

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



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

The Gospel speaks of ten virgins, five were foolish, and five were wise. The wise entered the wedding feast, the foolish had the door shut on them, they were left outside.

Last night the low gas indicator came on in my car. The display told me I had 25 miles left till I would be on empty. I knew I would be able to get to Mass this morning, and get back home, before having to go to the gas station and fill up. If I try and drive any further, I will run out, and be left on the side of the road.

In the same way, each of us has a lamp that needs oil. The lamp is used to dispel darkness. This lamp is our faith, it is our relationship with Jesus Christ, and it is also the capacity to persevere in suffering. The Gospel says that no one lights a lamp to put it under a bed, but it is placed on a lamp stand, to enlighten everyone who enters the house.

The lamp is only of use if it has oil. Without oil the lamp is useless. Just as a car without gas is of no use.

Oil refers to anointing, and each of us was anointed twice at our Baptism. We were anointed first with the Oil of Catechumens and then with the Oil of Chrism.

The first anointing with the Oil of Catechumens, was accompanied by the words “...you sent your Son into the world to cast out the power of Satan, spirit of evil, to rescue man from the kingdom of darkness, and bring him to the splendor of your kingdom of light.”

For our lamp to have oil, means that we choose light and not darkness. This choice is placed before us every day. We can only make the right choice if we have an open ear, if we listen to God speaking to us

The anointing with Chrism was accompanied by the words: “As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life.”

Our lamp also has oil when we fulfill our mission as

1. a Priestly people –i.e. to have a personal life of prayer;
2. as a Prophet – i.e. to have discernment (our discernment is related to mammon; if we are led by the spirit of the world, we lose discernment, we make the wrong decisions)
3. as Royalty – which is the opposite of slavery – we did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear.

Today we have a choice, we are either taking oil for our lamps or we aren't. It is not immediately evident looking at the lamp if it has oil or not. But there are warning signs, like the low gas light on a car, that tell us we are running low.

We know where the nearest gas station is. We also know what we need to do to replenish the oil for our lamp.

Fr. Sean