

November 8, 2020



Dear Parishioners,

Jesus speaks about the kingdom of heaven this weekend using the image of 10 virgins, awaiting the return of the bridal party with their oil lamps lit to escort the group inside. Since the party is very late in arriving, those waiting all fall asleep. Five are wise and five are foolish and the latter group finds their oil running low, so they ask the others to share with them. The others won't, fearing that they won't have enough for their own lamps if they share. So the foolish ones go off to buy some (at midnight, we might wonder)? While they are gone, the bridal party arrives and is welcomed home. They announce their arrival, but the bridegroom won't let them in. Jesus comment is, "Stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The liturgical year is moving to a close with the Feast of Christ the King just two weeks away, so the Church calls us to account for our time on earth and how we are spending it. Next Sunday, presents the parable of the talents, which for the Jewish community for whom it was addressed meant money, not personal abilities as we use the word. And the following Sunday has the scene of the Last Judgment, when each of us must give an account of our stewardship. Some will "inherit the kingdom" as Matthew puts it, because "I was hungry and you gave me to eat" and showed other expressions of compassion "for one of the least of these." Others will "go off to eternal punishment" because they didn't respond to the needs of "one of these least ones."

So what does this mean for us today as we reflect on these readings? The call, it seems to me, is this: In what ways do each of us need to "stay awake" to light our own lamps, showing the way for someone who may be wandering? Who in my circle of relationships needs my presence right now? May the Holy Spirit move our hearts and our attention to the persons God may want us to guide!

Peace, Sr. Sheral