

## Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

### A Message from Fr. Mark

In the month of November, when the days grow shorter and darker, and as we get close to the end of the year, we always hear readings at Mass about the end of the world. Today's Gospel refers to the end of our earthly lives, with Jesus speaking about our hope for resurrection and eternal life. At the time of Jesus, there were Jewish leaders called Sadducees, who did not believe in the resurrection, nor eternal life. Nor did they believe in angels. They believed that death was the end and the only hope was to live a long life on this earth, and to get married and have children so that you would not be forgotten when you die. It was these Sadducees who approached Jesus in today's Gospel reading and tried to test him by proposing a ridiculous story about a woman who had been married to seven husbands. They were trying to prove that there could not be a heaven because there would be confusion about whose wife she would be. But Jesus had a brilliant answer in which he mentioned both the heavenly afterlife and angels:

"The children of this age marry and remarry;  
but those who are deemed worthy to attain to the coming age  
and to the resurrection of the dead  
neither marry nor are given in marriage.  
They can no longer die,  
for they are like angels;  
and they are the children of God  
because they are the ones who will rise."

Jesus was more in line with a Jewish group called the Essenes who believed in the rewards of heaven and who also had a very strong belief in angels. They even formed a community in the desert at a place called Qumran where they live a life of celibacy and asceticism. Let us pray that we can imitate their faith and that many young men and women will also choose a vocation to the priesthood or religious life!