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Pastor

Pastor@stnicholasoftolentinebronx.org

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CATHOLIC FAITH
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917-579-6720

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ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE CHURCH

2345 UNIVERSITY AVENUE BRONX, NY 10468

TEL. (718) 295-6800 www.stnicholasoftolentinebronx.org FAX (718) 367-7411

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Vigil

7:00 p.m. **Spanish** (piano & cantor)

Sunday

8:00 a.m. **English** (organ & cantor)

9:30 a.m. **Spanish** (piano & choir/cantor)

11:30 a.m. **English** (organ & choir/cantor)

1:30 p.m. **Vietnamese** (keyboard & choir)

3:30 p.m. **Spanish** (piano & cantor)

Weekdays	8:30 a.m. Spanish (Mon-Fri.)
	7:45 a.m. Vietnamese (Sat)

CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION

All those who are called to follow Jesus in the Catholic faith along with Catholics already baptized (adults, youth & children) who desire to celebrate the sacraments of First Confession, First Communion and Confirmation can make contact with the coordinator of this area for information about the various programs available. Registration for these programs are announced in the bulletin during various times of the year. Also appointments can be made in the parish office at anytime.

Parents wishing to baptize their children (ages 1-5) are invited to make an appointment in the parish office to speak with a staff member in order to make arrangements for participating in the Baptismal Program.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS)

At the parish office by appointment.

MARRIAGE

Couples planning to be married should call for an appointment six months in advance of the wedding.

VISITS TO THE SICK

In emergency, call the parish office at any hour. Please inform the office of sick or homebound who desire the sacraments.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Welcome to all parishioners.

We encourage all parishioners to register at our parish office. We invite new parishioners to make an appointment to meet a member of the parish staff.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00 a.m. - 12 Noon open (12 pm - 1 pm closed)
1:00 p.m.- 5:00 p.m. open (5 p.m. - 6 p.m. closed) 6:00 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. open
SATURDAY 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

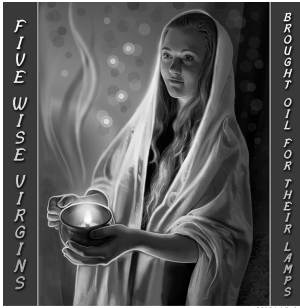


THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

EXPECTING THE UNEXPECTED

If it ever crossed your mind that Jesus was somewhat lacking in a sense of humor, today's Gospel should belie any such notion. Jesus' story of the five wise and five foolish bridesmaids is downright hilarious. The circumstances of the story were surely familiar to Jesus' listeners, just as they are—if we think about it—to us. Weddings never, ever start on time. There's always a delay. Buttons pop off at the last minute. Flowers wilt. Cars full of wedding guests get caught in traffic. Soloists contract laryngitis. Brides or grooms or priests show up late! So the only reasonable way to approach a wedding is with a sense of humor, to realize that something probably will go awry, and, when that happens, to smile about it.

Jesus tells this funny story to encourage us to be watchful, yes; to be ready, yes. But he doesn't tell it to make us dour and somber. The heavy-hearted tremble, waver, lose sight of their place and purpose, and fall asleep. The lighthearted know that the unexpected will happen—is bound to happen—so they are awake in their place and ready in their purpose when it comes.



First Reading — Wisdom is easily discerned by those who love her (Wisdom 6:12-16).

Psalm — My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God (Psalm 63).

Second Reading — Since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 [13-14]).

Gospel — Stay awake! You know neither the day nor the hour (Matthew 25:1-13).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from *Lectionary for Mass* © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Actions have consequences. As children, we were often told that if we would do something, then we would receive a present or a reward. If we didn't, it might result in a punishment. Geometry also uses the "If-Then Statement." That is what our scriptures are like this Sunday. In each reading, there is a suggested action on our part, which will result in a desired outcome. There is a feminine personification of God as Wisdom, Psalm 63 and the intimate thirsting for God, the letter to the Thessalonians on believing in Christ, and Matthew's parable of the wise and foolish virgins. In the world of instant everything, we are not good about being patient, and our follow-through can be terrible. But each reading in its own way promises us that if we diligently seek God, we will be blessed and rewarded, and that it is worth the work and the wait!

