

Homily
Friday of the 34th Week in OT
December 1, 2023

I came across a riddle from a first grader that has perfect application to the meaning of the end of this liturgical season and the beginning of the next: "I am the beginning of everything, the end of everywhere. I'm the beginning of eternity, the end of time & space. What am I?"

Being faithful Catholics, it is easy to see how the answer must be Jesus. And if we stopped there, we would have plenty to consider regarding the change of our liturgical seasons.

The answer: the letter E. The beginning of everything and eternity; the end of everywhere, time & space. Before knowing the riddler's intent, we find ourselves asking the serious questions about God, creation, eternity, and our role in all this. Appropriate since we are looking at Daniel's vision from the first reading and the parable from Luke's Gospel.

Tomorrow evening begins the liturgical New Year, the season of Advent, our time to prepare for the coming of Jesus in the incarnation. Today and over the past several weeks, we have been looking at the end times and how we need to prepare for the second coming of Jesus. This forms a neat and firmly placed set of book ends for us to consider our faith journey. How are we doing?

I remember the story of a monk, going about his daily chores. When asked what he would be doing if he knew today would be his last day on earth, he paused only a moment then went back to tilling and weeding the garden and said, "I'd keep doing what I'm doing."

Are we that prepared for the time when we meet Jesus face to face for our own personal judgement? Have we done everything we can to be prepared? What still needs to be done?

When was the last time you took a vacation? How busy were you the days before you began your time off? It's been said that we get twice as much done the days before we leave than we typically accomplish on a 'normal' day. How much more would we accomplish if we treated every day as if we were leaving tomorrow. What would we do? How much more efficient and productive would we be?

Tomorrow morning ends the liturgical year. What are you going to do today to prepare? Tomorrow evening begins the new liturgical year, the season of Advent. What are your plans for preparing for the coming of the baby Jesus.

We are blessed by the wisdom of our church to have these seasons, if only we will heed God's message and prepare. Will we be like the wise virgins and be prepared for the coming of the Bridegroom? Will we be like the prudent servants and invest our talents wisely? Will we be observant to our surroundings and know the seasons as they change?

We have the opportunity through Mass and prayer to help us prepare. Will we take advantage so that we see the Face of God and live?