

St. Leonard Catholic Church

8510 S. Zarzamora St. | San Antonio, TX 78224

Office: (210) 924-6000 | Fax: (210) 924-5552

E-mail: parishoffice@stleonardsa.org | Website: www.stleonardsa.org

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Rev. Servando Guerrero Ponce, Pastor

Rev. Mr. Charles R. (Rusty) Gamez, Deacon | Rev. Mr. Jose Hernandez, Deacon (Ret.)



**Welcome to Our Parish!**

*¡Bienvenidos a Nuestra Parroquia!*

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 12, 2023

## PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Servando Guerrero Ponce  
[Pastor@stleonardsa.org](mailto:Pastor@stleonardsa.org)

Deacons

Rev. Dcn Charles R. (Rusty) Gamez  
Rev. Dcn Jose Hernandez  
(retired)

Bookkeeper

Patricia Gonzales (ext. 102)  
[Bookkeeper@stleonardsa.org](mailto:Bookkeeper@stleonardsa.org)

Office Coordinator

Ileana Serda (ext. 101)  
[Parishoffice@stleonardsa.org](mailto:Parishoffice@stleonardsa.org)

Faith Formation

Sr. Blanca E. Hinojosa (ext.108)  
[Faithformation@stleonardsa.org](mailto:Faithformation@stleonardsa.org)

Maintenance - Victor Moreno

## OFFICE HOURS | HORARIO DE OFICINA

Monday: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Tuesday - Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. - 12 NOON

CLOSED DAILY FOR LUNCH FROM 1 - 2 p.m.

*Lunes: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.*

*Martes- Jueves: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.*

*Viernes: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.*



**Our mission of St. Leonard** is to spread the message of Our Lord Jesus Christ. To hear the Good News from the Gospel and therefore invite the Community to be part of the Holy Church

**Nuestra misión en San Leonardo** es difundir el mensaje de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Escuchar la Buena Nueva del Evangelio y por lo tanto invitar a la Comunidad a ser parte de la Santa Iglesia.

**PARISH INFORMATION**  
*Información Parroquial*

**Church Address**

8510 S. Zarzamora St.  
San Antonio, Texas 78224

Phone: [210] 924-6000

Fax: [210] 924-5552

E-mail:

parishoffice@stleonardsa.org

Website: www.stleonardsa.org

**Office Hours:**

Monday 9:00am-12:00pm

Tuesday-Thursday 9:00am-5:00pm

Friday 9:00am-12:00pm

[closed for Lunch 1:00pm-2:00pm]

**MASS SCHEDULE**  
*Horario de Misas*

**Saturday | Sabado**

5:30pm

**Sunday | Domingo**

8:30am [Spanish]

11:00am

7:00pm [Spanish]

**Martes & Jueves**

8:30am [Spanish]

**Wednesday & Friday**

8:30am

**ADORATION**  
*Adoración*

**Martes & Miercoles**

9:00am-11:00am

**Holy Hour | Hora Santa**

Thursday | Jueves

5:00pm-6:00pm

**Confession | Confesiones**

Thursday | Jueves

5:00pm

**Divine Mercy**

**Divina Misericordia**

1st & 3rd Friday | Viernes

7:00pm (Chapel | Capilla)

**PARISH ADMINISTRATION**  
*Administración Parroquial*

**Pastor**

Rev. Servando Guerrero Ponce

[Pastor@stleonardsa.org](mailto:Pastor@stleonardsa.org)

