

## In Those Days...

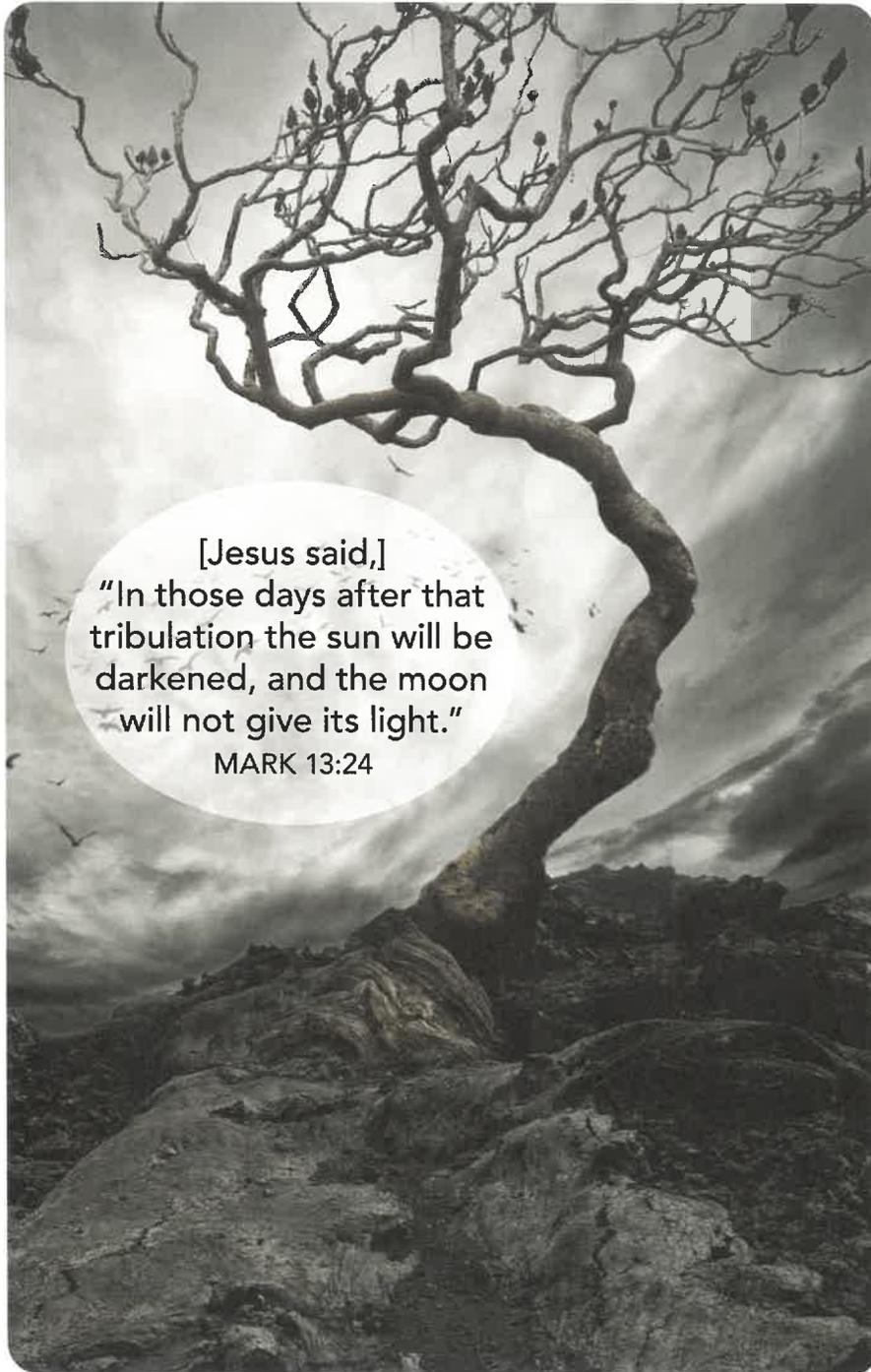
**T**his phrase is frequently found in the writings of the prophets. While it sometimes points to a future time of peace and happiness, it often portends imminent fear and trembling, as it does in today's readings. Both Daniel and Jesus speak of the suffering that will precede the end of the world. This suffering is often called the

"birth pangs of the Messiah" (Matthew 24:8; Mark 13:8; John 16:21). This apt metaphor includes both life-threatening distress and wondrous joy over new birth. Pain and subsequent happiness are both described in today's readings.

