

Christ Child Catholic Church
*Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the
Challenges of Loving Service*

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**THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**
November 8, 2020

First reading Wisdom 6: 12-16

Composed in Greek during the last century B.C.E, this book promotes faith in God as a kind of wisdom far superior to any thinking that passes for wisdom among mortals. The reading comes from the central portion of the book where the author, posing as Solomon, describes wisdom as the most valuable treasure on earth.

Wisdom! In theological terms, wisdom is God's saving presence in the world. But the author/poet portrays wisdom as a beautiful human figure that anyone ought to seek as a spouse. Describing wisdom in feminine terms derives naturally from that fact that the word is of feminine gender in Greek.

God is actively engaged in bringing all humanity to salvation. And so Lady Wisdom is described as rushing "to make herself known in anticipation" of those who pursue her.

Ignorance! Anyone who values wisdom will "quickly be free from care." Such freedom comes from belief in eternal life. A truly wise person sees things in proper perspective: The world is transitory; God's kingdom is eternal. Implied throughout this reading is the opposite viewpoint that regards this world as everything. For the author, this view lacks insight.

"For taking thought of wisdom is the perfection of prudence and whoever for her

sake keeps vigil shall quickly be free from care..."

"My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God!"

Psalm 63:2

Second reading 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18

The Comfort of Christ's coming

Grieving is a natural and healthy process, but the Christian's grief should look different from that of **others who have no hope**. Christians grieve with a confidence that deceased believers are safe in heaven, thus their grief is mixed with comfort and even joy. Christ's death and resurrection are the basis for the resurrection of believers.

Asleep is a euphemism for death. Paul is making the point that for a believer, death is as temporary as a good night's sleep.

The call to resurrection at the Rapture will not include all the dead, only believers. These saints will ascend first. Paul then explains the next event in the Rapture sequence. **Then we who are alive and remain shall...meet the Lord in the air.**

According to the book of Revelation, there is further resurrection: those who died as unbelievers will be raised to stand before the great white throne in judgment (Revelation 20:11-15). See **"The Second coming of Christ."**

"Stay awake and be ready!"

For you do not know on what day your Lord will come."

The Gospel Matthew 25: 1-13

The Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins

In ancient Jewish tradition, the bridegroom would leave his home to claim his bride. After a series of festivities, including the wedding ceremony, the couple would make their way-usually after sunset-to the bridegroom's home. Guests who wanted to accompany them in procession needed to bring torches (**lamps**). In Jesus' parable, the problem is not that the virgins fall asleep while waiting for the bridegroom is not the problem but that some fail to prepare by bringing additional **oil for the lamps**.

Oil in the Bible is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The five **wise** virgins represent those who have the Holy Spirit (true Christians); the five **foolish**

virgins are those who have not truly been saved. Believers cannot impart the Spirit (share the oil) to unbelievers –each person must receive salvation for himself or herself before it is too late.

The **Lord** of the household is not being rude when he denies entrance to the foolish virgins; he assumes those who really want to join in the festivities will come prepared.

Matthew's audience may have understood **"oil in the lamps"** as a metaphor for good works. Since most of Matthew's Christian audiences were Jewish by birth, they may have remembered that some rabbis used that same metaphor. Someone else's good works cannot substitute for lack of charity and compassion.

We live out today's Gospel parable when we: pray regularly and honestly; remember that eventually time does run out; although we cannot go back in time and undo earlier decisions, we can repent, living in a new and more truthful way; live as people who someday will have to render an account to God for the gifts we have received and how we have used them.

Every Eucharist urges us to be vigilant, to prepare ourselves by prayer and works of compassion for the Lord's coming.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

By request or appointment

Baptisms & Weddings

Call the office for an appointment

Anointing of the Sick

Celebrated biannually at Mass or individually call for an appointment

For Pregnancy Support

Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

MASS INTENTIONS November 7 – 13

Saturday 5:00 p.m. + Jon Kelly

Sunday 10:00 a.m. + Leslie R. Olsen

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + Judith Ann Hammond

Thursday 9:00 a.m. + John Parker

Friday 9:00 a.m. + John Schaner

Women's Club/Prayer Group

For our November Meeting, it was decided to meet on the **THIRD WEDNESDAY-November 18th**, (1-2:30 as usual) since the 4th one is the day before Thanksgiving. Hope to see you there! Let me know if anyone would like to choose, a Saint to discuss or any other spiritual topic.

God Bless. Kathy Tumason

Every **SATURDAY** we pray **the ROSARY** together in the Church at **4:30 pm**. Please come to pray for our families and our Country!

The 17th Annual Giving at Greenfield

Is not going VIRTUAL!

Most of you may have received our request to sign up for a Greenfield family this week. Our friends in Greenfield could use our help more than ever! If you can help in any way, please fill out the Google form and send it to me ASAP. I hope to have family information now and I'd love to match you up with a family. There are other ways to participate including a financial donation, gift cards, or helping me shop and wrap gifts.

Contact Karen Joesten if you have questions.
408 375-0984 karengjoesten@gmail.com

PRAYER REQUEST

Can be sent

christchildchurchprayerline@gmail.com

If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

Romans 14:8

The Church spends the month of November making additional offerings for the souls in purgatory, and so we pray for all those who have died with hearts open to God's love. As we pray for their souls to be purified and led to heaven, we ourselves follow the path Jesus has laid out for us, in hope of reaching the same happy end.