

Prayer Gathering for 32nd Week of Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

**Ever-Present God,
your wisdom is resplendent, you alone see all things.
Help us to grow in our understanding of the past, in our openness to the future,
and in our willingness to be shaped and reshaped by your divine hands.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, Our Lord. AMEN.**

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

GOSPEL PASSAGE

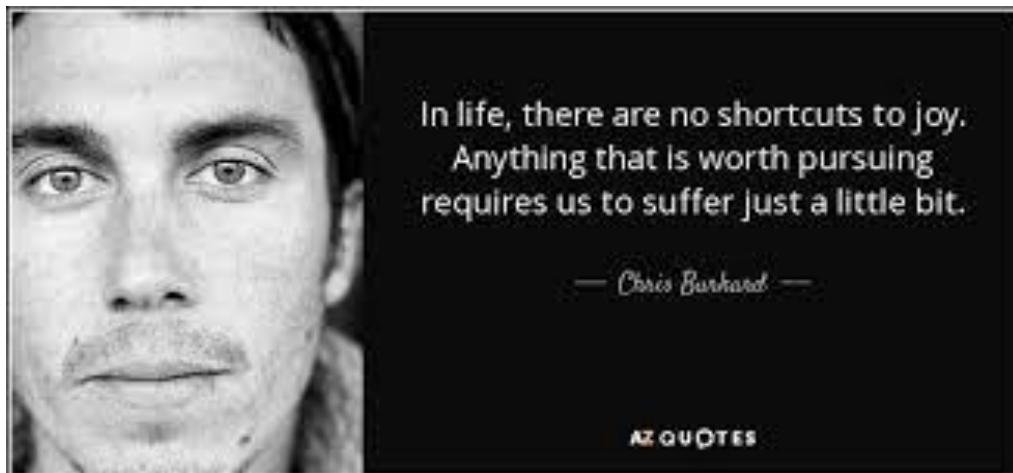
SHARING QUESTIONS

“She [Wisdom] hastens to make herself known in anticipation of their desire.”
How does desiring wisdom help a person to acquire it?

“She makes her own rounds, seeking those worthy of her.”
What makes a person “worthy” of acquiring wisdom?

“Whoever for her sake keeps vigil.”
Wisdom is described as “she.” There clearly is no human sense of gender at issue here, but what comes to mind when you think of Wisdom as feminine in some way?

POSTED RECENTLY



DISCUSSION

Who is the wisest person you’ve ever known? What got them there?

What is the life lesson it’s taken you the longest to learn?

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That our Church may provide the whole world with vision for the future, Tradition from the past, and wise counsel for facing life's challenges; let us pray... **Lord, hear us.**

That our country may come together, setting aside politics and personalities, for unity and peace; let us pray... **Lord, hear us.**

That Democracy may come to countries who live without the freedom to choose their leaders; let us pray... **Lord, hear us.**

That all who have served their country's armed forces will share their courage with the rest of us, and use their experience to help us make a world without war as an inheritance for our grandchildren; let us pray... **Lord, hear us.**

That all our teens and young adults will embrace the faith that has sustained their ancestors; let us pray... **Lord, hear us.**

That the poor may find cause for hope in the service we provide as individuals and as a Church; let us pray... **Lord, hear us.**

That all those whose pain has caused them to seek comfort in drugs, alcohol or other substances may be freed from the demon of addiction; let us pray... **Lord, hear us.**

For the sick... for health care workers... and for all who live with the stress and sorrow of illness; let us pray... **Lord, hear us.**

For all those we cherish on our altars of remembrance this month, and for all those who have died; let us pray... **Lord, hear us.**

OUR FATHER

[OPTIONAL] PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (St. Alphonsus Ligouri)

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. AMEN.**

CLOSING PRAYER

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.**

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

READING 1

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Resplendent and unfading is wisdom,
and she is readily perceived by those who love her,
and found by those who seek her.

She hastens to make herself known
in anticipation of their desire;

Whoever watches for her at dawn shall not be disappointed,
for he shall find her sitting by his gate.

For taking thought of wisdom is the perfection of prudence,
and whoever for her sake keeps vigil
shall quickly be free from care;
because she makes her own rounds, seeking those worthy of her,
and graciously appears to them in the ways,
and meets them with all solicitude.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

*"The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins
who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.
Five of them were foolish and five were wise.*

*The foolish ones, when taking their lamps,
brought no oil with them,
but the wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps.*

*Since the bridegroom was long delayed,
they all became drowsy and fell asleep.*

*At midnight, there was a cry:
'Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'
Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps.*

*The foolish ones said to the wise,
'Give us some of your oil,
for our lamps are going out.'*

*But the wise ones replied,
'No, for there may not be enough for us and you.
Go instead to the merchants and buy some for yourselves.'*

*While they went off to buy it, the bridegroom came
and those who were ready went into the wedding feast with him.
Then the door was locked.*

*Afterwards the other virgins came and said,
'Lord, Lord, open the door for us!'*

*But he said in reply,
'Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.'*

Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."