

After the Heart of Jesus ...

While some people were speaking about how the temple was adorned with costly stones and votive offerings, Jesus said, "All that you see here-- the days will come when there will not be left a stone upon another stone that will not be thrown down."

*Then they asked him,
"Teacher, when will this happen?
And what sign will there be when all these things are about to happen?"
Luke 21*



The people around Jesus were interested in the end time, of when it would happen, and what signs to expect. Today, with the sometimes chaotic changes that are taking place in our world, many of us also want to know if these changes are in some ways "signs" of God's intervention in our world today, and we want to know what they suggest for the future of humanity.

Well, to such questions, the Scriptures respond with a dual message. They tell us that, Yes, the upheavals of the present time can point to God's dissatisfaction with human affairs. But it would be very foolish of us to read into these events a timetable for an end of the world. As Jesus says, "Many will come in my name, saying, 'The time is at hand.' Do not follow them."

Yet there is another message present for us. We are told that there are opportunities in times of turmoil and upheaval, whether it's personal or global, whether the turmoil affects just us and those close to us, like when a friend or loved one dies or illness comes our way, or whether the upheaval is a world or nation in political or social reorganization. There are the opportunities for faithful endurance, for responsible behavior, and for obedience to the will of God. It is easy to be faithful on the joyful, happy days. Fidelity is really expressed in times of challenge, persecution, and hardship.

November is the month when we support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, which is committed to helping people find permanent solutions to the problems of poverty. Our assistance is needed to help end poverty in our nation. This collection was the first to use the phrase, "Give a hand-up not a hand-out," which speaks to the spirit of the campaign which funds programs intended to move people out of poverty. Please read Bishop Sartain's letter in this week's bulletin and make a generous gift to the CCHD. Envelopes for this collection may be returned in either this week's or next week's Sunday offertory.

We look forward to the annual Thanksgiving Mass this coming Thursday, at 9:00 AM. It is one of the best Masses of the year as we pause to recognize all that we are grateful for. We also bring and present food to share with the poor. We conclude with hospitality in the narthex and the unveiling of the Giving Trees. Please join us for this wonderful family celebration.

I want to alert parents to a movie that will be released on December 7, *The Golden Compass*. It is a fantasy film based on *Northern Lights* (titled *The Golden Compass* in the US), the first novel in Philip Pullman's trilogy *His Dark Materials*. Pullman is a vowed atheist, and his original novels include the rejection of organized religion and the abuse of power in a fictionalized Catholic Church. The Catholic League's president William Donohue says the movie denigrates Christianity and promotes atheism for kids, citing author Pullman as saying that he is "trying to undermine the basis of Christian belief." According to some reports the more overt anti-Catholic and anti-Christian themes are diluted in this first movie adaptation. The concern is that children will be taken by the movie and parents will buy the trilogy for their children unknowingly supporting the destruction of the Christian faith. It is best to take a pass on seeing this movie.

The weekend of December 1 and 2 will be full at St. Walter Parish. In addition to being the beginning of Advent, the Fair Trade Bazaar will be held on Saturday night and Sunday morning to support artisans and workers in developing countries. Our friends from Abbington House will also be present with their craft items, and there will be a bake sale to support our outreach at Abbington. There will be a pizza and salad dinner on Saturday night to support the University mission to the Philippines, and a pancake breakfast for families on Sunday. The weekend will conclude with the annual Spirit of Life Concert in Church on Sunday afternoon at 4:30 PM. If you are interested in helping with the Fair Trade Bazaar, please contact Karen Campe at the Parish Center.



As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving, I want you to know how grateful I am that God has given me the opportunity to serve as your pastor at St. Walter Parish. May we continue to encourage one another to live ...

After the Heart of Jesus!

Father John