

Christ the King Sunday (B)

During November we come to the end of the Church's calendar, with Christ the King Sunday concluding the Church year. In the fulfillment of time, Christ wins it all — and He will reign supreme. *Christus Vincit!* (Christ Conquers!)

For these final weeks of the Church year, our readings focus upon the End Times. This genre of Scripture is called apocalyptic, a reference to the last book of the Bible. The book of the Apocalypse, also known as the book of Revelation is the book where all is uncovered, disclosed, and revealed.

The problem for many newcomers to the Faith — and even for veterans of the Faith — is that the book of Revelation is greatly misunderstood. It's a favorite for Hollywood and TV evangelists to misappropriate for their own ends.

The four horsemen; a savage beast with 7 deformed heads and 10 horns; a glorious Jesus Christ victorious parting the heavens; the final judgment and so forth.

Here is what the author of Revelation wanted all his readers to understand — that despite the calamities, despite loads of people leaving the Faith and evils of all kinds reigning on earth for a time, Christ will win in the final hour.

The battle that really matters has already been fought, and God has triumphed. Satan has been reduced to lordship in this world. The City of the World and the City of God had been forced to coexist. Eventually, even that "small" place that Satan claimed for his own would be taken from him, and God triumphed. This came about through Christ's conquering of death through his death and resurrection from the dead.

Catholics should take to heart a fundamental message of hope from the last month of the liturgical year and its numerous End Times readings. Despite all these evil things and evil people, God has it all under his control. In the end, Christ will be victorious!

As we revisited at Mass this month the parable of the Wise Virgins, it's important for us to be encouraged and prepared, as these young women were who prepared for the Bridegroom's late-night return!

We also hear proclaimed the parable of the Vigilant and Faithful Servants: "Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. ... You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

So, as we conclude the Church's liturgical year, be men and women of faith and hope, despite the evil present in the world all around us. Whether it is the world's final chapter and last page or just a preparation for it, take courage!

Christus Vincit! (Christ conquers!)