



Dear Padre

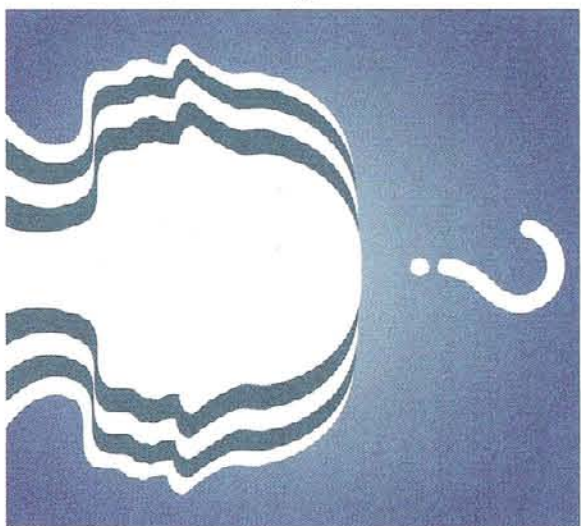
November 6, 2011

What should I be thinking about when I pray the rosary?

When I pray a rosary, should I be thinking about

Mary and how the Lord is with her, or thinking about the decade of the rosary, or what?

Antoinette



Dear Antoinette, I risk annoying you by answering your question with a question: What should you think about when you are humming or singing? Are there rules? No, not really. You see, as a holy lady taught me years ago—the rosary is a chant. Or it is background music. Isn't your humming or singing by yourself a kind of background music for your thoughts and feelings?

See the rosary as a way of meditating, of linking your life experience with the life of Jesus. This is the point of what are called the Mysteries of the rosary, scenes from the life of Jesus. Let his mother and her Hail Marys guide your meditation. As with chant or

background music, you may seem to be paying no attention to them even as they keep you going.

Don't be discouraged if your thoughts wander all over the place. That's part of the secret of the rosary: It opens your deeper self to you and to God. The important thing is to want to pray, to walk with Mary, to honor and love Jesus. Be faithful. Keep praying. Like all

prayer, the rosary is a power. It's shaping you and guiding you even when what you feel is nothing and what you think is anything and everything.

Hail, Mary!

JOHN HAMROQUE, CSSR
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Sunday

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Today's Gospel challenges us to think about how we're preparing ourselves for the end of our lives. We prepare wills, trusts, and health care directives, but how about spiritual preparations? What are we doing to deepen our relationship with God every day? How are we living our Christian faith more concretely on a daily basis? These are the fundamentals. How prepared are we?

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Then how, on a recent weeklong trip, did I forget to pack underwear? My family was shocked that The Planner had forgotten something so basic. No gloating that week!

In Gospel times, lamp oil was also a necessity—how would a lamp remain lit without oil? Yet five of the women in the wedding procession left home without it. Did they just forget? Did they think the bridegroom would be on time so there'd be no need for lamps after dark? How did they miss something so fundamental?

We too, in our busy lives, often miss the fundamentals. *Fundamental 2: Life is short and we will die—at a time we don't know. Fundamental 2: Nothing is more important than our relationship with God.*

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Wks 6:12-16 / 1 Thes 4:13-18 or 4:13-14 / Mt 25:1-13

Today's Readings

Sunday Gospel Reflections

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

November 6, 2011

Read Sunday's gospel, Matthew 25:1-13.

Gospel Summary

Jesus told the story about 10 maidens waiting for a bridegroom to return home with his new bride. Most likely he had been delayed at her home working out the negotiations for her with the bride's father. Five of the maidens came with enough oil to keep their lamps burning through the night. The other five foolishly brought none. This passage is clearly about the end times and our readiness for it. The maidens needed oil to keep their lamps burning in order to be ready for the bridegroom. The message for us relates back to the Great Commandment we read about two weeks ago. We need to love God and our neighbors to insure that our lamps are ready for the end time.

Reflections for Parents

Sometimes we grow impatient when we read the scriptures that anticipate Christ's return. After all, it's been two thousand years and not a word! It's easy for all of us to be lulled into complacency by such silence. But we not only have a responsibility to ourselves to be prepared, we must impress upon our children the importance of being ready for Jesus when he returns. One way to do this is show our children how the Kingdom of God has already begun. Even though the Kingdom is not complete yet, we can point out signs where life today is in some ways already like the Kingdom. For example people loving one another, caring for one another, and reaching out to one another in kindness, are all ways that point toward the coming Kingdom.

Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family

As a family, commit to work together to bring about God's Kingdom. Think about one person you know at school, at work, or in your neighborhood who might not be ready for Christ's return. Reach out to them with a gesture or act that will show them God's love. At the evening meal, or bedtime prayers, share with one another how you were a symbol of the coming Kingdom today.

