

**† In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.**

For most of the Christian Middle Ages and the Renaissance, the Last Judgment was always on people's minds. Over the main entrance of the churches and cathedrals, on the inside wall, a painting or sculpture of the Last Judgment would often be placed. And so, after Mass, as everyone left the Church to carry on with their daily lives, they would be reminded of their long-term goal. Through the centuries, many Christians, canonized and un-canonized, have given themselves similar reminders of this powerful truth, just to keep a proper perspective in life.

Take St. Theodosius, for example. He was a monk who lived in Palestine in the 500s. After growing in holiness himself, he decided to start a new monastery, which soon attracted so many vocations that it became more of a monastic city than just a monastery. One of the first things St. Theodosius did when he founded his monastery was rather shocking. He dug a large grave, right in the middle of the cloister. When he had finished digging, the little group of curious monks gathered around the rectangular pit to get an explanation. St. Theodosius said simply:

*Here you see a grave. Here we will all one day be buried and our bodies will return to the dust from which they were made. Remember this, my sons, so that you never stray from the Lord's sure but narrow road of prayer and self-denial. It is better to die to ourselves each day and rise again on the Day of Judgment than indulge ourselves foolishly now and remain in the grave forever.*

St. Theodosius had learned well the lesson of today's parable - Christ wants us to know what's going to happen after death, so that we can make the right choices throughout our life.

24<sup>th</sup> & Last Sunday after Pentecost  
November 26, 2023

In this Holy Mass, Jesus will strengthen us with His sacred Body and Blood in Holy Communion, encouraging and inviting us to make His priorities into our priorities. Let's accept the invitation.

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