**“Pray always”**

All our readings today point us to expectant vigilance for the coming of God. Their message is that God comes to us in unexpected ways; so He wants us to be prepared all the time for His coming. His coming might be sending us on a mission asking us to be His hand, feet, and mouth to other people; or it might be to call us to our heavenly home. Our responsibility is to be ready in prayer, at all times for whatever He might ask us to do.

In our first reading we found out that in captivity in Egypt, the Jews expected the Passover but before the time and day was made known to them, they waited expectantly for their salvation form their enemies. Wisdom tells us that they had faith in God that He would deliver them. While in captivity, they were secretly worshiping their God because of their faith and trust in God.

In our second reading, the letter to the Hebrews tells us that faith was what kept Abraham and Sarah vigilant for the promise of God of a son; and that their descendants would be numerous as the stars. It was their faith and trust in God that kept them hoping for a better homeland, a heavenly homeland. Abraham and Sarah were vigilant. They were ready that was why they were able to receive all the graces they received from God through faith in Him.

Again, the theme of our Gospel is, be vigilant, be expectant of the call or the coming of the Lord. Be ready at all times. When we are, we will not be afraid of the coming of our God who has prepared a home for us in heaven. It is He, who will perfect our hearts with the spirit of adoption as His sons and daughters that we may merit to enter into the inheritance He has promised us.

How are we to make all these preparation of being vigilant? Well my brothers and sisters, Jesus mentioned one of the ways in our Gospel. He told us to sell our belongings and give alms. There are two other required things we need to do. They are, we need to fast. When we fast, we cultivate the virtue of detachment to earthly stuff. Lastly, we need to pray always so we can know the will of God.

A little boy asked his mother when should I pray? The mother answered, when you are about to die. The boy then asked, how would I know when I am about to die? The mother said that is why you are to pray daily so you will be prepared when God calls you home. We are to learn from this wise woman. She drove her point home with simple answers that would resonate with the boy throughout his life time.

Prayer is our way of talking to God. It is our way of worshiping Him and telling Him our needs. We need to continuously give ourselves to prayers asking for wisdom greater than we have now. In prayer, we die to self.

Jesus gave us examples in Scripture about praying. Just to mention a couple of times: Before He chose His Apostles, He went and prayed. Before He took on our sins and died for us on the cross He prayed to His Father in the garden. He prayed for us to be one and He prayed for Peter to be strengthened after his test by Satan.

Our prayers should be expressed in deeds and words. We should have communal prayer as well as private prayer. That is why we are here today and every Sunday. It is the way God wants us to be prepared for His coming. We are here so we can pray together as one.

Our Mass is the highest prayer we can pray to God. It is the time in prayer we represent His Son’s sacrifice on the cross to Him in thanksgiving for what He did for us, from His incarnation to His suffering and death on the cross.

Can you imagine if our Lord should come back today and we are playing golf or in a shopping mall shopping for frivolous things instead of worshiping Him! The Lord’s Day, God said should be kept holy. He would probably ask us, in seven days there are 168 hours and you could not give Me an hour? How would we respond to His call for us to be always prepared because He would come at an unexpected hour?

As we come to receive Him in the Eucharist, let us ask for more grace and wisdom to always do His will.