Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace
Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 8, 2026

Beloved Disciples of Christ,

Greetings of peace, love, joy, and hope!

"Meeting Christ Today, Awaiting Him Tomorrow"

Many things in life happen unexpectedly. Even with the advanced warnings we receive before hurricanes, tornadoes, and other natural disasters, uncertainty remains. We do not always know how severe the impact will be or how our lives may change afterward. In the face of such events, some people respond immediately to the call to seek safety, while others delay, believing they still have plenty of time. Often, they finally decide to act only when the danger becomes real and unavoidable.

In a similar way, the Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids invites us to reflect on the importance of spiritual readiness. The parable is not simply about who remembered to bring enough oil for their lamps. It is ultimately about our relationship with the Lord and our readiness to welcome Him whenever He comes. Jesus reminds us that God's Kingdom will come at a time we do not expect. The wise bridesmaids lived in hopeful anticipation of the bridegroom's arrival, and because they were prepared, they entered the joy of the wedding feast.

The Christian life is a journey of preparation, rooted not in fear but in love. Each day offers an opportunity to grow closer to Christ, deepen our faith, and allow His grace to transform us. When the Lord comes, whether at the end of our earthly lives or at the fulfillment of His Kingdom, our prayer is that He will find us watching, waiting, and faithful.

As I reflect on this Gospel, I am reminded of my years in Scouting. From an early age, I joined the Cub Scouts and later the Boy Scouts. One lesson that has stayed with me throughout my life and priesthood is the Scout motto: "Be Prepared." At first, it meant being ready for outdoor activities, emergencies, and daily responsibilities. Over time, however, I came to understand its deeper meaning. Life brings many unexpected challenges, moments of uncertainty, and opportunities to serve others. Being prepared means staying attentive, resilient, and ready to respond with faith and courage.

For Christians, this same spirit of preparedness takes on even greater significance. We are called to prepare for the Lord's coming by nurturing our relationship with Him each day through prayer, acts of charity, the Sacraments, and faithful discipleship. Spiritual readiness is not something we accomplish in a single moment. We cultivate it over a lifetime of walking with Christ.

The Eucharist is one of the greatest ways the Lord prepares us for His coming. Every Sunday and each time we gather for Mass, Christ meets us in a profound and personal way. He offers Himself to us in His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. As we approach the altar, we are invited not only to be physically present but also to be spiritually attentive, bringing our joys, struggles, hopes, and fears before Him.

Preparing for Mass means opening our hearts to God's presence, allowing Him to speak to us through His Word, and nourishing us through the Holy Eucharist. The more we learn to recognize Christ in the Eucharist, the more ready we become to recognize Him when He comes in glory.

May we never take His presence for granted. Instead, may we strive each day to keep the lamp of faith burning brightly, nourished by prayer, sustained by the Sacraments, and strengthened by acts of love. Then, whenever the Lord comes, we will be ready to meet Him with joyful hearts and to hear His words: "Come, share your Master's joy."

And so, the question remains for each of us. If the Lord were to come today, would our hearts be ready to welcome Him?

Your Friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual