Our Parish COMMUNITY

November 8, 2026

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Wisdom 6:12–16 / 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 or 4:13–14 / Matthew 25:1–13

Keep Your Light Burning Bright

ANN M. GARRIDO

We have entered that time of year when the readings turn our attention toward the "end of time"—that moment we await in which all of God's dreams for us will be realized. The "kingdom of God come." Jesus, like prophets before him, compared this moment to a wedding feast. In Jesus' time, marriage was the most decisive event of one's life, and the wedding feast was the greatest feast families ever celebrated. There was nothing better than a good wedding party—and nothing more embarrassing than a bad one. So much at stake!

In the parable in today's gospel, Jesus focuses on the role of the bridesmaids in making the wedding feast a spectacular event—or not. They are trusted to provide a parade of light to greet the groom as he arrives at his family's home with the bride, but it turns out that not all have prepared adequately.

The parable forces us to consider our own commitment to the Christian life. In baptism, we, too, were given a special role to serve the coming kingdom of God. We, too, were entrusted with a light and told to "keep it burning bright" until that time in which we "come out to greet him." At the beginning of our faith journey, we often embrace this role with much fervor. But we forget that the Christian life takes a good bit of endurance and involves a lot of waiting. We will need oil to keep that light burning bright—the oil of prayer, participation in the sacraments, time spent in study and renewal. No one else can nourish your relationship with God for you. It is something you will need to do yourself. ●

LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF *OUR PARISH COMMUNITY*



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

WISDOM 6:12

Reflect

What are you doing to keep your light of faith burning bright right now?

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St. Joseph's Church

was consecrated on the 29th of January 1928.
It is the oldest standing Roman Catholic Church on the island.

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PASTOR: FR. JACOB SWAPAN GOMES
(441) 292-0607 Ext. 5 or (441) 704-1874 (cell)



Mass Schedule

Saturday Afternoon - 4:00 p.m. (Final Afternoon Mass until further notice)
Sunday morning - 9:00 a.m.

Baptism	By appointment: one month in advance
Weddings	1 year in advance (approx.)
Sacrament of Reconciliation	Sunday morning: 8:30 a.m.
Filipino Mass – Saturday	21st November – 11:00 a.m.
Youth Ministry & FHC	Sunday – 10:00 a.m.
Youth/Family Mass	22nd November 2026
Pastoral & Finance Council	TBA
Coffee Social	22nd November 2026

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON IN BERMUDA
Most Rev. Bishop, Wiesław (Wes) Śpiewak
www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

Parish Team Leaders

Mrs. Elizabeth Card – Pastoral Council Chairperson, PCL

Mrs. Annette Barclay St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative

Walette Cross Stewardship Representative

Natalia Walker, Justin & Cassie Tavares Religious Education - Youth Ministry

Mrs. Mary Harvey - Parish Administrator & Finance Committee Team Leader

Mrs. Jane Farge Music Ministry

Today's Hymns

Entrance:	**I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light**	**#632**
Offertory:	**I Have Loved You**	**#623**
Communion:	**Seed Scattered & Sown**	**#781**
Recessional:	**The King of Love My Shepherd Is**	**#690**

Leader of Song: Justin Tavares



This image captures the moment of readiness from Jesus' parable of the ten virgins in Matthew's Gospel. It reminds us to stay awake and prepare for the Lord's coming, like the wise women who kept their lamps full and burning.

Sunday – 15th November 2026

Proclaimer of God's Word	**Walette Cross**
Opening/Closing of the Church	**Stephen Card**
Eucharistic Minister	**Carol DeSilva**
Collection Counters	**Joanne Smith**
Altar Server	**Liam/Seamus Stones**
Music	**Jane Farge**

Prayers: Please keep our **sick and shut-ins** in your prayers, especially Ilene Bremar, Andrew Card, Eleanor Correia, Mary Maybury.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Sunday, 8th November **In Thanksgiving - Liz & Alan Card**

ATTENDANCE & COLLECTION

MASS	Attendees	Collection
Saturday, 31st Oct – 4:00 p.m. (Reg)	8	99
Sunday, 1st Nov – 9:00a.m. (Reg)	55	493
Mission		170
	63	$762

Thank you for your kindness and generosity, it is appreciated. Banking information: St. Joseph's Parish – Account Number: 20006060757062100



This is the second Sunday of the month, therefore, there will be two collections – regular and maintenance.

