

32ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME [A], 2017

NOVEMBER 11, 2017

QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA

Rev. Jeff McGowan

1ST READING: WISDOM 6:12-16

...whoever for her sake [Wisdom] keeps vigil shall quickly be free from care

PSALM 63

My soul is thirsting for you, O Lord my God

2ND READING: THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25: 1-13

"Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

+++++

We had first reconciliation yesterday. 118 arrived as little sinners and left as saints. One of the teachers asked these questions: "If I am the smartest person the whole school and get the best grades, would that make me a saint?" The children agreed just being the smartest would not make them a saint. "If I could climb tall buildings like Spiderman, would that make me a saint?" Again the children agreed that would not be enough. Finally, the teacher asked, "Then how *do* I get to be a saint?" One of the boys spoke up clearly: "**You have to be dead!**"

The readings today remind us that short-term thinking not smart. Life on this good earth is all about preparation, providence and endurance. Becoming a saint isn't simply a matter of being dead. In fact it is about being most alive while we live.

We heard from the 25th chapter of Matthew's Gospel, but Jesus set this up back in the fifth chapter. Jesus told his disciples: "***You are the light of the world...your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.***" We are each given unique opportunities to let the light shine from our own good

deeds. The reason the wise bridesmaids couldn't share their oil in the parable is because our light is personal; we each have our own opportunities to express God's love in this world. Each of us chooses whether or how to respond to the opportunities to serve as a soldier of Christ. If we do choose Christ, we will, like all soldiers, have to be prepared, be prudent and endure against the temptations to go AWOL in this war against the darkness. We can be thankful for the blessed experiences to allow our light to shine so we prepare the way of the Lord. Our brightly burning lights pierce the darkness and generate good news.

[10:00 Mass: **We are honoring our Veterans today.** Maybe you all are aware PBS has been airing a Ken Burns historical series on the war in Vietnam. I'd like to ask all who served our country in the war in Vietnam to please stand. Clearly you are heroes. Now I'd ask all those who have served in this current war in the Middle East to please stand. Again you are heroes. It seems our country has been in constant wars, one after another. So please, all veterans of any of the wars and anyone who served our country in the military please stand. We can never thank you enough; you put your lives on the line for us.] [Applause]

"Here's to the Heroes" [song and screen pictures of soldiers people submitted]