

**The Reflection from Pastor Fr. John
Carlos, Holy Cross Church, Harrison, NJ,
November 14, 2021**

PRESENT TURMOIL

There is no doubt that in our day the world seems to be shaken and society is being weakened as long-held values fall to the ground. Yet in this turmoil the Son of Man comes among us in glory as he predicted.

The living Lord comes to us as his words are proclaimed in the scriptures, as his saving power touches us in the sacraments, and as he manifests his presence when Christians gather in prayer. Jesus Christ the light of the world continues to break the darkness as he first did 2,000 years ago.

That same Lord continues to gather his elect. He gathers them into his Church through Baptism. Then he gathers them every Sunday as he brings them together at his holy table and then sends them forth to glorify him by lives of service.

Every generation sees some of the frightening things that Jesus speaks of in Sunday's Gospel. But every

generation, if it looks with the eyes of faith, can see the Son of Man continuing to come in glory, continuing to gather his elect.

In our Gospel, Jesus says that the appearance of leaves on a branch declares that summer is here. Just so, the Lord's actions in our lives and in our Church proclaim that he is here. The Lord is with us, even when things seem to be falling apart.

Prayerfully in your service,

Father John Carlos