

PRAYER CORNER

Almighty God, as we ask your help
for our brothers and sisters who are ill,
we ask you to help us to be healing people in our time and place.
May your love touch others through us,
and may I help all people to live in peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Frances of Assisi

JESUS SPEAKS TO US

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.

Afterwards the other virgins came and said, 'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!'

But he said in reply, 'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.'

Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Matthew 25:10-13

November 1 Collection

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Thank you so much
for your generosity and support
of our Parish.



OUR MOTHER OF MERCY

Historically African-American Catholic Church—all are welcome!

November 8, 2020



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**Our Mother of Mercy
Catholic Church**

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**THE THIRTY-SECOND
SUNDAY IN ORDINARY
TIME**

The **Gospel** is from St. Matthew 25:1-13. Although commentators and writers have found difficulty in explaining many of the details in this parable, the general lesson is clear enough. Our Lord described an incident that happened or could have happened at a wedding festival in order to bring home to his listeners the need for being ever vigilant and ready in his service if they wish to avoid the calamity of being excluded from the heavenly and eternal nuptials on the last day. In the other parable in which our Lord uses a wedding feast to describe his kingdom, the lesson concerns those who refused the invitation and will not come to the wedding. Here it concerns those who gladly accepted the invitation.

The ten bridesmaids, or maidens, in the parable represent all Christians. On receiving the sacrament of baptism, the Christian starts on the road to heaven; he gets his invitation to the heavenly nuptials but this is only the beginning. From the moment he comes to the use of reason he is expected to prepare himself, by living according to the law of God, for the great moment when the call will go forth: *Behold the bridegroom! Come to meet him.* This moment will be, first, at the hour of death for each individual when each one's eternal fate will be decided, and again at the general judgment of the human race. During their lifetime all are invited to the heavenly wedding, and all have the necessary means to get ready. But, like the foolish bridesmaids, many will fail to make use of these means and will realize their folly when it is too late. Sad, but true.

A certain number of those for whom Christ died on the cross, and to whom he gave the gift of his revelation and offered all the help they needed, will never reach heaven because they exchanged their heavenly birthright for a mess of earthly pottage. That the foolish bridesmaids in the parable lost a golden opportunity through their negligence is evident and we can all sympathize with them up to a point, but the thoughts of very few will turn to the bride and groom who were so seriously insulted by this act of negligence on the part of chosen friends.

Providing themselves with oil was the obligation imposed on the bridesmaids in the parable. It was surely a trivial condition when compared with the reward offered them: a very special place at the marriage feast. The obligations imposed on us Christians are surely trivial too when compared with the reward offered us in return: an eternity of happiness in heaven. It seems incredible that there are many among us this very day who, like the foolish bridesmaids, doze and sleep contentedly holding empty lamps in their hands, while at any moment they may be awakened by: *Behold, the bridegroom comes! Go forth to meet him.*

Now is the time for all of us to say "Lord, Lord, open to us." open to us the doors of your mercy and kindness. Open to us the eyes of our understanding that we may see our defects and remedy them while there is yet time.

It is up to us now to decide, aided by God's grace, where we shall be found on the last day—with the wise bridesmaids or with the foolish.

Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

Mass Schedule:

Monday-Friday — 7 a.m.

Saturday — 8 a.m.

Saturday — 5 p.m.

Sunday — 10 a.m.

Holy Day -- see bulletin

**Reconciliation
(Confession):**

Friday & Saturday Confessions
9:00 a.m. — noon

Office Hours:

Mon, Wed, & Fri
10 a.m. — 3 p.m.

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In Loving Memory of
Larry & Olga Martinez,
One Day at a Time. ✝

Rev. Jerome Gaston LeDoux

February 26, 1930—January 7, 2019

THE CLAVER FAMILY
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FATHER BART'S CORNER

My sisters and brothers:

On Monday, November 9th the Church celebrates the feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome, the oldest and highest ranking of the four major basilicas in Rome. The Basilica of St. John Lateran is the cathedral of the diocese of Rome, the official ecclesiastical seat of the Holy Father, the Bishop of Rome, not St. Peter's Basilica as so many mistakenly believe. The Basilica is also called the Church of Holy Savior or the Church of St. John Baptist. In ancient Rome this was the church where everyone was baptized. It the oldest church in the West, built in the time of Constantine and was consecrated by Pope Sylvester in 324. This feast became a universal celebration in honor of the archbasilica, the ecclesiastical mother church, called "the mother and mistress of all churches of Rome and the world" (*omnium urbis et orbis ecclesiarum mater et caput*).

