

November 9-10, 2019

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Second Maccabees 2:1-14

Second Thessalonians 2:16-3:5

Luke 20:27-38

Violence, death, entrapment, cruelty, All Saints, All Souls...with our clocks sufficiently turned back, the approaching closure of the Liturgical Year is again filled with images of people's 'departure from this world', otherwise known as death. Unlike the Mormons who believe that every human being has a 'pre-mortal' existence and just waits in a celestial 'que' to be born into a human body, we Roman Catholic-Christians believe that we are individually unique creations of God upon our conception, followed by multiple transformations throughout our lives as we mature and ultimately shed our human shells so as to be born into the next realm of existence with God: 'In my Father's house, there are many dwelling places...' While we have the recorded teachings and ministrations of Jesus recorded within the Scriptures, we must be cautious when speaking too authoritatively/insistently about where we have not yet been. We do know, from Jesus' Resurrection, that we maintain our unique identity...Jesus was clearly Jesus, right down to the wounds still present in his hands...YET...he could appear and disappear at will...not to mention the whole Resurrection experience. Jesus was the same yet changed....Jesus was changed yet the same. As went Jesus, so goes us...and everyone we cherish and hold dear. As is frequently mentioned by those who help grieving families in the planning of rituals following the death of a loved one, funerals are ultimately for the LIVING. Those who have shed their human shell are already encountering Jesus as a remorseful/recalcitrant penitent or as a welcomed son/daughter of our Heavenly Father. If you are reading this, presumably you are still part of our flesh and blood humanity...complete with a soul. Is your soul ready to be swept into Jesus' arms or are their actions, thoughts, life-styles or mind-sets for which we need atoning? Since, in the words of Jesus elsewhere in Scripture: 'We know not the day nor the hour...', might these be propitious days in which to get our lives in good order?

With Thanksgiving roughly 18 days distant, thank you for sharing a few hours of prayer and worship with our Santa Clara community. Our HEART & SOUL Christmas Adopt-A-Family opportunity occurs this weekend with families available for adoption on the GIVING TREE in the back of the Hall. The HEART & SOUL team is available to help you and collect the necessary information from you so that EVERY family is adopted. Please keep our HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH in your prayers as they gather this weekend for their Autumn Retreat at the Irvine Outdoor Educational Center. Bulletins are available with other news of upcoming events, please take one with you and please remember, you are loved. FKB