

WEEKLY MEDITATION 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's Gospel message tells us that the Lord's coming will be sudden, unexpected, and compelling. It seems to suggest that we would be foolish to imagine that we will have plenty of time to ready ourselves for it. It will be more like St. Paul's blinding flash of light on the road to Damascus, unexpected but and decisive. This is the expectant waiting that surrounds the believer. Christian hope is focused on the prom-

ise made to the apostles: "This Jesus who has been taken from you will return." Yet this does not mean that every believer is consciously aware of this fact and lives accordingly. Even though a person may believe in the Lord and his return, he or she can still live a life of sinfulness while nurturing a false and somewhat magical type of confidence, feeling that there will always be time later on to shape things up, and that

the Lord will *certainly* take care of any problematic matters in any event.

In reality, true certainty about the Lord's coming will commit a person to a serious and deliberate effort to remain faithful to the Lord and live according to his commands. The Lord *really is coming*. Along with the fact of our bodily death, it is the only sure thing we have. This should fill us with hope, peace and the desire to be prepared to meet him.

November: Month of All Saints and All Souls
We pray in particular this month for all of our beloved deceased who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith in Christ. ***May perpetual light shine upon them.***

Love can make us saints

It is very Catholic to admire the saints, yet we often think that we can't measure up to most of them. We need to remember that these people became saints not just because of their great deeds, but because of their love of God and neighbor. If they can do it, so can we.

St. Francis was used to a carefree life of luxury. God had to knock him off his feet with a deadly illness to get his attention. Throughout the rest of his life, Francis denied God nothing. St. Monica shed many mother's tears over St. Augustine's partying, paganism, and lack of respect for holiness. Through her prayers and the guidance of St. Ambrose, St. Augustine came to adore the God he found in Scripture. His love for God made him a new man. St. Dominic was a devoted minister and protector of the faith. As he lay dying, he said to his friends, "Do not weep, for I shall be more useful to you after my death and I shall help you more effectively than during my life." He loved all of God's people.

Great are the rewards when we hold no love back from God!

Dear Parishioners,

The end of the calendar year is quickly approaching. At year's end we compile and analyze our parish records and plan next year's projects. Also in this time we check our parishioner addresses and telephone numbers, because we are about to order our new boxes of contribution envelopes for our parishioners. We ask that if you are worshipping regularly with us, but have not yet become parishioners, please consider joining us now. And if your address or telephone number has changed in the past year, please contact us immediately before the new envelopes are printed. Thank you for your cooperation, generosity and love toward this community that is all of our spiritual home.

WISDOM'S CORNER

I Knew

Jim and Phil grew up as the best of friends. They did everything together. They even went to high school and college together. After college they decided to join the Marines. By a unique series of circumstances they were actually sent to Germany together, where they fought side by side in one of history's ugliest wars. One sweltering day during a fierce battle, amid heavy gunfire, bombing, and close-quarters combat, they were given the command to retreat. As the men were running back, Jim noticed that Phil had not returned, and knew that if he was not back in another minute or two, he wouldn't make it at all. Jim begged his commanding officer to let him go after his friend, but the officer denied his request, saying it would be suicide. Risking his own life, Jim disobeyed and went after Phil. A short time later, Jim returned carrying a limp body in his arms. The officer upbraided him for his foolish waste of time and dangerous risk, saying "Your friend is dead, and there was nothing you could do." Jim replied, "No sir, you're wrong. You see, I got there just in time. Before he died, his last words were, 'I knew you would come.'"

THE THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"Wait for God. Wait on God. Wait with God."

St. Jerome School Skating Party at Fleetwood Roller Rink



Families of St. Jerome School students are invited to a skating party on Thursday, November 17 from 7 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. at Fleetwood Roller Rink, 7200 W. Archer Ave. Tickets are \$5.00. Please have your ticket orders in to the school by Wednesday, November 16. **Skate rental is extra.**

Football Mania Winners

Here are the winning numbers for Week 8:
\$500 1000, \$137.50 2632 & 4803, \$50 2567,
\$12.50 4292, 4339, 3738 & 1257, \$6.25 680,
847, 3770 & 3307.

St. Jerome Property Fund

Mortgage Debt from New Parking Lot:	
	\$ 400,000
Donated to Date:	
	\$ 156,436
November Donations Thus Far:	
	\$ 1,500
Needed for monthly Mortgage Payment:	\$

HELP ST. JEROME SCHOOL WIN A MOBILE COMPUTER LAB

Enter the FutureReady Mobile Lab Computer contest and cast your vote for St. Jerome School by going to our school's web site

<http://www.stjermomeschool.net>

and following the instructions. **You can vote as many times as you like.** The 5 schools with the most votes will each win a computer lab. Tell everyone you know to vote. **The contest ends Nov. 15.** Thank you!

Food Drive runs through Thanksgiving



Members of the St. Jerome Youth Service Corps will continue to collect bags of non-perishable groceries for local food pantries **through Thanksgiving weekend.** Please deliver your donations to the back of the church or rectory, and thank you!

Directory of our Bulletin sponsors:

Today we offer a list of our Bulletin advertisers, grouped according to their type of business. Please show them your gratitude, especially by remembering them when you need the services that they offer.

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