

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES

December 2, 2018

Jeremiah 33:14-16 † 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2 † Luke 21:25-28, 34-36



Reflection by: Mary Lanni, OPA

The end of the world is not something that occupies much of our thinking as we go about our daily lives. If we think about it at all, it is probably when some group or individual makes a prediction of the date and time that it will occur. We don't give it much credence, but it does make us think.

As we begin the Advent season and a new liturgical year, we hear in the gospel reading from Luke, Jesus' admonitions to us about the disasters that will befall the world as the end times approach. He tells us that the way to survive is by courage and faith in his word and by living as his true follower. We will then be able to "stand before the Son of Man."

However, standing before the Son of Man is not reserved only for the second coming of Jesus. I believe that it takes place whenever we receive Eucharist. Each one of us on the Communion line has come through our own personal "end of the world" experience: the death of a spouse or child, a debilitating illness of a parent, a financial crisis, loss of a home, an addicted loved one, a suicide, a betrayal. Standing before the Son of Man, receiving his body and blood brings comfort, support and welcome, not fear and judgment. It helps us to achieve wholeness and gives us strength to live lives of goodness and truth, courage and faith.