

For The Bulletin Of November 19, 2017



THE 33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From Father Robert

There is much talk these days about “baby boomers” moving into retirement age and the challenge that the number of retirees drawing Social Security will place on our government trust fund. Studies suggest to us that this fund will be completely depleted within a couple of decades. Workers are encouraged to put money aside in other accounts to supplement their retirement income. And even that extra money, given a prolonged illness requiring skilled medical care in a long-term care facility, would probably run out. Many older people worry about their investments and whether they will have enough when they face various end-of-life issues. Younger people are encouraged to begin planning early in life and certainly to begin saving. In many ways our future is already upon us. We invest in our future and pray that everything will be OK. Nearing the end of the Liturgical Year, the gospel draws out attention to another future: life after death. As with retirement, we must prepare for and invest in this future. Today’s gospel parable raises the issue of investments and benefits and directs us to think of how we await that future.

The master gave to the three servants in the gospel “each according to his ability.” We have not all been given the same sum of talents, but Jesus, our Master, has invested in every one of us. We are not judged according to the amount given us, but we are judged by the choices we make to use to the fullest potential what Jesus has invested in us. The most important choice we make in life is fidelity to whatever we are called to do – even in what seems to be small matters. The continuation of Jesus’ saving work depends upon this fidelity. If we are faithful, Jesus will judge us worthy beneficiaries of the greatest return on any investment: a share in the riches of the “Master’s joy” – eternal life.

We are now living in the delay before our Master’s return. This parable teaches what to do during this time of waiting – it is not empty time, for sure. We are to live in such a way that we grow in our greatest “possession” – the divine Life that has been given us. If, like the lazy servant in the parable, we focus on our fear and Christ’s judgment, we will be paralyzed in our ability to continue using the “investments” we have been given to continue Christ’s work of salvation. However, if we focus on the promised share in the “Master’s joy,” then we will be willing to risk what we have in order to grow in our most prized possession – our share in divine Life and the relationship with Christ that entails. The Christian Life and journey of discipleship begins with our being given an unmerited share in God’s Life. When we are faithful it will end wondrously – we will enter fully into the “Master’s joy.” If we are not faithful...

Living The Paschal Mystery

The master commends the two faithful servants for their industriousness and then tells them he will give them “great responsibilities.” For us Christians our “great responsibilities” are, of course, to be faithful disciples making present the kingdom of God in our daily lives.

Another part of these “great responsibilities” is to live now the Master’s joy, confident that one day we will enter even more fully into that joy. Responsibility means to use our Master’s “investments” in us to spread God’s goodness as well as appreciate now the joy of all that has been given us. Joy isn’t something only in the future; it is a fruit of the Spirit we enjoy now.

We are now in the final days of this Liturgical Year that has been 2017 which comes to a great conclusion with next weekend’s celebration of Christ the King. In some ways, this next week is like an extended New Year’s Eve – an opportunity to do some reflection about the year that has been. How have I grown spiritually? Am I a better disciple now than I was a year ago? What impact has God’s Word had on my spiritual growth? Do I know and love God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit more? Am I living out my discipleship as a Jesus-follower each day? What resolutions am I making for the new Liturgical Year that will begin soon?

- Jesus, the Master, has entrusted to me these “possessions”...I use them to...
- I find it easy to be faithful even “in small matters” when...I find it difficult to be faithful when...
- I experience now the “master’s joy” when I...



About Liturgy: Liturgical Ministries and Increase of “Talent”

The average parish has a great many people involved in the various “visible” liturgical ministries: greeters, ushers, music ministry, altar servers, lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, etc. In all cases these ministries require some “talent” in order to fulfill them properly. In addition to learning the “job,” what is also required is growth in a spirituality of the ministry that moves the “doing” toward real service to the community – herein lies the real demand for “talent.”

No doubt some ministers groan sometimes when they see their name on the schedule for a particular Sunday or liturgy. Perhaps they are not in a good space in their personal life and preparing well for a ministry brings an added burden. However, realizing liturgical ministry is a commitment they have made, they choose to be faithful, do the preparation, and come with a ready attitude to serve. Often this is a time when the “increase of talents” the gospel speaks about becomes so evident – perhaps a special grace is given during the celebration of the Eucharist in terms of a particularly poignant Presence of Christ to the minister or a real sense of joy in the celebration because they have more fully participated and allowed God to work in and through them. Continued reflection helps all of us see how Christ is increasing our own “talents” when we

remain faithful disciples. Most importantly, this is how we cooperate with Jesus in continuing His saving mission. He uses our “talents” to further God’s reign.



