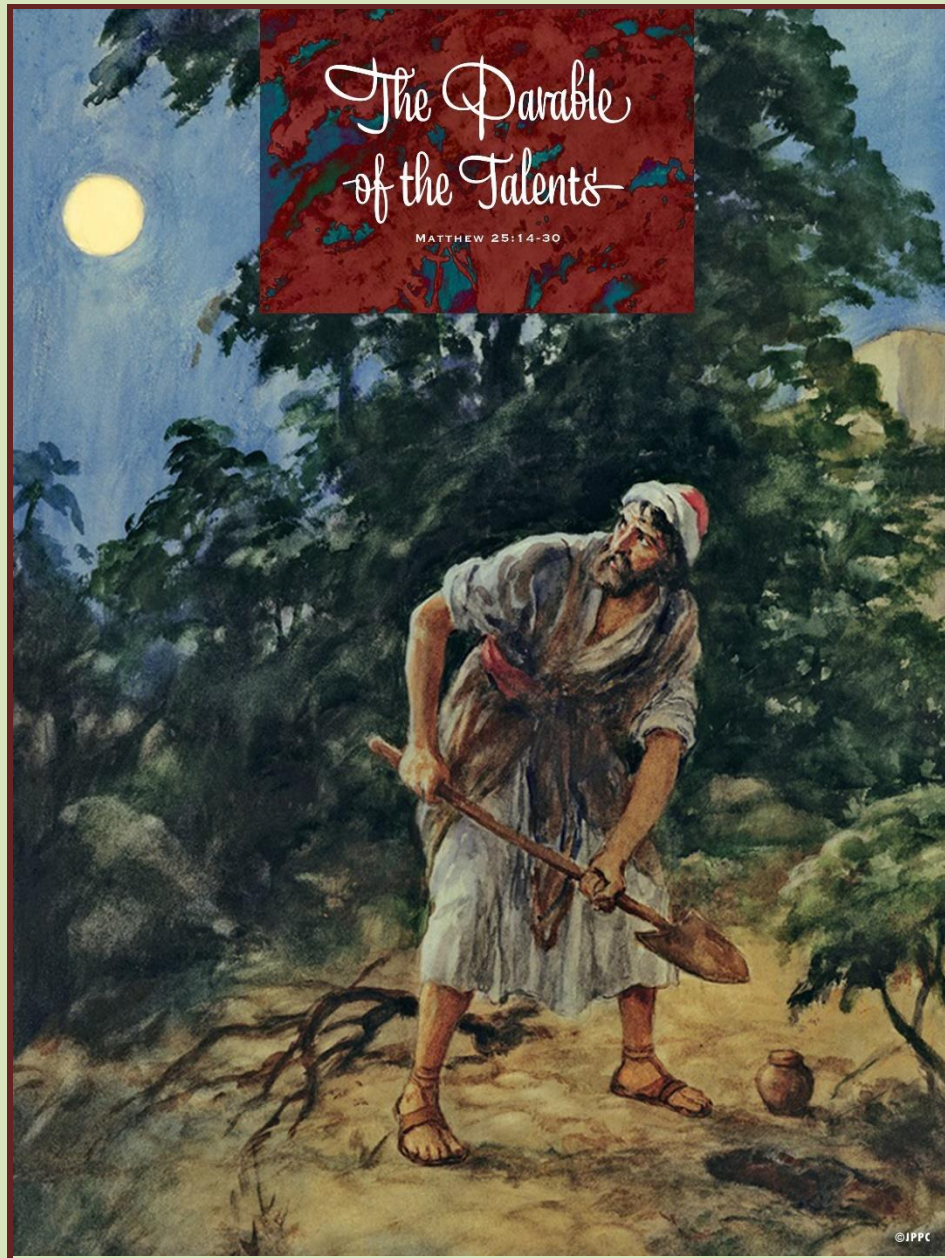


Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 19, 2023



Transfiguration of the Lord Parish

Saint Mary 14 Park Street + Sacred Heart 58 Church Street + Saint Mark 105 Stanley Street
North Attleborough, Massachusetts

Transfiguration of the Lord Parish

Rev. David A. Costa, Pastor
Rev. Deacon Joseph E. Regali, Parish Deacon
Sister Kathleen A. Corrigan, S.U.S.C., Pastoral Associate
Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. & Rev. R. Gabriel Pivarnik, O.P., Weekend Assistants
Mrs. Martha O'Neill, Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Jean Howard, Business Manager
Mrs. Elaine Corvese, Director of Religious Education
Mrs. Lisa Serak, Principal, Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School
Mr. Adam Turcotte, Director of Music
Mr. Miguel Peixoto, Buildings Supervisor
Mr. James Kitsock, Building Maintenance

Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School

Mrs. Lisa Serak, Principal
57 Richards Avenue,
North Attleborough, Massachusetts 02760
(508) 695-3072 FAX (508) 695-9074
smsh@smsh.dfrcs.org www.smshschool.com

Saint Mary Cemetery

Mr. Jarrod Ward, Superintendent
Towne Street
North Attleborough, Massachusetts 02760
(508) 695-1173 or email ripco@comcast.net

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saint Mary Church • Saturday 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on designated Sunday afternoons at 12:30 pm, with a limit of four families at each baptism. Please contact the office at stmaryna@noozi.com for more information and available dates/locations.

Sacrament of Marriage

Marriage is usually celebrated on Saturday morning and afternoon. Please contact the Parish Office at least nine months in advance to begin preparation.

Sacrament of the Sick

Pastoral care to those in need of the sacrament of the sick is arranged through the parish office. Please call to arrange a visit.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is offered on the first Friday of each month in **Saint Mark Church** beginning at 9:00 am and ending at 6:00 pm with Benediction.

Parish Offering

If you are attending in person, you may drop your contribution in the collection basket. You are welcome to mail your budget envelope to the parish office, at 14 Park Street, North Attleborough, MA 02760. You may also leave your envelope in the drop box located outside the parish office door, to the right on the landing. Or you can use this link for online giving:

<https://app.gabrielsoft.com/guest/mafrdiocese/31>

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:00 pm **Saint Mary Church**
Sunday 8:00 am **Saint Mark Church**
Sunday 9:30 am **Saint Mary Church**
Sunday 11:00 am **Sacred Heart Church**

Weekday Masses

Monday 8:00 am **Saint Mark Church**
Tuesday 4:30 pm **Saint Mark Church**
Wednesday 8:00 am **Saint Mark Church**
Thursday 8:00 am Communion Service
Saint Mark Church

Links to: Transfiguration of the Lord Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/Transfiguration-of-the-Lord-Parish-North-Attleborough-106529317647894/>

YouTube at <https://tinyurl.com/ysfaxaty>

Parish Office

14 Park Street, North Attleborough,
Massachusetts 02760
Parish e-mail • stmaryna@noozi.com
Parish website • www.saintmaryna.com
Phone 508-695-6161 Fax 508-695-5248
Faith Formation • TransfigurationRelEd@gmail.com
Faith Formation • 508-695-3823
Music Ministry • transfiguration.na.music@gmail.com

MASS Intentions

November 18/19 – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 4:00 pm	November 18 – Vigil (St. Mary) Mary E. & Joseph M. Ruby Connie Gonsalves
Sunday 8:00 am	November 19 (St. Mark) People of the Parish
Sunday 9:30 am	November 19 (St. Mary) Michael Sharkey Jeannette Battista
Sunday 11:00 am	November 19 (Sacred Heart) Guilherme Micheletto Irene Larocque

+++++

Monday 8:00 am	November 20 (St. Mark) John & Emilienne Desilets
Tuesday 4:30 pm	November 21 (St. Mark) Josh Meyer
Wednesday 8:00 am	November 22 (St. Mark) S. Celine Teresa Rainville, SUSC
Thursday 8:00 am	November 23 (St. Mark) Mass of Thanksgiving offered for the People of the Parish

+++++

November 25/26 – Solemnity of Christ the King

Saturday 4:00 pm	November 25 – Vigil (St. Mary) Louise Cote
Sunday 8:00 am	November 26 (St. Mark) Jeffrey S. Kirk, Sr.
Sunday 9:30 am	November 26 (St. Mary) Francine L. Leary
Sunday 11:00 am	November 26 (Sacred Heart) Louis G. Landry

+++++

Parish Contributions

Collection for November 11/12: \$14,192.48

+++++

Tuesday Communal Rosary Schedule

Tuesday, November 21, 2023: Prayer & Pizza (5PM)
 Tuesday, November 28, 2023: Rosary for Life (4PM)
 Tuesday, December 5, 2023: Rosary for Life (4PM)
 Tuesday, December 12, 2023: Rosary for Life (4PM)
 Tuesday, December 19, 2023: Prayer & Pizza (5PM)
 Tuesday, December 26, 2023: *No Mass or devotions today*
 Tuesday, January 2, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)
 Tuesday, January 9, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)
 Tuesday, January 16, 2024: Prayer & Pizza (5PM)
 Tuesday, January 23, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)
 Tuesday, January 30, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)

From Fr. Costa:

You may have heard Adam, our music director, refer to the Christmas Mass schedule in his “plug” for new choir members. Yes, that schedule has been determined. To assist with your planning, I offer the schedule and some of the rationale behind this time schedule.



