

From the desk of Fr. Stimpson:

October 17, 2021

Dear Friends,

I think our readings this weekend in the 29th Sunday of Ordinary Time are starting to make the end of the liturgical year shift. The last Sunday of Ordinary Time will come on Sunday November 21st, this is the Feast of Christ the King. So the last Sundays of Ordinary Time intentionally start to orient us toward Jesus' coming again in glory. It is a Catholic dogma that Jesus will return from heaven and with his coming will come the end of our regular experience of time and space, there will be what is called the "general judgment" in which all people who have ever lived in all of history will be reunited their souls with their bodies and we will receive our just rewards to heaven or hell. The second coming of Christ is not a day to fear but a day that we look forward to in hope and longing, because Jesus is the Son of God, and God is Love. We look forward to his coming because that is the day of the final victory of life over death.

I mention that the readings start to point us toward Christ the King because our first reading from Isaiah about the "Suffering Servant" is a typical reading during Advent in which we get ready for the first coming of Christ at Christmas. By turning to Isaiah, who is the Old Testament prophet par excellence about who the Savior will be, we come to get ready again for the Savior's coming. Jesus has triumphed not through military might but through his surrender in love to the Father, his uptake of the full brunt of the human condition unto death, so that we might be redeemed, risen, and share in his triumph provided we accept him in fidelity.

The second coming of Christ is a deep and important reality and toward which our whole existence is oriented, let us be prepared. On a then subordinate note, I wanted to mention the status of our parish hall building project.

As a reminder, we have completed architectural plans for the new hall, an architectural estimate of around 1.7 M and in savings close to 1.2M for the project. Prior to Co-Vid it was our intention in 2020 to go to bid and have a fundraiser to raise the remainder of the funds, then Co-Vid. We have all been impacted of course and we will get through it together too. Yet, I judged that doing a capital campaign was not tenable during a period when less of us were attending. We do have near regular attendance which is fantastic, yet now the concern is with material and labor costs and supply chain and inflation, etc. etc. I mention this to give you a bit of an update and then 1) to let you know the donations toward the parish hall project are still in saving and dedicated to the project 2) the intention is still to do the project 3) please converse and offer any input to any council member about your thoughts of timing- I imagine many of us personally or our relatives have already had some frustrations with other building projects and these are tricky times...how to manage a site improvement/expansion but also to do so with a fiscal responsibility relative to prudent affordability 4) be thinking about a donation to the project, meaning if you have current funds, feel free to continue donating to the building fund but also pray and plan for what you may be able to offer when we decide to go to bid and start to fundraise. That is a basic update on the hall, we are all watching how things are going in these days and while there is frustration at times, there remains hope, purpose, and prudence.

Peace
Father