

We are in the “home-stretch” of the liturgical year; and in the next two weeks our readings will come from the Apocalypse of St. John, also known as the Book of Revelation.

It is a frequent joke among biblical scholars that most people mistakenly call this last book of Scripture “revelationS” – but it is a singular revelation, not a collection of revelations.

The word “apocalypse” means an “unveiling.” And the images in this book are often more “veiled” than “unveiled.” We may be tempted to ask, “Why not just say it plainly?” Yet Our Lord often spoke in parables to the crowds, only revealing the deeper meaning to His disciples afterward.

In the current section we are hearing, the ‘seven churches’ are being admonished to repent of their sins and embrace their spiritual strengths. The symbolic use of the number seven implies fullness. It also implies a covenant – a blood-relationship.

Our relationship with God is sealed in the Blood of Jesus, and requires us to repent of our sins – big or small ... public or private ... individual and collective.

While the month of November is dedicated to remembering our beloved dead, it should also remind us of our own death ... when our own sins will be revealed in the final judgment – for all to see. We must seek refuge in the Cross – relying solely on the power of Christ to save us.

The Gospel gives us the example of Zacchaeus, who went to great lengths to not only see Jesus, but also in making reparation for his own past sins.

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, may we – following the example of Zacchaeus – find Jesus, regardless of our shortcomings, and boldly repent of our sins ... wholeheartedly embracing the offer of the Savior for forgiveness ... without any reservation on our part.