

Bringing Home the Word

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
November 8, 2026

The Light of Wisdom

Fr. Joseph Juknialis

The dark of night can unsettle and frighten children, but darkness can disturb adults, too. It's not so much the feeling when the lights go off that unsettles us grown-ups as it is the dark of uncertainty. We graduate from school and wonder what to do with our lives. Should we stay in a relationship? How do we find meaning again in the midst of grief and the loss of someone we love? And, sometimes most of all, where is God when we need God? We may even wonder whether to believe. At such times, we bump and bruise our way through the obstacles that life's darknesses cause.

Leonard Cohen's song "Anthem" echoes a note of hope when we feel lost in the dark as he sings about how light always seems to find a way to seep in between the cracks of our everyday living. Like stars that are visible only at night, new opportunities are often most readily recognized when we find ourselves stumbling through the dark.

Long before Leonard Cohen, Jesus told the parable of ten virgins, some wise and some foolish. In the midst of that story, he tells of a bridegroom who comes to the waiting virgin attendants at midnight. In other words, it is the Lord God who comes into our lives in the darkest times, if only we are wise enough to recognize such a coming.

How, then, do we negotiate the darkness? Stay the course. In time, wisdom reveals a path. Trust that light will come, all in God's time—not ours. Finally, wisdom always comes in the darkest of times, seldom when our lives are bright as day. ✝

Wisdom always comes in the darkest of times.

Sunday Readings

Wisdom 6:12–16

Resplendent and unfading is wisdom, and she is…found by those who seek her

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 or 4:13–14

If we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

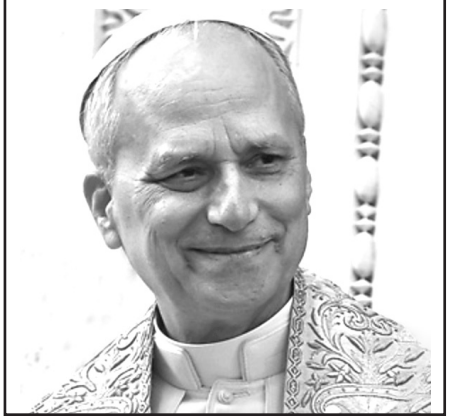
Matthew 25:1–13

[Jesus said,] "Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

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."

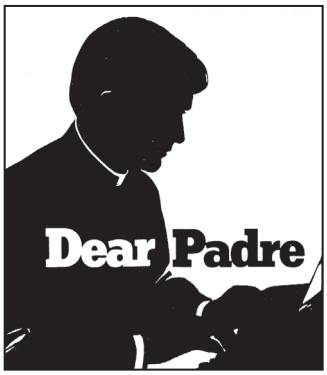
GENERAL AUDIENCE, ROME,
NOVEMBER 12, 2025



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- When has God entered my darkness?
- Have I ever waited for wisdom?

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Dear Padre,
I was taught that Catholic churches are built on consecrated ground. How can a church be torn down and replaced by a shopping mall if it's sacred ground?

Church buildings are blessed and considered by the Church to be sacred places. But when a church is damaged and can no longer be repaired, or its repair is impractical, or it no longer effectively serves its purpose for the faithful of God, the bishop can remove that blessing. By doing this, the bishop opens the building for nonsacred use. Subsequently, a church building can be torn down or sold, as long as its new purpose is not scandalous to the people of God.

In the end, what is truly sacred is not the brick and mortar or even the soil, but the purpose for which churches were built. Churches are blessed and declared sacred because we perform sacred rituals within them. When those rituals are no longer being performed in that location, there is no longer a need for them to be declared sacred.

When a church is closed, it is often a sad event. Many people carry deep emotional ties to their parish churches. But a diocese cannot always maintain all of its churches. Catholic populations shift; local needs change. Money is limited, and good stewardship demands that bishops sometimes make the difficult decision to close or merge parishes. Remember what is truly important and of ultimate and sacred value—our worship and service of God. ✝

Fr. Rick Potts, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From *Faith-Sharing in the Family* by Bob and Maggie McCarty

When our grandson, Thomas, was younger, he loved maps. Once, we were lying on the floor, looking at a map of the world. Thomas asked all sorts of questions: "Pop Pop, where do I live?" "Pop Pop, where do you live?" and "Pop Pop, where does God live?"

Recognizing a teaching moment, we explained that God lives everywhere, is all around us—and also lives inside each of us. Taking Thomas' hand, we placed it on his heart and then on each of our hearts and told him God lives within all of our hearts. "Ah," Thomas said, and then continued, "Pop Pop, where's the beach we go to for vacation?"

The children in our lives need to hear from us about our own faith. They're looking for role models and mentors to show them in word and action how faith works in the lives of faith-filled adults.

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. For more information, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

PRAYER

O God, you who promised that death is not the end of life and who gives faith to the doubtful, courage to the fearful, and comfort to the suffering, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

November 9–14

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

Tuesday, St. Leo the Great, Ti 2:1–8, 11–14 / Lk 17:7–10

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

Thursday, St. Josaphat, Phlm 7–20 / Lk 17:20–25

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

Saturday, Weekday, 3 Jn 5–8 / Lk 18:1–8

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