

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2020
32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Agnes & Charles Rossi
10:00AM Carmine Magnone
Antica Morin
12:00PM Grace Siccardi

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9
DEDICATION OF LATERAN BASILICA

11:00AM Alberto de las Casas
Nancy & Gregory Barila

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10
ST. LEO THE GREAT

11:00AM Patricia Hogan
Mary Joseph

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11
ST. MARTIN OF TOURS

11:00AM Theodore Tufano
Carmela Iannaccone

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12
ST. JOSAPHAT

11:00AM Bozica Beretin
John Picinic

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13
ST. FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI

11:00AM Dec'd Mbrs. Dobson, Runge &
Meuter Families
Riccardo Mattessich

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14
ST. JACOB

11:00AM Ronald Del Rosario
Martin Picinic
Jairo Bayona
Rose McCluskey

5:00PM Domenick DiPaolo
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8
33rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

10:00AM Giacomo, Genoveffa &
Rocco Suriano
Anton Cavlov
12:00PM Rose Bellobuono

ALTAR BREAD

In Memory of

Mary Tarabocchia

ALTAR WINE

In Memory of

Ghirardi Family

SANCTUARY LAMP

In Memory of

Gardenia Tarabocchia

MASS CANDLES

In Memory of

Antica Morin

PREPARING FOR MASS

The readings for this Sunday are:

Wis 6:12-16

Wisdom is readily and easily found by
those who seek her.

Ps. 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord My
God.

1 Thess 4:13-18

Those who have died in Christ will rise
first.

Matt 25:1-13

"You know not the day nor the hour."

VIRGINITY WITHOUT VIRTUE

Virginity is not equivalent to righteousness; there are virgins in heaven just as there are virgins in hell. One can be a virgin in the flesh but a non-virgin in the heart. The most excellent exercise of virginity is not just in the body but also in the mind and spirit. Today, we reflect on the theme: "virginity without virtue is vanity" following the Gospel Reading on the parable of the ten virgins.

In the parable (Matt. 25: 1-13), our Lord tells us about a wedding where ten virgins are waiting for the arrival of the bridegroom (not the bride). They had lamps, but only five of them brought jars of oil. The bridegroom arrives late from an unnamed destination and the five wise virgins light their lamp and enter the wedding feast, but the other five could not join because the door closed before they could get oil for their lamps.

The narrative has a lot of messages for us. First, the number "Ten" is instructive as a symbolic number in the bible. The number ten symbolizes completeness positively or negatively as it applies to any situation.

- The Egyptians suffered ten plagues (Exodus 7: 14-11:10)
- God gave the Israelites ten commandments (Exodus 20: 5)
- Ten lepers were cured by our Lord (Luke 17:11-19)
- Parable of the ten servants and ten pounds (Luke 19:12-27)
- Jesus gave ten "I Am" in the Gospel of John
- We have ten fingers and ten toes.

Another essential element in the parable is the jar of oil. The availability and lack of oil set the boundary between the wise and foolish virgins. The oil functions in keeping the lamp burning, hence it is an essential provision for the ceremony though the need does not arise immediately. The oil represents the virtues we need in our lives. It is not enough to be a Christian; there will be a need for us to possess the requisite Christian virtues.

Our positions, ranks, titles, designations, and earthly honors have no relevance to our salvation if we do not possess some of the essential Christian virtues. It is common to hear most people boast about their Church titles and other positions and using them to measure their level of commitment to God. However, such people forget that titles and positions are worthless before God; what matters to God is the inner commitment, the presence of the oil that will keep the flame burning.

We could recall the instructive dialogue between our Lord Jesus Christ and some Jews in the Gospel of John (8:31ff). The Jews believed that having Abraham as their father automatically makes them righteous as Abraham. Our Lord takes the time to tell them that having a link with Abraham is not enough; there is the need to reflect the life of Abraham "if you were Abraham's children you would be doing what Abraham did" (John 8:39).

Back to our foolish virgins, they believed that being virgins among other virgins specially selected for the wedding was enough to get them to the banquet. They were distracted by their title, and they forgot to look inward to secure the most needful facility, the oil. It will be important to find out the things that preoccupied the foolish virgins to the extent that they could not pay attention to what was vital for the wedding banquet. If we fast-forward them to our context, they could be involved with their make-ups, chatting away on the phone, or gossiping.

We are often foolish like the five virgins when we misplace our priorities. We often waste our time with unnecessary things when there are other things that matter. We are usually concerned about our outer looks but do not bother about our inner looks. We are typically worried about people's opinions about us and care less about God's judgment about us. We are usually concerned about our titles and ranks but forget about our ranking with God.

We are invited today to look beyond our physical "virginity" and seek out the inner virtues we need in life to enter the eternal banquet. Wisdom consists in seeking out these essential virtues as the First Reading (Wisdom 6:12-16) instructs us. May God's unfailing grace help us to look beyond the surface and search for the oil that will keep the flames burning until the Lord comes to take us to the glorious banquet. Do not be a foolish virgin!

Fr. Bonnie

PARISH SUPPORT

Thank you for sharing the gift of your treasure so that we can continue to do God's work here.

November 1, 2020

Sunday Collection

\$4,635.00

All Saints Collection

\$ 860.00

"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. Don't delay. How is God calling you to use your gifts today? None of us is guaranteed tomorrow.