The author of Daniel may be referring to the end of the whole world but is probably also presenting that in terms of the end of his own world, which would have included the suffering and even death of Jews who remained faithful under persecution. Some interpreters suggest Jesus is speaking similarly. That is, he is using a familiar figure of speech that characterizes suffering as birth pangs. According to this metaphor, there might be terrible suffering, but at the end there is utter happiness.

Both Daniel and Jesus seek to encourage their hearers to remain faithful even in the face of torment, for new life can come out of such suffering. This is a message we all need to hear. Suffering is a reality in every life. How do we endure it? Does it sour us, break us down? Or do we come out of it new people, more sensitive and understanding? It is up to us.

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*



[Jesus said,]  
"In those days after that  
tribulation the sun will be  
darkened, and the moon  
will not give its light."  
MARK 13:24

### FOR *Reflection*

- ✦ *Pray for the strength to remain faithful, regardless of the difficulty.*
- ✦ *How has suffering made you a better person?*



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**33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

READINGS: Daniel 12:1-3  
Psalm 16:5, 8-11  
Hebrews 10:11-14,18  
Mark 13:24-32

**MASS INTENTIONS TODAY**

**10:30am...**George & Martha Shaw  
**Nov 18.....**Edna Fields  
**Nov 21...**John R. Stowe  
(Bishop John's father)  
**Nov 24....**Nick & Edna Breiner  
**Nov 28.....**Anastacio Urrete



**NOVEMBER WORD OF LIFE**  
*Intercessions for Life*

For married couples considering adoption: May the Holy Spirit guide their discernment, grant them peace, and bring to fruition his holy will; *We pray to the Lord.*

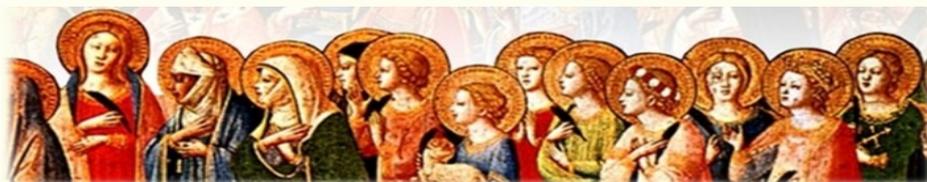
"We can't imagine loving a child whom we conceived

more than we love Andrew. It is amazing how he fits our personalities so well... Adopting Andrew has made us more aware of God's power and of his love for us. We realize that he always has a perfect plan for our lives."

—USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities,  
"An Adoption Love Story" ([respectlife.org/adoption-love-story](http://respectlife.org/adoption-love-story))

We will remember the faithful departed through the month of November. You are asked to place the names of your loved ones in the basket at the back of church or after mass when it is moved to the front.

The prayer for All Souls this week is as follows:



REMEMBER, LORD, THOSE WHO HAVE DIED AND GONE BEFORE US MARKED WITH THE SIGN OF FAITH, ESPECIALLY THOSE FOR WHOM WE NOW PRAY. MAY THESE, AND ALL WHO SLEEP IN CHRIST, FIND IN YOUR PRESENCE LIGHT, HAPPINESS AND PEACE. WE ASK THIS THROUGH CHRIST, OUR LORD. AMEN.

**Reconciliation/Confession:**  
Thursday 5:30-6pm  
**Baptism:** by appointment  
**Marriage Prep:** Notify the priest six months in advance.

**Anointing of the Sick & Visits**

Please call the office if you know of someone in need of a pastoral visit.

**Diocesan Website:** [www.cdlex.org](http://www.cdlex.org)

**Mass times:**

Sunday 10:30am

4:00pm Spanish

Thursday 6pm

Confession 5:30 on Thurs

**CATHOLIC CAMPAIGN  
FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**  
Working to End Poverty and Injustice  
in the United States

**NEXT** Sunday our special collection will support the Catholic Campaign for Human Development. **More than thirty-eight million people in the United States live in poverty.** This collection supports programs that empower people to identify and address the obstacles they face as they work to bring permanent and positive change to their communities. Learn more about the Catholic Campaign for Human Development at [www.usccb.org/cchd](http://www.usccb.org/cchd).

