

From the Pastor's Desk



“Stay awake for you know not the day nor the hour.” This message we receive for today’s gospel speaks volumes to us on being prepared to meet the Lord. When I first entered the college-seminary around 1973, I remember trying to preach on this particular gospel.

The gospel tells us the story of the ten virgins who went out to meet the Bridegroom. The gospel tells us that five were foolish and five were wise. Five did not have oil to light their lamps. When the Bridegroom came they were not ready. They were not prepared. They were scrambling to find what they needed, in other words, to be ready. As we come closer to the end of the Church year we will start hearing also about the “end times” and being ready to meet the Lord. Let us pray that we will be ready – that we will be well-prepared! Sometimes, I think we all try to be perfect. Let us be faithful and do the best we can in preparing ourselves to meet the Lord. After all, we have a God of love and mercy who loves us so much. As we prepare for the end of the Church year, let us pray for the grace to develop our relationship with God through prayer, through frequent reception of the sacrament of reconciliation and Holy Communion. In this way we will be prepared.

The month of November is usually a time when we remember All Souls – all those who have gone before us. Why not say an extra prayer for those who have gone before us? That prayer unites us with them and assists them in achieving their heavenly reward. One day those souls, as well can intercede for us – they can also assist us by their prayers. Prayer is a beautiful way to stay connected.

Traditionally on All Souls Day priests are permitted to say three Masses. One Mass can be for a particular intention, one for the faithful departed and one for the Pope. On November 2, there were a number of ways to remember our loved ones who have died. We begin the Novena of All Souls, with all the intentions the parish has submitted for remembrance.

The parish’s solemn remembrance of all those who died over the past year were remembered at the November 2 Mass at 7 p.m., an annual tradition here at our parish. Deacon Chris, who planned the evening, worked with the ministry of consolation to read each name amid some beautiful solemn music from our Choir. A carnation was given to every family who participated in remembrance of their loved one. Hospitality was offered as a way to share with each other. Let us continue to pray for all our parish families who lost a loved one.

Another beautiful Fall season here at St. Rosalie’s.

With prayers,
Father Ed