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**Maintenance**

Victor Moreno

**PARISH MINISTRIES**  
*Ministerios Parroquiales*

**ACTS**

Deacon Rusty Gamez

**Altar Servers**

Herman Sanchez

**Altar Society**

Rachel Sosa

**Bereavement**

Mary Mora

Sylvia Garcia

**Divine Mercy**

Elvia & George Orta

Deacon Rusty Gamez

**Eucharistic Ministers**

Mela Sepulveda

**Guadalupe Society**

Rosemary Soriano

**Knights of Columbus**

Edward Mata

**Ladies Auxiliary**

Maria Lopez

**Lectors**

Tony Ybarra

**Marriage Preparation/  
Quinceaneras**

Judi Gamez

**Martha's Ministry**

Micaela Rubio

**Matachines**

Maria & Alexis Luna-Chavez

**Ministry of the Sick**

Deacon Rusty Gamez

**Music Ministry**

Maria & Andy Chavez

**Sacristans**

Andrea Castillo

Elvia Moreno

**Ushers**

Janie Gonzalez



# Mass Intentions

## Mass Intentions

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

†Richard (Rick) Manuel Sanchez  
†Fernando Medellin  
†Armando Moreno  
Preston Trinkle - Health  
In Thanksgiving for  
Bertha & Gabriel Canales  
57th Wedding Anniversary

Sunday 8:30 a.m.

†Severiano Mata  
†Aurelia Olivia Flores  
†Salvador Lozano  
Fausto Escamilla - Por Salud  
Paulina Alva - Por Salud  
Sotero Reyes - Por Salud

11:00 a.m.

†Lupe & Jesse Sanchez, Jr.  
†Erica Mares  
†Mary Miranda  
Azrael Rey Espinoza  
In Thanksgiving for Birthdays  
for Everen Serda &  
Rosemary Soriano

7:00 p.m.

†Gilberto Cisneros Delgado  
†Estevan Adriano  
†Felipe Avelar y †Reyes Gutierrez  
Guillermo Escalante - Por Salud

Friday 8:30am

†Irene F. Orta

This week's Sanctuary Lamp  
is for the eternal rest of

*Lillie C. Tejeda*

**Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen**

*Pray For...*

Moyses Aguirre, Bertha & Gabriel Canales, Devyn Casias, Mary Cruz, Rosalie Croom, Baby Azrael Espinoza, Amelia Flores, Alice B. Gamez, David & Maria Garcia, Earnest M. Garcia, Miguel Ojeda, Letty Orozco Gonzalez, Dave Guevara, Margarita Guillen, Jose and Rosa Huerta, David Leal, Pat Longoria, Roxanne Longoria, Michael Lopez, Margarita Ortiz, Gloria Perusquia, Luisa Vallejo Robles, Lisa Rubio, Esther Saenz, Paula Segovia, Irma Castro, & Sienna Valadez, Zayne Allen Pierce, Sotero Reyes, Frank Rodriguez, Maria Valdez, Stephanie Zamago & family, & Preston Trinkle

*Lord, look upon me with eyes of mercy, may your healing hands rest upon me, may your life-giving powers flow into every cell of my body and into the depths of my soul, cleansing, purifying, restoring me to wholeness and strength for service in your Kingdom.*

*Amen.*

For special blessings such as wedding anniversary or birthday blessings please notify the parish office in advance.

Para bendiciones especiales tales como aniversario de bodas o bendiciones de cumpleaños, por favor notifique a la oficina parroquial con anticipación.

PRAY  
WITHOUT  
CEASING



# Stewardship

*sharing the gifts we have been given*

Oh Lord, giver of life and source of our freedom, we are reminded that Yours is “the earth in its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it.” We know that it is from your hand that we have received all we have and are and will be. Gracious and loving God, we understand that you call us to be the stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all you have entrusted to us. Help us always to use your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives. We pray this with grateful hearts in Jesus’ name.

Amen.

*Oh Señor, dador de vida y fuente de nuestra libertad, se nos recuerda que Tuya es “la tierra en su plenitud; el mundo y los que en él habitan”. Sabemos que de tu mano hemos recibido todo lo que tenemos, somos y seremos. Dios misericordioso y amoroso, entendemos que nos llamas a ser mayordomos de Tu abundancia, los cuidadores de todo lo que nos has confiado. Ayúdanos siempre a utilizar sabiamente tus dones y enséñanos a compartirlos generosamente. Que nuestra fiel mayordomía dé testimonio del amor de Cristo en nuestras vidas. Oramos esto con corazones agradecidos en el nombre de Jesús.*

Amén.

