



Small Groups

Parish Community of Saint Helen

Sunday, November 12, 2023
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
The Time is Now Week 2

Opening Song

[Now is the Time ~ Tom Kendzia](#)

Opening Prayer

We thank you, O God,
for the Love You have implanted in our hearts.
May it always inspire us to be kind in our words,
considerate of feeling,
and concerned for each other's needs and wishes.
Help us to be understanding and forgiving
of human weaknesses and failings.
Increase our faith and trust in You
and may Your Prudence guide our life and love.
Bless us, O God,
with Peace and Happiness,
and make our love fruitful for Your glory
and our Joy both here and in eternity.

Gospel

Mt 25:1-13

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.

1600 Rahway Ave
Westfield, New Jersey
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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."

Reflection Video: [Weekend Homily](#)

Discussion Questions

1. Why is readiness so important in regard to the second coming?
2. Recall a time when you missed an invitation from God. Why did you miss it? What did you learn from this?
3. What are some things we can do to "increase our oil" i.e. grow in faith?
4. Imagine that you are one of the wise virgins who has brought extra oil. One of the foolish virgins comes up to you and asks that you share your oil with her.

- a. How does this request make you feel?
- b. Do you want to share your oil, or are you annoyed that she didn't plan ahead?
- c. You tell her that you can't share and send her to the merchant to buy some. How do you feel as you watch her leave?
- d. Is she angry with you?
- e. Do you feel guilty or vindicated?
- f. What do you resolve to do after this experience?

Closing Prayer

Ask for the group intentions ~ *Lord hear our prayer* after each
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.

Closing Reflection Song

[My Soul is Thirsting ~ Steve Angrisano](#)