

Dear Padre,

In the story of Noah, God destroyed most of the world. Did that really happen? How should we think about the world's end?

Most biblical scholars generally consider the Noah story to be a tale of God's new covenant with the people. Life here is temporary, but life with God is eternal. The story of the Flood was probably based on some historical event that was recounted in oral traditions for centuries before the story of Noah was written.

The National Geographic Society, in researching that region, discovered that the Mediterranean Sea broke through a natural dam more than 7,500 years ago, filling a freshwater lake with seawater and creating the Black Sea. This natural catastrophe could be the basis for the story of Noah and the Ark. Catastrophic world events such as war, floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, or tornadoes remind us repeatedly how fragile and temporary our lives are.

The biblical truth of the Noah story and of Jesus' account of the end of the world tell us that God is our beginning and our end. The world will end, but God will not end. God's love for us will also never end. There is a spiritual transformation that will happen both at the end of lives on earth and at the end of time. We can be certain that, in the end, sin and death will be no more and God's love will reign forever.

—Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSSR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



MARC BRUXELLE/SHUTTERSTOCK



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

It is vital that the Church today go out to proclaim the Gospel to all, in all places, on all occasions, without delay, reluctance, or fear. We do so in obedience to the Lord's missionary mandate, certain of his presence among us until the end of the world.

—ADDRESS TO UNITED BIBLE SOCIETIES, OCTOBER 5, 2017

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Calendar

Monday
 SEPTEMBER 7
 Weekday
 1 Cor 5:1-8
 Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday
 SEPTEMBER 8
 Nativity of the Blessed
 Virgin Mary
 Mi 5:1-4a or
 Rom 8:28-30
 Mt 1:1-16, 18-23
 or 1:18-23

Wednesday
 SEPTEMBER 9
 St. Peter Claver,
 Priest
 1 Cor 7:25-31
 Lk 6:20-26

Thursday
 SEPTEMBER 10
 Weekday
 1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13
 Lk 6:27-38

Friday
 SEPTEMBER 11
 Weekday
 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27
 Lk 6:39-42

Saturday
 SEPTEMBER 12
 Weekday
 1 Cor 10:14-22
 Lk 6:43-49

Sunday
 SEPTEMBER 13
 Twenty-fourth Sunday
 in Ordinary Time
 Sir 27:30-28:7
 Rom 14:7-9
 Mt 18:21-35



Our Parish COMMUNITY

September 6, 2020

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Ez 33:7-9

Rom 13:8-10

Mt 18:15-20



If...you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, but they do not, then they shall die in their sins, but you shall save your life.

EZEKIEL 33:9

SIRISAK BAOKAEW/SHUTTERSTOCK

It's None of My Business

This statement might sound like we are respecting the independence of others. It is none of our business how they live their lives, how they behave in society, how they worship God. We mind our own business; they mind theirs. After all, are we our brother's or sister's keepers?

Today's readings challenge this attitude. Ezekiel is told that he must proclaim God's will to the Israelites. If he reneges in his calling and someone dies in guilt, Ezekiel will be held responsible for that death. However, if the wicked refuse to hear this message, their death in guilt will be their own doing, for one must freely accept God's word. In the Gospel, Jesus outlines a way for his disciples to lead sinners back to the community. Both Ezekiel and the disciples have responsibilities to those who are not living faithfully. They both take steps to call them back. In this sense, they act as their brother's or sister's keeper. However,

they do not meddle in the other's business. The sinner must freely decide to return. God does not force repentance.