As Christmas falls on a Monday this year, we celebrate a very, very brief fourth week of preparation. The **Fourth Sunday of Advent** is Saturday, December 23, and Sunday, December 24. There will be **two** Masses scheduled for this last Sunday of Advent:

Saturday, December 23, Vigil Mass @ 4:00 p.m.
St. Mary Church

Sunday, December 24, Morning Mass @ 9:30 a.m.
St. Mary Church



There will be six (6) Masses celebrated for the **Christmas** holy day in our parish. Each of our churches will have two Masses. As the 4:00 p.m. Vigil Mass is the most popular with our parishioners, there will be three 4:00 p.m. celebrations. The solemn Mass for Christmas will be celebrated at 9:00 p.m. in Sacred Heart Church. The Roman Missal (the official prayerbook for Mass) no longer refers to this as Midnight Mass. Now it is called “Mass in the Night.” This Mass will feature our choir and instrumentalists. There will be a concert of Christmas music before the Mass. The full schedule for Christmas Masses is as follows:

Saint Mary Church

Christmas Eve, December 24, Mass @ 4:00 p.m.
Christmas Day, December 25 @ 9:30 a.m.

Sacred Heart Church

Christmas Eve, December 24, Mass @ 4:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve, December 24, Mass @ 9:00 p.m.

Saint Mark Church

Christmas Eve, December 24, Mass @ 4:00 p.m.
Christmas Day, December 25 @ 8:00 a.m.

I hope the early sharing of this information will be helpful for planning your Christmas activities. Because people always ask, I also want you to know that the collection taken on Christmas remains 100% in the parish. Many thanks for your generosity and commitment to Transfiguration Parish.

Parish Grand Annual Appeal

We are approaching the final stretch of our 2023 Grand Annual Appeal, and the office is still in the process of tabulating figures. Many, many thanks for your concern, dedication, trust and generosity! You, our faithful parishioners, have responded most generously to this extra “ask” which will assist our parish in maintaining and growing ministries and services, complete larger renovation and upkeep projects on our properties, allow us to plan for future development and growth, and provide a financial “cushion” for any unexpected needs that may arise. (I’m not saying the “s” word!)

If you have not made your donation to this appeal, you still have time to join your fellow parishioners. Flyers and donation cards may be found at the doors of all three of our church buildings. Any and every donation counts. Please contact the parish office if you have any questions.

May God bless your generosity and support!

~Fr. Costa

Prayer and Pizza

Are you looking for another way to deepen your spirituality? Do you have “knots” in your life that you need help undoing? Please join us on the third Tuesday of each month for “Prayer and Pizza.”

Following the 4:30 pm Mass this **Tuesday, November 21**, we together will pray the rosary, which will be offered up to Mary, Undoer of Knots (maryundoerofknots.com). Whether you pray the rosary daily or have never prayed it before, please consider joining us for “Prayer and Pizza.” All are welcome! Please contact Rick Leco (508 930 9264) or Vicky Curran (508 930 3306) with any questions.



If you are interested in joining our choir or becoming a cantor, please scan the appropriate QR code(s) and fill out the form.

To join the **choir**:



To become a **cantor**:



If you are unable to complete the form online, please see Adam Turcotte after any Mass to pick up a paper copy.

Mass of Thanksgiving

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us at **8:00 am on Thursday, November 23 in Saint Mark church for a Transfiguration of the Lord Parish Mass of Thanksgiving**. This will be an opportunity to give thanks as a parish for God’s many blessings. We hope to see you there! Happy Thanksgiving!



O Gracious God, we give you thanks for your overflowing generosity to us. Thank you for the blessings of the food we eat and especially for this feast today. Thank you for our home and family and friends, especially for the presence of those gathered here. Thank you for our health, our work, and our play. Please send help to those who are hungry, alone, sick and suffering war and violence. Open our hearts to your love. We ask your blessing through Christ your son. Amen.”

MARY CRONK FARRELL



Lector Workbooks

Lector workbooks for Cycle B which begins on December 2/3 will be available in the sacristy of each church beginning **next** weekend, November 25/26. Please take your book as soon as possible. All books are labeled with the names of those who are currently active in the lector ministry. The books are in the church where you are most often assigned to lector. If you have any questions, please contact Martha in the office. Thank you!

Please Pray for our Deceased:

Charles A. Entwistle, Sr.

