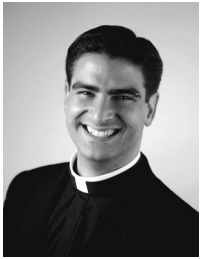


# NOVEMBER 11 & 12, 2023



Dear Friends in Christ,

Today the word of God is calling us to be wise. We hear about beautiful Wisdom, personified as a woman, in our first reading. She is *seeking those worthy of her*. The Lord Jesus calls us to wisdom by using the example of the wise virgins in the Gospel. Since we don't want to be like the foolish virgins who missed entry into the Reign of God, how, then, do we become wise?

The Scriptures tell us that wisdom is a gift from God. In fact, we are taught that *fear of the Lord* (amazement at the majesty and glory of God) is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10). The first thing we need to do is ask for wisdom. If we seek wisdom from God we are promised that we will receive. We need to pray for wisdom, especially when there are important decisions to be made. We are also told that we must be willing to listen to wisdom if we are to receive it (Proverbs 2:2; 19:20). While the gift of wisdom is given generously and freely by God, if we reject the movement of wisdom in our hearts, we will still end up foolish.

Wisdom is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. If we want to be truly wise, we must seek to follow the lead of the Holy Spirit even when it is difficult. Wisdom is that deeper knowledge that helps us to see the path of God in our lives. Only the wise can tell the difference between lies that we want to be true and the truth of God's plan that may include some pain or disappointment. Wisdom is patient as the Lord's plan unfolds and we see the beauty of his will in our lives. Wisdom seeks what God wants, and not simply what we want. It is a great gift, especially for those in leadership.

In the parable of the ten virgins, Jesus demonstrates the difference between the foolish and the wise. While all the virgins are invited to the wedding, only five planned to be patient and wait for the Master to arrive. The foolish virgins did not have the wisdom to plan ahead. They lived in the moment and did not consider the will of the Master. They did not have the patience to wait longer, or the willingness to invest in more oil. Their selfishness and lack of wisdom caused them to miss the feast and be locked out of the Master's celebration.

The Lord Jesus calls us to embrace the gift of wisdom and to ask for that gift from the Holy Spirit. As long as we have the humility and patience to trust in the Lord's plan, we will receive all the wisdom we need.

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
Fr. Marco

## EVENTS CALENDAR

Wed: 10:15 am  
Thurs: 6 pm  
Sat: 5:30 pm

## November 13—November 19

Bible Study  
DivorceCare Meeting  
IHM Game Night

**CRAFT GROUP FORMING** Are you a crafter who enjoys making things with your hands? If so, you are invited to join us for a monthly craft gathering at IHM. This is a casual and relaxed group that meets to share ideas, skills, and friendship. We will meet in the large classroom every second Thursday of the month from 10 am to 12 pm. You can bring any craft project you are working on or just come and see what others are making. This is a wonderful way to connect with other members of our church community and have some fun. If you have any questions, please call Pat DeCarlo at (240) 925-0021 or Anne Krech (301) 373-6106.

**TURKEYS NEEDED** For the Thanksgiving Dinner, we are in need of 9 frozen turkey breasts and 20 frozen whole turkeys 10-12 lb. size. Due to Safe Food handling regulations, we can only accept frozen turkeys. If you are interested in donating, please call the parish office at 301-863-8144. Turkeys need to be in our kitchen the Friday before Thanksgiving.

**IHM YOUTH CHRISTMAS CHOIR** Want to sing with the angels at the 5 pm Christmas Eve Mass and the play starting at 4:30 pm beforehand? All the children of the parish are welcome to join the choir for the Pageant and the Mass. There will be rehearsals on Sunday, December 3 and Sunday, December 17 at 3 pm. Dress rehearsal is on Friday, December 22 at 5:30 pm. Contact Mary at 240-434-8876 or [mary@ihmrcc.org](mailto:mary@ihmrcc.org). You can also sign up on the list by the Music Room Office in the hallway. Parents, please leave good contact information.