This might be a hard message. Who wants to step up and point out another's error in leaving the Church? However, if we are really concerned, we will do what we can to bring them back. We might not proclaim like the prophet or the disciples did. But the way we live our lives should show them the true value in being a faithful follower of Jesus.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *Is your life an example of the values of your faith?*
- ★ *Pray for those whom you love, who have left the practice of the faith.*



St. Mary's Church
Dalton, NE 69131



All Souls' Church
Bridgeport, NE 69336
Pastor: Rev. Dr. C.P. Varghese
Address: 701 P Street, Bridgeport, NE 69336



Sacred Heart Church
Bayard, NE 69334

Parish Office & Fax: (308)262-0709. Rectory: (308)262-1332 Email: allsoulsbridgeport@gmail.com Website: www.smasscatholics.org

Dear Sisters, Brothers and Children in Jesus Christ,

The common theme of today's readings is God's command concerning our spiritual responsibility and individual accountability for others in our families, parishes and community. This accountability arises from our identity as God's children. As brothers and sisters in Christ, then, we become each other's "keepers," and take on a painful, triple responsibility. We must lovingly and prudently correct each other when we err, forgive those who offend us, and ask forgiveness from those we have offended.

In the first reading, God tells Ezekiel that he is to be a "watchman for the house of Israel," obliged to warn Israel of moral dangers. If Ezekiel should refrain from speaking God's word given to convert the wicked, God will hold Ezekiel responsible for the death of the wicked. In the second reading, St. Paul points out that the love we should have for one another should be our only reason for admonishing and correcting the offender. Therefore, we should admonish one another so that we all may repent and grow in holiness. In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches that true Christian charity obliges a Christian, not only to assist one's neighbors in their temporal and spiritual needs with material help and prayer, but also to aid with correction those brothers and sisters who have damaged the community by public offence. If the erring one refuses a one-on-one, loving correction by the offended party, then the Christian is to try to involve more people: first, "one or two others," and eventually "the Church." Finally, Jesus mentions the efficacy of community prayer in solving such problems, for Christ is present in the praying Christian community.

Modern believers tend to think that they have no right to intervene in the private lives of their fellow believers. Others evade the issue saying, "As a sinner, I don't have the moral courage or the right to correct anyone." But Jesus emphatically affirms that we are our brothers' (and sisters') keepers, and we have the serious obligation to correct others. We need to offer encouragement to our friends, neighbors, and coworkers when it is needed, and loving correction, in private, for a personal offense where that is possible. (Extracted from Fr. Tony Kadavil's homilies).

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. C. P. Varghese

Pastor

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Date	Day	Time	Place	Intention
08/07	Monday	No Mass Today		
09/08	Tuesday	6.00 PM	Bridgeport	Ted Panas
09/09	Wednesday	No Mass Today		
09/10	Thursday			
09/11	Friday	6.00 PM	Bayard	Teresa Dukesherer
09/12	Saturday	5.30 PM	Dalton	Intention of Waite Family
09/13	Sunday	8.00 AM	Bayard	John Weitzel
09/13	Sunday	10.30 AM	Bridgeport	Oneva Lummel

ALL SOULS
617 P STREET
BRIDGEPORT NE 69336

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER:
MASS TIME

Tuesday — 6:00 PM
Sunday — 10.30 AM

Parish Council Meeting:
September 13, Sunday
after mass

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$350.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$225.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 575.00
MASS STIPEND	
TOTAL	\$ 575.00
BUILDING FUND	
HEAT/AC	\$50.00

- Prayer line requests may be made to Carolyn-262-0453 or Teresa-262-0439.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.

We are going to plan on starting another year of TMIY on September 10th at 6 am. For now, we are going to meet in person at the parish hall on every Thursday at 6 am. All safety precautions will be employed. All men are welcome.

SACRED HEART
1003 AVE B
BAYARD NE 69334

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER:
MASS TIME

Friday — 6:00 PM
Sunday — 8.00 AM

Parish Council Meeting:
September 13, Sunday
at 6 PM

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$375.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$10.00
SUBTOTAL	\$385.00
MASS STIPEND	
TOTAL	\$ 385.00
BUILDING FUND	

- Prayer line requests may be made to Paula-586-2992.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



SAINT MARY'S
718 FRANCIS ST
DALTON NE 69131

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER:
MASS TIME

Thursday — 6:00 PM
Saturday — 5.30 PM

Parish Council Meeting:
September 12, Saturday
after mass

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$485.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$3.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 488.00
MASS STIPEND	
TOTAL	\$ 488.00
BUILDING FUND	\$40.00

- Prayer line requests may be made to DeAnn-249-1735.

