

# HOMILY ~ 33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME NOVEMBER 16/17, 2024

*Is that all there is?  
Is that all there is?  
If that's all there is my friend,  
Then let's keep dancing.  
Let's break out the booze and have a ball,  
If that's all there is.  
If that is all there is,  
Let's have a good time today.  
If it feels good, do it.*

Today we are reaching the end of our Church year, so the Readings are about the end times. A new Church year begins the First Sunday of Advent, the Sunday after Thanksgiving. I think most of us here today believe that there is eternal life after death, so we believe that life in this world is not all there is. In the Gospel Reading, we hear about what is going to happen before the end of the world. These things have already happened, so the end of the world could be at any time. We also hear that we do not know when that time will be. We also know that our individual lives could end at any time, right? We know these things, but it does not always affect the way we live our lives. We do not like to think about death; and most of us believe that we still have a lot of time left, so we do not need to live our life as though it will end soon. Are you ready to come face to face with Jesus today? If not, what adjustments do you need to make?

I have come to realize that the only way to live a truly happy life in this world and the next is to follow the new commandment, *Love God and Love your Neighbor as Yourself*. It is all about the love. Sometimes we make unhealthy choices; if it feels good, do it. I still have time to straighten things out. We also know that this leads only to momentary happiness. Making healthy choices is what makes us truly happy. The other side of the coin is if it feels bad, avoid it. We do want to avoid bad feelings. Just avoiding bad feelings in itself may make you feel better in the moment, but it does not lead to true happiness. Many things that bring us true happiness do not start off feeling very good.

Rabbi Abraham Heschel once said, *“When I was younger, I used to admire intelligent people. Now that I am older, I admire kind people.”* I think that is true. I still believe that being intelligent is important. I love to learn, that is why I have spent so much time in college. I do not think that God cares so much about how many degrees I have, and the degrees themselves do not lead to true happiness. It is what we do with the degrees, what we do with the intelligence. Are we using them to love and serve others? That is what leads to true happiness in this world and the next. I think that is what God cares about.

It is not always easy to be kind, but it always makes us truly happy. It is easy to be kind to the people who are kind to you. It is hard to be kind to someone you have a conflict with, someone who is not so kind to you. Initially it does not feel good, but ultimately you will be glad you were kind. You will feel better. It is easy to forgive someone who apologizes and promises to change their ways. It is more difficult to forgive someone who is not sorry for what they have done and has no intention of changing. It does not feel good initially; but if you can do this, you can let go of the anger and you can stop letting something they did in the past control your life today. You will feel better. Sometimes it is difficult to just accept and love someone for who they are. Maybe they just cannot be the person we want them to be. Maybe they just cannot do the things we want them to do. Accept them and be kind. You can let go of all of the angst and disappointment. You will feel better.

So, do you really believe that today could be your last day on earth? Maybe we need to let go of *if it feels good, do it and if it feels bad, avoid it*. We may not have a lot of time to make things right. We may need to feel bad in order to ultimately be truly happy in this world and the next. We need to *Love God and Love our Neighbor as Ourselves*. We need to be kind. Then we will be ready to meet God face to face.

Love and Peace,

Fr. Jim