

November 12, 2017



JESUS PROVIDES THE WISDOM needed for being ready to meet him when he comes again. In today's Gospel reading, Jesus cautions his listeners to *stay awake*, "for you know neither the day nor the hour". He warns them not to be like the foolish bridesmaids who were unprepared and were shocked to discover that, at the decisive hour, because they were unprepared, they were excluded. Until then, there seemed to be no difference between the wise and foolish bridesmaids. But the midnight call to action finds the wise prepared and welcomed, and the foolish unprepared and left out.

The month of November, begins with All Saints' Day, which is immediately followed by All Souls' Day, when we pray in a special way for our departed loved ones. St. Paul tells the Thessalonians that when the Lord Jesus returns in glory, those who have already died *will rise first. Then we who are alive ... will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.*

How, then, can we best prepare to meet the Lord? Our first reading may have the key. Wisdom can be *found by those who seek her.* And the wisdom we seek – to be prepared to meet the Lord – is found in what Jesus teaches his disciples. His message is about how we are to live in the kingdom of God here on earth, so as to live with God after our death. His lessons are about forgiving others generously, being grateful for the generosity of others, following through on our word, and not expecting reward for doing the right thing. Most important, he teaches that loving God with all our mind, heart and soul, and humbly loving our neighbor as ourselves, are the greatest commandments.

The lessons Jesus taught his listeners as he prepared for his death provide us all the wisdom we need for being prepared for our own deaths. Let us stay awake in seeking to live in the wisdom Jesus shares and find ways to grow in our love for God and neighbors.

Frv. Michael

HELP FOSTER A CULTURE OF LIFE AT 1ST WAY!

1st Way is in need of volunteers to help at their crisis pregnancy center. Just a few hours/week can help save lives! Give a call to the 1st Way office (in Springfield 541-687-8651), and see what's needed for volunteering.



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS — Regular Court meeting on **November 16** (Thursday) ... Mass at 12:15pm, followed by potluck/meeting at 1:00pm; bring a dish to share. For info: Julia Kelso at 541-344-6851, or www.cdacourtregion118.com.

THANKSGIVING POTLUCK — It's turkey dinner time! Join **Eugene Catholic Young Adults** (ages 21-39, married or single) this Thursday, Nov. 16th, **6:45pm**, at St. Mary Church (in the St. Matthew classroom—Par. Ctr.). **Bring a dish to share!** For inquiries: eugeneyoungadults@gmail.com or 541-270-9329 or facebook.com/EugeneCYA.



SVDP TURKEY DRIVE IN MOTION! Please consider a donation of a turkey (or chicken or ham or game hens, etc.) for the Christmas Food Boxes, that will be distributed at St. Peter on Dec. 16th). The freezer awaits your 'generosity' in the Religious Ed Building's hallway, so items can be brought to Mass, or to the office on Wednesdays & Fridays during office hours.

Did you know? — The **CARMELITE AUXILIARY** exists to help our cloistered Carmelite sisters, at the Carmel of Maria Regina on Greenhill Road?? It is open to all women of the parish, and hold their meetings at **10:00am**, on the **2nd Monday** in the months of January, February, March, April, May, September, October, & November. *Come join us, and learn how we help our Carmelites!*

FAITH SERIES: CATECHISM THROUGH THE YEAR

WHAT IS ORIGINAL SIN?

Much of the language in Genesis' opening chapters is figurative. Nonetheless, the Catholic Church affirms that we find there a reference to a real event in time that took place at the very beginning of the human race — a tragedy unequaled in history, known as the Fall (Gn 3:1-24). We know few details, but the basic truths surrounding that fateful development are clear from the teaching of Scripture, both here and elsewhere, along with Tradition:

- ♦ God created our first human parents in a state of holiness, an original justice (righteousness) that is without sin, and thus without shame (Gn 2:25). Each enjoyed a right and harmonious relationship with God, with his/herself, each other, and the world around them (Gn 1:26-31, 2:8-9, 15, 21-25).
- ♦ Through their own free choice, however, they disobeyed God, breaking fellowship with him (Gn 2:15-17, 3:1-13, Sir 15:14).
- ♦ Their disobedience — a turning away from the Source of all life and order — necessarily brought death and disorder into the world, but, above all, within themselves. So they "fell" from their previous condition to a state of sinfulness, misery, and ignorance (Gn 3:14-24). Their human nature was deeply wounded, though not totally corrupted.
- ♦ Our first parents, having lost their original wholeness, could not pass on to their descendants what they themselves no longer possessed. This deprivation is consequently inherited by all human beings, and is called "original sin" (Rom 5:12-19).
- ♦ Unlike personal sin, resulting from the wrong choices of each individual, original sin does not result from our own doing. It is contracted, not committed—we are conceived with it (Ps 51:7).
- ♦ The sacrament of Baptism cleanses us from original sin and restores us to original righteousness and fellowship with God (Acts 2:38, 22:16). But, after Baptism, we are still left with a certain moral and spiritual weakness (concupiscence), so that even though our wills are free, we are inclined to sin. This inclination we must continually overcome by God's grace (Rom 6:19, 7:15-24).
- ♦ The only two human beings (after our first parents) to be conceived without original sin are our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Cor 5:21), and his blessed mother, whose Immaculate Conception was possible through the merits of her sinless Son (Lk 1:28).

RECOMMENDED READING: Excerpt taken from The NEW Catholic Answer Bible

Ps 14:1-3; 53:2-4 • Eccl 7:20 • Sir 15:11-20 • Rom 3:9-18,23 • 1 Cor 15:22 • Heb 4:15

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