

NOV 12TH, 2023

ST MARY'S PARISH

Weekly Newsletter



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
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THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

EXPOSITION OF THE EUCHARIST

Each Friday after the 11:30am Mass there will be an
Exposition of the Eucharist as follows:

First Friday - 1 hour

Subsequent Fridays - 30 min

PASTOR ON STUDY WEEK

Father Vincent will be away from the parish from this Monday to Friday. There will be no Mass this Wednesday, but there will be a funeral Mass this Friday at 11:30 am.

CWL MEETING

A reminder to all members

CWL Monthly meeting on Friday, November 17th at 12:45 PM in the Parish Hall



Welcome to St. Mary's.
Visitors are always
welcome. If you're
looking for a
new parish to call
home, we would love to
have you join
our family.

MASS SCHEDULE

Sat Vigil Mass	6:00PM
Sun	11:30AM
Wed & Fri	11:30AM

CONFESSION - 30 minutes before every Mass

Stewardship Reflection



This story provides us with background information to help us understand Jesus's parable in today's Gospel (Matthew 25.1-13). J. Alexander Findlay, Principal of Didsbury Methodist College in Manchester, recounts a captivating experience during his visit to Palestine. Approaching the gates of a Galilean town, he witnessed a lively procession of ten maidens, elegantly dressed and skillfully playing musical instruments, dancing joyfully ahead of their car. Curious, he asked about their purpose, and the interpreter explained that they were accompanying the bride until her bridegroom's arrival. He inquired about the possibility of witnessing the wedding, but the interpreter merely shook his head, conveying the uncertainty of the timing: "It might be tonight, tomorrow night, or a fortnight from now; no one can predict." The interpreter continued, explaining that a cherished tradition at middle-class weddings in Palestine involved catching the bridal party off guard. The bridegroom's arrival was unpredictable, often occurring in the dead of night. While public etiquette dictated that a messenger would announce, "Behold! the bridegroom is coming!" at any moment, the bridal party had to remain vigilant, ready to greet him whenever he chose. Moreover, two key rules prevailed: no one could venture the streets after dark without a lit lamp, and latecomers were barred from the ceremony once the bridegroom had arrived and the doors had been shut.

Jesus tells the parable to impress his followers of the need to live this life as a clear and certain preparation for the future eternal life. It's not enough to desire eternal life; one's life must practically demonstrate preparedness and worthiness for the Kingdom of Heaven. Two universal warnings that are worth heeding: (1) It serves as a reminder that there are certain things that cannot be obtained at the eleventh hour. It's far too late for a student to begin preparing on the day of the exam or to acquire a skill or character when a task demands it. Similarly, procrastination in matters of faith can lead to a situation where we are unprepared to meet with God. (2) The parable also emphasizes that there are certain things that cannot be borrowed. The foolish virgins discovered that they couldn't borrow oil when they realized they needed it. Likewise, we cannot borrow a relationship with God; we must nurture and develop it ourselves. Character cannot be borrowed; it must be

cultivated within us. We can't perpetually rely on the spiritual capital accumulated by others. Some things in life must be won or acquired through our own efforts, as they cannot be borrowed from someone else.

There's a true account that comes from the sinking of the Titanic. A frightened woman found her place in a lifeboat that was about to be lowered into the raging North Atlantic. She suddenly thought of something she needed, so she asked permission to return to her stateroom before they cast off. She was granted three minutes or they would leave without her. She ran across the slanted deck that was already at a dangerous angle. She raced through the gambling room with all the money that had rolled to one side, ankle deep. She came to her stateroom and quickly pushed a side her diamond rings, expensive bracelets, and necklaces as she reached to the shelf above her bed and grabbed three small oranges. She quickly found her way back to the lifeboat and got in. – Now that seems incredible because thirty minutes earlier she would not have chosen a crate of oranges over the smallest diamond. But death had boarded the Titanic. One blast of its awful breath had transformed all values. And in that moment she preferred three small oranges to a crate of diamonds. In the light of her current circumstances, that she must make preparations for living on a lifeboat. Likewise, in this world where Jesus may return at any moment, the parable warns, we must be ready. Are you ready?



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SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION

BAPTISM:

Contact parish office. A preparation class for parents is required.

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

If you are interested in learning about or being initiated into the

Roman Catholic Church, please contact Fr. Vincent or the parish office for information.

MARRIAGE

Please contact the priest at least 6 months before the date of marriage.

Premarriage course is mandatory.

VISITS TO THE SICK

If you cannot come to Mass because of illness, please notify us or have a family member contact us that we might minister to you either at home, in the hospital, or a nursing care facility. Confidentiality issues prevent us from contacting you so it is necessary that you personally request a visit.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - NOVEMBER 12, 2023

"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. How is God calling you to use your gifts today? Don't delay.

None of us is guaranteed tomorrow.



Please remember the sick in our parish....

Cory Fortier, Mary Nguyen, Grace Wilkinson, Amy Kashani, Mercedes Link, Josie Renaldis,
Sharon Hofmann.

And pray for those who care for them.



THE CWL ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER

Saturday, November 25th



Please help us with your donations for the RAFFLE portion. (We are accepting new or gently used items). Consider Christmas decorations that you no longer use. Also, the Bake Table is very popular so we are asking for baking (especially Christmas Baking) Pies, loaves, squares, tarts, cookies, fudge, peanut brittle and any other favorite recipe will be graciously accepted.

QUESTIONS? Please contact Paula Stewart
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