

by Fr. Christopher Szarke

Today's Gospel is about being prepared. It's a timely message, as all of our lives have changed over the past several months. In some ways we are in a holding pattern. In other ways we are preparing for a future party.

I look at our parish and see the Holy Spirit being very active, in spite of doors that are locked most of the time and the lights frequently off.

St. James is not acting like five sleepy bridesmaids. The lamps are filled, the parish is remaining active, and staying prepared for the future.

We're not experiencing what we are used to with programs and worship, and our anticipation and enthusiasm rises as we look to how we may expand that more within our current circumstances. We're also aware that there was some complacency and taking for granted in the past. I've heard from parishioners who tell me that they will never fail to appreciate opportunities to be together for in-person fellowship, or receiving the sacraments, or being able to serve in ministries. Perhaps this awareness is part of the gift in this space we've been in.

Today, we may ask if we will be like the foolish and unprepared bridesmaids. Will we be wise and prepared? Will we be generous and contribute to the building of the kingdom or miserly? Will we dig in our heels or dance? Will we be bench sitters or risk takers for the Kingdom of God? Let's fill our lamps and stay awake.
Amen.