

21st Thursday II

[1 Cor 1:1-9](#)

Paul, called to be an Apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
and Sosthenes our brother,
to the Church of God that is in Corinth,
to you who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be
holy,
with all those everywhere who call upon the name of our Lord
Jesus Christ, their Lord
and ours.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always on your account
for the grace of God bestowed on you in Christ Jesus,
that in him you were enriched in every way,
with all discourse and all knowledge,
as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you,
so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift
as you wait for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.
He will keep you firm to the end,
irreproachable on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
God is faithful,
and by him you were called to fellowship with his Son, Jesus
Christ our Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7](#)

R. (1) I will praise your name for ever, Lord.

Every day will I bless you,
and I will praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the LORD and highly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.

R. I will praise your name for ever, Lord.

Generation after generation praises your works
and proclaims your might.
They speak of the splendor of your glorious majesty
and tell of your wondrous works.

R. I will praise your name for ever, Lord.

They discourse of the power of your terrible deeds
and declare your greatness.
They publish the fame of your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your justice.

R. I will praise your name for ever, Lord.

Gospel

[Mt 24:42-51](#)

Jesus said to his disciples:
“Stay awake!

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

Be sure of this:

if the master of the house
had known the hour of night
when the thief was coming,
he would have stayed awake
and not let his house be
broken into.

So too, you also must be
prepared,
for at an hour you do not
expect, the Son of Man will
come.

“Who, then, is the faithful
and prudent servant,
whom the master has put in
charge of his household
to distribute to them their
food at the proper time?
Blessed is that servant whom
his master on his arrival finds
doing so.

Amen, I say to you, he will
put him in charge of all his
property.

But if that wicked servant
says to himself, ‘My master
is long delayed,’

and begins to beat his fellow
servants,

and eat and drink with
drunkards,

the servant’s master will
come on an unexpected day
and at an unknown hour and
will punish him severely
and assign him a place with
the hypocrites,

where there will be wailing
and grinding of teeth.

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Jesus said to his disciples:
“Stay awake!
For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.

Have you ever been on a surveillance?

I have.

As some of you know, I was a police officer for 27 years before coming here to St. Tom’s

I remember my very first surveillance as a rookie.

The department had received a tip that an auto repair shop was going to be broken into sometime after midnight in the 1600 blk. of N. Rose St.

Well, my senior partner, Ron Lee, dropped me off at the corner of Prouty St to hide among some tall hedges.

I was all hunkered down out of sight but could see the repair shop.

I was the “eye” and supposed to radio Ron as soon as I saw the break-in go down.

It was dark and raining.

I waited for hours, burglars aren’t punctual doncha know.

My only visitor was some local stray dog who came to mark my spot.

I must have been trespassing.

After around 3:00 in the morning, we gave up.

That waiting didn’t seem to be productive to me as a 22-year old.

What a waste of time!

Since then, I have spent hundreds of hours waiting with nothing happening.

But there were times when because of surveillance we apprehended burglars, a serial rapist, an arms dealer and countless drug dealers.

As we wait...I assure you... Christ will come.

He will be there in the promised glorious 2nd coming when the Kingdom will be fulfilled.

That’s the event our mothers warned us about and told us we better be ready or else.

My mom knew all about this passage even if she couldn’t quote where it came from.

But as she raised 4 boys, she know how to work the “You’d better be good or else!”

But the meaning of Christ’s coming isn’t limited to that future event.

The Church teaches that the Kingdom of Heaven was inaugurated at Jesus’ nativity.

We live in the Kingdom now...but just not quite...not quite fulfilled.

We need to prepare ourselves for all those moments when Jesus knocks on our doors.

Were you alert enough today to notice that he may have knocked 2 or 3 times already?

If you missed his call, feel free to feel disappointed.

How can I make sure I hear his knock tomorrow? Jesus always...always comes back.

Fr. Ken calls it Jesus' relentless love pursuit.
Jesus never gives up.

So how can I be more ready for Jesus tomorrow? How 'bout tonight?

PRAYER

Prayer takes those silencers off of our hearts.
Pray as if you have a relationship with your creator...because you do.
God loves you so very much and He has absolutely nothing better to do in the whole cosmos than to spend a private moment with you.

How else can I be alert to Jesus' coming?
Look at the people around you.
The Spirit was sent to us so that we could be Jesus' body on Earth.

I just wanted to say one thing about St. Paul's letter.
There is so much to explore in his teaching here, but my reaction was pretty simple.
I felt St. Paul's overwhelming gratitude for his community.
It is the same gratitude I feel for you here at St. Tom's.
This clue to understanding St. Paul's heart helps me to appreciate St. Paul's message.

Thank you for you.

**Pray,
and be alert to each other.
Jesus is coming.**

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