TRIMMED AND BURNING

So how do we do this? Whether we are sitting in the pew or one of those involved more intimately in liturgical ministry, this is a call for spiritual self-maintenance. None of our scriptures today is passive. Seeking and waiting for God requires work. Presence and participation in the liturgy are among the easiest and most natural ways to provide fuel for our spiritual lamps. But like a car, we need to do more than just put in gasoline. There are other needs to attend to for upkeep. Just read the opportunities in this bulletin! Perhaps you may want to attend a parish scripture class or find a spiritual book to read. Sign up online to receive the daily readings or some sort of daily reflection. Find a spiritual podcast to listen to on your commute home from work or turn off the news and music and drive in morning silence. Share simple, regular prayer times as a family such as at meals and bedtime. Experience the sacrament of Reconciliation. Or maybe you do too much, and the call is to let go of something. Do not become burned out or lose heart. Take courage and remember, "The day is drawing nigh!" Amen.

KEEP YOUR LAMPS

In the old spiritual, "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning" we hear the imperative to wait and be ready, and while there are many variations, it usually ends "The world is nearly done." "The time is drawing near." or "The day is dawning nigh." The liturgical year is near its end, and we begin to feel that tension of "already but not yet" as the readings become more eschatological (about the end-times) in nature. We are called to wait patiently. Yet, like the wise and foolish virgins, we run the risk of falling asleep, and or running out of oil. Waiting for God, preparing for God, requires much hope, much preparation and discipline, and at times it is counter-intuitive. We must put aside impatience or the desire for immediate gratification and keep the end in sight. In running terms, it is not a sprint, but a marathon.

Please visit our website for all the latest information and special Prayer Services, at: stnicholasoftolentinebronx.org and join us on Facebook, St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish

Getting to Know You

At the end of today's Gospel, when the foolish virgins return from the quick shop with the oil, they are locked out of the wedding. The groom answers their pleas, not with a question, "Why weren't you ready?" but with the statement, "I don't know you" (Mt 25:12). Now that sounds kind of odd, if the bridegroom represents the LORD, because God knows everything, and everybody. In Matthew's Gospel, this phrase seems to imply that "because you made no effort to know me, I don't know you." In other words, the oil in the parable stands for knowing the LORD. Or at least making an effort to know him.

So what am I doing to get to know Jesus? One way to know someone is to act like them. Actors who portray a real person try to watch videos of that person to see how they talk, walk, relate to people, what kind of posture they have, how they dress, etc. We can act like Jesus by following his example of care for the poor and the sick, forgiving people who have done wrong, teaching people about God's love, feeding the hungry, and giving God the credit for what we do.

Another way to get to know someone is to talk to them. The more we pray, the more we get close to Jesus. We can praise God for Creation, we can thank God for all the giving (and forgiving!) We can ask for help for those we love and for God's strength in our weakness (2 Cor 12:9). But we don't get to know someone if we do all the talking. Our prayer can include time to be quiet and listen to the LORD. We also listen to God by reading God's words in the Bible. And God can speak to some people in art, song, or poetry. The advice and wisdom of friends and relatives can also be God speaking to us. Hopefully, we can all find ways of getting to know the Lord, so that God can "recognize" us as friends.

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Confessions are by appointment only. Please call 718-295-6800 for an appointment time.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK
NOVEMBER 9, 2020

Monday: Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; 1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17; Jn 2:13-22
 Tuesday: Ti 2:1-8, 11-14; Ps 37:3-4, 18, 23, 27, 29; Lk 17:7-10
 Wednesday: Ti 3:1-7; Ps 23:1b-6; Lk 17:11-19
 Thursday: Phlm 7-20; Ps 146:7-10; Lk 17:20-25
 Friday: 2 Jn 4-9; Ps 119:1-2, 10-11, 17-18; Lk 17:26-37
 Saturday: 3 Jn 5-8; Ps 112:1-6; Lk 18:1-8
 Sunday: Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; Ps 128:1-5; 1 Thes 5:1-6; Mt 25:14-30 [14-15, 19-21]

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK
NOVEMBER 9, 2020

Monday
8:30am Hn Nay, Diên, Thanh; Acción de gracias por bendiciones recibidas, Por la bendición de un trabajo

Tuesday
8:30am Petra Ortiz, Benera Sufron, Wilberto Rivera, Damaris Sanchez (D)

Wednesday
8:30am Gilbert Jesus Colon (D)

Thursday
8:30am Peace (Family)

Friday
8:30am Acción de gracias al Sagrado Corazón de Jesus

Saturday
7:45am Maria Xuan (D)
7:00pm Juanita Soto, Erasmo Ramos. Eugenia Soto (D); Altagracia Roman Rodriguez (D)

Sunday
8:00am Felix Antonio Hernandez (D)
9:30am Rosa Henriquez (D); Pepe Arichabala, Mercedes Cintron (D)
11:30am Mary Velez (D); Peter Scavetta (D)
1:30pm Gioan (D)
3:30pm All souls

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