



# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

**THIS SUNDAY November 12 & BEYOND**

## **“The Stewardship of Your Ministry”**



If we were to zoom out from Matthew 25's “Parable of the Prepared and Unprepared Bridesmaids” (just think what reaction that title might have in a wedding planner!) we would find first several parables and teachings about the end times. But not just the end times like we might find in the Revelation to John. This is teaching

about surety, yes, but mostly about endurance and patience while waiting, and what true disciples of the Lord Jesus are to be doing **WHILE** being enduring and patient. At this level of zoom out we can see that Jesus is having an end-of-day private time of teaching and interaction with his closest disciples. These are those who have already made their commitments to follow Jesus as the Messiah, and now need a major pep talk in order to face what is coming next, and how they are called to carry on with zeal and attentiveness to the Lord's Mission. As we zoom out once more, we see where they are and what's coming next. This parable, and those around it in this private session, comes two days before **THE** Passover, and the arrest, and the crucifixion of Jesus. We are reading about Holy Week. No wonder the theme of Jesus' teaching.

Now let us zoom back in to the parable. One way to describe Jesus' impassioned teaching in this parable, with its dramatic close of those unprepared being cast out into the darkness, is in terms of stewardship. Remember that parables are teaching tools for specific lessons. I say that because this parable is not for the purpose of questioning the seeming lack of generosity by the bridesmaid who had oil. This stewardship, rather, is about what we've been given as functions, as jobs, as holy work to do. The generosity here is with God's Holy Spirit providing the opportunity to serve the Lord, complete with “lamps.” These disciples had already been given authority to heal, exorcise, raise the dead, preach the Good News; now they would need to continue to be the good stewards of this mission of Jesus to all the world.

Being vigilant for the coming of the Lord in return would mean doing the work they were given to do, and making sure they had what they needed to stay the course. And here is a bit of prophecy in hind sight, as the oil surely represents the infilling they would continue to need after Jesus' ascension. This they would find in the promised Holy Spirit, just eight weeks away on the Feast of Pentecost.

What is the work, the ministry assigned to you by God? And as someone sanctified in baptism, do you seek regularly the infilling of the Holy Spirit for the purpose of consistent, daily, enduring, patient, watchful ministry for the sake of His kingdom, the kingdom of the Bridegroom?

Father Robert Eaton, Guest Priest

## CALENDAR

**SUNDAY:** Celebrating All Saints' Day

8:00a Low Mass (Church)

10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)

3:00p New City Sinfonia Concert (church)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue*—

*Note: Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.*

**MONDAY:** 7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

**TUESDAY:** Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

**FRIDAY:** 9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel) Temporarily Cancelled

9:30a Mass (St. Mary's Chapel) Temporarily Cancelled

AA Meetings

8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)

8:15p

Men's Group (Parish Hall)



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NEW  
CITY SINFONIA  
SAN DIEGO  
CONCERT

MENDELSSOHN'S REFORMATION SYMPHONY  
SCHUBERT'S 5TH SYMPHONY  
JOHN WILLIAMS' "THEME FROM SCHINDLER'S LIST"

**SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2017 • 3PM**

A \$10 Donation will be accepted at the door

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
625 PENNSYLVANIA AVE. SD