**LORD JESUS**  
ENLIGHTEN  
what's dark in me.  
STRENGTHEN  
what's weak in me.  
MEND  
what's broken in me.  
BIND  
what's bruised in me.  
HEAL  
what's sick in me.  
And lastly,  
REVIVE  
whatever peace and  
love has died in me.  
**Amen.**

@junevreyes



The Montgomery County Community Thanksgiving service will be held at **Church of the Nazarene (205 Winn St.) on Thursday, Nov. 18 at 7pm.**

**YEAR OF THE FAMILY—Correction proves to be an incentive when children's efforts are appreciated and acknowledged. Pope Francis says:**

"...Children who are lovingly corrected feel cared for; they perceive that they are individuals whose potential is recognized. This does not require parents to be perfect, but to be able humbly to acknowledge their own limitations and make efforts to improve. Still, one of the things children need to learn from their parents is not to get carried away by anger. A child who does something wrong must be corrected, but never treated as an enemy or an object on which to take out one's own frustrations. Adults also need to realize that some kinds of misbehavior have to do with the frailty and limitations typical of youth...An attitude constantly prone to punishment would be harmful and would lead to discouragement and resentment..." (*The Joy of Love* # 269)

Waste time with your children, so that they can realise that love is always free.



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**SAINT FOR THE WEEK— St. Albert the Great (1200-1280), Dominican, Church Doctor — "It is by the path of love, which is charity, that God draws near to man, and man to God. But where charity is not found, God cannot dwell. If, then, we possess charity, we possess God, for "God is Charity". (1 John 4:8)**



**Patron of Scientists & Philosophers**

—Feast Day **NOV 15**

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:** 15-Julie Allen

- |                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 16-Jonael Morales  | 17-Adriana Carrizales |
| 18-Joe Gomes       | 19-Jodi Barnes        |
| 20-Miguel Melendez | 21-Jacqueline Jones   |

**NOVEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:**

- 4-Greg & Robin Waters 5-John & Teri Karaus  
5-Salvador Reyna Garcia & Teresa Salazar  
6-Charles & Glenda Comer  
11-Kevin & Erika Snyder  
30-Ismael & Maria Lopez



**MEMORIAL ANNIVERSARIES OF OUR DECEASED LOVED ONES**

- NOV 7-**Marjorie Hesselbrook  
11-Shirley Collins  
13-Charles Koster  
19-Bill Davidson, Virginia Enoch

# Dear Padre,

## Is a homily necessary at every Mass?

The homily is “highly recommended” not only because it is an essential part of the liturgy but also because “it is necessary for the nurturing of the Christian life” (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 65). “On Sundays and holy days of obligation there is to be a homily at every Mass that is celebrated with the people attending and it may not be omitted without a grave reason. On other days it is recommended, especially on the weekdays of Advent, Lent and Easter time, as well as on other festive days and occasions when the people come to church in greater numbers” (*GIRM* 66). In practice, brief homilies are usually offered on nonfestive weekday Masses during Ordinary Time, too—especially in church parishes and religious communities—even for a minimal number of people in the congregation.

“Whoever preaches, let it be with the words of God” (1 Peter 4:11). To the office of an ordained minister belongs the tremendous sacred duty to preach a homily rooted in prayer, and with an understanding of the Scriptures and the needs of the particular faith community in mind. “If the words of Scripture are divinely inspired, as we believe them to be, then divine inspiration must be at work when those words are made alive and contemporary to the believing community in and through” the ministry of preaching (*Fulfilled in Your Hearing*, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 1982).



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHEMITZ

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR  
[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*Please, make the homily brief, but prepare it well. And how do we prepare a homily, dear priests, deacons, bishops? How should it be prepared? With prayer, by studying the word of God and by making a clear and brief summary; it should not last more than ten minutes, please.*

GENERAL AUDIENCE, FEBRUARY 7, 2018

## Calendar

### Monday

NOVEMBER 15

Weekday

1 Mc 1:10–15, 41–43,  
54–57, 62–63  
Lk 18:35–43

### Tuesday

NOVEMBER 16

Weekday

2 Mc 6:18–31  
Lk 19:1–10

### Wednesday

NOVEMBER 17

St. Elizabeth of  
Hungary, Religious

2 Mc 7:1, 20–31  
Lk 19:11–28

### Thursday

NOVEMBER 18

Weekday

1 Mc 2:15–29  
Lk 19:41–44

### Friday

NOVEMBER 19

Weekday

1 Mc 4:36–37, 52–59  
Lk 19:45–48

### Saturday

NOVEMBER 20

Weekday

1 Mc 6:1–13  
Lk 20:27–40

### Sunday

NOVEMBER 21

Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
King of the Universe

Dn 7:13–14

Rv 1:5–8

Jn 18:33b–37

Do you have  
a question for  
the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to  
send your question and  
to learn more about  
Dear Padre.

