



Issue No. 7: November 8, 2020

**What:** Weekly Catholic Athletes for Christ message  
**Why:** To keep our faith & athletics intersected  
**Who:** All Catholic High Schools across the Diocese  
**From:** Fr. Zach Edgar, Diocesan CAC Chaplain

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## **GREETINGS, RAIDERS!**

I hope what I've sent to you so far is helping you pray during the week and gives you something to think about as you hear the readings at Mass on Sunday. If there's a way these can be more helpful, please send your feedback!. Your CAC moderators and admins are in weekly contact with me, so just reach out! Say a *Hail, Mary* for me too, please. Thanks!

***As we hear about divine Wisdom this week, let us pray for an increase in our lives of this highest of the 7 gifts of the Spirit... Come Holy Spirit! Make us truly wise!***

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.  
**O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of your faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.**

**This Sunday is:** 32<sup>nd</sup> in Ordinary Time  
**Our focus is on:** *preparation - Watching, waiting, and listening for God daily.*

This week, we have an opportunity to meditate on how prepared we are to ***watch and wait*** for Christ the Bridegroom's return to us.

Our culture is not very good at patience. We get in our routines and expect to keep everything "our way" no matter what. If we get tunnel vision, we will certainly miss many of the blessings around us. In our prayer life, for instance, it is incredibly easy to neglect to talk to the Holy Spirit in the same way that we pray from the heart to God the Father or to Jesus. But today, the highest gift of the Holy Spirit, God's wisdom, is placed front-and-center for us. The best summary statement we'll hear in this weekend's Scriptures is the line from Psalm 63 which says, "*for you [my God] my flesh pines and my soul thirsts like the earth, parched, lifeless and without water.*" We want our hope of seeing God in heaven to create an intense longing for him now, so much that our soul clearly sees he or she needs God for survival as much as the drought-stricken earth needs rain to fall in the summer. Then when the moment of union with God comes, when we finally get to meet Him, should it not be an even greater reunion than when a soldier comes home safely from war and can see their family again? The joy and relief of that type of encounter should be what our hearts go through as we long to see the living God, right in front of our eyes at every Mass in the Holy Eucharist. We need to pray for a renewed longing and desire to meet God **at the altar at every Mass**, in the great reunion of His Body and Blood, so that we never forget **this** is where heaven meets earth.

Let us rejoice that as members of the Church, the Bride of Christ, that we can meet the Bridegroom ***here and now*** and not only in heaven. Joy should be the overwhelming experience of meeting Jesus in the Eucharist, provided that we have no serious sins on our soul that would require going to Confession before going to Communion.

We have to prepare for lots of things in life, it's why we study in school, it's why we practice sports, it's why we receive special training within our jobs. We attempt to be prepared

for the future, but then what do we do with that preparation? Do we wait around in fear for something bad to happen, assuming the worst? Or do we wait in hope, as we are called to do in watching and waiting for Jesus the Bridegroom to be very near to us. We can literally have this encounter every day at any Catholic Church in the world! How do we keep “waiting” and longing in the spiritual life from being filled with anxiety? Let’s take our cues from the Holy Spirit in the first reading Sunday. Listen to the verbs especially in this text. This is our game plan! We will have lasting, *unfading* wisdom if we *love* the Spirit of Wisdom, then we will understand and *perceive* her. If we *seek* wisdom, we will find her. If we have a longing and *desire* for these gifts of the Holy Spirit, the gift of wisdom will become *known* to us. We will never be disappointed if we keep watch. With our eyes looking up instead of stuck focused on ourselves or this world alone, we stand a much better chance of seeing the gifts of God, with the help of the light of the Holy Spirit.

God wants to make it simple for us to know Him. This isn’t a game. Without question, this Sunday’s Gospel contains one of the most frightening lines in the New Testament, where the those who were not prepared to enter the wedding feast (which represents heaven) cry out to the Bridegroom, ‘*Lord, Lord, open the door for us!*’ *But the Lord King said in reply, ‘Amen, I say to you, I do not know you.’*

If we will just take the time to pray every day, to give over to God all our anxieties, fears, past sins, our crosses, our blessings, everything that we are, then we are doing everything a human being can do to truly *know* the Lord. If we talk to Him about everything, if we allow Him to be in the middle of our mess without putting on a facade that everything’s just fine, then we will be totally His. If wisdom and foolishness are being held up for our examination today, then let’s apply that lesson to our life in a very concrete way: the most foolish thing a human being could do is to not pray, and thereby not having any relationship with the living God who gives us every breath we will ever take. ***Lord, give us the courage and freedom to make known to You every part of our life, that we may be totally yours!***

**Further Reading: CCC 796** The union of Christ and his Church is often expressed by the image of bridegroom and bride since, as in marriage, two become one flesh and yet remain distinct within the union. St. John the Baptist spoke of Christ as the awaited bridegroom (Jn 3.29), as did Christ himself (Mk 2.19). The Church is the Lord’s bride whom Christ has wedded by an everlasting covenant. (Jn 3.29: “He who has the bride is the bridegroom; the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom’s voice; therefore this joy of mine is now full.”)

***More on the gift of wisdom from the Old Testament: Wisdom 7:21-30***

*Whatever is hidden or plain I learned, for Wisdom, the artisan of all, taught me.*

*For in her is a spirit intelligent, holy, unique, Manifold, subtle, agile, clear, unstained, certain,*

*Never harmful, loving the good, keen, unhampered, beneficent, kindly,*

*Firm, secure, tranquil, all-powerful, all-seeing, And pervading all spirits,*

*though they be intelligent, pure and very subtle. For Wisdom is mobile beyond all motion, and she*

*penetrates and pervades all things by reason of her purity. For she is a breath of the might of God and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty; therefore nothing defiled can enter into her.*

*For she is the reflection of eternal light, the spotless mirror of the power of God, the image of his goodness.*

*Although she is one, she can do all things, and she renews everything while herself perduring; Passing*

*into holy souls from age to age, she produces friends of God and prophets. For God loves nothing so much*

*as the one who dwells with Wisdom. For she is fairer than the sun and surpasses every constellation of*

*the stars. Compared to light, she is found more radiant; though night supplants light, wickedness does not prevail over Wisdom.*

**Action Item:** Pray the 3<sup>rd</sup> Glorious Mystery of the Rosary, the Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, asking Jesus, through Mary, for an increase in all the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

***Our Lady, Queen of All Saints, pray for us!***