Discussion Starters

1. I remember being caught off guard once like the five foolish maidens. I felt...
2. One thing I need to do to be better prepared for Jesus' return is...
3. Someone I have known who was like the five wise maidens is ... because...

November 6th, 2011
Thirty-second Sunday in
Ordinary Time

St. Joseph's
Catholic
Church
Parish Office
12:00

Total: \$4,738.00

A Warm Welcome To All Visitors!!!

REFLECTION

Today's gospel alerts us to persevere and be ready. Jesus tells the story of 10 bridesmaids waiting to welcome the groom to a wedding banquet. All of the women took lamps, but only five came prepared with extra oil. When the foolish bridesmaids went off to get more oil, the five others remained, and they greeted the bridegroom when he came. When the five foolish bridesmaids returned, the door was closed and they could not get into the wedding banquet. In today's parable, the wedding banquet represents God's kingdom and the coming bridegroom is Christ. For all listeners, the story makes a strong statement about perseverance in prayerful watchfulness and living in readiness for the Lord's coming.

BAZAAR NEWS

The Bazaar committee is working very hard in preparation for our Annual Bazaar on Saturday February 18th, 2012. We have gotten some of our raffle books and are packaging them for each parishioner. Our next Bazaar meeting is Monday, November 7th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. All Stall Holders and interested persons are invited to attend.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday November 13th - **REMEMBERANCE DAY**

Sunday November 20th - **HARVEST SUNDAY** (Make special effort to bring can goods and other items)

Tuesday November 22nd - **FEAST OF ST. CECILIA** (Parish Feast Day Special Mass 7:30 p.m.)

Friday November 25th - **THANKSGIVING LUNCHEON** for our Senior Citizens (Starting at 12:00 noon)

Number of persons in attendance at Mass last Sunday: **285**

KOINONIA RETREAT - Friday November 18th - Sunday November 20th, 2011 at Emmaus Centre. Interested persons may obtain an application after Mass or contact the parish office.

MARIAN PILGRIMAGE to Guadalupe & Mexico City with Fr. Simeon Roberts will take place from July 28 - August 2, 2012. The cost is \$2,342. A deposit of -\$400.00 is due November 30th, 2011. Interested persons should contact the Parish Office or Ms. Greta Smith at 328-8745.

THE THRIFT SHOP at St. Martin Monastery, Nassau Street is opened every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Come on down and browse around. Proceeds are in aid of the Sisters' Building Fund.

Saint Joseph Adult Day Care Centre, Boyd Road - **A FUN NIGHT** for the whole family, something for everyone to enjoy. Main feature, "**BINGO, EATS & DRINKS**", good prizes on Friday November 11th, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Please come out and support this event. Proceeds are in aid of the Centre.

VACANCY FOR HANDYMAN-GARDENER - EMMAUS CENTRE - Applications can be collected from the Chancery Office between the hours of 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. Deadline for application is November 11th, 2011.

SPECIAL THANKS from Eddie Burrows to persons who worked so hard and to everyone who came out and gave their support in making his Raffle & Cook-out a success!!!

Pray this week for our Sick & Shut-ins

Omenia Adderley, Grace Jenoure, Suzette Knowles, Maria Richardson, Charles Sweeting, Inez Miller, Paulette Green, Renee' Carroll, Archiles King, Wenzel Lightbourne, George Capron, Roselda Sawyer, Keishler Johnson, Barbara Rolle, Eugie Raymond, Phillip Sturrup, Stephen Burrows, Eddie Burrows, Alfreda Michel and Helen Arahna.

Sunday Chuckle - Two boys were walking home from Sunday school after hearing a strong preaching on the devil. One said to the other, "*What do you think about all this Satan stuff?*" The other boy replied, "*Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your dad.*"



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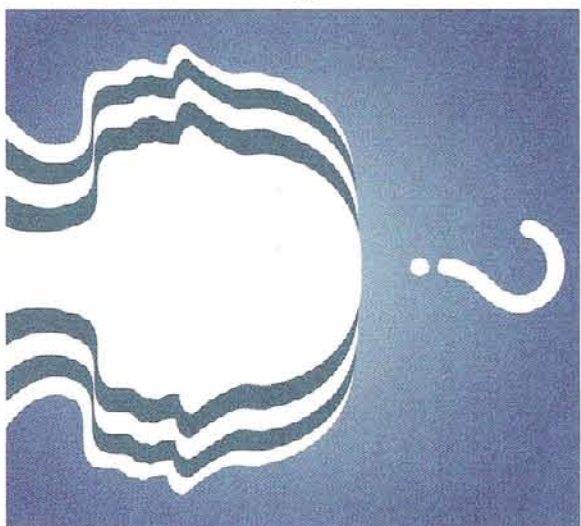
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THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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