



32nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
YEAR A – November 12, 2017

“BE PREPARED...”

The message of all the Scripture Readings today can be summed up with the words of the Boy Scout motto – Be Prepared!”

The first reading (Wisdom 6:12-16) speaks to us about the virtue of wisdom. It says, “...Whoever for the sake of wisdom, keeps vigil shall quickly be free from care...” A nice way to say, “Be prepared and you don’t have to worry”. But be prepared for what?

The second Reading (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) Answers the question, “Be prepared for the Second Coming of Christ, or is it be prepared for the Rapture”. Are they two different things or one and the same?

If you google that question, you will find the “Catholic Answer”. It says, “As far as the millennium goes, we tend to agree with Augustine and, derivatively, with the amillennialists. The Catholic position has thus historically been "amillennial" (as has been the majority Christian position in general, including that of the Protestant Reformers), though Catholics do not typically use this term. The Church has rejected the premillennial position, sometimes called "millenarianism" (see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 676). In the 1940s the Holy Office judged that premillennialism "cannot safely be taught," though the Church has not dogmatically defined this issue.”

If you are like me, now you have to google “amillennialist” and “premillennial”. And if, like me, you don’t have the time to do that, check out what Jesus has to say on the matter in (Matthew 24:44). He says, “... you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.” What does it all mean? It simply means, “Be prepared – ALWAYS!”

The gospel (Matthew 25:1-13) gives us that familiar story from the lips of Jesus Himself. It’s about the wise and foolish virgins. The closing line says it all, “Stay awake – you know neither the day nor the hour.”

The second coming of Jesus will probably be at the hour of our death for most of us or at the end of the world for some of us. It doesn’t really matter if you are prepared. It matters only to those who are not prepared.

Jesus wants us to pass through those “pearly gates” when he comes for us. That’s why he came the first time: to show us how to live and how to be prepared. Are you prepared?

