



CONSOLATA SHRINE

32nd Sunday

In Ordinary Time

12th NOVEMBER 2017 - YEAR A



FIRST READING

Wisdom: 6: 12-16

“Wisdom is found by those who seek her”.

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. He who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for he will find her sitting at his gates. To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and he who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care, because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought.

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 63: 2-8

Response. For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.

O God, you are my God; at dawn I seek you;

for you my soul is thirsting.

For you my flesh is pinning,

like a dry, weary land without water. **(Response)**

I have come before you in the sanctuary,

to behold your strength and your glory.

Your loving mercy is better than life;

my lips will speak your praise. **(Response)**

I will bless you all my life;

in your name I will lift up my hands.

My soul shall be filled as with a banquet;

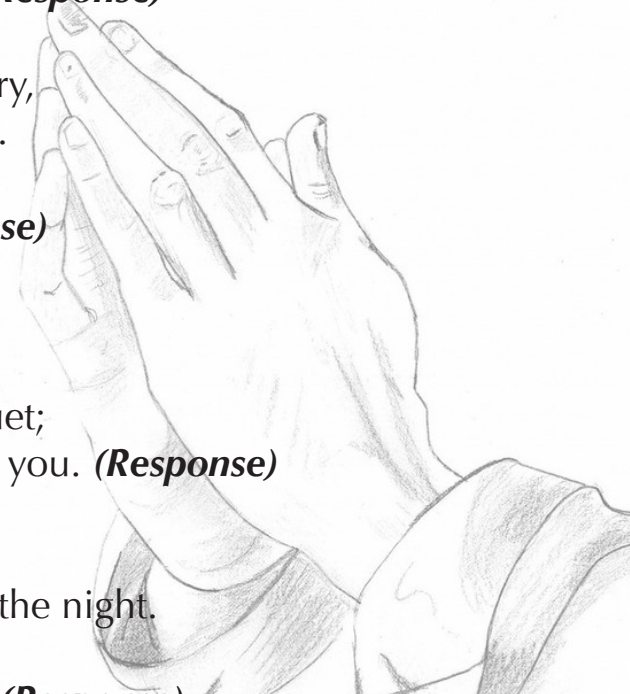
with joyful lips, my mouth shall praise you. **(Response)**

When I remember you upon my bed,

I muse on you through the watches of the night.

For you have been my strength;

in the shadow of your wings I rejoice. **(Response)**



SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

“God will bring with him through Jesus those who have fallen asleep.”

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians

We would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring him those who have fallen asleep. For

this we declare to you by the word to the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the archangel's call, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first; then we who are alive, who are left, shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, comfort one another with these words.

The word of the Lord



Alleluia

Watch therefore, and be ready; the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Alleluia



GOSPEL

Matthew 25:1-13

“Behold, the bridegroom. Come out and meet him.”

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew



At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable: “The kingdom of heaven shall be compared to ten maidens who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. “But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Behold, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ‘Then all those maidens rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ “But the wise replied, ‘Perhaps there will not be enough for us and for you; go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ “And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and

those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast; and the door was shut. Afterwards the other maidens came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ “But he replied, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ ‘Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord

REFLECTION

MEMBERS OF THE WEDDING by Scott Hahn, Ph.D.

According to marriage customs of Jesus’ day, a bride was first “betrothed” to her husband

but continued for a time to live with her family. Then, at the appointed hour some months later, the groom would come to claim her, leading her family and bridal party to the wedding feast that would celebrate and inaugurate their new life together.

This is the background to the parable of the last judgment we hear in today's Gospel.

In the parable's symbolism, Jesus is the Bridegroom (see Mark 2:19). In this, He fulfills God's ancient promise to join himself forever to His chosen people as a husband cleaves to his bride (see Hosea 2:16-20). The virgins of the bridal party represent us, the members of the Church.

We were "betrothed" to Jesus in Baptism (see 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:25-27) and are called to lives of holiness and devotion until He comes again to lead us to the heavenly wedding feast at the end of time (see Revelation 19:7-9; 21:1-4).

As St. Paul warns in today's Epistle, Jesus is coming again, though we know not the day nor the hour.

We need to keep vigil throughout the dark night of this time in which our Bridegroom seems long delayed. We need to keep our souls' lamps filled with the oil of perseverance and desire for God—virtues that are extolled in today's First Reading and Psalm.

We are to seek Him in love, meditating upon His kindness, calling upon His name, striving to be ever more worthy of Him, to be found without spot or blemish when He comes.

If we do this, we will be counted as wise and the oil for our lamps will not run dry (see 1 Kings 17:16). We will perceive the Bridegroom, the Wisdom of God (see Proverbs 8:22-31, 35; 9:1-5), hastening toward us, beckoning us to the table He has prepared, the rich banquet that will satisfy our souls.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Today, Consolata Charities Committee invite you to a Jumble Sale at the Basketball Court (camera) & Shed (wholesale) near the office. Karibu, and support the needy in our society!
2. The car stickers to support the construction of the Allamano Centre are already on sale. You can pay using the paybill number 508702 in installments or in full.



3. Sunday 3rd December 2017 will be the Consolata Family Thanksgiving and Harvest Day. Kindly pick the envelopes from entrances of the church to start preparing for it.
4. In November we remember all departed souls. Envelopes with the November Cards are available at the entrance of the Church for you to fill in and deposit them in the blue boxes. The departed will be remembered in all masses during the month.
5. The annual Consolata Shrine rite of passage is back it will be from 12th - 19th November for 8-4-4 students and 10th - 17th Dec for IGCSE students. Registration is going on outside the Church.
6. Next Saturday 18th November 2017, The Consolata Shrine Dispensary will hold its annual free Medical Camp in Deep-sea. We are appealing for medicine and cash donations to support the event. Doctors, Nurses and Pharmacists are kindly requested to volunteer their services during the event. For more information kindly visit the table outside the Church.
7. The Parish has organized a pilgrimage to Holy Land early next year. For more details check the posters outside the church, pick brochures at the desks or visit the Parish Office.

WEEKLY MEETINGS

- Executive Committee meeting next Sunday at 10.30am
- Communication Committee, Monday 13th November at 6:15pm

SCHEDULES FOR MASSES:

Sunday: 7.30 am **Kiswahili** 9.00 am, 10.30 am, 12.00 noon
and 5:30 pm **English**

Saturday: English 7.00 am, 9.00 am and 5.30 pm

Monday to Friday: English 7:00 am and 1.15 pm; 5.30 pm **Kiswahili**

Parish Website: www.consolatashrine.org **Parish E-Mail:** info@consolatashrine.org

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