

**Note: The commentary below is for the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Holy Cross, not for the feast of St. Luke.**

This Sunday, like last, exhorts us to be vigilant, persevere, and wait, spiritually, unceasingly, and remain faithful to the service entrusted to us by the Lord, like the wise virgins, until his coming!

**First Reading: *Philippians 2:12-18***

In the work of his salvation, the believer has a feeling of weakness, fear, and reverence toward the living and holy God. Obedience is the believer's answer, and total free submission to God. The believer acts in the world as children of God do. One doesn't follow the dark, crooked spirit of the world, but one would straighten out what is crooked and perverse, and enlighten the darkness. The believing community in Philippi was Saint Paul's boast, as he himself was their boast. He loved them with a great love and he was ready to be poured out as libation upon the sacrificial service of their faith, to confirm them, and be a great source of joy for them. This joy has its source in Christ: This is why nobody can conquer it or take it away from us!

**Gospel: *Matthew 25:1-13***

The parable of the virgins is particular to Matthew. It insists on vigilance and readiness for the Lord's coming, no matter how late! The groom is Lord Jesus; the virgins the believers who await the coming of the Lord; the oil of the lamps is wisdom in acting and doing God's will, so that the believer may have a part in Christ's kingdom.

**Lord, let us wait for you in joy and in hope!**

**A BIG THANKS TO ALL** who participated on Friday in the Chance event to help children in Lebanon who have cancer and blood diseases. The food was delicious; the presentations were inspiring; the spirit of the people was good, and the event raised a good amount of money for this worthy cause.

**HALLOWEEN PARTY** for the children will be held on Saturday, 25 October, at 3:00 pm at the Parish House grounds (next to the church): food and fun. For details, call Lina Fraifer @ 813-927-1236, Micha Nahhas @ 813-995-9510, or Leila Menassa @ 813-971-5526.

**NEWLY INITIATED:** Luke Sayad, son of Dr. Dany and Jan, was received into the Christ's Maronite Church on Saturday by being baptized and chrismated (confirmed). We welcome him into the Community and congratulate the proud and happy parents.

**2<sup>ND</sup> COLLECTION NEXT WEEK:** There will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> collection for the Propagation (Spreading) of the (Catholic) Faith taken up next week. In our day when other religions and atheism compete with Christianity, this collection is quite needed. Please be as generous as you can.

**ANYBODY HOSPITALIZED OR HOMEBOUND?** Please call the rectory at 813-

886-7413 and speak to Father or leave a message.

**HELP WITH WEEKLY BULLETIN:** Is there anyone who might be interested in helping to compose the weekly bulletin with me? You must have a good grasp of American English and have computer skills, especially with Microsoft Word.