



Week Leading up to 11.14.21: The Last Judgement

***{Start with reviewing the previous Meetings Challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.}**

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: Mk 13:24-32

After the Reading Conclude with this prayer:

Dear Jesus, We do not know the time and place of Your second coming. Help us to be ever ready and vigilant in our actions and thoughts so that they may allow us to know You in an intimate way and never turn from Your love. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. Does hearing this reading cause you to have any concerns or fear? What do you think/feel Jesus is trying to tell us with this reading?

YouTube Video: The Lesser Known Last Judgement with Fr. Schmitz (8:18) <https://youtu.be/7FMgVbcLagM>

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. Fr. Schmitz talks about the difference between particular and final judgement. Do you believe we are judged at death?
3. Is the idea that we are judged twice something new to you? What are your thoughts/feelings about the difference between these two judgements (e.g. Our life being judged vs. how our life fits into God's plan)?
4. Fr. Schmitz talked a bit about different places in heaven. Do you think/feel there is a sort of hierarchy in heaven? Please elaborate.
5. Fr. Schmitz shares that in heaven there will be no room for shame and pride. He explains that in the final judgement we will both fully understand our story and how it related to God's plan. He indicates that we will fully understand the ramifications of our every action and thought and how that affected future generations. Does this concept seem easy to understand or a bit overwhelming and beyond comprehension?
6. What are your thoughts/feelings on the final judgement and the understanding of how God used the pain and suffering in your life for glorification? Does this offer you any comfort? Why do you think God shields us from this understanding while on earth?
7. Has this video changed your perspective on how you live your life? Does it cause you to want to change anything?

Session Challenges: {Choose one or both}

- Think about the last time you said something unkind about someone in secret. Ask God for forgiveness and His grace. Ask that He softens your heart to love all and not speak ill of others.
- Read this article <https://catholicproductions.com/blogs/blog/two-final-judgments-say-what> and these two sections from the Catechism of the Catholic Church [1039](#), [1040](#)

Closing Prayer: Feel free to listen to this video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVAzsWeZRWg> with the St. Augustine's Prayer to the Holy Spirit sung or print out and distribute to the group the prayer found on the 2nd page.

After the St. Augustine's Prayer, continue with personal intentions... *As our hearts are lifted to God in a desire for true holiness, I would like to open this time up for anyone with personal intentions. Please share any intentions you may have for yourself or others at this time {pause to hear others intentions} ...may these prayers, as well as the unspoken intentions kept within our hearts, be lifted to Your merciful heart and healing hands, dear Jesus. We pray, also, to give us the humility we need to bend our knee to Your will so that we may live holy lives for our family and friends in this generation and for future generations. In Your Great Name. Amen.*

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: **Dn 12:1-3** Sunday Reading 2: **Heb 10:11-14, 18**

Additional Information: <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/library/second-coming-of-the-lord--the-last-judgment-926> and <https://www.newadvent.org/cathen/08552a.htm>

St. Augustine's Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Together, let us pray:

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy.

Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy.

Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love what is only holy.

Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy.

Guard me then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen.

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