Many thanks to all those, including our adopted parochial school of St. Peter Martyr in Pittsburg, who have joined us in our Annual Thanksgiving Basket outreach. Our St. Vincent De Paul Society will facilitate the give-a-way tomorrow morning, Monday, November 20th. Last year, 200 baskets were contributed by our parishioners! This has been a great opportunity to teach our children the value of giving to others who are less fortunate than we. Our local Lucky Supermarket made it so easy: there has been a display with all the items necessary to fill the Thanksgiving Box/Basket literally right inside the entry doors. The members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society will add a turkey to each box. This is another wonderful opportunity for us to be the heart and the hands of Jesus to our sisters and brothers who would not enjoy this holiday and its festive meal were it not for us. Many thanks in advance for what you have done for this annual outreach.



Please plan to join us for our Thanksgiving Day Liturgy this Thursday, November 23rd, at 9:00 a.m. This is always a wonderful liturgy with our Choir and Cantors supporting our sung prayer and the Thanksgiving Reflection is given by a parishioner. This year that reflection will be given by **Jack Goncalves**. The offering that day has always been designated for a worthy cause and this year it is going to our adopted parochial school of St. Peter Martyr in Pittsburg. I hope your holiday plans will allow you to join us for this special day of giving thanks and praise to God for all His abundant blessings in each of our lives.



Brentwood Community Chorus
Christmas Concert Here
December 15th
Please mark your calendars for a wonderful Christmas Concert as the 85 voice Brentwood Community Chorus presents their annual Christmas Concert here on Friday, December 15th, 7:30 p.m. The program will feature classical as well as contemporary music of the season. The concert will be

followed by a festive reception in our parish hall. There is no charge to attend, however, there will be the opportunity for a free will donation. The concert will also include the use of instruments and handbells!



You are invited to join our Filipino Community for the traditional nine day novena of liturgies leading up to Christmas, beginning December 16th through the 24th at 5:00 a.m. each morning in the church, followed by a traditional Filipino Breakfast in our parish hall. The presider and homilist this year is **Fr. Ricky Pacoma** who is coming from the Philippines just for our parish! Ministries have been forming as well as sponsors for the breakfast each day. If you are interested in being a part of this wonderful cultural and spiritual event, please contact **Estrella Rusk, Financial Secretary**, in the Parish Office. While he is here, Fr. Ricky will also celebrate the 50th anniversary of his parents who are members of our parish.

Upcoming Capital Improvement

I'm pleased to announce that the parish recently received a significant monetary gift and in accordance with the donor's conditions, the money will be used to replace the inefficient metal halide lights currently installed in the parking lot with energy efficient LED fixtures. These new state of the art fixtures will provide much better illumination coupled with a significant reduction in monthly energy

costs. As a result of this gift, once the new fixtures are installed, the parish will transfer a portion of the energy cost savings each month to the Reserve Fund for the next 3 years. As I shared with you previously, the Reserve Fund was established in 2016 to set aside funds exclusively for capital expenditures related to our existing building (e.g. new roof).

The new fixtures have been received, tested and are ready to be installed. Installation should begin within the next few weeks.



Where would our parish be without all the wonderful volunteers that help in so many ways? Our thanks to:
...those who arrive very early each Saturday morning to clean the church: **Carole Miller, Steve Rojek, Cathy Romeo, Jun Bajet, Angela Bueno, Mency Osborne, and Rose Salamanca.**
...those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall: **Steve Rojek, Mary Ewing, Maria Chandler, Patricia Britton, and Harlan Young.**
...to **Dilcia Aparacio** who does such an excellent job of washing, ironing, and caring for the Sacred Linens.
...to our Sacristans and Altar Guild who prepare the sanctuary for the celebration of Eucharist each week:
Peter Degl'Innocenti, Pam and Rich Confetti, Vincent Rodriguez, Harlan

Young, Rowena Cayaban, Monika Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, Belen Farin, Nancy Santos and Rose Salamanca.

...to **our counting teams** who are here every week to count the weekly collections.

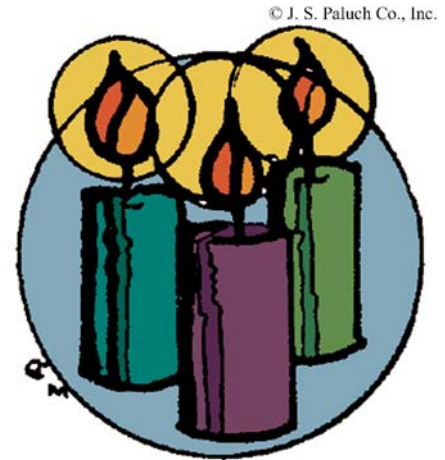
...to our volunteers who assisted in the parish office last week:

Sofie Zimmerman, Yvette Young, Melody Costanza, Harlan Young, Alicia Perez, Joe Fanfa and Bev Iacona.

...to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week's donations: **Bob Carvalho and Barbara Jackson.**

...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Carole Miller, Dave Costanza, Vangie Parrilla, Dilcia Aparicio, Kathy Augusta and Beth Enea.**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot Security who keep watch over our vehicles during weekend liturgies: **Don Benson and Steve Rojek.**



**YOU
are children
of the
LIGHT**