

Readings for the week of November 12, 2023

Sunday:

Wis 6:12-16/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (2b)/
1 Thes 4:13-18 or 4:13-14/Mt 25:1-13

Monday:

Wis 1:1-7/Ps 139:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-10/
Lk 17:1-6

Tuesday:

Wis 2:23—3:9/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19/
Lk 17:7-10

Wednesday:

Wis 6:1-11/Ps 82:3-4, 6-7/Lk 17:11-19

Thursday:

Wis 7:22b—8:1/Ps 119:89, 90, 91, 130, 135,
175/Lk 17:20-25

Friday:

Wis 13:1-9/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5ab/Lk 17:26-37

Saturday:

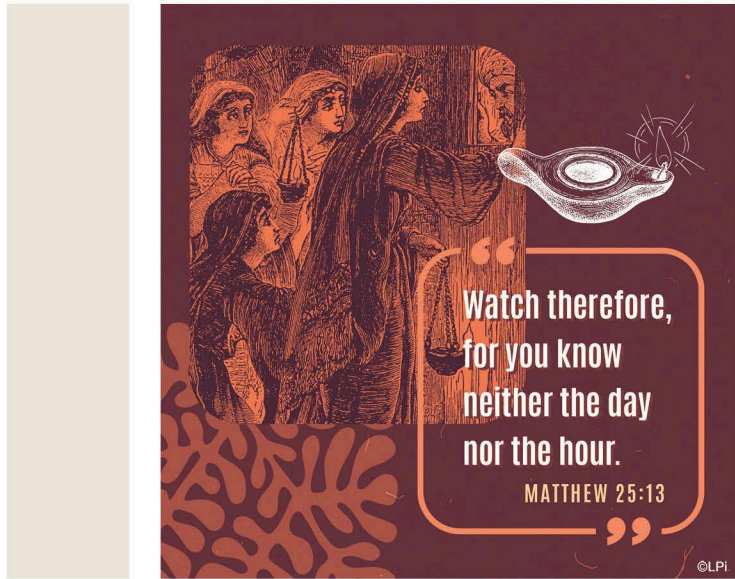
Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9/Ps 105:2-3, 36-37,
42-43/Lk 18:1-8

Next Sunday:

Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31/Ps 128:1-2, 3,
4-5 (see 1a)/1 Thes 5:1-6/Mt 25:14-30 or
25:14-15, 19-21



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Lately I've been enjoying the deep meaning of Eastern icons. I love how they express a tapestry of meaning in a way that can surpass the written or spoken word. Today's parable of the ten virgins from Jesus is a good example. Try googling "wise and foolish virgins icon" and you'll see an image of how our Christ meets our heart's deepest needs if we attend to him with the proper attitude.

I'm serious. Take a moment to google and look at it. See how it depicts the risen Jesus behind a closed door with the five wise virgins with lighted lamps. He gazes with them toward the five foolish and lamp-less virgins, symbolizing the outward looking of divine love for the lost. Moreover, the wedding feast is no ordinary one. It takes place in a walled city and garden, indicating it's a new Jerusalem and a return to Eden. The table isn't typical, either. It's a Eucharistic feast. Now we see that the door in Jesus' parable is the way into the church, where Christ is the new light burning amidst the dark midnight of this world.

The richness continues. We notice, too, that the foolish virgins look *exactly* the same as the wise ones in their clothes, hair, and expressions. The only difference is they departed to buy oil and now they are sadly excluded. We often act like consumers in the marketplace to fulfill our need for love and mercy. We'll always end up disappointed if we shop around. Jesus sums up the moral of the story this way: **"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."** Watch, remain, don't spiritually shop. It is always better to quietly remain close to the Eucharistic community of the Church, even if we feel like our oil has run out. This week let's consider placing the icon of the wise and foolish virgins on our phone lock screen or computer desktop to help us remember to stay close to him, especially when life feels dark. — *Father John Muir*

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Resplendent and unfading is wisdom,
and she is readily perceived by those who love her,
and found by those who seek her. (Wis 6:12)

Psalm:

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

Second Reading:

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,
so too will God, through Jesus,
bring with him those who have fallen asleep.
(1 Thes 4:14)

Gospel:

"Therefore, stay awake,
for you know neither the day nor the hour." (Mt 25:13)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

God knows that, sooner or later, we all face a night that is long and dark. He has given each of us exactly what we need to make it through. If we keep Him with us, the light will not go out.

Observances for the week of November 12, 2023

- Sunday:** 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin
Wednesday: St. Albert the Great, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Thursday: St. Margaret of Scotland; St. Gertrude, Virgin
Friday: St. Elizabeth of Hungary, Religious
Saturday: The Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles; St. Rose Philippine Duchesne, Virgin
Next Sunday: 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Saint of the week

Saint Rose-Philippine Duchesne was a French Roman Catholic religious sister and missionary who served France during the French Revolution before immigrating to the USA. She established the First Sacred Heart convent in North America and dedicated her life in service to the poor.

Prayer

Lord, You alone are the Center in which I find rest. Give me Your arm to support me, Your shoulders to carry me, Your breast to lean upon, Your Cross to uphold me, Your Body to nourish me. In You, Lord, I sleep and rest in peace.

Amen.

