

Daily Homily  
Last Week in Ordinary Time, Friday  
27 November 2020  
[USCCB Daily Readings](#)

Believe it or not, this is our last Ordinary Time liturgy, at least here at St. Brendan. The next time we walk into church for Mass, it will be Advent. This means the Church Year of Grace, 2020 is over. It is behind us. For some this comes as a welcome relief. For some may think that all the challenges of this past year will magically be removed when we cross that threshold into 2021. Well, as Catholics we will cross that threshold when we light the first candle on the Advent Wreath this weekend. Will the challenges have magically gone away? The reality is – No.

This whole week the readings have been from the Book of Revelation. The readings have been pointing us to the end of things, to the end of time, to the end of our time. It is a book that is constantly reminding us that all things are passing away. Hollywood movies would have us believe that the Book of Revelation is about future things. This book is a prediction of things that will happen. However, this book is not intended to be our crystal ball, an insight into what is coming down the road for us. What is poetically recorded here has already happened. The book was written for Christian communities who were already going through “the end.” This book was written for Christian communities who felt themselves “passing away.” It was written for Christian communities who were undergoing severe rejection and persecution. This was for those who were caught in the mire of political systems and governments who thought that the Christian way, was subversive and meant to overthrow the authority of the day. This book was written at the height of when Christians were being imprisoned and even martyred. In light of this, “the end,” “all things passing away,” are phrases that would resonate with them.

But they resonate with us as well. Every generation goes through something of a persecution and rejection. And as we come to the conclusion of another liturgical year, as we come to the end of 2020 with the start of this weekend, we are at “the end.”

But the Book of Revelation was not written just to fill its readers with doom and gloom. It was written to resonate with our doom and gloom for sure. However, it was written to also inspire us. Even when the doom seems heavy, when the gloom is thick, even when we have to face persecution or trials or ultimately “the end.” Revelation reveals to all Christians of every generation this reality: God is forever...with us in our doom and gloom, with us in our trials and persecution, with us all the way to the end... pulling us into a new beginning.

So here’s some homework... in your prayer time consider this... what do you need from God as you come to this new beginning of Advent? A deeper sense of trust or faith? A better connection with family or friends? A more courageous stance on what you believe? A more confident outlook on life? Maybe it is just bring God into whatever lays heavy on you? What do you need from God as you come to this new beginning of Advent? Pray for it as we come to this end... may it lead you into a new way and a new life with the Lord.