## AN ADOPTION LOVE STORY

*Ed. Note: Adoption is a wonderful gift. Though sometimes portrayed in negative ways by the media, most experiences of adoption are beautiful love stories—such as the one Jenny\* shares below.*

My husband Bill and I have been married for six years. Having children and raising a family had always been our expectation. By the time we were married, most of our siblings and friends already had children, so of course we were excited and ready to be parents ourselves. We soon learned, however, that having children of our own might not be so easy.

We made a few trips to multiple cities to be treated by wonderful doctors who have helped so many couples conceive, but everything we tried was unsuccessful. We felt so hopeless at times. Words can't even explain this experience of loss.

Fortunately, our marriage only grew stronger, because we were there for each other and continued to rely on God. This didn't always come easily, but it helped that Bill has a great sense of humor, and we were able to laugh at some of the crazy situations and conversations that come with infertility.

Since we knew our chances of becoming pregnant were small, it wasn't very long before we started talking about the possibility of adoption. However, it wasn't an easy decision, and I wondered if my heart was big enough to love an adopted child as I would my biological child. There were also so many other variables to consider, one of which was the expense involved, and we had already spent so much money on infertility treatments. We felt we had no control, but God reminded us again that He is always in control and that we could trust in Him.

So with prayerful discernment, we decided to start the process of adopting a child from Ethiopia. However, after it took nearly a year to get on the waiting list, the adoption program was put on hold for reasons that were unknown to us.

We were so frustrated that we started to feel as though maybe we just weren't called to have children. We then heard from friends who had

adopted a newborn baby domestically after only a few short months. With this new encouragement, we switched gears and decided to adopt domestically, picking a nationwide agency rather than a state agency because it is usually faster.

We were so excited but also rather scared. We would be chosen by a birthmother and would be required to send pictures and letters to her frequently. Most likely, we would talk with the birthmother over the phone and meet her at the delivery. And there was always the chance she could change her mind, even days after the birth. I didn't know how I would feel about all this and wondered if we were setting ourselves up for more heartbreak. But all we could do was pray and try to leave it in God's hands.



Four months later, we received a call that a birthmother in Florida had chosen us. She was seven months pregnant with a boy. We couldn't believe it. We were finally going to have a baby. We talked with her a couple of times over the phone, and I never realized until then how lucky I was to marry such a talker, as Bill really helped the conversations flow smoothly.

On the birthmother's due date, we received the call that she was in labor. Bill and I dropped everything and hit the road to Florida to meet our son. Words can't even describe how we felt during that drive. We were so excited at the thought that we could be driving home with our son, yet at the same time we were so scared that we may be driving home alone. I wasn't sure we could handle that disappointment, and I wondered what she would think of us. Would

she regret that she chose us? What would I say to the woman who was going to place her child with us? Along with these and all the normal fears of becoming a parent, I was also afraid that I wouldn't bond with our new son or feel that he was ours.

After arriving, we met the birthmother who was still in labor. She was so sweet and personable, and we sat with her to support her as best we could. A few hours later, our son Andrew was born. It was the most surreal experience.

We spent the next day and a half with Andrew and his birthmother in the hospital getting to know each other a bit. It was hard to know what to say to her, knowing she was making the hardest decision of her life, knowing the pain she must be experiencing, and feeling that I was the one causing this pain. It was such an emotional roller coaster to hold and look at this precious baby, wondering if I would really be his mother.



Thankfully, the birthmother decided to maintain her decision to place her child with us. Later that evening, Christmas Eve, Bill and I left the hospital with Andrew. It didn't take long before there was no doubt in our minds that he was our son, the greatest gift from God! He really is our Christmas miracle.

Andrew is two years old now, and it is so clear to Bill and me that God picked him for us. We can't imagine loving a child whom we conceived more than we love Andrew. It is amazing how he fits our personalities so well. More and more every day we are so thankful to his birthmother for her selfless decision.

It is so hard to express in words what a unique experience adoption has been for us. It has been quite a journey facing infertility, as well as so many unknowns and acts of kindness and sacrifice—all with so many emotions—which led to the growth of our family. There were times when our faith was shaken and we weren't sure if we could handle our cross. But adopting Andrew has made us more aware of God's power and of his love for us. We realize that he always has a perfect plan for our lives.

