Cycle A – Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Nov. 8, 2026

"Keep awake …"

OPENING PRAYER – (Psalm 63)

Leader: O God, you are my God whom I seek; for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless, without water.

All: **Thus have I gazed toward you in the sanctuary**
to see you power and your glory.

Leader: For your kindness is a greater good than life; my lips shall glorify you.

All: **As with the riches of a banquet shall my soul be satisfied.,**
and with exultation I shall praise you.

FIRST READING – Wisdom 6:12-16

In beautiful language, the Book of Wisdom mirrors to us the splendor and truth of divine wisdom. This passage begs the question of what disposition one ought to be in to achieve wisdom. We hear in Scripture that God is not in the flood, the fire… yet in the silence of a moment. The philosopher Aristotle describes of people being most apt to wisdom in times of true leisure to which St. Thomas Aquinas defines as: contemplating the Divine God.

1. How can we find wisdom in the business of our lives?
2. When was the last time you had a moment of true leisure that led you to an insight about who God is?

SECOND READING – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

When hearing about the second coming of Christ our imaginations can be stretched and entertained as to what this may look like. Today's second reading can furthermore expand the emotions of our hearts, fear, hope, awe (just to name a few!). For Catholics this passage is simply a hint of what we may expect at the second coming of Christ and that it will happen – but without offering the details that our imaginations crave to know. Rather we must trust those details are left to God and remain a mystery to us. Some believers in Christ have named this passage the "rapture" where judgment will occur and peoples will be divided -- however none of that description can be found in the text. Instead Paul is focusing on the **theme of resurrection** which we can understand through the Paschal Mystery of the death and rising of Jesus Christ. While we know God's judgment exists, it remains a near complete mystery to us as to how it is carried out.

1. How have you, or how would you, respond to someone posing the question 'Are you ready for the rapture?'
2. Do you find comfort in this passage?

GOSPEL READING – Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus seems to be utilizing a bit of comic relief in this parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids by taking a common experience such as a wedding and turning it into a very uncommon experience by extrapolating the possibilities of what could happen. Holiness is like the much-needed lamp oil– it can't be borrowed from someone else.

1. How does the image of a wedding, used to describe Jesus' second coming, speak to you?
2. What meaning do each of these images in the parable convey to you?
    a) the bridegroom
    b) the bridesmaids
    c) the lighted lamps (which were small and hand-held)
    d) oil for the lamps
3. Recall a time when you missed an invitation from God. Why did you miss it? What did you learn from this experience?
4. How can we prepare to meet Christ – in our every day life and at our death?

LIVING THE WORD

Take the time to read one of Paul's letters this week.

PRAYING THE WORD

Intercession: Lord we pray for a sense of wonder and awe amongst all Christians that together in unity we may seek true understanding of God's Word which is imprinted on the hearts of all people, we pray to the Lord.

(Invite personal intentions, ending with "Our Father…")

Closing Prayer:

Leader: God of Wisdom, you seek us
with a loving heart in the midst of our busy lives,
wishing to impart your wisdom
so that we will always be ready
for the return of our Bridegroom, Jesus.

All: **May our lamps be always lit so that we recognize you**
as you appear to us in our paths.
Help us to be ready for the joy of the heavenly wedding banquet.
Amen.

Leader: *Now let us share with one another that sign of Christ's peace.*