

The Work of the People

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

I have been telling you that as we move into the latter Sundays in Ordinary Time each year, the focus of the Scripture readings turns to the Second Coming of Christ. The end of time as we know it may seem like an ominous event to consider but it can also be an opportunity for great rejoicing since it is the time at which God will bring all into one again.

Corrupt kings and princes who have failed to heed God's Word are the addressees of these verses from the Book of Wisdom. After reprimanding the leaders for oppressing the lowly and judging unjustly, the author of Wisdom exhorts them to find Wisdom. Wisdom is always presented as seeking to instruct those open to learning her ways. Watch for her, for to do so is a wise and prudent decision.

As we approach the end of the liturgical year, our reading from 1 Thessalonians focuses on the end time, when Christ will come again. Paul thought that Jesus would come again in his lifetime, so he dedicated much of his proclamation of the Gospel to how Christians were to live in the interim period, between now and then. In this passage, Paul reminds the Thessalonians that at the Second Coming those who have died in Christ will rise with Christ. Then those who are still alive will join them and live with God forever.

Today's Gospel is the parable of the foolish and wise virgins. It is a parable about the kingdom of heaven and who will enter and who will be left outside the door wanting entrance. The five wise virgins have oil for their lamps and the five foolish do not. The wise do not share their oil, fearing they will not have enough for themselves, leading us to wonder whether they responded appropriately or not to the foolish virgins. Ultimately, Jesus' point in telling the parable is for us to be prepared to enter the kingdom of heaven. Will God know us? Will we know God?

The reflection for this week is from Paula Huston who is a longtime Camaldolese Benedictine Oblate and author of two novels and seven books on the spiritual life. She is currently at work on the history of the Big Sur hermitage.

Turning forty brought me face-to-face with my many failures. I'd destroyed my marriage, put my kids in an untenable situation, and hurt people I loved. So when the faith I'd rejected as a teenager started wending its way back into my soul, it was a relief. Nobody else had been able to straighten me out—maybe the Church could do the job. I went to confession, devoured books about the virtues, and became a daily Mass-goer. Life had never felt so focused.

Then my friend Tom asked me to coffee. I knew he was a recovering alcoholic, but it had been decades since he had a drink, and he seemed content. However, he told me that he'd recently

made his first retreat and was so shaken by a revelation he'd had that he didn't know what to do next. "God showed me that just stopping drinking isn't enough." What he'd realized is that simply "being good" is only the beginning.

All the virgins in today's parable, both foolish and wise, behave appropriately. But the vision of the wise is more penetrating: they understand their need to be spiritually pre-pared for whatever comes next. Following the rules is only the first step on a long journey, one that will require all the love and courage they can muster.

My moral conversion was important—just as important as Tom's—but neither of us could stop there. God had plans for us, the likes of which we could not imagine.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Ez. 47:1-2, 8-9, 12/1 Cor. 3:9c-11, 16-17/Jn. 2:13-22
 Tuesday: Ti. 2:1-8, 11-14/Lk. 17:7-10
 Wednesday: Ti. 3:1-7/Lk. 17:11-19
 Thursday: Phlm. 7-20/Lk. 17:20-25
 Friday: 2 Jn. 4-9/Lk. 17:26-37
 Saturday: 3 Jn. 5-8/Lk. 18:1-8
 Sunday: Prv. 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31/1 Thes. 5:1-6/
 Mt. 25:14-20 or 25:14-15, 19-21

TRANSFORM NOVEMBER INTO A MONTH OF THANKSGIVING

Because the "busyness" of Thanksgiving Day can easily distract us from slowing down to a pace more suitable to adequately expressing our gratitude to God, perhaps this November we might allow Thanksgiving to permeate our lives for more than just a day. How about the entire month? Expressing gratitude is at the heart of good stewardship. So, let's dedicate a little time each day in November to giving thanks for our blessings.

#iGiveCatholic

Please participate in the #iGiveCatholic giving day on December 1 to support our parish. Visit <https://erie.igivecatholic.org/> and search for (insert name of your parish) to make a \$25 or more gift. The Catholic Foundation of Northwest Pennsylvania is coordinating our participation in #iGiveCatholic and will be offering cash prizes! Help us win a prize! Prizes are listed here: <https://erie.igivecatholic.org/>

WORSHIP

Monday, November 9
 8:00 am + Alton Zilhaver (Adrienne)
 Tuesday, November 10
 8:00 am + Robert M. Adams (Family)
 Wednesday, November 11
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Thursday, November 12
 8:00 am + John Auer
 Friday, November 13
 8:00 am + Dorothy Czajka
 Saturday, November 14
 4:30 pm + All ancestors of Mukino & Carpio Families
 (Joan Rembielak & Phyllis Wronko)
 Sunday, November 15
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Living & Deceased Parishioners
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 Andrew & Stella Bialobcki
 (Wanda Pilarczyk & Family)

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 10
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
 Saturday, November 14
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession
 Sunday, November 15
 Before Mass - Confession - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 After Mass - Confession - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

St. Anthony of Padua is looking for someone interested in doing general maintenance work, starting January, 2021. If you are interested, please contact the office Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri between 9am - 3 pm.

**ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 STEWARADSHIP**

Offertory	\$795.00
Maintenance	50.00
Human Development	30.00
All Souls	30.00
All Saints	96.00
Candles	30.00
TOTAL	\$1,031.00

Catholic Services Appeal
 Pledged: \$5,585 Paid: \$5,535

WORLD KINDNESS WEEK
NOVEMBER 9 - 13

Saint Paul wrote that Christian love is kind (1Cor 13:1). So it stands to reason that kindness toward others should be extended every single day, especially during this time of COVID-19. The World Kindness Movement has selected one week in November to encourage people worldwide to weave a kinder approach into daily life. The purpose of World Kindness Week is to urge people to look beyond themselves, beyond the boundaries of their country, culture, race and religion; and realize they are citizens of the world. The week culminates into World Kindness Day, November 13.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

The bridesmaids in today's gospel were considered 'foolish' because they let their lamps go out. Don't be foolish. Pay attention to the small acts necessary o keep the flame alive in all your relationships.

SIGN INTERPRETED MASS
FOR THE DEAF

A Sign Interpreted Mass for the Deaf is held every Sunday at 11:00 am at St. Joseph/Bread of Life Community Church, 147 West 24th St., Erie, PA.

*Through the love of the Holy Spirit,
 we can gain the knowledge
 of how immeasurable
 Your love for us is.
 Through faith in You,
 Lord Jesus,
 we can do all.
 Let the love of the Holy Spirit
 and the faith in You
 always grow in our hearts.
 Amen*

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$635.00
Maintenance	270.00
Candles	35.00
All Saints	121.00
All Souls	85.00
CSA	360.00
TOTAL	\$1,506.00

Catholic Services Appeal
 Pledged: \$26,587 Paid: \$25,377

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