BAPTISMS

The Catholic Community of Epiphany Parish welcomes with great joy the following newcomers baptized during the month of October:

*Bella Skye Robles
Mia Camilya Robles*

SUNDAY MASSES

Sunday Masses will be at 5:00PM on Saturday and on Sunday at 10:00AM and 12 Noon. We can now accommodate up to 150 persons at each mass. When you attend mass, you must wear a mask before you enter the Church and leave it on for the whole mass. Also, please sanitize your hands when entering the Church with the hand sanitizers found at the elevator entrance. Please do not take off or lower your mask when you approach the priest for Holy Communion. Take the Communion in your hand and step aside and lift your mask as you return to your seat.

Once again, please consider whether you are “at risk” and make a good choice about whether or not to attend mass. I remind you that the Archbishop has indefinitely dispensed all Catholics from their “Sunday obligation” so do NOT feel compelled to attend mass out of fear. If any of you is feeling “under the weather” or running a fever, we ask you please DO NOT come to the church. You may be jeopardizing the life and health of others.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

Hopefully you are both healthy, but just suppose your spouse approached you today and said, “The doctor said I only have a year to live.” Share your feelings about this news. Then talk about how you would spend this next year if it were true. Can you do one of the actions this year?

PARENTING POINTERS

Once your kids are about 3 or older, you start to notice their talents. One may be creative or get good grades. Another is athletic, a good talker, or actor. The point is not which talent one has but not to squander it. (Mt. 25:15) Using a talent takes time and work. Model that; but don't steal the time from your vocation of parent.

BERGEN CATHOLIC TOURS

Bergen Catholic High School, Oradell, will hold special one-on-one tours for interested families from Monday-Friday. Registration is required on the website, and a maximum of 10 families will be permitted per day. For more information contact Matt Rosa at mrosa@bergenatholic.org, Director of Admissions or call 201-634-2205.

CORONA VIRUS PRAYER

St. Vincent de Paul, our father and model, throughout your life you wished to imitate Jesus, the missionary and servant. In your time you confronted the plague, the illness of the people. Intercede now with the Holy Trinity on behalf of all the nations on earth visited by this modern scourge. Help the bodies and hearts of all victims. Strengthen caregivers, be close to all neighbors, and enlighten researchers. Walk with those approaching the portals of death.

As you gave strong and ardent advice to struggle against evil, so now come to our aid! Teach us how to expose our lives for the weakest among us and strengthen us to help them better with fearless perseverance. With the sole desire of aiding them in their needs, open our spirits to God's infinite providence.

Let us endow it with his total will for action. Inspire in us, also, obedience to our leaders, as we now place ourselves in your hands, confident and fortified with genuine feelings of dedication and zeal for our sisters and brothers. Amen.

ADVENT OF GIVING

Due to the Covid-19 Virus Pandemic, we have decided not to have the traditional Christmas Give-Away for needy families. Instead, we would appreciate Gift Cards to Walmart or Target, Visa, Master Card or American Express.

MISSALETTES FOR ADVENT-LENT

New Missalettes for Advent through Lent are on sale at the rectory for \$3.00 each. We will not be able to put the books into the pews during this pandemic. If you wish to have a book to follow along with the mass, please purchase your own. All books contain weekday and Sunday readings.

MASS BOOK FOR 2021

The Mass Book for 2021 will open on Wednesday, November 18th from 9:30AM-3:00PM in the Church Hall. **ONLY REGISTERED PARISHIONERS WILL BE ABLE TO BOOK THREE MASSS. All others will be turned away until after the New Year.**

HOW TO REPORT ABUSE

The Archdiocese takes very seriously any and all allegations of sexual misconduct by members of the clergy, Religious and lay staff of the Archdiocese. We encourage anyone with knowledge of an act of sexual misconduct to inform us immediately so that we may take appropriate action to protect others and provide support to victims of sexual abuse.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH

Ann Callagher, Caroline Craven, Felicia Martello, Arianna Cappola, Doris Levy, Cindy Simeone Reynolds, Baby Juliette Payne, Brian Hone, Cora Shaffer, Baby Michael, Cesar Valdecantos, Kay Tak, Michele Spino, Evelyn Rodriguez, Barbara Snow, Mary Iannaccone, Doris Portillo, Teresita Zafrasantos, Ann Marie Applegate Tatiana Flores, Christopher Nash, Pat Romano, Donna Carrajat, Tony Martello, Little Gabriel, Rachel Rocks, Sean O'Connor, Vladimir Drobikov, Louanne Mitchell, Colleen Meyers, Domenick Deodino, Rosemarie Liversidge, Christine Caruso, Patrick Bove, Camille Moglia, John Keegan, Kay O'Connor, Anthony Martini, Pantaleon Domingo, Conrado Trinidad, Joanne Kaiser, Patricia Warren, Ramon Villavicencio, Danilo Bonifacio, Daniel Johnson, Ryan Cariddi, Laura Cipullo, Richard Allen, Anthony Martello, Jr., Miguel Madera, Joe Villani, Lisa Mutchler, Elizabeth Chan, Benjamin Yap, Henry Yap, Anthony McCluskey, Jane Kim Estantino, Mike Hromin, Nancy Manto, Roy Regaspi, Gloria Marquez, David Barmore, Drew Johnson, Kunaim Emelyanesko, Kathy Santiago, Vinny Franco, Baby Grayson DiNatale, Kathie Gumb, Michael O'Connor, Patrick Shanley, Perry Bonaguaro, Rev. John Renard, Louise O'Connor, Cathleen McLaughlin, Fran Barbato, Jared Lanzaloto, Joel Rivera, Angelica Colavito, Jennifer Van Dam.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED OF THE PARISH

Herbert Smith.

**“BLESSED ARE THE PARENTS
WHO LOVE THEIR
CHILDREN IN THE MIDST OF
A HOSTILE WORLD, FOR
LOVE IS THE GREATEST GIFT
OF ALL!”**