Parish offering for Oct. 31 – Nov. 5, 2023

| Masses             | Attendance   | Total Offering    |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| All Saints Day     | -            | \$624.00          |
| Saturday           | 85           | \$2,361.00        |
| Sunday             |              |                   |
| 8:30 a.m.          | 240          | \$1,710.00        |
| 11:00 a.m.         | 272          | \$2,035.00        |
| 7:00 p.m.          | 195          | \$1,196.00        |
| <b>Total</b>       | 792          | \$7,926.00        |
|                    | <b>Coins</b> | \$25.51           |
| Online             | 14           | \$894.00          |
| <b>Grand Total</b> |              | <b>\$8,845.51</b> |

*Thank You!*

To all the donors that helped the parish the week of November 6, 2023

May the Lord bless you abundantly!

*A todo los donantes que ayudaron a la parroquia la semana de 6 de noviembre de 2023.*

*¡Que el Señor los bendiga abundantemente!*





## CHURCH AIR CONDITIONING UPDATE

After consulting with the Finance Council, Vetter Air was selected to install the new air conditioning (AC) unit for the church. In August of 2023, we submitted the AC proposal and the application for financial review to the Archdiocese of San Antonio for approval. Mr. Randy Kell, Construction Manager at the Archdiocese informed us that an engineer must review and approve the new AC work and an asbestos test must be conducted.

On October 27, we met with Jim Rodriguez from James T. Rodriguez Consulting Engineers, Inc. and Randy Kell. Mr. Rodriguez will present the above reports to the Archdiocese for approval.

On November 2, Dyna Salahuddin from DEKD Environmental came to survey for asbestos; we received the report on November 4, and there is no asbestos detected.

We're happy to report that with the Parish Pastoral Council's hard work, support from parishioners, and the Archbishop's Appeal Rebate we have \$65,683.63 to pay for the AC project.

Below is a breakdown of the costs for the AC:

|                                               |                     |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Vetter Air:                                   | \$57,351.35         |
| DEKD Environmental:                           | \$475.00            |
| Ochoa Electrical                              | No charge for labor |
| James T. Rodriguez Consulting Engineers, Inc. | Amount Pending      |

We will keep you all posted on the progress of the AC project as it is received.

We thank everyone for your continued support and patience. Let us keep one another in prayer.



## ACTUALIZACIÓN DEL AIRE ACONDICIONADO DE LA IGLESIA

Después de consultar con el Consejo de Finanzas, Vetter Air fue seleccionada para instalar la nueva unidad de aire acondicionado (AC) para la iglesia. En agosto de 2023, presentamos la propuesta de AC y la solicitud de revisión financiera a la Arquidiócesis de San Antonio para su aprobación. El Sr. Randy Kell, Gerente de Construcción de la Arquidiócesis, nos informó que un ingeniero debe revisar y aprobar el nuevo trabajo de aire acondicionado y se debe realizar una prueba de asbesto.

El 27 de octubre, nos reunimos con Jim Rodriguez de James T. Rodriguez Consulting Engineers, Inc. y Randy Kell. El Sr. Rodríguez presentará los informes anteriores a la Arquidiócesis para su aprobación.

El 2 de noviembre, Dyna Salahuddin de DEKD Environmental vino a inspeccionar el asbesto; recibimos el informe el 4 de noviembre y no se detecta amianto.

Nos complace informar que con el arduo trabajo del Consejo Pastoral Parroquial, el apoyo de los feligreses y el Reembolso de la Apelación del Arzobispo, tenemos \$65,683.63 para pagar el proyecto de AC.

Abajo se muestra un desglose de los costos del aire acondicionado:

|                                               |                            |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Vetter Air:                                   | \$57,351.35                |
| DEKD Environmental:                           | \$475.00                   |
| Ochoa Electrical                              | Sin cargo por mano de obra |
| James T. Rodriguez Consulting Engineers, Inc. | Precio pendiente           |

Los mantendremos informados sobre el progreso del proyecto AC a medida que se reciba.

