

Father Jim's Weekly Bulletin Article for November 5 2017

Praying For Each Other: No matter how powerful we think prayer is, it is more powerful than that. I know that I need your prayers. We need each other's prayers. Those who are in purgatory need our prayers more than any other gift. Those in heaven rejoice when we pray. Our companions on earth are strengthened by the prayer we share. Prayer brings us all together as one in the life of Christ; the Christ who was himself devoted to prayer. Don't let prayer be just something of the moment, something for trying times, but something for always. As much as others do need our prayers, we need them as well. We need to be praying. Prayer is a gift we give, but a gift that even more we receive. Our prayers change us, both as individuals and as community. May God continue to bless us so.

Readings for next Week: Wisdom 6:12-16; 1Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

Reflection: Who is to blame for the downfall of the foolish bridesmaids? They had good intentions. Maybe they did fall asleep while awaiting the groom, but so did the sensible. If only the groom had arrived a little sooner, the oil in their lamps would have been enough. Sometimes we are tempted to think that the light we offer should be enough. Jesus does not agree. No matter how much we give, Jesus will always call us to give a little more. Jesus demands may seem unrelenting and unfair, but only if we are thinking only about ourselves and what we must do. The very same demands are but the natural course of life for those who live in faith attuned to God's love and to the needs of others. Faith drives us to give of ourselves in the same way that Christ gives himself to us. This means there is no limit. Christ wants the whole, all of us. We live in Christ. We must not allow his life to grow cold in us.

1. How do the gifts you offer reflect a deeper gift of faith?

2. Light a candle in your home. Note what would be required to keep the flame alive for an hour, a day or a week.

Prayer: Jesus you are the light of our lives. Our hope, our faith, our very lives rest in you. We trust you to be the flame that burns brightly, that keeps us warm, and helps us to warm each other. May we always rejoice and give thanks for the light you share.