32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A November 7th – 8th, 2026

Wisdom 6:12-16
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I welcome you to this Eucharistic celebration.

Our readings today are about one beautiful gift: **Wisdom**.

Wisdom is not about being clever. Wisdom is about being prepared.

The first reading tells us, those who seek Wisdom will find her. She is waiting for us every day.

And in the Gospel, Jesus gives us the story of the Ten maidens or Virgins. Five were wise, five were foolish. They all had lamps. But only five had oil. When the Bridegroom delayed, the foolish ones ran out of oil, and they missed the celebration.

My dear friends, the lamp is your heart. The oil is your spiritual life.

MY PERSONAL STORY

I remember my school days, especially during my Theology studies.

At the beginning of the Semester, our Dean of Studies, may his soul rest in peace, Fr. Benedict Ssettuuma, always told us: "**The Semester ends as soon as it begins."**

What did he mean? Prepare for exams right from day one, so that at the end, everything will be fine.

But in my class, some seminarians said, "No we have enough time, we shall wait for the last week." Others started right away.

Those who started right away excelled highly. The others also passed, but with struggle.

I remember a friend, during one of the oral exams, he was asked a question. He took long to respond. He looked at us from a distance, as if to say, "Remind me, my friends." But we only prayed for him, to give the correct answer.

My brothers and sisters, that is exactly what happened to the foolish virgins. You cannot borrow oil on the last day.

Wisdom does not mean we are clever. It means we are well prepared to face reality.

Being a Catholic is not enough to merit heaven. It is our preparedness that will take us to the heavenly Jerusalem.

At the level of a student, the gas needed to prepare for exams is constant attention in class, serious revision, and class discussions.

For us Christians, what Jesus is telling us today is this: The Lamp is your heart, my heart. The oil, the gas, is your spiritual life.

On the last day, before our Merciful Father, you cannot say, “Father Francis, save me, remind me of my Christian obligation.” I am reminding you today, while we are still alive.

Like me as well, I cannot say, “My late mother was a good Catholic, so I will enter heaven holding on her dress.” No.

I have to work on my personal spiritual life as a priest.

You have to work on your personal spiritual life as a Christian.

And all of us together, we have to work on our spiritual lives as children of God.

SO HOW DO I FILL MY LAMP?

I should fill my lamp with an active Sacramental life. I should go for Confession regularly.

I should celebrate/attend Mass with the whole of my mind, my heart, my soul and my body.

I should pray my Rosary, with my family or friends or even alone (in the Rectory I stay alone).

I should live a sincere life.

I should aim at justice in the society and in the Church.

I should have hope in God, as my constant helper.

This is our oil. This is the gas for our hearts.

So the basic question today is: **Am I wise? Is my Lamp FULL, or HALF TANK, or QUARTER TANK?**

The time is now, to fill our Lamps, our hearts, my dear brothers and sisters.

Let us ask Mother Mary and St. Bavo, our patron saint, to pray for us, so that we get God’s wisdom and become ready to meet our God with joy at the appointed time.