

Wednesday Nov 8th, for the 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

OPENING PRAYER: Lord God, in today's Gospel, you call us to be always ready for your coming. Help us to develop a spirit of vigilance. Be with us as we share our lives and listen to your Word. This we pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

READING OF THE ASSIGNED GOSPEL

- In the words of Saint Benedict, "Listen with the ears of your heart."
- Please note a word, phrase, or verse that seemed to really catch your notice.
- A volunteer slowly read aloud today's passage Afterwards, we have a few minutes of silent reflection.

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Gospel **Matthew 25:1-13**

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

- 1 "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.**
- 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise.**
- 3 The foolish ones, when taking their lamps, brought no oil with them,**
- 4 but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps.**
- 5 Since the bridegroom was long delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.**
- 6 At midnight, there was a cry, 'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'**
- 7 Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.**
- 8 The foolish ones said to the wise,**

**'Give us some of your oil,
for our lamps are going out.'**
**9 But the wise ones replied,
'No, for there may not be enough for us and you.
Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.'**
**10 While they went off to buy it,
the bridegroom came
and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him.
Then the door was locked.**
**11 Afterwards the other virgins came and said,
'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!'**
**12 But he said in reply,
'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.'**
**13 Therefore, stay awake,
for you know neither the day nor the hour.'**

* [25:1–13] Peculiar to Matthew.

* [25:1] Then: at the time of the parousia. Kingdom...will be like: see note on Mt 13:24–30.

* [25:2–4] Foolish...wise: cf. the contrasted “wise man” and “fool” of Mt 7:24, 26 where the two are distinguished by good deeds and lack of them, and such deeds may be signified by the oil of this parable.

* [25:11–12] Lord, Lord: cf. Mt 7:21. I do not know you: cf. Mt 7:23 where the Greek verb is different but synonymous.

* [25:13] Stay awake: some scholars see this command as an addition to the original parable of Matthew’s traditional material, since in Mt 25:5 all the virgins, wise and foolish, fall asleep. But the wise virgins are adequately equipped for their task, and stay awake may mean no more than to be prepared; cf. Mt 24:42, 44.

Thoughts and reflection on the Gospel Passage

QUESTIONS FOR SHARING

1. How differently would you live your life if you knew that you had only six months to live?
2. What can help us to remain vigilant for the Lord’s comings into our lives?
3. Name one thing today’s Gospel says to us that we disciples of Jesus need to heed and act on.

Commentary

Scholars tell us that many of Jesus' parables have two or more levels of meaning to them. The first level is the intended meaning for the original audience. In the original audience, the wise ones are those who hear and embrace the message of Jesus. The foolish ones are those who close their hearts to his message. At the second level, the intended audience is Matthew's own community (living some 40+ years later). His fellow Jews, who choose not to receive Jesus (the bridegroom) or the Church, are the foolish and unprepared bridesmaids. But others, mainly Gentiles, accept the message of Jesus as preached by the early Christians. These are regarded as wise. At a third level, the parable is used by Matthew to teach a lesson to all believers about vigilance. Here the wise ones are those believers who keep their lamps trimmed in preparing to meet Jesus by daily hearing and keeping his Word. The 'foolish' ones are those who hear Jesus' message but do not act on it, just like the man who builds his house on sand and has nothing to fall back on in time of crisis. The Gospel ends with a warning for all readers: since no one knows the day or hour of Jesus' return, all would be wise to maintain an attitude of continuous preparedness. Some of us may criticize those who had oil for failing to share with those who had no oil. Scholars point out that the parable is not about compassionate giving to those without. It is a call to personal readiness for the Lord's return. "Stay awake for you do not know the day nor the hour." In addition, there are some things that we cannot share, especially when others have closed minds and show no interest in hearing from us.

IS THERE A CAUSE FOR GRATITUDE THIS WEEK?

IS THERE A PRAYER REQUEST YOU HAVE?

CLOSING PRAYER - The Lord's Prayer

Bible Sharing Room 5 and Zoom

Starting Nov 8 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm EST Weekly on Wednesday
notes

Description: Blessed Sacrament is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blessed Sacrament's Zoom Meeting

Time: Nov 8, 2023 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZIKd-qgrj8qG9Rt4LoXWaku9w9Mo6AzLDCs/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGupzspEtSRsBiHRpwAHYigb_zziClfjfpviEvJDBhkYwjjb_UbH7opMcL8

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86903804010?pwd=MGJydS9qSW9LSzNGblZSM2xZcWpGZz09>

Meeting ID: 869 0380 4010

Passcode: 086586 One tap mobile
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