

According to the Online Urban Dictionary, a “bucket list” is a list of things you want to do before you die.

The term was popularized by the 2007 Rob Reiner movie starring Morgan Freeman and Jack Nicholson.

It traces its roots to the phrase “kick the bucket,” which has been used in the English language since the late 18th century.

As we move toward the close of the Liturgical Year, the Church offers for our contemplation readings that speak of the “end of time.”

We hear phrases like:

*Lo, the day is coming ...
... the day that is coming ...
The Lord comes ...*

We hear that:

*Nation will rise against nation ... kingdom against kingdom.
... powerful earthquakes, famines, and plagues ...
awesome sights and mighty signs ...*

And we are told:

*... do not be terrified ...
... [do] not be deceived ...
... [that we] will even be handed over ...
... [and] some [will be put] to death ...
... [and we] will be hated by all because of [Jesus'] name.*

But we are given the assurance that:

By [our] perseverance [we] will secure [our] lives.

So, does this mean it's time to plan our bucket list? Should we arrange those skydiving lessons? Or take that Antarctic cruise?

A contemporary author has actually written a book titled “*God’s Bucket List*,” where she provides eight reminders for Catholics on how to “be prepared.”

She advises that we should:

live with stillness,
live your passion,
live with instruction,
live in the mess,
live with understanding,
live by confession,
live the good life,
live like you're loved

In other words, find quiet time to reflect and pray; focus on the things that really matter; learn something new each day; realize that you aren’t in control of everything; listen to others; be honest with yourself; live your life according to God’s laws; and love God and love your neighbor.

In these ways, we can “*secure [our] lives*” if we will *persevere* in God’s love, God’s law, and abide in God’s presence.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us resolve to embrace “God’s Bucket List.” Knowing that we will all one day face death and judgement ... and will have to choose where we will spend eternity ... let us pray for the grace to love God and neighbor, and to live in God’s Will, and abide in God’s presence.