



## 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

Daniel 12:1-3  
Ps 16:5, 8-11  
Heb 10:11-14, 18  
Mark 13:24-32

### Monday Nov. 16

1 Macabees 1:10-15,  
41-43,54-57,62-63  
Ps 119:53,61,  
134,150, 155,158  
Luke 18:35-43

### Tuesday Nov. 17

#### St. Elizabeth of Hungary

2 Macabees 6:18-31  
Ps 3:2-7  
Luke 19:1-10

### Wednesday Nov. 18

2 Macabees 7:1, 20-31  
Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b, 15  
Luke 19:11-28

### Thursday Nov. 19

1 Macabees 2:15-29  
Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15  
Luke 19:41-44

### Friday Nov. 20

1 Macabees 4:36-37,52-59  
1 Chronicles 29:10-12  
Luke 19:45-48

### Saturday Nov. 21

#### Presentation of Mary

1 Macabees 6:1-13  
Ps 9:2-3, 4, 6, 16, 19  
Luke 20:27-40

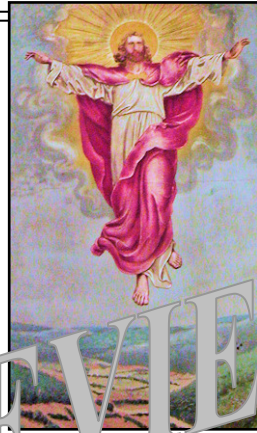
In today's Gospel reading, Jesus speaks of his Second Coming. And here he hasn't even finished his first coming! How confusing it must have been to the disciples.

They grew even more confused after Jesus died, was resurrected, and ascended to heaven but delayed coming back. They remembered him saying that "this generation" will not pass away until all these Second Coming events have taken place, yet time passed, the apostles began to die off, and Jesus still had not reappeared in the clouds. The misery of living in this world continued.

Do you have an unending problem? Where's Jesus? Notice what he said: "When you see these things happening, know that I am near, at the gates." He wasn't pinning down a date. He wasn't giving the disciples – or us – a definitive clue about the timing of his Second Coming. What was he trying to

convey? His nearness!

For the past 2000 years, we have all been part of "this generation" that will not pass away before his Second Coming. It's the generation of Christian humanity, the generation of the Church as the Body of Christ on Earth, the generation of children who have been adopted by God the Father through the sacrifice and resurrection of God the Son.



The final era of God's salvation plan began on the first Easter. It is the age of the Holy Spirit, i.e., the age after Christ's ascension when his Spirit is available to us all. The lesson of the fig tree is that we can discern when summer is near. In other words, we can discern – in good times and in bad – that Jesus is near to us, not in flesh (except at Mass in the Eucharist) but in his Holy Spirit.

Jesus is right now at "the gate" of your next step on the journey to heaven. A gate is meant to be opened so that we can pass through it. Jesus is opening the gate right now for you – the gate of holiness, the gate of love. Step through it to live in the fullness of the life he has planned for you here on earth.

### Reflect & Discuss:

1. What problems are you waiting to be rescued from? Is Jesus really taking too long, or is there a bigger, better plan he's fulfilling on your behalf?
2. What do you need to do to become more aware of his nearness, his comfort, his joy and peace to help you endure the long wait?
3. What are the signs that the Church gives us that help us discern the nearness of Christ?
4. What other "fig trees" has Jesus given to you that increase your hope and patience and endurance?