32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, November 8th, 2026

STAYING AWAKE

Wisdom 6:12-16 - Wisdom will come to those who seek it.

Psalm 63 - Our souls are thirsting for God.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 - God will raise all those who have died.

Matthew 25:1-13 - Jesus teaching the importance of being prepared to receive the Kingdom of Heaven.

Our texts today are about preparations. We prepare for advent season coming up in three weeks from today, we prepare for the end of our own time, and we prepare for our passage to an eternal destiny with God. For a good preparation, *a dynamic faith needs three essential hearts;* a searching heart, a watching heart, and a growing heart. In the gospel passage, the five foolish virgins represent the "Chosen People of God" who were waiting for the Messiah but were shut out from the messianic banquet because they were not prepared. This parable teaches us that, like the five wise virgins, we should attend to duties of the present moment, preparing now, rather than waiting until it is too late. Jesus tells us to **STAY AWAKE.**

This is an important examination for each of us today. What occupies my heart? What directs my decisions? What am I living for? Friends, here is an invitation to use the opportunities and resources entrusted to us for something greater than ourselves. The resources we have can become instruments for us to do good, help the poor, support the needy and build the God of Kingdom. It is possible to live as though this world is our permanent home. We spend our whole lives gathering possessions, pursuing positions, competing with others, and worrying about things that will eventually pass away. We prepare for examinations, sports competitions, for winter/summer, parties, weddings, journeys, retirement, and earthly responsibilities, and these are worth preparing for, but how much time do we devote to preparing for eternity? We make sure our phones are charged, our businesses are running, and our homes are secure, but what about the condition of our souls? How often do we gain the good things of this world and gradually lose sight of our eternal destiny? Jesus tells us to **STAY AWAKE.**

The Christian life is not simply about beginning well, but about remaining faithful until the end. It is not enough to have a lamp; we must also have enough oil to keep it burning. It is not enough to profess faith today; we must nurture that faith so that it will remain alive when the Lord comes. And this can only be sustained through Christ Jesus. Are the foolish virgins bad people? not really. They are good people. Their problem was that they were not prepared. This is a warning to us Christians. Am I preparing for eternity, or am I so occupied with the things of this world that I have forgotten the One – Jesus Christ, who is coming?

Prayer: May our hearts remain rooted in Christ, may our eyes remain fixed on heaven, and may our hands remain committed to the service of God and doing good. May Christ transform us, and help us to remain firm in faith until we reach our heavenly homeland. Amen.

- Fr. Martin Ezeihuaku, MSP