

**For The Bulletin of  
November 12, 2017**



**THE 32<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME**

*From Father Robert*

In 1907 Robert Baden-Powell founded the Boy Scouts of America and soon after, in 1912, Juliette Gordon Low founded the Girl Scouts after she met Baden-Powell. Although other interests have drained the number of Scouts worldwide, several million young girls and boys still adhere to the principles of these organizations. They share the same motto: “Be prepared!” The motto emphasizes preparedness in mind through self-discipline and preparedness in body through wholesome exercise and activities. Be prepared! Although we cannot prepare for every contingency in life, thinking ahead, anticipating outcomes, and being alert to persons and events around us do help us meet head-on whatever comes our way. We avoid as many surprises as we can that may disrupt our journey of life.

Today’s gospel is about being prepared. And while Jesus doesn’t use the Scout motto’s words, He does tell His disciples to “stay awake.” Jesus tells a parable that reminds us of what we must be prepared for in life the most: the Second Coming of Jesus when this world as we

know it will end and all will be returned to the Father.

This parable is fraught with symbolic images of light, delay, waiting, drowsiness and sleep, a cry, midnight darkness, arrival, wedding feast, some admitted and some are not. All these images turn our attention to the Second Coming of Christ, our own waiting in this in-between time of living in both light and darkness, the reality that some will be admitted to the heavenly banquet and some will not, the necessity of being known by Christ and being prepared for His coming. Wait we must, but this waiting is not inactive or empty. How we spend this waiting time determines how we will spend the rest of time.

There is no doubt that the Bridegroom will come. What is unexpected is His long delay which Matthew is specifically addressing. The question for us then is how do we deal with the delay? How do we live in the in-between time of now and what is to come? Matthew is suggesting an issue beyond vigilance – that we must also be prepared. We are living in a crucial time of spending our lives being open to Christ’s comings in the here and now. The here and now is an all-important readying for His Second Coming, and we cannot afford to sleep it away! The long delay of the Bridegroom’s coming reveals both the wisdom and longer vision of the five virgins who were prepared and the loss of those who were shortsighted and unprepared – the “door was locked” and they were not admitted to the wedding feast.

### *Living The Paschal Mystery*

We rarely, if ever, view our daily Christian living in light of the final coming of Christ. But His final coming is, in fact, the context which gives meaning to our daily behavior and our ongoing hope. If we are not ready at the Second Coming of Christ (with its accompanying judgment), we can't count on anyone else to cover for us. We are provided now with all we need (e.g. wisdom, invitation to vigilance, warnings about preparedness) to be ready when Christ comes. The real challenge is not to think of this as only a future event that won't happen in our own lifetime. When Christ will come is not the important issue. We don't know when Christ will come again. And so Christian living requires that we act each day as if this were the day when our Bridegroom will come and invite us to the feast. We must be ready. We must be prepared. Are we?

I would think that most of us don't give much thought or reflection about the Second Coming because we are so focused on just trying to live day-to-day. What is our response to the gospel and its sense of urgency?

- \* I "sleep away" opportunities to know and be known by Christ when I...
- \* I actively await the Second Coming of Christ by...
- \* What it means to me to be "wise" during the "long delay" of the Bridegroom's coming is...



### *New Members Brunch*

Following our 10:00 a.m. Eucharist this morning, our newly-registered members will be attending a Brunch hosted by the Pastoral Council. The new members will also have the opportunity to meet the members of our Pastoral Staff and Finance Council, to hear their stories of belonging and involvement in our parish. This is a wonderful way to welcome and embrace newcomers to our faith community. The Brunch takes place in our parish hall.



Please plan to join us for our Thanksgiving Day Liturgy on Thursday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 9:00 a.m. This is always a wonderful liturgy with our Choir and Cantors supporting our sung prayer and the Thanksgiving Reflection is given by a parishioner. This year that reflection will be given by **Jack Goncalves**. The offering that day has always been designated for a worthy cause and this year it is going to our adopted parochial school of St. Peter



here on Friday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. The program will feature classical as well as contemporary music of the season. The concert will be followed by a festive reception in our parish hall. There is no charge to attend, however, there will be the opportunity for a free will donation at the reception.

Thank  
You



You are invited to join our Filipino Community for the traditional nine day novena of liturgies leading up to Christmas, beginning December 16<sup>th</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 a.m. each morning in the church, followed by a traditional Filipino Breakfast in our parish hall. The presider and homilist this year is **Fr. Ricky Pacoma** who is coming from the Philippines just for our parish! Ministries have been forming as well as sponsors for the breakfast each day. If you are interested in being a part of this wonderful cultural and spiritual event, please contact **Estrella Rusk, Financial Secretary**, in the Parish Office. While he is here, Fr. Ricky will also celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his parents who are members of our parish.

...to our wonderful parishioner volunteers who do such a great job of cleaning and preparing the church and parish hall for the weekend and who arrive very early each Saturday morning to do the cleaning: **Carole Miller, Steve Rojek, Cathy Romeo, Emilia Freking, Angela Bueno, Mency Osborne, Rose Salamanca, Jack Goncalves, Jun Bajet.**

...to our wonderful parishioner volunteers who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall each week: **Robert Goncalves, Maria Chandler, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, Steve Rojek, and Harlan Young.**

...to **Dilcia Aparacio** who does such an excellent job of washing, ironing, and caring for the Sacred Linens.

...to our Sacristans and Altar Guild who prepare the sanctuary for the celebration of Eucharist each week:

**Peter Degl'Innocenti, Pam and Rich Confetti, Vincent Rodriguez, Harlan Young, Rowena Cayaban, Monika Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, Belen Farin, Nancy Santos and Rose Salamanca.**

...to **our counting teams** who are here every week to count the weekly collections.

...to our volunteers who assisted in the parish office last week:

**Sofie Zimmerman, Yvette Young, Melodye Costanza, Harlan Young,**

**Alicia Perez, Joe Fanfa and Bev Iacona.**

...to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week's donations: **Bob Carvalho and Barbara Jackson.**

...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Bob Carvalho, Carole Miller, Dave Costanza, Belen Farin, Kathy Augusta and Beth Enea.**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot Security who keep watch over our vehicles during weekend liturgies: **Don Benson, Steve Rojek and Jose Palomino.**

