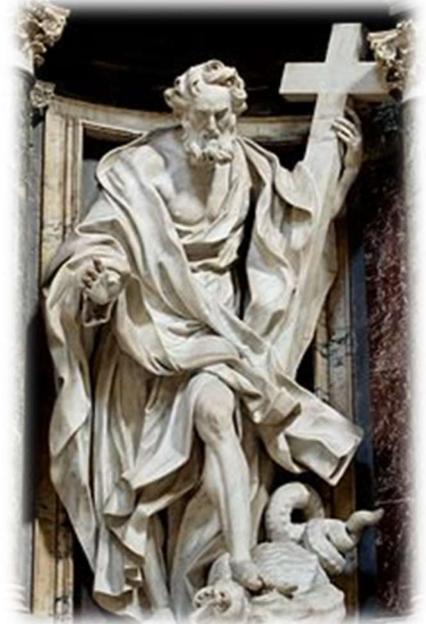
Next I saw a large white throne and the one who was sitting on it. The earth and the sky fled from his presence and there was no place for them. I saw the dead, the great and the lowly, standing before the throne, and scrolls were opened. Then another scroll was opened, the book of life. The dead were judged according to their deeds, by what was written in the scrolls. The sea gave up its dead; then Death and Hades gave up their dead. All the dead were judged according to their deeds. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the pool of fire. (This pool of fire is the second death.) Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the pool of fire.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

**Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 84:3, 4, 5-6, 8**

***Here God lives among his people.***

My soul yearns and pines  
for the courts of the Lord.  
My heart and my flesh



cry out for the living God. *R/.*

Even the sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest  
in which she puts her young –  
Your altars, O Lord of hosts,  
my king and my God! *R/.*

Blessed they who dwell in your house!  
continually they praise you.  
Blessed the men whose strength you are!  
They go from strength to strength. *R/.*

### **Gospel: Luke 21:29-33**

Jesus told his disciples a parable. “Consider the fig tree and all the other trees. When their buds burst open, you see for yourselves and know that summer is now near; in the same way, when you see these things happening, know that the Kingdom of God is near. Amen, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”

### **Reflection**

*Know that the Kingdom of God is near. (Luke 21:31)*

Have you noticed how many of our readings the past couple of weeks have focused on Jesus' triumphant return at the end of time? Certainly, it's a good thing to think about here at the end of the liturgical year, and it's good to be prepared to welcome the Lord when he returns. But many of these passages, like today's Gospel, can also be read in the light of the kingdom's presence among us right now. Yes, there is more to come, but we are already living in that new creation in which Jesus, the crucified and risen Lord, reigns.

What does it look like and feel like when God lives in the midst of his people? Here's one way to think about it. As we head into the holiday season, you will likely have many opportunities to see God working among your family, friends, and community. All of these can be signs of what life in God's kingdom is like.

For instance, you might notice how the shelves of your local food bank are overflowing, not only with necessary staples, but with special treats as well. Or you might see a toy collection box filled with gifts for children at a local shelter. You might notice one of your neighbors visiting the elderly couple down the street and helping them decorate their house. You might even be surprised by a relative's openness to share what's going on in their life or their desire to reconcile with you.

Now, it's easy to see God's kingdom breaking into our world through the selflessness or generosity of the people around us. But the kingdom is also at hand when situations don't look quite so heavenly. Sometimes family gatherings become contentious. Or the gift giving of the holiday season only makes you feel more lonely. Or severe weather highlights the plight of the homeless. But the kingdom is still there. Jesus is there, suffering with the poor and mourning over our divisions. He is there, embracing us in our isolation.

Indeed, Jesus is King. We can see and know it no matter what life throws at us. And that gives us hope.

*Jesus, give me eyes to see signs of your kingdom right here and right now.*

### **An Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus,  
I believe that You  
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament  
I love You above all things,  
and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment  
receive You sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there  
and unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You.  
Amen.

### **Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel**

St. Michael the Archangel,  
defend us in battle.  
Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.  
May God rebuke him, we humbly pray,  
and do thou,  
O Prince of the heavenly hosts,  
by the power of God,  
thrust into hell Satan,  
and all the evil spirits,  
who prowl about the world  
seeking the ruin of souls.  
Amen.