Fr. Vivien will celebrate the Filipino Mass at St. Joseph's on Saturday, 21st November at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome.

Magdaraos si Fr. Vivien ng Misa sa wikang Filipino sa St. Joseph's sa Sabado, ika-21 ng Nobyembre, sa ganap na ika-11:00 ng umaga. Inaanyayahan ang lahat.



Coffee Social - Sunday 22nd November. Our Christmas Bingo is on the 4th of December, so we will limit this month's "social" to just cakes, cookies, and coffee.



Christmas Bingo – 7:00 p.m. on Friday, 4th December at the St. James Church Hall. Menu: Soup, Sandwiches, and dessert. Tickets: $20 Adults - $10 children + 2 bingo cards; **extra cards $3.** If you would like to donate a bingo/raffle prize (contact Carol DeSilva: 335-6778) or something towards the "goodies" table (contact Liz). Your kindness and generosity would be appreciated. **PLEASE -** We could use some willing hands to set up the hall that afternoon – **Tickets will be available next week.**



Decorating the Christmas tree and Church will take place on Sunday, 6th December after Mass; please come out to help beautify your little church for Christmas. *You know the old adage "Many hands, make light work."*

BISHOP's CORNER

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

In 2025, the world spent a record US$2.9 trillion on military purposes, while development and humanitarian aid continued to decline. According to a new report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the funding gap between needs and available resources could reach at least US$179 billion by 2028. Researchers warn that these cuts could threaten the security and well-being of millions of people.

Military expenditure reached 2.5% of global GDP last year. Researchers point out that core funding for official development assistance had already stopped growing in 2021. The decline was less apparent because of increased support for Ukraine and spending on hosting refugees in donor countries. Healthcare and economic infrastructure have been particularly affected.

"We are witnessing a prolonged withdrawal of essential humanitarian and development assistance at precisely the time when the need for it is increasing," warns Nan Tian, Director of SIPRI's Military Expenditure and Arms Production Programme. He points out that closing this funding gap would require only a fraction of the additional resources being allocated to defence.

Xiao Liang, co-author of the report emphasises that, "Military capabilities alone do not guarantee security." In his view, development assistance addresses the underlying, long-term causes of instability and should therefore complement defence spending rather than compete with it.

Have a peaceful weekend and a blessed week of Remembrance Day!

Bishop Wes

DIOCESAN LITURGICAL WORKSHOP - St. Theresa's Cathedral Hall, Pembroke
2-hour sessions on Tuesday, 17th November and Thursday, 19th November.
2:00 – 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The Liturgy of the Holy Mass: Spirituality, Meaning & Organisation with Ms. Christina Ronzio.

Each day covers a different part of the main topic. The daily 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. & 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. sessions are identical.

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PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY

Dinner and a Movie – Saturday, 14th November 2026;
Dinner: 7:30 p.m. **Movie:** 8:15 - 10:15 p.m.
ZOOM Discussion Session: Tuesday, 17th November 8:30 - 10:00 p.m.
All three events $20 - Proceeds will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul Society - To register please email - peaceandsocialjusticeorcc@logic.bm

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Christmas Food Voucher Programme – 2026
The St. Vincent de Paul Society is providing Christmas Food Vouchers again this year for those less fortunate and would like your help in registering people of your parish needing assistance.
Please provide the person's name and telephone number, along with your name and telephone number in case we need to follow up with you.
You can call 525-1191 and leave a message on the SVdP voicemail or speak to your SVdP parish representative (Mrs. Annette Barclay).
Deadline to receive names: November 28, 2026
Many thanks and God bless.
SVdP Society Committee

RCIA PROGRAMME

Please be informed that the schedule for our RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Programme has now been finalized.

