



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."

Our Vision: *"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

THIS SUNDAY November 8 & BEYOND

Oil for Our Lamps



The parable of the ten bridesmaids was used by Jesus as one of His images of God's Kingdom. But parables are not supposed to be explicitly

descriptive of the transcendent truths they point to. They are situations taken from everyday life, scenes that the people of Jesus' time were familiar with, pointing to a reality that went farther and beyond, challenging the listeners to "hear" the true message that was intended through the narrative.

There is symbology in parables, of course, but we should not assume that every character and every incident is to be taken as a symbol of some doctrinal truth. The narrative is just a general setting where people interact, and some results ensue. The final words are usually the pointer to the main message.

In this parable five of the bridesmaids waiting for the delaying groom are called wise, and five are called foolish. This designation is based on the fact that five of them took oil in flasks to refill the lamps while the others took none. So, when the

groom finally comes after midnight, the lamps without oil do not burn, and the foolish bridesmaid ask the others to share the oil. But they reply that if they do so, there will not be enough for any of them, so they suggest they go to the dealers to buy it.

In the end, the wise bridesmaids are admitted into the banquet, but the foolish ones, who come late, are left out.

The final words in the parable are an exhortation to keep awake, for the day or the hour is not known.

Taken in a literal sense, we may feel there was selfishness in the wise bridesmaids' decision not to share the oil. But what if the real sense is that this oil represents something that cannot be provided to us by others, something that we can only get ourselves? The oil is the fuel for the light in the lamp. What can be the fuel of our inner light, the one that dispels the darkness in our own lives and the lives of those who surround us; the light that will guide us to sharing in God's loving presence?

A life lived prayerfully, firmly based on God's wisdom found in His Word and the discernment of that Word through tradition and reason; a life lived in justice and righteousness, in loving care of others, nourished by the sacraments and communion with our brothers and sisters in the faith; such a life is the best oil for our inner lamps.

The groom in the parable leaves the foolish bridesmaids out, claiming not to know them. If we assume that the groom represents Christ, then we may feel that He will leave us out if we are not wise enough to keep our lamps burning in time. But where in the Gospels do we see Jesus leaving anyone out? On the contrary, He always encouraged everyone to come to Him, even those whom society considered outcasts and undesirable people.

This may be a way of urging us to be on the alert, to be always ready to follow in His loving steps, to keep our light shining and to not let it be put out by lack of spiritual fuel in our lives.

Let us make sure we always have the needed oil provision to light up our lamps whenever He calls us to follow Him in His Way of Love.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
Amos 5:18-24 Psalm 70 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13

CALENDAR

Note: Sunday Mass is now held in All Saints' historic church at 9am. Tuesday Noon Mass is held in the church. All other gatherings will be Zoom meetings. Visit our web site for the Zoom link (see below).

SUNDAY The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost
9:00am Mass in All Saints' historic church
Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

TUESDAY Noon Mass in All Saints' Church

FRIDAY Noon Mass with Discussion and Insights into
Sunday's Lectionary at the Meditation.
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org

SUNDAY The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
9:00am Mass in All Saints' historic church
Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org