# CELEBRATE SABBATH

### Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

## Be content with what you have now without desiring for more and better and you will find peace and serenity.

## Wisdom 6:12-16

The author encourages his readers to be faithful to God's law and desire God's word of wisdom. God will instruct those who desire his wisdom (6:2-11). In this excerpt, the author says, if one has to understand God's instruction, one must desire and seek God's wisdom, personified as a woman. Wisdom is a divine gift. This divine gift will reveal herself to the seeker. Wisdom will not elude the sincere seeker. She will place herself on the road of the seeker so that he may find her.

Jeremiah, the Prophet tells us, "When you look (search) for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart……. you will find me.....I will let you find me. (Jeremiah 29:13ff). This is also the wisdom that Jesus taught: "Ask and you will receive…seek and you will find…knock and the door will be opened" (Luke 11:9)
St. John Vianney tells us, "If you set out to meet God, He will come to meet you".

**Keep seeking! Keep listening! Stay focused! Never give up!**

## Psalm 63

The Psalmist has known the living God who carries his people in His arms. So, he can proclaim boldly, "for you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts" - flesh & soul refer to the whole person (nephesh). He has found the "loving kindness", "steadfast love" or "covenant love" better than life itself. The "love" of God is better than the gift of life itself!!! So, he praises, meditates, contemplates "God" day and night. Remembering "Covenant love" he can only shout for joy.

O God, You are my God whom I seek;
For you my flesh pines and my soul thirsts,
Like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.

## I Thessalonians 4:13-18

During the past few Sundays, we have been reading Paul's encouraging and appreciating words to the Thessalonian community. They had welcomed the good news that Paul brought to them and gave themselves to living their commitment to Christ. Paul was full of appreciation and gratitude for the witness of their life.

The Thessalonians, believing that Christ's final coming was immanent, were concerned about those who were dying before his coming. They had believed that the return of Jesus was immanent. Some of them believing in this immediate return of Jesus, quit their jobs and made waiting their full-time occupation. They found that some of them had died before Jesus returned. And they became concerned about what would happen to those who died before the return of Jesus.

In this excerpt, like a good, sensitive and compassionate pastor, Paul brings comfort to his Thessalonian readers. He advised them not to "grieve as those who have no hope", rather, "console and encourage one another". Paul encouraged them to trust in Christ and remain faithful to him without becoming anxious and losing hope. Console one another with the simple message: "God's Grace is there for all. We shall be with him...we belong with him".

**Don't be anxious! Be filled with hope! Be optimistic and positive about life, death and the world around.**

## Mathew 25:1-13

There is a story about three little devils going to earth for their first mission after their training. The master devil asked each of them what they would do to tempt people. The first one said that he would tell people there is no God. The master said to him that it wouldn't work because people knew there is a God. The second said that he would tell people there is no hell. The master said to him that it wouldn't work because people knew there is hell and that some of them were already in it. The third one said that he would tell people there is tomorrow and so they could always postpone things. The master told him that it was a wonderful idea and that he was ready to go to earth for his first mission.

Knowing that there is tomorrow can be a blessing and a challenge. It can bring us hope and nurture optimism. It can also make a person put things off, become lazy, careless, irresponsible, and unprepared.

Jesus told his listeners the parable of the bridesmaids who were unprepared to welcome the groom when he arrived. Last minute bargains did not work out for them.

There are certain things which cannot be obtained at the last minute, like virtue, character, etc. You must be prepared. The foolish virgins were unprepared.

There are certain things which cannot be borrowed. Character, relationships, virtue, etc. can never be borrowed. The foolish virgins found it impossible to borrow at the last minute.

No one can live on the spiritual capital of others. Now is the moment of Grace. We can

live in God's Grace only now – not tomorrow.

**Be awake! Be alert! Be attentive! Be ready!**

## Saint of the day, November 12 - St. Josaphat and 22 other saints are remembered this day.

St. Josaphat was born John Kuncevic around 1580 in Vladimir, a village of the Lithuanian Province of Volhynia (then a part of the Polish Kingdom begun under the Jagellonian Dynasty). His parents belonged to the Eastern Rite Church of Kyiv (Ukraine) which was then separated from Rome.

In 1595, the Orthodox bishop of Brest-Litovsk in present-day Belarus and five other bishops representing millions of Ruthenians, sought reunion with Rome. John Kunsevich, who took the name Josaphat in religious life, was to dedicate his life, and die for the same cause. He became a Basilian monk, then a priest, and soon was well known as a preacher and an ascetic.

St. Josaphat is the first Byzantine-rite saint to be formally canonized. As Bishop, he worked for better understanding, acceptance and fair treatment of Byzantine Catholics in Poland. One day, he offered himself in the place of the servants being beaten by an angry crowd and the crowd hit him with an ax, shot him and threw him in the river. He died on November 12, 1623. He kept his faith alive and stirred into flame the faith of many others.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs