

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Nov. 19, 2017

Proverbs 31: 10-13
Thessalonians 5: 1-6
Matthew 25: 14-30

What can economics and productivity teach us about the kingdom of heaven? Jesus' story about a businessman who leaves town and entrusts his money with his workers made perfect sense to his audience. Wealthy merchants and businessmen often had to travel abroad and leave the business to others to handle while they were gone. Why did Jesus tell this story? Most importantly it tells us something about how God deals with us, his servants. The parable speaks first of the Master's trust in his servants. While he goes away he leaves them with his money to use as they think best. While there were no strings attached, this was obviously a test to see if the Master's workers would be industrious and reliable in their use of the money entrusted to them. Third, the master rewards those who are industrious and faithful and he punishes those who sit by idly and who do nothing with his money. The essence of the parable seems to lie in the servants' conception of responsibility. Each servant entrusted with the master's money was faithful up to a certain point. The servant who buried the master's money was irresponsible. One can bury seeds in the ground and expect them to become productive because they obey natural laws. Coins, however, do not obey natural laws. They obey economic laws and become productive in circulation. The master expected his servants to be productive in the use of his money. What do coins and the law of economics have to do with the kingdom of God? The Lord entrusts the subjects of his kingdom with gifts and graces and he gives his subjects the freedom to use them as they think best. With each gift and talent, God gives sufficient the means (grace and wisdom) for using them in a fitting way. As the parable of the talents shows, God abhors indifference and an attitude that says it's not worth trying. God honors those who use their talents and gifts for doing good. Those who are faithful with even a little are entrusted with more! But those who neglect or squander what God has entrusted to them will lose what they have. There is an important lesson here for us. No one can stand still for long in the Christian life. We either get more or we lose what we have. We either advance towards God or we slip back. Do you earnestly seek to serve God with the gifts, talents, and graces he has given to you?
~Don Schwager

PARISH DIRECTORY

Fr. Francis Pudicherry - Parish Priest
Sandra Stewart - Pastoral Council Chair
Jack Mallon - Finance Council Chair
Marlaine Hagel - Liturgy Committee Chair
June Gaw - Director of the RCIA & CWL President
Bernadette Bystrican—Bookkeeper Tues. 9am-3pm
Carole Normand—Parish Secretary Thur.9am-12:30pm

Confirmation News:

The next confirmation class will take place **Sunday Nov. 26th following the 10 a.m. Mass.**

Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors:

are needed for Christmas masses.
The sign up sheet is in the sacristy.
Thank you

Offering for Christmas Flowers:

Donations towards flowers in memory of loved ones can be placed in the collection plate any time before Christmas. The 'IN MEMORY OF' donation envelopes (or use your Dec.3rd weekly envelope) are located at the church entrance.

If you donate to Christmas flowers through pre-authorized payment and want a loved one's name mentioned in the Christmas display please fill out the envelope at the church entrance and in the "amount" section please mark "PAP" Thank you.



CWL Corner:



Very special thanks to everyone who supported our **CWL Bazaar** this past Sunday. It was one of the best bazaars ever held bringing in over **\$4500**. For all the many donations, for those who worked tirelessly that day and before, and for those who came out to purchase our many varied goods, our heartfelt thanks and appreciation. Your support of this event was amazing!

The **CWL Christmas Potluck and Two-Bit Auction** will be held on **Tuesday, December 5th** with symposium at 6:00 p.m. and dinner at 6:30. All proceeds from the Auction go towards hampers for the clients of the Current River Churches' Food Cupboard. All members of the Catholic Women's League are invited to attend for an evening of fun, laughter and socialization.

CWL Membership:

It is time once again to begin our 2018 Catholic Women's League membership drive. We look forward to all members renewing their memberships and invite anyone 16 years and older to join us. The fee is \$20 cash or cheque made payable to **Our Lady of Loretto/ St Mark's CWL**. This can be put in the regular collection basket. A draw for a free membership will be held at the Dec. potluck supper for those who paid for their membership. If you have any questions call Evangeline at 683-3842

Christmas Bazaar:

Friday, November 24th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Pioneer Ridge Nursing Home Auditorium,
Penny Auction, Bake Table, Crafts, Nearly New,
Christmas Items, Clothing & Chocolates.

Community Carol Sing in support of the Current River Churches Food Cupboard:

will be held on **Sunday, December 10 at 7:00 pm** at the Current River Community Centre, 450 Dewe Ave. Celebrate the Christmas season with carols and readings. Free Will offering collected. Donations of non-perishable items would be greatly appreciated. Refreshments will be served. Sponsored by the Council of Current River Churches.



Liturgy Notes on Catholic Funerals:

Normally for a funeral of a Catholic person, the body is present for the funeral prayers and Mass. However cremation, which is popular today, is also allowed. Cremation is usually done after the funeral Mass, but may also take place before the Mass.

2018 Envelopes:

The 2018 Envelopes are now available at the church entrance for pick up. PLEASE do not use your 2018 envelopes *until* January 2018. In January please put your name and any updated address information on the first few envelopes. This will greatly assist the office staff. Also if you are paying by cheque if possible we ask that you not combine donations for different areas into one cheque. This is especially important if you are making a payment towards the CWL. as this is a completely separate bank account. If costs of cheques are a concern please consider pre-authorized monthly payments. Thank you for your kind consideration.

Pre-Authorized Payment

Pre –Authorized Payments

Are the simplest way to make your Sunday offerings. Please consider this form of payment for your Church donations . For your convenience, the PAP forms are located at the Church entrance. Just fill out and return the completed information to the Parish Office.

Thank you.

thank you!



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

The Sick and the Shut Ins:

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|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Sandy Boucher</i> | <i>David Elliot</i> |
| <i>Garrett Galvin</i> | <i>Roger Gaw</i> |
| <i>Bas Gionet</i> | <i>Paul Gollat</i> |
| <i>Frieda Kreutz</i> | <i>Doug Malcolm</i> |
| <i>Marian Masnica</i> | <i>Murray McCuaig</i> |
| <i>Kathy Sporcic</i> | <i>Stella Stakiw</i> |

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK OF Nov. 21/17—Nov.26/17

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| Tues. Nov. 21/17 | *Memorial-The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary | 9:00 a.m.—+For the Holy Souls in Purgatory (A Parishioner) |
| Wed. Nov. 22/17 | *Memorial-St. Cecilia, Virgin, Martyr | 9:00 a.m.—+Jesse Kimani Macharia (Stephanie Needham) |
| Thur. Nov. 23/17 | | 9:00 a.m.—+Sjaan Charron (Rita) |
| Fri. Nov. 24/17 | *Memorial: St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest & Martyrs | 9:00 a.m.—+Antonio Celetti (George & Greg Dart & Staff) |
| Sat. Nov. 25/17 | OLOL | 5:00 p.m.—+Anton Kolic (Ross & Evangeline MacMillan) |
| Sun Nov. 26/17 | OLOL | 10:00 a.m.—+Paul Vallooran (Ministers of Music of OLOL) |
| | St Mark's | 12:00 p.m.—For the Intentions of all Parishioners |