

This Sunday's Counsel

THEME:

We imitate and witness the life of Christ the King by prudently seeking the Lord's wisdom.

PROMISE:

"We who are alive...shall always be with the Lord." (1 Thes 4: 17)

WORD:

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

ORDER:

- Stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour. (Mt 25: 13)

DIRECTIONS:

- Attain the state of grace at all times.
- Maintain a good relationship with Jesus through prayer, meditation of His word and availing of the Sacraments.
- Be diligent with ministry responsibilities we have promised to our community and parish churches.
- Persevere in doing good works and acts of charity.



BLD Trenton



Community News

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November 10, 2023

Being Patient And Ready

REFLECTION:

The theme tonight is: We witness and imitate the life of Christ the King by prudently seeking the Lord's wisdom.

God is the Source of all wisdom and He pours them upon all His Works. It starts with instinct. For example, we see large flocks of birds flying south in the fall to escape the coming winter and then coming back in the springtime. They have not gone to school to learn this. It is an instinct given to them by the Creator.

Mankind possesses a measure of wisdom called "common sense." Take for example a man who has had too much to drink; he manages to stagger home because he has sense enough to know where his home is. Again, God has given men a modicum or small amount of this wonderful sense of things. But this kind of wisdom doesn't save us.

Scripture speaks of true wisdom that comes from above. The first reading speaks of wisdom personified as a woman who promises that if we seek her, she eagerly



reveals herself to us. Possessing wisdom leads us to a deep relationship with God and transforms us so our actions and attitudes are changed.

"True Wisdom cannot be acquired by any man who is not first purified and become passionless,"

says St. Gregory. When wisdom is poured into our lives, it creates an attitude of selflessness. We become humble despite our success, kind without any selfish motives, accept our weaknesses, and willing to work hard to overcome them.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells a parable that demonstrates wisdom and preparedness. The ten virgins were entrusted with a serious responsibility to await the coming of the bridegroom. The five wise virgins were prepared by taking extra oil but the other five took no extra oil with them. They ran out of oil and had to leave to get it and missed the bridegroom's arrival. The door was locked when they came back.

We can relate to the attitude of the ten virgins but the sad part is losing our salva-

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Solo Parent Encounter Weekend



"Though the mountains leave their place and the hills be shaken, My love shall never leave you nor my covenant of peace be shaken, says the Lord, who has mercy on you." (Isaiah 54:10)

BLD - BUKAS LOOB SA DIYOS
(OPEN IN SPIRIT TO GOD)
DIOCESE OF TRENTON

Mature Singles
Unmarried Guardians
Separated Divorced
Married to physically Handicapped Spouse
Widows & Widowers

ALL ARE WELCOME!



SOLO PARENT ENCOUNTER
WEEKEND

November 11 & 12, 2023 at 7am
St Veronica Church
4219 US 9 Howell Township NJ 07731

Contacts: SP Ministry
Joel/Estela Bermudo 732.766.0988
projoe223@gmail.com

Michelle Tecarro 732.456.0285
Evelyn Balondo 646.3463989



Consecration To Mary

Intercede for our world, in such turmoil and great danger. Teach us to cherish and care for life – each and every human life! – and to repudiate the folly of war, which sows death and eliminates the future.

Help us to preserve unity in the Church and to be artisans of communion in our world. Make us realize once more the importance of the role we play; strengthen our sense of responsibility for the cause of peace as men and women called to pray, worship, intercede and make reparation for the whole human race.

To you we entrust and consecrate our lives and every fiber of our being, all that we possess and all that we are, forever. To you we consecrate the Church, so that

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Online Giving

You can now send your tithes and love offerings via **Paypal**.
Donate link can be found at
www.bldtrenton.com

Or mail check to:
BLD Trenton Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 1367
Toms River, NJ 08754

The Lord's Provision

November 3, 2023

Tithe :\$690.00
Love Offering :\$377.00

Thank you for your generosity!!!