The programme will begin on Tuesday, 24 November, at either 5:30 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. Once we have a complete list of those wishing to participate, we will determine which starting time is most convenient for the majority.

The sessions will take place on Tuesday evenings and will last 90 minutes. The first part of the programme will be based on the Catholicism series by Bishop Robert Barron and Word on Fire.

The programme is also open to those who are already Catholic but would like to deepen their faith or refresh their knowledge of the Catholic Church.
To register, please contact the Chancery: 232-4414 or orcc.bermuda@gmail.com before 7th November 2026.

11th November
Lest We Forget

Let us remember all those who gave their lives during WWI and WWII (and other conflicts). Let us never forget the sacrifices that these brave men and women made.

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Main Message:

- Seek wisdom
- Stay awake
- Live with hope
- Be ready for the Lord

Key Scripture:

"Stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."
(Matthew 25:13)



The Readings:

First Reading:
Wisdom 6:12-16
Wisdom is near

Psalm:
Psalm 63
My soul thirsts for God

Second Reading:
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
or 4:13-14
Hope in the resurrection

Gospel:
Matthew 25:1-13
The wise and foolish virgins



Themes To Know:

- Wisdom
- Readiness
- Hope in eternal life
- Personal responsibility

What This Means For Us:

- Make time for prayer
- Choose what is wise
- Keep faith strong
- Be ready to follow Jesus



Try This:

Spend 5 quiet minutes in prayer today. Ask God for wisdom and a watchful heart.



Reflection Questions:

- What helps me stay close to God?
- Where do I need more wisdom?
- How can I be ready for Jesus this week?

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Dear Padre,



LUIS SANTOS / SHUTTERSTOCK

What happens to the sacred treasures in a deconsecrated Catholic church?

When a diocesan bishop deconsecrates a church, he issues a decree that removes a church's dedication and relegates it to "profane but not sordid use" when it "cannot be used in any way for divine worship and there is no possibility of repairing it" (*Code of Canon Law*, 1222). The impossibility of repairing a badly damaged church doesn't mean only an architectural impossibility. Inadequate finances to maintain the church properly, an insufficient number of parishioners to foster ecclesiastical vitality, and a shortage of priests are also grave causes for a church's closure. Decorative appointments and sacred treasures in these relegated churches often find new homes in other churches and religious institutions.

This traditional custom of dissemination is a sign of solidarity with the broader Church and in continuity with its rich heritage. It honors the faith and sacrifices of the charter members when the church was built and the generations that followed. Remaining religious items in a relegated church, such as an unmovable altar, "lose their dedication or blessing if they have been destroyed in large part, or have been turned over permanently to profane use by decree of the competent ordinary or in fact" (*CCL* 1238). Stained glass windows, mosaics, and other sacred art that remain in a repurposed church don't lose their aesthetic beauty and evocative power, however. "A thing of beauty is a joy for ever," wrote the poet John Keats. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Monday
November 9
The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
Ez 47:1–2, 8–9, 12
1 Cor 3:9c–11, 16–17
Jn 2:13–22

Tuesday
November 10
St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church
Ti 2:1–8, 11–14
Lk 17:7–10

Wednesday
November 11
St. Martin of Tours, Bishop
Ti 3:1–7
Lk 17:11–19

Thursday
November 12
St. Josaphat, Bishop and Martyr
Phlm 7–20
Lk 17:20–25

Friday
November 13
St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin
2 Jn 4–9
Lk 17:26–37

Saturday
November 14
Weekday
3 Jn 5–8
Lk 18:1–8

Sunday
November 15
Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Prv 31:10–13, 19–20, 30–31
1 Thes 5:1–6
Mt 25:14–30
or 25:14–15, 19–21

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about ***Dear Padre***.



FABRIZIO MAFFEI

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

Brothers and sisters support each other in hardship; they do not turn their back on those who are in need; and they weep and rejoice together in the active pursuit of unity, trust, and mutual reliance. The dynamic is that which Jesus himself gives to us: "Love one another as I have loved you."

GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME, NOVEMBER 12, 2025

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