

ARE YOU READY?

Jesus IS COMING SOON



Sunday Reflection with Fr. Rafal



Dear Sisters and Brothers of St. Joseph Parish,

The parable of today's gospel focuses on the unpredictable return of Jesus and our need to be prepared for his return. He's saying to us, "Ready or not, here I come." Normally when we think of being ready, we usually think of being prepared for the worst that could happen: locks on the door in case of thieves, life jackets in the event of a boat accident.

Isn't it interesting that most of us believe in preparation for many uncertainties, but not with the most important event of our lives? We carry a spare tire in our car as preparation for a flat. We have insurance in preparation for a theft, fire trucks in preparation for a fire. Airline stewards provide pre-flight instruction in preparation for turbulent weather and we seek education in preparation for a good job. Preparation in our society is a sign of wisdom. But think about this. Of all the preparations that we make for the things I just mentioned, not a single one is a certainty – yet we feel compelled to prepare ourselves for them.

The return of Jesus is a certainty. We can never know precisely when he will return or when we will die, but his return is certain. We must constantly watch, being always faithful and ready so that we may be found worthy to share in the heavenly banquet he has prepared for us. So the question of the parable is not whether or not Christ is coming again, or when he is coming, or even how he is coming. The point is about being prepared for his coming and ready to receive him whenever he comes, now or later.

In the road of life which we follow, there are many uncertainties and distractions. We don't know where the road will take us; we don't know when it will end. But one thing is certain. At the end of life's journey; our Lord will be there to meet us, to welcome us into the heavenly kingdom if we have prepared ourselves. Preparation cannot be a "sometime" thing, but living each moment of our life for Jesus. If we can do that, we will be prepared to greet our Master whenever comes.

How can one be prepared in this matter? When Jesus talks about the last judgment, he makes it clear that this preparedness would be measured by our readiness to serve the people we meet. He said: "What you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you do this unto me." We have to complete the task entrusted to us every day and be at peace with and at the service of our neighbor now, to be ready for his second coming.

Have a Blessed Sunday!

Fr. Rafal Ligenza,

Pastor — St. Joseph Catholic Church