Agradecemos a todos por su continuo apoyo y paciencia. Mantengámonos los unos a los otros en oración.

**Meet the present members of our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC). They assist our pastor, Fr. Servando Guerrero, in his leadership role of planning, organizing, initiating, promoting, coordinating, and reviewing the evangelization, worship, religious education/formation, and service activities within the parish.**



*L to R: Rosemary Soriano, Janie Gonzalez, Herman Sanchez, Hope Gonzaba and President, Laura Gonzalez*



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Loving Father, bless our veterans and all who serve our nation defending our freedom.**

**For those who bravely gave their lives, grant them eternal rest.**

**For those who are serving, give them courage.**

**For those who served, we offer our gratitude.**

**We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.**

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

God has given each of us unique gifts and talents. We encourage you to invest in our parish by using your gifts to serve others. If you have skills and willing to share, please contact the parish office

## Church Rummage Sale

Parish Parking Lot | \$15 per space  
Saturdays | Sabados | 8 a.m. - 2p.m.

**November 18**

**Damaris Ybarra, LPC-Associate**, is offering FREE counseling services for individuals, couples, groups in both English & Spanish from 4:30-7:30pm. Please contact the parish office to schedule an appointment.

### WEEK AT A- GLANCE

Sunday, November 12  
Faith Formation Classes

Monday, November 13  
A.C.T.S. Men's Director Mtg.

