Parish School Auction…went very well last Saturday evening at the KC Hall. Everyone was so appreciative of the great and hard work of the committee chairs…Ashley Swip and the whole team…they did a fantastic job. The whole team pitched in and helped in so many ways… 'Thank You!' It was such a good time having everyone there to support our SSPP Parish School and our mission to pass on the faith and form our kids in the ways of Christ. Wow! The food was great…the items for auction were fun…and valuable! The whole effort to make it more tech interesting and up-to-date really added a new dimension to the whole evening. Thank you to all who participated, bid, and
donated to our great cause…the 'big' mission of our parish family! Thank you!

The stories/parables of Jesus touch on ordinary experiences of life. A story of a wedding brings all kinds of memories to mind. But Jesus directs our attention to waiting for the
return or the coming of the bridegroom. How many times have I waited at the wedding reception for the 'wedding party' to be introduced…not knowing when they might arrive!

Jesus wants us to be attentive…ready and prepared for His coming. St. Matthew is reminding the Church that each day is a day to be
prepared, watchful, alert and ready for the Lord to come. If we ignore the delay we are putting ourselves in peril. Now is the time to see each day as a new gift to live fully our faith so as to be ready for the Lord's coming!

Gifts are usually a surprise. Sometimes people 'kind of' warn us ahead of time so we can be prepared. However, responsibilities are usually somewhat clear and we take them in stride. The Gospel story/parable this Sunday reminds us that we have been entrusted…we have been given gifts…we are called to a responsibility. The key to the story is that we are to do something with the gifts and fulfill the responsibility before the final day…the coming of the Lord.

We might look carefully at this Gospel story to see what gifts we have received…what responsibilities we have been entrusted with. We call this 'stewardship.' It is real discipleship and a faith-filled response to what has been entrusted to us. First of all we must recognize the gift…responsibility. The time we have on earth is limited…obviously. But we often forget that and act as though we are here forever…not!

This time is a time to use our gifts in service of the Lord. Each of us has gifts and talents that are to be at the service of the Gospel…the Kingdom of God. We are called to alert others to the presence of the Kingdom and invite them to
enter it with all their hearts. We are called to alert others to the Kingdom breaking into our world and time so that they might take
advantage of its blessings. So we cannot take our time here for granted…but use it wisely until the Lord comes in all his glory.

So many just see this earth and the time we have here for our own pleasure and advancement. We might ask where is that leading us? The religious elite of Jesus' day thought they were in charge of time and history. They ignored the in-breaking of the Kingdom with the coming of Jesus as the Son of Man.
Jesus was calling them to see the responsibility they had to live and guide others to

God and the openness to His reign over them. They refused and rejected Him and therefore they rejected the Kingdom and the Father.

Will we be open to live each day in preparation of the coming of the Kingdom…and living the demands of being disciples?

Thanksgiving…is a time in our nation to be grateful for the many blessings God has bestowed upon us. But it is also a time to share generously these gifts with others. The challenge is to recognize these gifts and also to generously share them…the gifts of time and eternity!

We welcome... Keith, Alyssa and Stephen who were accepted into the order of Catechumens...and Kelly, Lisa and Terri who are now candidates to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church.