

St. Mary's Catholic Church

32nd Ordinary Sunday

November 8, 2020

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Herbert Hoover served as President of the United States from 1929-1933. His encouragement and policies of supporting big business led to a handful of companies (like Standard Oil) controlling a large proportion of the country's wealth. The Wall Street Crash in October 1929 indicted the failure of his policies and the subsequent depression revealed Hoover's lack of political and financial foresight. President Hoover believed that the 1929 Crash was only a temporary setback. He declared at the height of the collapse that: "the fundamental business of the country is on a sound and prosperous basis." Surprisingly not, Herbert Hoover was not re-elected for another term as president. Years later, speaking with the voice of experience, Hoover reflected: "**Wisdom** consists not so much in knowing what to do in the ultimate as in knowing what to do next."



Wisdom is the theme of today's Scripture readings. In our first reading **wisdom** is personified as a mysterious woman who is never far from those who look for her. Lady **Wisdom** is near as she lingers at people's doors and gates. She waits to be consulted on all matters as she walks the streets looking for those who are worthy of her. She is portrayed not as a rare and elusive being but rather as a resource within everyone's reach. Like common sense, Lady **Wisdom** is invisible to those who don't expect to find her at the heart of experience. Lady **Wisdom** is seeking us, but are we aware of her? She wants to help us and free us from our worries and fears but we must be vigilant, or we will miss her.

When it comes to **wisdom**, many of us shy away from the subject in the belief that **wisdom** is solely the proper concern of philosophers and poets. But if **wisdom** is "about knowing what to do next," it clearly concerns all of us. The parable of the ten virgins and their oil lamps in today's Gospel confirms this view. Today's story of the wise and foolish virgins is part of the eschatological discourse that makes up Matthew's Gospel (Mt. 24-25). The focus of these chapters is on Jesus' Second Coming and the apparent delay of that event taking place. Mt. 24-25 contains an important aspect of **wisdom**: wise people are always prepared for future events while foolish ones make no such preparation.

Vigilance and **wisdom** are key elements in the parable of the ten virgins. This story is not about good and evil but rather it is about being ready, alert, observant and prepared. The wise virgins were vigilant, bringing a reserve supply of oil for their lamps. The end result being that they were ready for the groom's late...

Continued...

Weekend Masses

Sat Nov 7	4:00 p.m.	George Donaldson
Sun Nov 8	8:00 a.m.	Gene Baderstcher
Sun Nov 8	10:00 a.m.	Larry and Ima Mathewson
Sat Nov 14	4:00 p.m.	Jim Alt, Murphy + Immele Families
Sun Nov 15	8:00 a.m.	Wanda Kiene
Sun Nov 15	10:00 a.m.	Teresa Rieman

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$2,950.00	Loose \$282.00
	Total	\$3,232.00

50 envelopes returned = 25%



*Thank you for your generosity!
Thank you also to those who give
electronically!!*

Assignments for November 14 & 15, 2020

Money Counters: Courtney Gerten, Deb Goldenetz
4:00 p.m.

Cantor: Katie Hohenbrink
Ushers: Chuck Niese and Dave Siefker
Lector: Jason Swartzlander
E.M.: Jeanne Parinello
Servers: KJ Hohenbrink

8:00 a.m.

Cantors: Kevin Vance
Ushers: *Volunteer*
Lector: *Volunteer*
E.M.: *Volunteer*
Server: *Volunteer*

10:00 a.m.

Cantor: Kevin Vance
Ushers: Greg and Gabe Denecker
Lectors: Chris Denecker
E.M.: Cathy Hermiller
Servers: Conner Gerten

Readings for November 15, 2020

33rd Ordinary Sunday

1st Reading: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1 - 6
Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:14 - 30

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...arrival and were prepared to greet him when he appeared. Their reward was an invitation into the wedding feast. The foolish virgins were negligent, not thinking ahead and preparing for the possibility of the bridegroom being late. They were not prepared for the groom's delay as they did not bring any reserve oil for their lamps. Because of their negligence, they missed the groom's arrival and were denied access and entrance to the wedding banquet. The **wisdom** of the five wise virgins consisted in doing what was expected of them-being well prepared. Their **wisdom** wasn't extraordinary but eminently practical. In the words of President Hoover: "their **wisdom** consisted not so much in knowing what to do in the ultimate as in knowing what to do next."

The message of today's Gospel passage is rather simple: if we are **wise** and do what we have to do conscientiously, we have no reason to fear the unexpected-our death or Jesus' Second Coming. There is a blessing in doing the ordinary with sensitivity, in doing the sane and sensible thing, in acting with common sense and prudence. The fourteenth century mystic Meister Eckhart summed it up perfectly when he said: "**Wisdom** consists in doing the next thing you have to do, doing it with your whole heart, and finding delight in doing it." Have a blessed week.

Love & prayers,
Fr. John

P.S. Today we celebrate **Redemptorist Vocation Day**. I ask you to pray for Redemptorists ministering throughout the world and pray that many more young men will consider serving God as a Redemptorist Priest or Brother.

P.P.S. Today we also celebrate **Stewardship Sunday**. I want to express my appreciation and gratitude to all our wonderful parishioners who continue to share their **time, talent, and treasure** with our St. Mary's Community. Thank you for your generosity and kindness. May God continue to bless you and your loved ones and may Our Mother of Perpetual Help watch over and protect you always.

The celebration of National Vocations Awareness Week is a good reminder to continue to pray for an increase in vocations to the ordained ministry and consecrated life in the Diocese of Toledo. Jesus said: "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest" (Luke 10:2). We offer prayers this week that God will call many from our local community to labor with Jesus in serving the Church.

Thank you for your support of St. Mary's Parish this year as we have navigated how to best continue our ministry during the Covid-19 pandemic! We invite everyone to consider joining many of your fellow parishioners by making your generous gifts through our online platform. Our online giving option is a convenient and secure electronic giving program, and it provides St. Mary's with reliable donations during these unstable times. It's easy to enroll. Just visit our website at: stmarysbluffton.org and click on "eGiving" under the "Home" tab. Thank you so much for considering supporting our parish electronically, and may God bless you and keep you and your loved ones safe and healthy. Fr. John

Dispensation The dispensation to attend Sunday Mass, and Holy Days of Obligation, remains in place for the foreseeable future. Those who are at high risk, especially the elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions are advised to refrain from Mass attendance out of concern for their own well-being and out of Christian charity for others.



With cases of Covid-19 on the rise in area counties, we would like to remind our parishioners that we strongly recommend the wearing of masks during the celebration of Mass. Thank you for your understanding.

P.R.E.P

Children's Liturgy of the Word will be during the 10 a.m. Mass

K-5: Class will meet this Wednesday, November 11, from 6:30 – 7:30

6th Grade: Class will meet November 15 from 11 – 12:45

Jr High: Class will meet November 15 from 11 – 12:45



God Squad--High School Youth Group



God Squad High School Youth will meet November 15 from 11-12:45