Tuesday, November 14  
Faith Formation Classes

Wednesday, November 15  
Faith Formation Classes

Thursday, November 16  
Talleres de Oracion 6:00pm

Friday, November 17  
Divine Mercy Chaplet -  
Chapel 7pm

Lassos de Amor Marianos  
Mtg. 7pm - Hall Rm #1

Saturday, November 18  
Rummage Sale 8am-2pm

### Question of the Week

What has worked for me in the past when I begin to get impatient? Going forward, what will I do to draw upon more patience?

~~~~~  
¿¿Qué es lo que me ha ayudado en el pasado cuando comencé a sentirme impaciente? En adelante, ¿qué podré hacer para tratar de sacar más paciencia?

We Are Proud of Our St. Leonard's Matachines

WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE
PROCESION DE MATACHINES
2023 AT CORDI MARIAN RETREAT
CENTER LAS WEEKEND



✚ A prayer for Priests ✚

*O Jesus, I so ardently pray for Your most faithful fervent priests;
for Your priests laboring at home or abroad in distant mission fields;
for Your tempted priests;
for Your lonely and desolate priests;
for Your young and inexperienced priests;
for Your dying priests especially those who have not been totally true to You;
for the souls of Your priests who are unfortunately in purgatory.*

*But above all I recommend to You the priests most dearest to me;
the priest who baptized me;
the priest who absolved me from all my sins;
the priests at whose Masses I assisted and who gave me Your Body and Blood in Holy Communion; the priests who taught and instructed me;
all the priests to whom I am indebted in other ways;
O Jesus, please keep them all close to Your Most Sacred Heart and Bless them abundantly in time and in all eternity. Amen*

St. Therese of Lisieux

Liturgical Calendar of Events

Litúrgico Calendario de Eventos

November	23	Thursday	10:00am	Thanksgiving Day Mass - Bilingual
December	3	Sunday	- - -	1st Day of Advent
December	8	Friday	6:30pm	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mass - Bilingual (Holyday of Obligation)
December	12	Tuesday	6:00am	Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day - Mariachis @ Placita, refreshments follow
December	12	Tuesday	6:30pm	Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day Mass - Bilingual, reception follows
December	17	Sunday	5:00pm	Gran Posada, reception follows NO 7PM MASS
December	24	Sunday	8:30am 11:00am	Regular Sunday Mass - NO 7PM MASS
December	24	Sunday	5:00pm	Children's Christmas Mass & Pageant
December	25	Monday	10:00am	The Nativity of The Lord Mass - Bilingual (Holyday of Obligation)
December	31	Sunday	8:30am 11:00am	Regular Sunday Mass - NO 7PM MASS
January	1	Monday	10:00am	Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God Mass - Bilingual (Holyday of Obligation)



SAVE

Thanksgiving Dinner



PILGRIM'S PANTRY
THANKSGIVING 2023
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23

HELP US CELEBRATE!
HOME COOKED THANKSGIVING DINNER AND DESSERT.
NO COST TO YOU.
THERE WILL BE DRIVE-BY SERVING ON THANKSGIVING DAY.
COME TO PICK UP DINNERS AND DESSERTS FOR YOUR FAMILY.
WE WILL SERVE YOU UNTIL THE FOOD RUNS OUT. PLEASE ARRIVE EARLY!
WHEN: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23
TIME: 11:30 am TO 1:30 pm
WHERE: OUR LADY OF ANGELS, THE HALL PARKING LOT, ENTER FROM STONEWALL ST.
1214 STONEWALL
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78211
OFFICE PHONE NO. 210-924-6591

La comida del

Día de Acción de Gracias



DESPENSA DEL PEREGRINOS
(PILGRIM'S PANTRY)
DIA DE DAR GRACIAS
JUEVES, EL 23 DE NOVIEMBRE, 2023

TODOS INVITADOS A CELEBRAR!
COMIDA Y POSTRE - HECHO EN CASA
SOLAMENTE PARA LLEVAR.
ABSOLUTAMENTE GRATIS.
LLEVANTANDO SUS PLATILLOS.
FAVOR DE LLEGAR TEMPRANO SE SERVIRA HASTA QUE SE ACABE.
TIEMPO DE SERVIR: 11:30 AM TO 1:30 PM O HASTA AGOTAR PLATILLOS
DONDE: NUESTRA SENORA DE LOS ANGELES
1214 STONEWALL
SAN ANTONIO, TX 78211
FAVOR DE ENTRAR POR LA CALLE STONEWALL Y ESTACIONESE EN EL ESTACIONAMIENTO DEL SALON.
PARA MAS INFORMACION LLAME TEL. 210-924-6591

THANK YOU!



gracias

A big thank you to all who contributed to the success of the Turkey Loteria. Your support of his event will help fund the festivities for Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day. Many blessings to all. Rosemary Soriano, President Society of Guadalupe

Muchas gracias a todos los que contribuyeron al éxito de la Lotería del Pavo. Su apoyo a este evento ayudará a financiar las festividades del Día de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. Bendiciones, Rosemary Soriano, Presidenta Sociedad de Guadalupe

FAITH FORMATION

MESSAGE FROM SR. BLANCA HINOJOSA

A big **THANK YOU** to all the students in their participation at All Saints Mass, we had over 60 young students dressed in their favorite Saint costume. Thank you to the parents for their support to their young children.

