



THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
NOVEMBER 16, 2025

Malachi 3:19-20 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12 Luke 21:5-19

A couple weekends ago, we honored loved ones who had died the year before.

Today I would like to share a true story of a husband who lost his wife to cancer and then has to choose what clothes his wife would wear in the casket for the funeral services. Some of you have had to do this task. Not easy.

It goes like this...

The widower opened the bottom drawer of his late wife's bureau and lifted a tissue-wrapped package. He unfolded the tissue and there was a beautiful slip. The expensive garment was exquisite, handmade of silk and trimmed with intricate lace. The price tag was still attached.

Speaking to his wife's sister, he said, "Jan bought this the first time we went to New York, at least eight or nine years ago. She never wore it. She was saving it for a special occasion. Well, I guess this is the occasion," as he wiped a tear from his face.

He took the slip and put it on the bed with the other clothes that they would bring to the funeral home. His hands lingered on the soft material for a moment, then he slammed the drawer shut. "Don't ever save anything for a special occasion," he said to his sister-in-law. "Every day you're alive is a special occasion."

Today's Gospel confronts us with that lesson, that life is precious. Life is a gift, as are our loved ones who we have around us.

In the Gospel, Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple, which would happen in the year 70 A.D.

Yet as Jesus shares this news of destruction, he places hope dead center. Our lives are secure in Him. We are not to be worried about "the stones" in our life, but hang on to what lasts; our Christian faith.

The temple may fall, but God does not.

When we believe that, every day is a special occasion.

Our call is to live in that manner.

Prayer: Bringing Home the Word