God's Blessings

Birthday

Argie Salada	11/12	Inna Lukban	11/14
Nora Dingerdisen	11/13	Celia Carillo	11/16

Anniversary

Bill & Luz Bunoan 11/10

Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Mama Mary's visit - Beth Felibrico 732-995-7407
For Prayer Service - Mary Anne Arias 732-688-3962

*O Lord, my God, you are my help;
and in the shadow of your wings
I shout for joy.*

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in her witness to the love of Jesus before the world, she may be a sign of harmony and an instrument of peace. To you we consecrate our world, to you we consecrate especially those countries and regions at war.

Let us too ask ourselves: Do we try to practice what we preach, or do we live duplicitously? Do we say one thing and do something else? Are we concerned only about showing how impeccable we are on the outside, made-up, or do we also cultivate our interior life in sincerity of heart?

Let us turn to the Holy Virgin. May she who lived in integrity and humility of heart according to the will of God help us to become credible witnesses of the Gospel.

~ Pope Francis

Tending the Flock

No Hope Without Christ

Indeed St. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians: *"but we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope"* (1 Thes 4: 13). Faith in the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ in this sphere too is a crucial divide. St. Paul always reminded the Christians of Ephesus that before accepting the Good News they had been *"separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world"* (Eph 2: 12). Indeed the religion of the Greeks, the pagan cults and myths, were unable to shed light on the mystery of death; thus an ancient inscription said: *"In nihil ab nihilo quam cito recidimus"* which means: *"how quickly we fall back from nothing to nothing"*. If we remove God, we remove Christ and the world falls back into emptiness and darkness. Moreover, this is also confirmed in the expressions of contemporary nihilism that is often unconscious and, unfortunately, infects a great many young people.

*~ Pope Benedict XVI
Angelus Message, November 6, 2011*

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tion because of unpreparedness, being caught up with other concerns, and neglect our primary duty of welcoming the bridegroom.

Parables are loaded with symbolism. Any idea what the oil signifies? Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit and faith, but St. Augustine adds that, in this parable, oil is a symbol of good works. Jesus desires for us to persevere in doing good works. As it is said in James 2: 17, *"faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead."*

Good works cannot be shared with others; it is personal to each of us, the reason why the five wise virgins will not share their extra oil.

"Stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour" concludes this parable (Mt 25: 13).

Most of us must have experienced keeping vigil for a sick family member or watching our favorite ball game on TV until it ends. Despite our best efforts to stay awake, sleep

can overtake us as it did in the story: the ten virgins who got drowsy and slept. Drowsiness can also overtake us in our spiritual life. Many of us have started enthusiastically along the Lord's path but the seeming delay in the fulfillment of His Second Coming disappoints us. In our community, we can become frustrated doing the tasks by ourselves without other members pitching in. We can get tired and fall into spiritual drowsiness.

How can we stay awake?

Pope Francis once said, *"To stay awake is to live in a fully conscious way with concern, primarily for others- recognizing the misery and poverty that exists in both individuals and society. Negligence, or what he terms 'bad sleep', is the enemy of this vigilant concern."*

Jesus encourages us to be patient as we wait for Him. He wants to find us engaged in service, in the gift of

ourselves to our brothers and sisters, and be diligent in our duties and responsibilities to our family and community. Our commitment to serve and do other works of charity must be sustained. It is easy to become impatient and get attached to worldly things, but Jesus reminds us that everything that is not of God is of little value.... whether we are sick or healthy.... rich or poor.

Let us not forget that sin can dry up our oil reserve but prayer and meditation on God's Word can replenish our oil supply. We have to strive to attain the state of grace at all times through the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist as part of our preparation for the Second Coming.

Let us be wise, stay awake, be prepared, and make Jesus the Lord of our lives, so the promise is ours: *"We who are alive shall always be with the Lord"* (1Thes 4: 17).