We are now preparing for our Thanksgiving food drive. Faith Formation students will be bringing canned goods and non-perishable food items to fill each classroom decorated box to give out to needy families from our own parish. We will have a Thanksgiving prayer celebration next Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday during their class times. We ask anyone who wishes to contribute with either a turkey or ham to add to each classroom box to call Sr. Blanca at 210 288-9355. Our goal is to feed 15 families (15 boxes). That's how many we fed last year. Thank you for your generosity.

We are also in the final preparations for the celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Children are preparing for a liturgical dance and drama to be presented during the evening Mass on December 12th. Pray our children may continue with that energy and joy to evangelize others through our CCD Program. Thank you Catechists, and assistants, for all your help in preparing our children and encouraging them to grow in their love for Jesus and our Blessed Mother Mary. Our program continues to grow, we now have over 275 students enrolled and attending our Faith Formation Program. **WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF CATECHISTS AND ASSISTANTS.**

MENSAJE DE HNA. BLANCA HINOJOSA

Mil GRACIAS a todos los estudiantes del catecismo por su participación en la Misa de Todos los Santos. Tuvimos más de 60 niños participando vestidos de su Santo favorito. Gracias a sus papas por apoyar a sus hijos.

Ahora estamos preparándonos para la colecta de comida de Día de Acción de Gracias. Los estudiantes de nuestro catecismo traerán latas y otras comidas en cajas o latas para llenar cada caja decorada por sus catequistas para dar a las familias necesitadas de nuestra parroquia. Tendremos un servicio de Acción de Gracias durante las clases del catecismo el próximo martes, miércoles y domingo. Si alguien desea contribuir con algún pavo o jamón para agregar a estas cajas comuníquese con la Hna. Blanca 210 288-9355. Nuestra meta es llenar 15 cajas (1 por cada grupo). Gracias por su generosidad.

También ya estamos preparando a los niños para la celebración de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe con una danza y drama durante la misa de la tarde del día 12 de diciembre. Oren para que nuestros niños sigan con ese entusiasmo y alegría para evangelizar a otras personas. Gracias catequistas y asistentes, por toda su ayuda en esta preparación y por seguir animando a nuestros estudiantes a crecer en el amor por Jesús y a María.

Nuestro programa continúa creciendo, tenemos casi 275 alumnos en nuestro Programa de Formación en la Fe.

TODAVIA ESTAMOS NECESITANDO CATEQUISTAS Y AYUDANTES.

don't forget to pray the Rosary



at home with your family

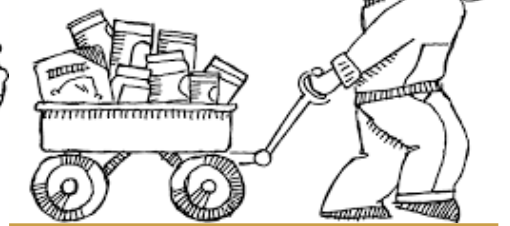
"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."

Matthew 25:35



"Porque tuve hambre, y ustedes me dieron de comer."

Mateo 25:35



Growing in Faith

TAKING MARY HOME



Flores Family



OUR LADY
OF THE
ROSARY
PRAY FOR
US



THANK YOU!

We extend our gratitude to Mr. Pablo Martinez for generously dedicating his time and skills to the upkeep of our parish grounds. Your contribution is truly a blessing to our entire community.

THE BLESSING OF SACRAMENTALS

When sacramentals are blessed they are made holy. They are set apart for a purpose. It is always meant to praise GOD and pray for his gifts.

Quando los sacramentales son bendecidos, se santifican. Están apartados con un propósito. Siempre tiene como objetivo alabar a DIOS y orar por sus dones.

SAINT OF THE WEEK ~ November 13

St. Frances Xavier Cabrini was born in northern Italy in 1850. She became a school teacher, a religious, and founded the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart. As her order grew, she was encouraged to send sisters west to minister to immigrants in America. Along with her sisters, Mother Cabrini set-up schools, orphanages, and hospitals throughout America, as well as in Brazil, Nicaragua, Argentina and even England, France and Spain. She is fondly remembered as saying, "The Heart of Jesus does things in such a hurry that I can barely keep up with him." She was canonized in 1946 by Pius XII.

Santa Francisco Javier Cabrini nació en el norte de Italia en 1850. Se convirtió en maestra de escuela, religiosa y fundó las Hermanas Misioneras del Sagrado Corazón. A medida que su orden crecía, se la animó a enviar hermanas al oeste para ministrar a los inmigrantes en Estados Unidos. Junto con sus hermanas, la Madre Cabrini instaló escuelas, orfanatos y hospitales en toda América, así como en Brasil, Nicaragua, Argentina e incluso Inglaterra, Francia y España. Se la recuerda con cariño diciendo: "El Corazón de Jesús hace las cosas con tanta prisa que apenas puedo seguirle el ritmo". Fue canonizada en 1946 por Pío XII.



