



Thirty-Second Sunday in the Ordinary Time

To understand the message of Jesus offered through the parable in Matthew's Gospel we need to first establish some historical context. A wedding during this period in Palestine would have gone on for perhaps a day or more. During the time between the nuptial ritual and the celebration, the families of both the bride and the groom would have probably gone back and forth regarding the terms of the dowry and other monetary support. During these deliberations, relatives and guests would have grown weary and might have even fallen asleep. Note that Jesus describes the bridesmaids who were prepared for waiting by having purchased enough lamp oil and those who were not. When the announcement is made that the groom is approaching, all arise to go out to meet him. Those without enough oil go to find some and return to the celebration having already begun. The door is barred and they find themselves outside looking in. The Master in hearing their plea pronounces those somber words; "I tell you; I do not know you." The Lord's message is that their eyes are to be kept open. The day and time of the Master's return is not known.

During this month of November, our focus turns to contemplation of the future for all of us, namely; the time of our own death. We as a Church first give honor to those holy ones who have achieved life's goal which is to live in the presence of God forever. We then recall all the faithful departed and pray that for those still preparing to see Almighty God face to face, they will experience the beatific vision quickly.

Our love for those close to us who have died never ends and therefore our prayers for them never end either. The Mass is the very best gift you can give for a loved one who has died.

Peace,

Fr. Robert