

32 Ordinal 2020

[8 November 2020](#)

This weekend our seminarian-intern, Chris Stein, is giving the post-communion reflection. He will be offering the fruit of his prayer on the Scripture for the weekend. Chris is giving to you the hope. Let me offer, very briefly, the challenge to the God's Word this weekend.

So we are coming to the end, we are coming to the end of a liturgical cycle, to the end of the liturgical year. We only have a few weeks and then the great season of Advent begins, believe it or not, But before we get to that, God's Word, focuses our thoughts on the end. The end of all things, the end of our lives. The end of all time.

Thus, the parable of the day. Not all parables are created equal. This parable does not hold the same message as the prodigal son... this is not a parable about reconciliation, about the lost being found. This parable is not the same as the prudent steward, about being clever and shrewd in the ways of not just saving our neck, but saving our soul as well. This parable is not about what we may think what should have happened in the story: Why didn't the wise virgins, share with the foolish ones? Why didn't the bridegroom just allow them in? Who cares if they're late? These questions are the wrong questions.

The real question is, why did the foolish virgins choose sleep over being prepared and ready for the bridegroom? The oil of readiness was in their grasp, they had time to get it before it was too late. Why, instead of giving into their own need, did they not think first of the need to be ready for the bridegroom's presence in their midst? Those are the real questions.

This parable is not about generosity and warmth and welcome. This parable is about the harsh word of negligence.

The thing is, everything we need to know the bridegroom, who in this parable is God, everything we need to know God is right in front of us. This is the key to the spiritual life. We can do nothing to earn it, to earn God ... but we have to do everything to need Him. The problem is, we choose our need over our need for Him. Some would rather sleep than be active in His life. Some would rather sleep than ask God to be active in their life.

Everything we need to be fully awake in God is right under our nose. Everything we need to be fully awake in God is given to us by our Catholic faith.

Can you imagine what the world would look like if all Catholics went to confession on a regular basis ... I think the world would be humbler, more tolerant of our faults and the faults of others. Anger and intolerance would be cast aside.

Can you imagine what the world would be like if all married couples and those in Holy Orders would recite their vows every day, not just once at their wedding or ordination day ... but every day for as long as they shall live. Love – not, what can I get out of this relationship or how is being in this vocation going to make me happy – but love as defined by St. Thomas Aquinas, “to will the good of the other” ... would reign supreme.

Can you imagine what the world would be like if all Catholics went to Mass every Sunday... acknowledged God as first and foremost ... as number one, the priority... if all honored the Lord’s Day? Arrogance and entitlement and confusion about our life’s path would be nonexistent.

Our Catholic faith, the wisdom of God, She is right underneath our nose.

What do some choose? Sleep. Negligence. Or are we ready to need Him ... to want Him ... not just when it’s convenient for us or when He fits into our schedule or our time frame. The bridegroom is here in this Eucharist. We are here now, but what about tomorrow, next week, in two weeks or if something “better” than Mass comes along? Will you risk running out of oil? Or are you ready to embrace Him and walk with Him into His Kingdom, now and always.