St. Francis Xavier Cabrini
Pray for us

Gospel

Reflection

In this week's Gospel, Jesus talks about what it means to be prepared to receive the Kingdom of Heaven. This week's reading follows a series of warnings and predictions by Jesus about the coming of the Son of Man. Jesus wants his disciples to understand that the exact day and time cannot be predicted. He teaches the disciples that they must remain vigilant so that they will not be caught unprepared.

When thinking about the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, it is important to consider the first-century wedding traditions of Palestine. Scholars tell us that it was the custom of the day for young maidens—friends and family members of the bride—to meet the bridegroom when he came to bring his bride to her new home.

As with many of Jesus' parables, several levels of interpretation are possible. In last week's Gospel, we heard Jesus warn against following the example of the Pharisees and scribes. If read in the context of early Christianity's struggle to define itself against Pharisaic Judaism, this parable is a continuing critique of Judaism. It suggests that the Jewish leaders were like the foolish virgins, unprepared to meet Jesus, the bridegroom of Israel.

In the chapter preceding this parable, however, Jesus warns about the destruction of Jerusalem, the tribulation of the end times, and the coming of the Son of Man. When read in this context, today's parable is a warning to the Christian community to remain vigilant and prepared to receive Jesus, the Son of Man who will return at the end of time. This interpretation is supported by the reference to the delay of the bridegroom. The Christian community for whom Matthew wrote this Gospel was coming to terms with the realization that the promise of Jesus' return would not be fulfilled within their lifetimes. The question remains for us to ask ourselves, Are we ready to receive Jesus? Will we be prepared to receive him?

En el Evangelio de esta semana, Jesús habla de lo que significa estar preparado para recibir el Reino de los Cielos. La lectura de esta semana sigue una serie de advertencias y predicciones de Jesús sobre la venida del Hijo del Hombre. Jesús quiere que sus discípulos entiendan que no se puede predecir el día y la hora exactos. Enseña a los discípulos que deben permanecer vigilantes para que no los pillen desprevenidos.

Al pensar en la parábola de las vírgenes prudentes y las insensatas, es importante considerar las tradiciones nupciales de Palestina del primer siglo. Los eruditos nos dicen que era costumbre de la época que las jóvenes doncellas, amigas y familiares de la novia, recibieran al novio cuando éste venía a llevar a su novia a su nuevo hogar.

Como ocurre con muchas de las parábolas de Jesús, son posibles varios niveles de interpretación. En el Evangelio de la semana pasada, escuchamos a Jesús advertir contra seguir el ejemplo de los fariseos y los escribas. Si se lee en el contexto de la lucha del cristianismo primitivo por definirse contra el judaísmo farisaico, esta parábola es una crítica continua del judaísmo. Sugiere que los líderes judíos eran como las vírgenes insensatas, no preparadas para encontrarse con Jesús, el novio de Israel.

Sin embargo, en el capítulo que precede a esta parábola, Jesús advierte sobre la destrucción de Jerusalén, la tribulación del fin de los tiempos y la venida del Hijo del Hombre. Cuando se lee en este contexto, la parábola de hoy es una advertencia a la comunidad cristiana para que permanezca vigilante y preparada para recibir a Jesús, el Hijo del Hombre que regresará al final de los tiempos. Esta interpretación se apoya en la referencia a la demora del novio. La comunidad cristiana para quien Mateo escribió este Evangelio estaba asumiendo que la promesa del regreso de Jesús no se cumpliría durante sus vidas. La pregunta que nos queda por hacernos es: ¿Estamos listos para recibir a Jesús? ¿Estaremos preparados para recibirlo?

Readings for the week

Sunday: Wis 6:12-16/1 Thes 4:13-18 or 4:13-14/Mt 25:1-13 (154) Pss IV

Monday: Wis 1:1-7/Lk 17:1-6 (491)

Tuesday: Wis 2:23-3:9/Lk 17:7-10 (492)

Wednesday: Wis 6:1-11/Lk 17:11-19 (493)

Thursday: Wis 7:22b-8:1/Lk 17:20-25 (494)

Friday: Wis 13:1-9/Lk 17:26-37 (495)

Saturday: Wis 18:14-16; 19:6-9/Lk 18:1-8 (496)

or, for the Optional Memorial of the Dedication, Acts 28:11-16, 30-31/Mt 14:22-33 (679)