

Continued from the front page...

Misfortunes may happen and while those who are powerful may challenge our lives, they will eventually disappear – each in their own time. Throughout our history, in families, governments and our lives, there are four seasons. Yet our faith is focused on the fifth season! As Jesus said, the story will continue...

We must keep this hope alive! Despite potential negative experiences, Christ offers us a vision full of optimism. *I am the resurrection and the life. ... Do not be afraid, I am with you every day until the end of time.*

While some people tend to be fearful all their lives, Christians have a different perspective. Today's text is an invitation to hope, not to fear. It ends with the beautiful Parable of the Fig Tree: *As soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near* (Mk 13:28).

We can't understand Jesus' thoughts if we are "prophets of doom". *So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he (the Lord) is near, at the very gates* (Mk 13:29). Christianity embraces hope. This is the Gospel message today.

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Sunday November 18, 2018 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Instead of thinking about destruction and the end of the world, why not focus on aspects of completion and fulfillment as St. Mark suggests? Jesus said that we will see...*the Son of man coming in clouds with great power and glory...* (Mk 13:26). These words refer to the majestic and triumphant moments of the harvest.

The reference to the fig tree introduces the question of time: the day and the hour of the final coming. Jesus reacted to his contemporaries' anxiety as they awaited the end of time with these encouraging words: *Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour, no one knows...* (Mk 13:31).

This reading is full of hope. Those who only internalized a fear of God have not grasped anything from this Gospel passage. The *Day of the Lord* will be Christ's hour of victory. Christ has saved us and proclaimed his eternal love. The Son of Man will return in glory; our God is loving, compassionate and caring. Since Christ came to save the world, the faithful can anticipate the scene of the last judgment with great joy, serenity and enlightenment. It is the Father's response to our prayers: *Thy kingdom come...Come, Lord Jesus...*

The Week at a Glance

Sun Nov 18 9:00 am Mass in Carrot River **For †Wes, Heather & Ross Wheeler**
 11:00am Mass in Zenon Park **For the people**
 Mon Nov 19 *Fr Travis' day off*
 Tues Nov 20 9:00am Mass in Zenon Park **For Healing in the Church**
 Wed Nov 21 9:00am Mass in Zenon Park **For †Jesse Dzik**
 7:30pm ZP Parish Council Mtg
 Thurs Nov 22 no mass
 Fri Nov 23 10:00am Mass in Arborfield Care Home
 7:00pm Adoration in Zenon Park
 8:00pm Mass in Zenon Park **For Our Clergy**
 Sat Nov 24 7:30pm Mass in Arborfield **For Residents of Arborfield Care Home**
 Sun Nov 25 9:00 am Mass in Carrot River **For the people**
 11:00am Mass in Zenon Park **For †Gary Laliberte**

Mass Times for Nov/Dec

Sat 7:30pm – Arborfield

Sun 9:00am – Carrot River

Sun 11:00am – Zenon Park



Christmas Mass Schedule

December 24th

5:00pm – Arborfield

7:00pm – Zenon Park

9:00pm – Carrot River

December 25th

10:00am – Zenon Park

Announcements and Activities

<u>Ministry</u>	<u>Nov 17</u>	<u>Nov 24</u>
Commentator	Lisa	Joann
Reader	Mark	Pam
Cup	Beatrice, James	Neil, Sue
Hospitality	Brian, Pam	Liz, Guy
Offerings	Bob, Lisa	Gabe, Mary
Sacristan	Sue	Pam

Cleaning Schedule

Nov 19 - 25, 2018	Grant & Beatrice Thesen
Nov 26 - Dec 2, 2018	Randal & Joanne Rusk

Last week's collection total: **\$440.00** **Thank You**

Bishop's Annual Appeal 2018:
"What Must We Do... to Build the Kingdom of God?"
 Every gift is greatly appreciated!
 Parish Contributions to date **\$1310** of our goal of \$4075

St. Joseph parish in P.A. will be hosting Dr. C. Hrynkow for an **Advent series speaker** about "Creation, Catholicism and Relationships" on **Nov 28 and Dec 5th**. See poster on the bulletin board for more info.

A Parish and family **Advent booklet** is available at the back of the church for anyone interested. Copies are also posted on the Diocese website under Annual Liturgy Package.
www.padiocese.ca

Lectio Divina to be held Nov 17, 24, Dec 8 and 15th at 7:00 pm (see following for description).

Video presentation after mass for Advent Dec 1st. Please join us!

2018 Advent Penitential Services

DATE	PLACE AND TIME	PRIESTS WHO WILL BE HELPING
Wednesday December 5 th	Melfort 3:00pm Meeting 7:00 pm Confession	All priests in the Deanery
Thursday December 6 th	Porcupine 7:00 pm	Priests from H.Bay and Tisdale
	Carrot River 7:30pm	Priest from Nipawin
Tuesday December 11 th	Nipawin 7:00pm	Priests from Tisdale, Zenon Pk
	Kinistino 7:00pm	Priest from St. Brieux
Wednesday December 12 th	Tisdale 7:00pm	Priests from Melfort, St. Brieux
	Arborfield 7:00pm	Priest from Nipawin
Thursday December 13 th	St. Brieux 7:00pm	Priests from Melfort, Tisdale
Friday December 14 th	Hudson Bay 7:00pm	Priests from Tisdale
	Choiceland 7:00 pm	Priest from Nipawin
	Mistatim 7:00 pm	Priest from Hudson. Bay
Tuesday December 18 th	Zenon Park 7:00pm	Priest from Nipawin

What is Lectio Divina? "Lectio Divinia", a Latin term, means "divine reading" and describes a way of reading the Scriptures whereby we gradually let go of our own agenda and open ourselves to what God wants to say to us. In the 12th century, a Carthusian monk called Guigo, described the stages which he saw as essential to the practice of Lectio Divina. There are various ways of practicing Lectio Divina either individually or in groups but Guigo's description remains fundamental.

He said that the first stage is lectio (reading) where we read the Word of God, slowly and reflectively so that it sinks into us. Any passage of Scripture can be used for this way of prayer but the passage should not be too long.

The second stage is meditatio (reflection) where we think about the text we have chosen and ruminate upon it so that we take from it what God wants to give us.

The third stage is oratio (response) where we leave our thinking aside and simply let our hearts speak to God. This response is inspired by our reflection on the Word of God.

The final stage of Lectio Divina is contemplatio (rest) where we let go not only of our own ideas, plans and meditations but also of our holy words and thoughts. We simply rest in the Word of God. We listen at the deepest level of our being to God who speaks within us with a still small voice. As we listen, we are gradually transformed from within. Obviously this transformation will have a profound effect on the way we actually live and the way we live is the test of the authenticity of our prayer. We must take what we read in the Word of God into our daily lives.

These stages of Lectio Divina are not fixed rules of procedure but simply guidelines as to how the prayer normally develops. Its natural movement is towards greater simplicity, with less and less talking and more listening. Gradually the words of Scripture begin to dissolve and the Word is revealed before the eyes of our heart. How much time should be given to each stage depends very much on whether it is used individually or in a group. If Lectio Divina is used for group prayer, obviously more structure is needed than for individual use. In group prayer, much will depend on the type of group. Lectio Divina may involve discussing the implications of the Word of God for daily life but it cannot be reduced to this. The movement of the prayer is towards silence. If the group is comfortable with silence, more time could be spent resting in the Word.

The practice of Lectio Divina as a way of praying the Scriptures has been a fruitful source of growing in relationship with Christ for many centuries and in our own day is being rediscovered by many individuals and groups. The Word of God is alive and active and will transform each of us if we open ourselves to receive what God wants to give us.