**LOYOLA ON THE POTOMAC**, a Jesuit Retreat House in Faulkner, MD is open for various retreat weekends, for both men and women. Directed and Private Retreats are also available. See our complete Retreat Schedule at: [www.loyolaonthepotomac.com](http://www.loyolaonthepotomac.com), (301) 392-0800.

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT** We are seeking volunteers to assist with and actors to participate in with this year's Children's Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve. If interested, call the Children's Faith Formation office at 301-863-8793 or Kayla Krause at 412-477-9115. Following are the dates for the pageant:

December 3 at 3:00 pm, Role and Costume assignments  
December 17 at 3:00 pm, Rehearsal  
December 22 at 5:30 pm, Dress rehearsal  
December 24 at 4:30 pm, Christmas pageant

# THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## MASS Intentions

**November 13 — November 19**

<b>Monday</b>	Wis 1:1-7/Ps 139:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8, 9-10/ Lk 17:1-6
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>All Departed Souls</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	Wis 2:23-3:9/Ps 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19/ Lk 17:7-10
<b>5:30 pm</b>	<b>All Departed Souls</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	Wis 6:1-11/Ps 82:3-4, 6-7/ Lk 17:11-19
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>All Departed Souls</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	Wis 7:22b-8:1/Ps 119:89, 90, 91, 130, 135, 175/Lk 17:20-25
<b>5:30 am</b>	<b>All Departed Souls</b>
<b>Friday</b>	Wis 13:1-9/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5ab/ Lk 17:26-37
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>All Departed Souls</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9/Ps 105:2-3, 36-37, 42- 43/Lk 18:1-8
<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>All Departed Souls</b>
<b>4:00 pm</b>	<b>All IHM Parishioners</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4- 5/1 Thes 5:1-6/Mt 25:14-30
<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>All Departed Souls</b>
<b>11:15 am</b>	<b>All Departed Souls</b>
<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>All Departed Souls</b>

**THANK YOU** to all who so generously supported our Coat Drive last weekend. Donations have been given to the United Methodist Church's Clothes Closet in Lexington Park and will enable them to hold a Coat Giveaway on November 18 for those most needy in our community.

**MASS INTENTIONS** may be requested at the parish office during regular office hours (M—F, 8 am—4 pm) in person or by phone (301-863-8144 x11), or by e-mailing [julian@ihmrcc.org](mailto:julian@ihmrcc.org). Your desired date may not be available. We now have the ability to accept Mass intention stipends online (but only **after** the date has been accepted by the office).

**FORMED** To sign up for Formed, the premier site to access Catholic Media online, go to [www.formed.org](http://www.formed.org) and press "sign up" and then enter the ZIP code of the parish "20653", follow the directions to create an account, and then enjoy!



Continuing our discussion of the catechumenate formation:

This period of time is full of excitement and discernment for the candidates, the catechumens and especially the facilitators. It is time of study about Christ and His church, a time of discernment on this wonderful journey of faith and most of all, it is a time when everyone will begin looking at their life, their faith and their beliefs in the light of Holy Mother Church.

They are not alone on this journey as they will be walking with their RCIA sponsors who not only serve as guides, but also aid in determining their readiness to continue on this journey of faith.

If you have any questions or would like to inquire about this journey, please feel free to contact the RCIA coordinator at [rcia@ihmrcc.org](mailto:rcia@ihmrcc.org) or contact the parish office at (301) 863-8144.

**GAME NIGHT AT IHM** Please join us at IHM for a fun night of checkers, cards, Candy Land, UNO and much more, or bring your favorite game to share! This free event will be on Saturday, November 18 from 5:30 pm to 8 pm. Light snacks will be offered for a donation. Hope to see you there!



