**33rd.Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B): (Nov.14, 2021). Dn. 12:1-3; Heb 10:11-14, 18; Mk 13:24-32. “…Learn a lesson from the fig tree…And be watchful!”**

With this weekend’s Mass we have almost reached the end of the Church’s liturgical calendar. And appropriately the readings speak of the end of the world drawing near. As the followers of Christ, how well do we watch for the coming of his kingdom? How can we live our lives in the light of Christ’s promise? This is the crust of the message of hope in tribulation our mother Church is bringing us today.

In today’s gospel, Jesus compels his disciples to be watchful for the coming of the Son of Man, for they do not know the hour or day that the Lord will appear. The apocalyptic urgency with which Mark’s gospel communicates our need for vigilant watchfulness, can instill a sense of anxiety and trepidation, and even a sense of impending doom and total annihilation. In other words, it can sound as though Jesus is expecting us to stand, jaws and fists clenched, paralyzed by fear for the coming of the Son of Man. In short, the word **“VIGILANTE”** suddenly comes to mind! **Life Message:** Indeed, though Daniel and Mark describe frightful scenes, their accounts also remind their audience that God will ensure that the righteous will survive the ordeal and will find a place with Him. Through the parable of the fig tree, Jesus warns us all to read the **“signs of the time,”** and reminds us that we must be ever prepared to give an account of our lives to Jesus our Judge, because we cannot know **“either the day or the hour”** of our own death or of his second coming.

**Conclusion:** Yet our call to watchful attentiveness in life, need not be so driven by fear, because there is Hope in Tribulation. It can be lived out in gentle acts of noticing and attending to others’ needs. Just think of the many different vocations that demand alert attentiveness in a spirit of gentleness. Teachers are attentive to the learning and struggles of each student. Farmers are attentive to the changing seasons, to the crops, to the land. Poets and artists are attentive to the subtle beauty and wonderment, the pain and grief of the world. Yet in all the tempest storms and the seeming chaotic situations in our world today we are being assured that our God will be with us all the days of our lives and that we will have the ongoing presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst guiding, protecting and strengthening us in spite of our necessary human uncertainty concerning the end-time when **“Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.**

Examples: (A) **Is.40:30-31;** “Though, youths grow weary and tired, and young men stumble and fall; **but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like the Eagle…”**

(B**) Is. 41: 10** **“So do not fear, for I am with; do not be looking about in trouble/doubt, for I am your God; I will give you strength, yes, I will be your helper; yes, my true hand will be your support”**. (C) **Matt.28:20** **“Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age”. Yes, “IT’S NOT OVER, UNTIL IT’S OVER!**

Therefore, Christ’s second coming gives us the message that God is journeying with us in the trials and difficulties of life, and that His word is ever-present as a light of hope. He speaks to us through the Bible. And as Catholics, we have the Eucharist as a sign **“that God is with us, in our midst”**. However bottom-line,**“…Learn a lesson from the fig tree…And be watchful!” says Jesus!**