



DO YOU LIKE SURPRISES?

MARK 13:24-32

"Jesus will come at the end of time to judge all the nations, but he (also) comes to us every day, in so many ways, and asks us to welcome him."
Pope Francis

SENIOR RE-NON-EXAM: A1 / A3 / E1 / E3 / G2 / G3 / H3

JCRE: LO 1.5 / 1.6 / 1.8 / 2.2 / 2.7 / 2.8 / 2.9 / 3.1 / 3.2

ARE YOU SOMEONE WHO LIKES SURPRISES? DO YOU LIKE BEING SURPRISED? DO YOU LIKE SURPRISING OTHERS?



Examples:

- Do you like to know what gifts you are getting?
- Do you like Haunted House experiences?
- Do you prefer more control over experiences?

WATCH "GRANDMA PRANKS GRANDPA WITH WATER BOTTLE MAGIC TRICK"



CAN YOU THINK OF ANY PRANKS YOU SAW ON YOUTUBE / TIKTOK THAT WERE FUNNY (BUT HARMLESS!!)? WHAT MADE THEM WORK / BE SO FUNNY?

WATCH FR MIKE SCHMITZ EXPLAIN JESUS' SECOND COMING IN HIS VIDEO: "THE GREATEST SURPRISE" AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW:



St Paul uses an unusual image to describe Jesus: He will come again like a _____ in the night. (1 Thessalonians 5:1-11) What does that suggest?

Fr Mike talks about the difference between a surprise being a GOOD surprise and a BAD surprise. He suggests that for Christians, two things will make the difference in Jesus' Coming being a good or a bad surprise for people?



- Living like we _____ it.
- Living _____



What do you think Fr Mike means by this question?

DO I LIVE EVERYDAY AS IF HE IS ALREADY WITH ME?



SCRIPTURE TIP: WHEN YOU SEE "THEREFORE" IN A PASSAGE, ASK YOURSELF: _____

We have three options in our dealings with others:

T _____ **I** _____ **B** _____

WHAT IS YOUR PERSONAL RESPONSE TO THIS VIDEO?

DO YOU LIKE SURPRISES?

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH TEACHES ABOUT "THE FOUR LAST THINGS". CAN YOU GUESS WHAT THEY ARE?



eatdh

aevhne

lelh

utnjegmd

CAN YOU FINISH THESE MASS RESPONSES?

- When we eat this Bread, and drink this Cup, we proclaim your death O Lord, until You _____.
- We proclaim Your death O Lord, and profess Your Resurrection, until You _____.



READ: MARK 13:24-32

The sun darkening, stars falling from the sky, Jesus coming on the clouds in power and glory, heaven and earth passing away. Sounds like an apocalyptic movie! ("Heaven and earth" here means the material universe, not those who live within it. Think of the phrases, "the heavens opened": we mean heavy rain, not Heaven itself!) Jesus never wants us to be frightened though; however, he doesn't shy away from presenting the truth, and doing and saying what it takes to make our path to Heaven clearer. Sometimes we need a little shaking up, and every year, as we approach the end of the liturgical year, we get that shake up! Ever since Jesus ascended into Heaven, the Church has taught that Jesus will come again, even if we don't know when it will happen. Whether or not we witness that event in our lifetime, we know that we will also meet Jesus at our death. We should be prepared. Not frightened, but prepared and even excited! A day is coming that is so filled with hope - when war, and violence, pain and suffering will be over; when God will make all things new! He is the Light already present in our world that is pretty dark and bleak at times. He is the one certainty we can cling too. His Word will never pass away. Even if everything else changes in our lives, His love for us will never change. It might be a good time to reflect on how ready we are to meet Jesus. Are we living our lives with Him, trying to be the best version of ourselves? Or are we putting off change, and settling for mediocrity?



MISSION!

LOOK AT THREE PEOPLE IN YOUR LIFE THIS WEEK. THEY MIGHT BE FAMILY, FRIENDS, COLLEAGUES, TEACHERS, COACHES... ARE YOU TEARING THEM DOWN, LEAVING THEM ALONE OR BUILDING THEM UP BY YOUR ACTIONS. WHAT CONCRETE ACTIONS CAN YOU TAKE TO BUILD THEM UP? MAYBE IT'S SOMETHING YOU NEED TO STOP DOING RATHER THAN START... BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF!



PRAYER TIME!

Take some time in silence, on your own, and allow yourself to reflect on the following. Imagine you are sitting at home in your bedroom, on a normal day, when you hear a gentle knock at your bedroom door. When you open it, you find yourself looking into the loving and tender smiling face of Jesus. What is your immediate reaction? Are you excited, happy? Do you hug Him, welcome Him to your home? Or are you worried, frightened for some reason? Do you hesitate to welcome Him in? Do you feel distant from Him, and unsure how to react? Talk to Him honestly in this moment about what His presence means for you. When you have finished talking, imagine His eyes looking into yours. What do you think He would say to you in this moment? How would He tell you that He loves you, that He gave His life, for you? How do you respond to His love? Do you need Him to help you accept it? Allow yourself, as much as you can, to feel His love for you.

Lord Jesus, I know that You see me as I am, that You know my heart, and You love me completely. You are the one constant in this life. Help me to trust You totally, and to build my life on Your Word and Your Love. You are the Way, the Truth and the Life. Amen



CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON MEETING JESUS FACE TO FACE



- Even so come (Chris Tomlin)
- All Creatures of Our God & King (Sovereign Grace)
- When the stars burn down (Philips Craig & Dean)
- How great thou art (Lauren Daigle version)
- Hosanna (Hillsong)
- The Great Day (M W Smith)
- All My Hope (Hillsong)
- Hope for Everyone (Matt Maher)



The Lesser Known Last Judgment (Fr Mike)
Ascension Presents



Leah Darrow, former model speaks about her conversion moment
Jason Evert