

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time: November 8, 2020

St. Vincent De Paul Church, Baltimore

Reflection on: *Matthew 25:1-13*

Today's gospel is the parable of the wise and foolish virgins. The notion of the virgins waiting for the bridegroom is foreign to us in the 21st century, but it was the custom in Palestine in the first century A.D. and remains so in some regions today. The basic premise is to be prepared. Regrettably half of the virgins did not sufficiently prepare and when the bridegroom's arrival was announced they had no remaining oil for their lamps. As they left to procure more oil the bridegroom entered the bride's home and the doors were locked. When they returned they were not admitted.

All three of today's scripture readings portend the end of time. We need to be mindful of this and remain alert. Like the virgins in the gospel we know not when the bridegroom – Jesus – will come for us. Early in the pandemic, I would wake up in the morning and check my breathing to determine that I was alive and well. It was a scary time. As I got used to the challenges and restrictions I decided that waking up and making sure I was still alive was a bit much!

If we think about the end of time it may be prudent to consider how we live in the *now*. I am a fan of Joyce Rupp and read her inspiring words on a regular basis. She writes that after she read Stephen Levine's "*A Year to Live*" she decided to focus on living her life fully awake rather than focus on her final days. Actually, as most of us won't necessarily know when our final days are upon us, this is an excellent idea.

Being conscious of how we live our lives on a daily basis provides the opportunity for continued spiritual growth. Now when I wake up, I thank God for a brand new day and of course, for all of the blessings He has bestowed on me.

Joan Fulton

Explanation for the image of the Mums.

November 8th is the anniversary of my parents' wedding.

For several years, my Dad would order a vase of the large yellow Mums for my Mother.

In loving memory of them on what would be their 75th anniversary.