### PLEASE PRAY THAT THE SICK MAY BE RESTORED TO FULL HEALTH

Audrey Somers, Kathleen Floyd, Mary Oliver, Jane Kenyon, Linda F. Gieser, Ralph Gough Sr., Betty LePore, Joseph, Rylee Corliss, Alan Stapanon, Ruby Garcia, Mia Garcia, Matthew Riddell, Marie C. Williams, Kaylee Klier, Wanda Slater, Enedina Melendez, Hector Perez, Josephine, Glenn Thompson III, John Worrell, Jim Makin, Carmen Colby, Gary Green, Grace Miedzinski, Bruce Riddell, Katelyn Corliss, Robert Weaver, Devlin Rich, Ana Gates, Dennis Berg, Alejandra Spargo, Lisa and Paul Crowe, Adele Bavani, Violette Ghalbouny, Helen Pearson, John Flynn, Linda Miedzinski, Michael Briscoe, Patricia A. Louis, Susan Marie Hollis, Norma Jean Jubeck, Melva Coates

*Please note: names will remain on this list for two months, unless otherwise notified. To keep a name on the list, please resubmit by contacting [bulletin@ihmrcc.org](mailto:bulletin@ihmrcc.org), or call the Parish Office.*

### PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Follow us on



# NOVEMBER 11 & 12, 2023

## **DOORS** (from *Sacred Signs*, Fr. Romano Guardini, 1927)

Every time we enter a church, if we but notice it, a question is put to us. Why does a church have doors? It seems a foolish question. Naturally, to go in by. Yes, but doors are not necessary—only a doorway. An opening with a board partition to close it off would be a cheap and practical convenience of letting people out and in. But the door serves more than a practical use; it is a reminder.

When you step through the doorway of a church you are leaving the outer-world behind and entering an inner world. The outside world is a fair place abounding in life and activity, but also a place with a mingling of the base and ugly. It is a sort of marketplace, crossed and recrossed by all and sundry. Perhaps “unholy” is not quite the word for it, yet there is something profane about the world. Behind the church doors is an inner place, separated from the marketplace, a silent, consecrated and holy spot. It is very certain that the whole world is the work of God and his gift to us, that we may meet Him anywhere, that everything we receive is from God's hand, and, when received religiously, is holy. Nevertheless men have always felt that certain precincts were in a special manner set apart and dedicated to God.

Between the outer and the inner world are the doors. They are the barriers between the marketplace and the sanctuary, between what belongs to the world at large and what has become consecrated to God. And the door warns the man who opens it to go inside that he must now leave behind the thoughts, wishes and cares which here are out of place, his curiosity, his vanity, his worldly interests, his secular self. “Make yourself clean. The ground you tread is holy ground.”

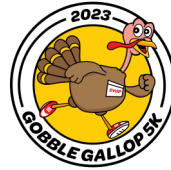
Do not rush through the doors. Let us take time to open our hearts to their meaning and pause a moment beforehand so as to make our entering-in a fully intended and recollected act.

The doors have yet something more to say. Notice how as you cross the threshold you unconsciously lift your head and your eyes, and how as you survey the great interior space of the church there also takes place in you an inward expansion and enlargement. Its great width and height have an analogy to infinity and eternity. A church is a similitude of the heavenly dwelling place of God. Mountains indeed are higher, the wide blue sky outside stretches immeasurably further. But whereas outside space is unconfined and formless, the portion of space set aside for the church has been formed, fashioned, designed at every point with God in view. The long-pillared aisles, the width and solidity of the walls, the high arched and vaulted roof, bring home to us that this is God's house and the seat of his hidden presence.

It is the doors that admit us to this mysterious place. Lay aside, they say, all that cramps and narrows, all that sinks the mind. Open your heart, lift up your eyes. Let your soul be free, for this is God's temple.

It is likewise the representation of you, yourself. For you, your soul and your body, are the living temple of God. Open up that temple, make it spacious, give it height. “Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of Glory shall come in.” (Ps. 24:7)

Heed the cry of the doors. Of small use to you is a house of wood and stone unless you yourself are God's living dwelling. The high arched gates may be lifted up, and the portals parted wide, but unless the doors of your heart are open, how can the King of Glory enter in?