This feast celebrates a mystery that is always relevant: God's desire to build a spiritual temple in the world, a community that worships him in spirit and truth (cf. John 4:23-24). But this observance also reminds us of the importance of the material buildings in which the community gathers to celebrate the praises of God. Every community therefore has the duty to take special care of its own sacred buildings, which are a precious religious and historical patrimony. For this we call upon the intercession of Mary Most Holy, that she help us to become, like her, the "house of God," living temple of his love.

With prayers and love,

Fr. Bart, S.V.D

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday, November 9

**Live Stream on
our Church Website**
Mass: 7 a.m.
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Tuesday, November 10

**Live Stream on
our Church Website**
Mass: 7 a.m.
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Wednesday, November 11

**Live Stream on
our Church Website**
Mass: 7 a.m.
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Thursday, November 12

**Live Stream on
our Church Website**
Mass: 7 a.m.

Friday, November 13

**Live Stream on
our Church Website**
Mass: 7 a.m.

Adoration: 8:00 a.m. — noon
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Saturday, November 14

**Live Stream on
our Church Website**
Mass: 8 a.m.

Mass: 5 p.m.
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Sunday, November 15

**Live Stream on
our Church Website**
Mass: 10 a.m.
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Vocation View

**Therefore, stay awake, for you
know neither the day nor the
hour.**

Matthew 25:13

Divine Word Vocation Office
1-800-553-3321
www.svdvocations.org

Weekly Readings

- 11/09— EZ 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; JN 2:13-22
- 11/10—TI 2:1-8, 11-14; LK 17:7-10
- 11/11—TI 3:1-7; LK 17:11-19
- 11/12—PHLM 7-20; LK 17:20-25
- 11/13—2 JN 4-9; LK 17:26-37
- 11/14—3 JN 5-8; LK 18:1-8
- 11/15—PRV 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1 THES 5:1-6; MT 25:14-30 or 25:14-15, 19-21

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PARISH CORNER

Stewardship Sunday

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Pt 4:10).

What identifies a steward? Safeguarding material and human resources and using them responsibly are one answer; so is generous giving of time, talent, and treasure. But being a Christian steward means more. As Christian stewards, we receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them lovingly in justice with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.

The life of a Christian steward models the life of Jesus. It is challenging and even difficult, in many respects, yet intense joy comes to those who take the risk to live as Christian stewards. Women and men who seek to live as stewards learn that "all things work for good for those who love God" (Rom 8:28).

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. As the Mother of Christ, she lived her ministry in a spirit of fidelity and service; she responded generously to the call. We must ask ourselves: Do we also wish to be disciples of Jesus Christ and Christian stewards of our world and our Church? Central to our human and Christian vocations, as well as to the unique vocation each one of us receives from God, is that we be good stewards of the gifts we possess. God gives us this divine-human workshop, this world and Church of ours.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Hour With Jesus

At our Church we are enjoying spending time with Jesus every Friday after morning mass until noon. To give a chance to spend some time with Jesus to those that work or are unable to attend Friday morning Adoration we will be having Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Saturday evening from 4 to 5 p.m. Everyone is invited to pray the rosary and to offer prayers for our needs and those of the whole world.

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"Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour." - MATTHEW 25:13

Many of us have put off doing something because we think we are too busy. We've all said, "I'll do it later when I have time." Unfortunately, too many of us apply this attitude to our Faith. Jesus' call is urgent, in the here and now, in your current circumstances. Don't delay. How is God calling you to use your gifts today? None of us is guaranteed tomorrow.

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Our Mother of Mercy and the Knights of Peter Claver Council 89 and the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul of OMM annually provide Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinner for families throughout the surrounding communities. This year, in a joint effort, we are asking for your assistance. Your donation of any non-perishable items and canned goods are needed. This would make this uncertain season a time of thanksgiving and comfort. A bin will be placed in the vestibule until December 13th. As always, your generosity is appreciated.

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**CATECHISM OF THE
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

**PRAYER IN THE
CHRISTIAN LIFE**

IN BRIEF

2590 "Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God" (St. John Damascene, *De fide orth.* 3, 24:PG 94, 1089C).

2591 God tirelessly calls each person to this mysterious encounter with Himself. Prayer unfolds throughout the whole history of salvation as a reciprocal call between God and man.

2592 The prayer of Abraham and Jacob is presented as a battle of faith marked by trust in God's faithfulness and by certitude in the victory promised to perseverance.

2593 The prayer of Moses responds to the living God's initiative for the salvation of his people. It foreshadows the prayer of intercession of the unique mediator, Christ Jesus.

2594 The prayer of the People of God flourished in the shadow of the dwelling place of God's presence on earth, the ark of the covenant and the Temple, under the guidance of their shepherds, especially King David, and of the prophets.

2595 The prophets summoned the people to conversion of heart and, while zealously seeking the face of God, like Elijah, they interceded for the people. the