*\*Jenny and Bill (all names have been changed for privacy) would like to encourage you be open to the gift of adoption. Is God calling you to consider adopting a child or placing your child for adoption? To learn more information, contact your diocesan office.*

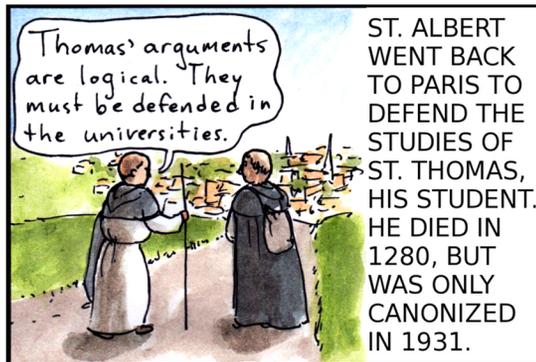
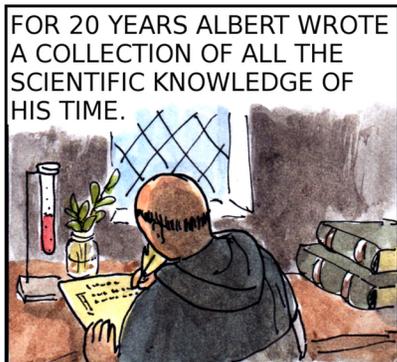
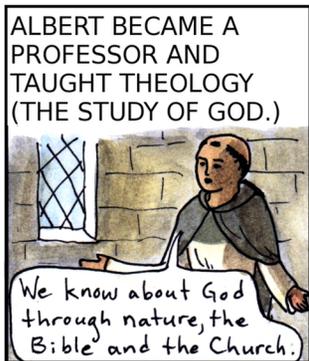
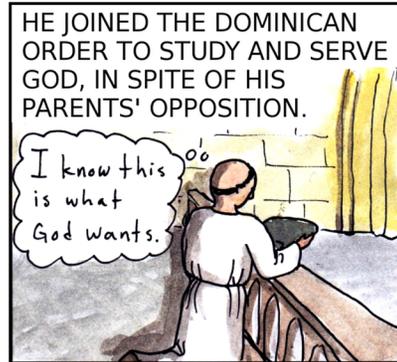
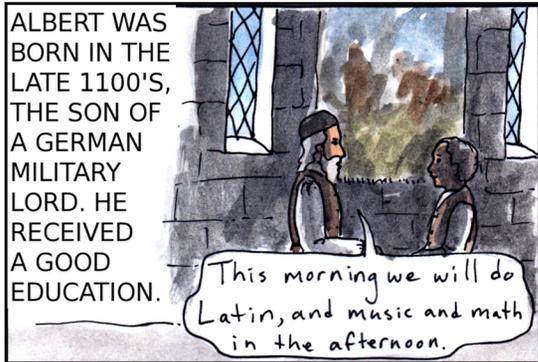


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# Saint Albert the Great

November 15



SAINT ALBERT STUDIED ALL THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS TIME SO THAT HE COULD BETTER UNDERSTAND GOD. HE SAW EVERYTHING IN SCIENCE AS A PROOF OF GOD'S WORK. SOMETIMES PEOPLE SAY THAT RELIGION IS AGAINST SCIENCE, BUT WE CAN LEARN FROM ST. ALBERT TO SEE GOD'S HAND IN ALL CREATION.

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## Daniel's Prophecy Word-Find

What was Daniel talking about?  
Find all the words from the reading that are in CAPITALS. The leftover letters will give you the answer.

L I V E B E G A N T M H  
F O R E V E R W H O I S  
W N E V E H E A R D C P  
I A D E S C A P E I H L  
S T A R S N T R D S A E  
E I N Y H W R I T T E N  
A O I O I O A N F R L D  
R N E N N T R C L E M O  
T S L E E P I E O S A R  
H O R R O R S I R S N M  
J U S T I C E E D A Y S

In those DAYS, I, DANIEL, HEARD this word of the LORD:  
"At that time there shall ARISE MICHAEL,  
the GREAT PRINCE,  
guardian of your people;

*Daniel 12:1-3*

it shall be a time unsurpassed in DISTRESS  
since NATIONS BEGAN until that time.  
At that time your people shall ESCAPE,  
EVERYONE WHO is found WRITTEN in the book.

"MANY of those who SLEEP in the dust of the EARTH  
shall awake;  
some shall LIVE FOREVER,  
others shall be an everlasting HORROR and disgrace.

"But the WISE shall SHINE brightly  
like the SPLENDOR of the firmament,  
and those who lead the many to JUSTICE  
shall be like the STARS forever.