-Saint Rose-Philippine Duchesne

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Seeking Wisdom

I think if any of us were asked the question, “Do you love wisdom? Do you seek wisdom?” we would, at first, be a little taken aback. And then we would answer quickly “Of course!” with absolutely no doubt in our minds.

But a different way of asking the question is this: “Are you making wise choices?” That’s a question that would put a fair few of us on the back foot.

The virgins who went out to meet the bridegroom were all the same. They had the exact same intentions. They had the exact same stamina, or lack of it. They had the exact same knowledge of the night being dark and lamps being necessary.

What made five foolish, and five wise?

It was their choices. Only their choices set them apart.

We may rely upon the wisdom of another — the parent who reminds us to go to confession, the friend who demurs when we start speaking gossip, the priest who preaches boldly from the pulpit against an injustice we lack the courage to denounce ourselves. But even if we feel safeguarded by their good influence, their wisdom won’t save us.

We may possess a little wisdom ourselves — we may know well that a dark night is hard to navigate, and that we need the assistance of a lamp. We may go to Mass once in a while, read the Bible when we have time and serve others when it’s convenient.

But a lamp needs oil to burn in the darkness, just as wisdom requires action to be brought forth into the world.

We may love God just as much as we should — our flesh may pine, our soul may thirst. But a parched field never brought rain on itself just by being dry.

We must make the choice.

“Thus will I bless you while I live; lifting up my hands, I will call upon your name.” — Psalm 63:4

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Where does the money go that is collected each week at Church?

Answer:

This is a good question! Every parish has financial obligations, including the basic operation of the buildings, salaries, maintenance, and improvements. In addition, there are schools to support, programs to run, charities to be funded, and operational expenses like hosts and wine for Mass, music books, vestments, and so on. In some cases, cemeteries and other buildings need attention. Finally, there is the diocesan assessment that each parish pays to help run the diocese and the support services provided to each parish.

Most parishes manage to get by with the collection, a few fundraisers and endowments. But contrary to popular opinion, cash flow is also a problem, and many parishes operate in the red. The Finance Committee is responsible for assisting the pastor in fiscal management, and good stewardship is the basis for successful programs.

“The bridegroom came and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him. Then the door was locked. Afterwards the other virgins came and said, ‘Lord, Lord, open the door for us!’ But he said in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.’”

- Mt 25:10b-12

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

Wisdom is presented as a virtue seeking to be found. How might you search for wisdom this week?

Second Reading

Paul encourages the Thessalonians to be comforted in the belief that believers will be raised from the dead and live eternally with the Lord Jesus. What family members, friends, or co-workers need to hear these words of comfort?

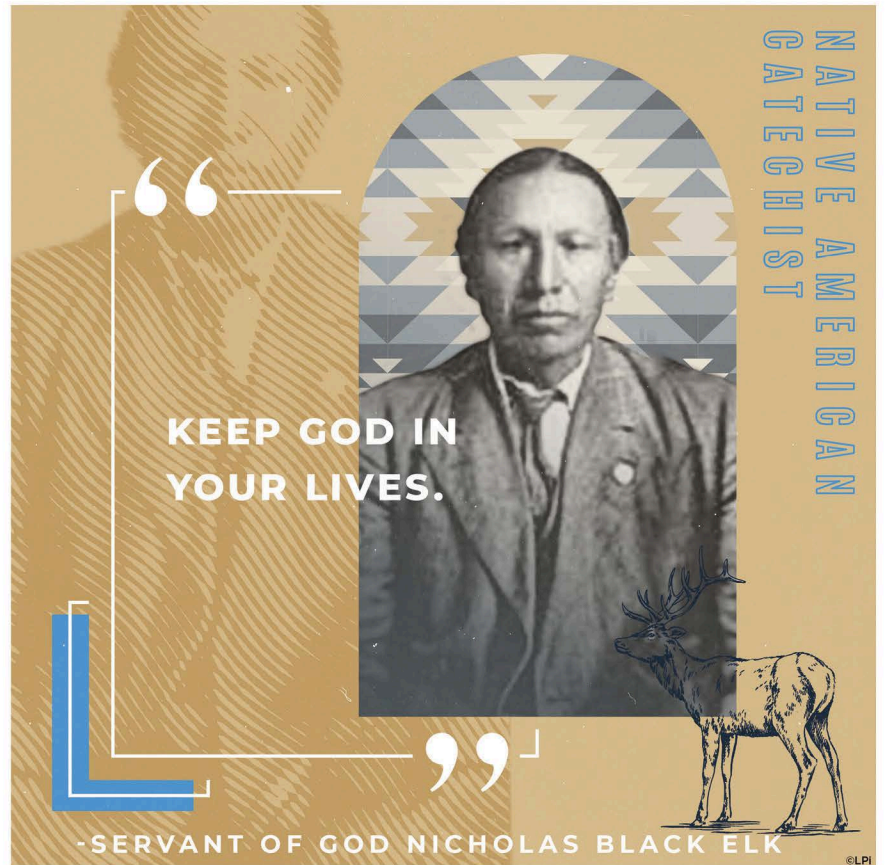
Gospel Reading

In the parable of the ten virgins, Jesus is teaching about the importance of being prepared for his Second Coming. In what ways is this directive from Jesus a challenge for you?



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My soul
is thirsting
for you,
O Lord.

PSALM 63



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“Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise ones replied, ‘No, for there may not be enough for us and you. Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.’” - Mt 25:7-9

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