

SIGNS OF THE TIMES

We believe as Catholics that God is actively at work in our lives and throughout all time. God is at work redeeming humanity and inviting all of us to participate in the work of salvation.

OVERVIEW

God is at work redeeming humanity and inviting all of us to participate in the work of salvation. Understanding that work of redemption and being aware of God's invitation to join in that process are known as "reading the signs of the times."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How do we use our faith to change unjust policies and situations in our lives and community?
- How does compassion for others help realize the Kingdom of God on earth? In our families and in our community?
- How do we raise our voice and influence issues in our community and society that harm human life and dignity?

SUNDAY MASS HOMILY POINTS - CYCLE C

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 12:13-21: "But God said to him, 'you fool, this night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?' Thus will it be for all who store up treasure for themselves but are not rich in what matters to God."

- Recognizing the "signs of the times" means viewing our own actions in light of the Gospel. It also means working for justice and advocating for social change when change is needed. Those who read the 'signs of the times' are less likely to isolate themselves storing up riches and more likely to reach out to others with the common goal of the fuller realization of the Reign of God.

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 16:19-31: "But Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets. Let them listen to them.' He said, 'Oh no, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.' Then Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.'"

- At the heart of today's Gospel is the lack of care for someone in need. For Lazarus was not cared for in this world but enjoyed eternal life in the bosom of Abraham. Part of assessing the 'signs of the times' is to give witness to the plight of the least of God's children. The kingdom of God is at hand when we reach out and minister to the down-trodden. Accepting and caring for them as though they were inextricably bound to us. Loving them for they ARE us.

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 21:5-19: "By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

- Christ entered this world to give witness to the truth, to rescue and not to sit in judgment, to serve and not to be served. (*Gaudium et Spes*, no. 3 and 4). To serve Christ is to do so under the lead of the Holy Spirit. Perseverance in our efforts towards building God's kingdom; participating in God's work of salvation will lead to eternal happiness. To participate is to "bring glad tidings to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives, recovery of sight to the blind, let the oppressed go free."