

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – NOVEMBER 12, 2017

Dear Parishioners and Families,

The Hebrew bible and the New Testament often describe the relationship of God to the human person in terms of a marriage covenant or a marriage feast. Marriages are times of commitment and a wedding celebration is happy for all the invitees.

This Sunday's Gospel spoken by Jesus is another example of relating the Kingdom of Heaven and God to a wedding feast. The reading is a parable written in the form of an allegory. All men and women are invited to the wedding feast. Preparation for going to the feast requires lamp oil – good works. Good works are not completely transferrable to others. One cannot enter into the marriage on the coattails of another.

God does not ask people to be constantly vigilant as if always preparing for the wedding feast. Note that all the 10 ladies sleep. But when the time comes, you must be ready with sufficient oil to gain entrance. The celebration of all the faithful departed and the celebration of All Saints Day is a reminder that this life is an important prelude to a marriage feast, a feast in the Kingdom of Heaven.

When the Physical Heart Begins to Falter

This week in the science section of the *New York Times* there is an interesting article relating to progressive heart failure. Medicines and science have significantly advanced treatment for hearts that show progressive aging and loss of pumping strength. The article points out that many doctors find it difficult to address these end of life issues. The article may have some practical applications for many in our parish since our population is always aging.

Reading the article has another point. Since the article speaks about medical science and research science, it does not take into the account the belief of Christians that the **end of natural life is an entrance into life in the Kingdom of Heaven**. We as Christians find death somewhat fearful, but not without great hope and vision. It makes little sense for us to talk about end of life issues without also talking about our future. **The body dies but the person continues**. The article addresses many people who are aging and struggling, but it leaves out our vision of future life in the Kingdom of Heaven -- the Wedding Feast. Science and religion do go hand in glove.

Tele Coil Equipped Hearing Aids

People with hearing loss often struggle to catch the words and softer sound during the worship service. With the echo in church, even people with normal hearing have trouble understanding the spoken word. The new Induction Loop system now installed at St. Joseph will give people a distinct advantage in these circumstances – it works with the individual's t-coil equipped hearing aids.

The sound is broadcast through a wire installed in the church. A small coil of wire in the hearing aid, called a t-coil, is the receiver. When the listener is located within the field created by the loop wire, the t-coil in the hearing aid will receive the signal from the loop. Individuals with any type and degree of hearing loss and any t-coil equipped hearing aid can take advantage of this Loop Technology. Background noise and echo are no longer a problem.