**Sunday School Teachers’ Scripture and Feast Day Weekly Memo**

**Sunday of the Judge**

**From Today’s Readings**

**Luke 17:20-18:14***Jesus describes the Second Coming as a time like any other in some ways, with people in pursuit of their usual pleasures; joys as well as suffering continue. Yet we learn that his Coming will be as bold as a bolt of lightning. We cannot be prepared for it if we have not lived all along as God’s devoted children; if we haven’t, we will be reluctant to leave behind earthly preoccupations for heavenly ones. This description is immediately followed by The Parable of the Judge.* See below for more on this parable and reflection questions. Discussion: How does Jesus’ example of Lot’s wife looking back clarify the meaning of verse 33: “whoever tries to keep their life will lose it and whoever loses their life will preserve it”?

**Philippians 3:1-4:9** *St. Paul provides an inspiring picture of what Christian living is all about: a life focused on Christ (“our citizenship is in heaven”) and on what is true, noble, and admirable; it is imbued with joy. Above all, whatever life was like before, it is as worthless as rubbish (lit: dung;3:8) compared with knowing Jesus Christ.* Discussion: What is St. Paul’s prescription for stress in 4:6-7?

**Isaiah 65:8-25**  *As the Jews begin their post-exile life,* *God promises salvation and renewal to the faithful - a world where there will no longer be tears and where the wolf and the lamb will peacefully co-exist.* Discussion: In v 13, God assures the faithful that they will eat and drink where others will hunger and thirst; in what way does this look ahead to Jesus? (See Matthew 26:26-28 for his words at the Last Supper)

**Sunday of the Judge**

To underscore the importance of prayer, Jesus tells the parable of an unjust judge who neglects the pleas of a poor widow until, tired of her persistence, he hands down a decision and sends her away. Just as Jesus used the example of a less-than-virtuous-steward (last Sunday’s Lenten lesson), he now uses the example of an exasperated, self-centered judge. If *he* submits to the supplication of the widow, won’t Almighty God hear and respond to our needs? Prayer is one of the essential ways we grow closer to God. When Jesus called his disciples one by one, they didn’t ask why. They just knew that this Person had life’s answers. Reflection:  *When do you pray? Only at certain times? When you feel angry or sad? Thankful? Memorize I Thessalonians 5:16-18 as a good mantra for prayerful living.*

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