## **INAUGURAL IHM GOBBLE GALLOP 5K**

IHM will be hosting our inaugural Gobble Gallop 5K this year on Thanksgiving morning. To register, visit [gobble.ihmrcc.org](http://gobble.ihmrcc.org). To volunteer, visit [5kvolunteer.ihmrcc.org](http://5kvolunteer.ihmrcc.org).

**IHM MOTHER'S GROUP** We're considering a Mom's Club at IHM, for moms with children of all ages to connect, learn, and grow in faith together. If you're interested in learning more, contact Emily Yazawa at [emily.m.yazawa@gmail.com](mailto:emily.m.yazawa@gmail.com).

**GREIVING WITH GREAT HOPE** A 5-week, small group workshop to help people grieving the loss of a loved one. The Workshop will be Sundays from 3 pm until 5 pm from January 7th to February 4th, 2024 at St. Aloysius in Leonardton. For more information, please contact Jennifer Bicknell at 301-475-8064, ext. 11 or [jbicknell@saintalloysiuschurch.org](mailto:jbicknell@saintalloysiuschurch.org). You can sign up online at <https://www.saintalloysiuschurch.org>.

**GARDEN AND GROUNDS MINISTRY** We have various projects around the church that need to be completed. Any adult or child would be welcome. If you want to volunteer, please contact Martha Davie by phone or text at 240-434-3510. Thank you!

**BULLETIN DEADLINE** Please email your submission to [bulletin@ihmrcc.org](mailto:bulletin@ihmrcc.org) by Wednesday at 10 am prior to the Sunday of publication. All entries are subject to editing.

**ALTAR FLOWERS/SANCTUARY CANDLES** If you would like to donate the Altar Flowers or Sanctuary Candles in memory or for special intentions of a loved one, please call the Parish Office or email at [cindy@ihmrcc.org](mailto:cindy@ihmrcc.org).





November 12, 2023

## Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wis 6:12-16 | 1 Thes 4:13-18 | Mt 25:1-13

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

### GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

I'll always remember that first Easter after my Dad passed away. It was when the promise of the resurrection truly hit home. Sure, I had always believed in heaven and that everyone had the possibility of spending eternity there, but until my Dad died, it had all been theoretical. Now, it was personal. Someone I loved deeply had left this world, but because of Christ's sacrifice, he had the opportunity to go to paradise, someplace where we will hopefully be reunited someday. I believe that's what St. Paul is talking about in today's second reading. We do "not grieve like the rest, who have no hope." *We have hope!* We have hope for our family, for our friends – for our very selves! – that we will rise again and spend eternity with the Lord and with those we love. Paul writes elsewhere, "Where, O death, is your sting?" (1 Cor 15:55) The sting of death is sin, Paul says, but Christ has won the victory over it. In being baptized into Christ, we share in that victory, and we are inheritors of the promise of eternal life that comes from death's defeat.

### GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The parable in today's Gospel is a reminder that while Christ has opened the gates of heaven for us, we must be ready to accept that gift and walk through them. In the parable of the ten virgins, we see how all fell asleep while waiting for the bridegroom to arrive. When he did show up, five were ready with oil for their lamps while five were sent scurrying to buy some. As a result, those who were not ready missed the opening of the doors and were locked out of the wedding feast. "Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour," Jesus admonishes us. Are you awake? Will you be ready to enter the wedding feast when the door is opened to you? There is nothing wrong with enjoying God's creation and gifts here on earth, but we must guard against getting so caught up in the things of this world that we forget to prepare for the next.

**PRAY** The ten virgins needed oil for their lamps to be ready for the bridegroom, but we need a clean heart and a steadfast spirit, as Psalm 51 tells us. (12) We get that by setting aside regular time for prayer and making a point to regularly receive the sacraments, including the reception of the body and blood of Jesus in the Eucharist and his forgiveness within the sacrament of reconciliation. Making time for the Lord now will mean we are ready for his return later.