

Homily  
Friday of the 29<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time  
October 25, 2024

I love the change of seasons. More specifically, I love the cooling of the summer heat as the leaves begin to turn yellow, orange and red and I can sleep with the windows open. My wife, on the other hand, loves the warming of the winter chill as the bare branches begin to bud green leaves. We pay attention to the forecast so we know what to expect in the coming days, the temperatures, whether it will rain or the sun will shine, and if we will need to start our cars in the morning to melt the frost from our windshields. We typically know what to expect regarding short sleeves, a sweater or a coat and gloves.

Do we spend as much time or effort in watching and planning for the seasons of our faith? We are nearing the end of Ordinary Time and are about to enter into the Season of Advent, the season of preparation for the coming of the incarnate God, the One given us by our Creator, His Only Begotten Son. Also, do we pay attention to the days of the week? Do we plan for Mass on Sunday? Do we read ahead so we know what God wants to say to us? Do we put on our 'Sunday Best' in preparation for the Wedding Feast of the Lamb? What about on a day by day or hour by hour basis? Do we plan on how we will enter our day? What is in our Morning Prayer? Do we consider the people we know we will be meeting today or the people we don't know that we may encounter? Do we bring God into our encounters?

Jesus is judging the crowds. He is challenging them to judge for themselves what to expect. He tells them that they know how to judge the weather, but not so much how to judge what lies before them. Plan, prepare or you will pay the consequences. What does that mean for us now, today? Jesus is telling us that He is here, right in front of us. Are we so blind that we can't see Him? He has given us everything we need, if only we will take all this to heart and follow Him. Sometimes we are blinded by the distractions of this world and fail to see the God of the Universe right in front of us. It is our choice to pay attention to the weather patterns and it is our choice to pay attention to what God has planned for us. We must decide what is most important. And we must act accordingly. Choose Jesus.