

Wisdom is a quality or a virtue upon which much has been written. Philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle or Descartes define wisdom under various scopes. Wisdom is considered as epistemic humility, accuracy, knowledge (knowing how to live well), theory and rationality. Wisdom thus defined seems to be a complex concept, both to understand and to live.

Even though in the Bible there are sapiential books, that is, wisdom books and there is the Book of Wisdom that has a lot of wisdom sayings, the whole of Sacred Scripture, I would say, is full of wisdom, as the word of God is “a lamp for my feet and a light to my path.” (Ps. 119:105) Wisdom personified as Sacred Scripture can be seen as Christ himself. Thus, to be wise is to possess Christ. The liturgy on the sixth Sunday in ordinary time breaks this down by telling us how to concretely live wisely. Instead of the complex philosophical definition of wisdom as above, wisdom in the Christian sense of the word is straightforward and within reach. What is it to be wise for us Christians is a fundamental question that our liturgy today answers. Wisdom is: choosing to keep the commandments, trusting in God, choosing life, choosing to do good, to act justly (Cf. 1st reading); according to St. Paul, this kind of wisdom is different from the wisdom of this age; that is why he says “we speak God’s wisdom” (2nd reading), which boils down to doing God’s will contained in the commandments, in His word. By inviting us to surpass the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, Jesus teaches us that wisdom is to tend towards perfection, towards holiness, towards heaven. (Cf. gospel). Though challenging, Christian Wisdom is straightforward and practical. God’s grace and prayer, of course, should be at the center of our struggle towards holiness.

I would also like to bring to our attention, the importance of the Christian practice of offering holy masses. As we all know, prayer is vital to our Christian living and the best prayer is Holy Mass during which Jesus offers himself as well as our petitions to his heavenly Father. In his encyclical “*Ecclesia de Eucharistia*,” our beloved Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, taught, “In the celebration of the Eucharistic Sacrifice, the Church prays that God, the Father of mercies, will grant His children the fullness of the Holy Spirit so that they may become one body and one spirit in Christ. In raising this prayer to the Father of lights, from whom comes every good endowment and every perfect gift, the Church believes that she will be heard, for she prays in union with Christ her Head and Spouse, who takes up this plea of His Bride and joins it to His own redemptive sacrifice” (No. 43).

Any individual may ask a priest to offer a Mass for several reasons: for example, in thanksgiving for any occasion such as a wedding anniversary, a graduation, etc., for the intentions of another person (such as on a birthday), or as is most common, for the repose of the soul of someone who has died. One must never forget the infinite graces that flow from the Sacrifice of the Mass which benefit one’s soul.

You can contact the parish office to have a Mass offered for your chosen intention or name of the individual you would like a Mass said for, whether they are living or deceased, and a preferred date if you have one in mind.

Blessings!

Fr. Augustin

