

The Mass of Remembrance is a special opportunity to remember those who have gone before us during this past year. The families and friends of their loved ones gather for this special Mass where the names of each person is called and the family receives a memorial candle. It is the time of year that the Church invites us to celebrate the Feast of All Saints and All the Faithfully Departed. It is a time that we recall Christ's victory over death and the promise of the Resurrection to eternal life.

Our prayers and support go out to all the grieving families. May the Lord continue to deepen your faith and hope. May we all reach out to each other to offer our compassionate love and faith-filled consolation. Thank you to everyone who helped organize and prepare this past Sunday's celebration as well as the hospitality and wonderful Sunday Dinner!

Leadership is essential in every human endeavor. Jesus addresses the pitfalls of spiritual leadership among the spiritual leaders of his day. With the series of parables and stories, Jesus has tried to reach out to those entrusted with such grave responsibility to lead the people in faith and service of God. With the parables about the 'Man with Two Sons'... 'The Unfaithful Tenants'... 'The Wedding Banquet'... 'The Tax to Caesar'... and the lesson on the 'Greatest Commandment'... Jesus was appealing to them to recognize how they had distorted and misused their leadership position.

However, Jesus did not want to stop there with his parables. Jesus wanted to go further and lead them to see that as 'Stewards' of the great treasure of faith and care for the people, they had a grave responsibility to reform and change direction. God's law (The Torah) was a true guide and instruction for the people. Jesus was not ignoring or rejecting it. But Jesus was showing how it was to be applied and practiced. It was to lead people closer to God and not away from Him. Jesus came to show that religion was not the property of the leaders...they were to be stewards of it. Nevertheless, there were traps and pitfalls to be avoided. They were to be models of right living...they were to be real leaders.

It appeared that they were seeking 'Prestige'... 'Honor'... 'Recognition'... 'Power'... and 'Control'. However, these were self-serving and not God serving...or people serving. So the bottom line was what Jesus was trying to teach them... 'The greatest among you must be your servant'. Leadership is service. Jesus modeled that in a most perfect way... 'I have come not to be served, but to serve'.

This week's Gospel helps us all to look at our own stewardship with the story of the 'Ten Virgins.' The parable tells us that five were wise and five foolish. How prepared were they to welcome the bridegroom when he came...so the question is how prepared are we to welcome the bridegroom...Jesus when He comes in all his glory at the end of time.

The Gospel tries to help us keep a proper perspective on life. We all know that life on earth is limited. But we may ask whether we simply pack in all that we can in the time we don't know we have...think we have. There seems to be no goal to that except personal achievement or pleasure. Those may be good in themselves but can distort our vision of the final and permanent/eternal goal.

Jesus tries to help us all see beyond the horizon...the Kingdom of Heaven. It is perfect

life with God for all eternity. How should we prepare for that journey of our life...welcoming the bridegroom...welcoming Our Savior and Lord? The parable helps us to see that living prepared...vigilant...ready...is the only option. We don't know the final day or time. We must choose to live each day in readiness with lives that reflect our dedication to being disciples...growing as disciples...and further...to make disciples.

Mass of Welcome...will be celebrated Saturday, Nov. 11. We welcome and accept those preparing for full initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. We also welcome those who are already one with us through Baptism and now wish to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church. We praise God for you and promise our prayers and support on your faith journey.