Donald G. Fiola



*Eternal rest grant unto our beloved dead, O Lord.
Let perpetual light shine upon them.*

Transfiguration of the Lord Parish Saint Vincent de Paul Society

Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are in need or are suffering, in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul. The Society meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month in the parish hall in Saint Mary Church. Please join us!

Call for Assistance:

If you need assistance, please call the help line for our parish Saint Vincent de Paul Society. They can offer information about the types of assistance available. Please call 508-212-4755 for help or more information.

Brown Bag Project:



We want to thank our parishioners for your continued support of this year's Brown Bag Project, and the works of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society. This is our primary way of keeping our pantry well stocked, and we appreciate all of your help. Gift cards to Stop & Shop, Shaw's & CVS are always welcome to purchase pantry items. Bags can still be returned at all Masses **this weekend, November 18-19.** You may also return filled bags at the parish office during normal business hours. Our pantry is being utilized more than ever by our friends in need and **any** help you can provide is very much appreciated. *A special thank you to E. A. Dion for printing our labels for the Brown Bag Project, and to Stop & Shop for their continued generosity to our food pantry!*

Madonna Manor Christmas Bazaar



Madonna Manor is very excited to announce the return of their annual Christmas Bazaar, a special holiday tradition, which has been suspended for the past few years due to COVID. The Bazaar will be held on:

Friday, December 1, 2023 (9:00 am – 4:00 pm)

Saturday, December 2, 2023 (9:00 am – 2:00 pm)

Madonna Manor, 85 N. Washington St., N. Attleboro

The Bazaar will feature:

Bakery Items

White Elephant

Raffle Items

Lottery Raffles

50/50 Raffle

Face Painting

Handmade Items

Hot Dogs & Chowder

Photos with Santa

...and more...

All proceeds are to benefit the residents of Madonna Manor.

Faith Formation Program 2023-2024

Director of Religious Education ~ Mrs. Elaine Corvese
508-695-3823; transfigurationreled@gmail.com

Faith Formation Office hours:

Monday – Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

November Class Schedule:

November 19th: **Grades 3 & 4**, 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.
(following the 8:00 a.m. Mass)

Please note change in schedule below for grade 6 & 7:

November 20th: **Grade 7**, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

November 27th: **Grade 6**, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Early December Class Schedule:

December 3rd: **Grades 1 & 2**, 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.
(following the 8:00 a.m. Mass)

December 3rd: **Grade 9**, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

December 4th: **Grade 8**, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

December 10th: **Grades 3 & 4**, 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.
(following the 8:00 a.m. Mass)

December 11th: **Grade 5**, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Please see website: saintmaryna.com for the 2023-2024 calendar for all grades. Faith Formation classes are held at Saint Mark Church hall in Attleboro Falls.

Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School - JOIN OUR FAMILY!

Saints in Action: Laundry Drive



Service is at the heart of every Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School Saint. At SMSH, our students learn the importance of living out a life serving others as part of their experience each and every day. In addition to learning about social justice and Catholic social teachings, an emphasis is placed on ensuring that our Saints recognize the responsibility that each of us has to the greater world around us. We would love for you to join our Saints Family. To learn more about our Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 8 Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School students and programs, please visit our website: www.smschool.com.

Transfiguration of the Lord Parish Annual Christmas Fair at Saint Mary Church



Join us as we plan for Transfiguration Parish's Christmas Fair at St. Mary Church. The Festival of Trees opens Friday, November 24th from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm and Saturday, 9 am - 2:00 pm upstairs for exhibit, raffles and silent auction. On Saturday, November 25th the Fair continues from 9 am-4:00 pm in the Parish Center (downstairs). If you have never been involved with the Fair, please consider joining us! This is a great way to meet parishioners and share your gifts and talents.

Sponsors Needed

We are looking for **Christmas Fair sponsors**. If you or any area businesses would like to sponsor the fair, please contact Karen Smith at 508-212-7377 for more information. All sponsors will be recognized at the fair and in our parish bulletin.

Silent Auction

Our fair is just **one** week away and our **Silent Auction** table needs your help! Do you have tickets to a sporting event or theater/concert performance you can't use? Would you like to host a dinner party or donate a restaurant gift certificate? Are you an artist or crafts person who has an item you have created that you would consider donating? In the past we have had donations of sports equipment, computers, and jewelry. If you would like to make a donation, please contact Gerry Brunell at 508-695-1914 or Andrea Pariseau at 774-278-7222.

Theme Raffle Baskets

Your help is needed to fill our raffle baskets for the fair! Poster boards with suggested themes can be found near the entrances of each of our churches: (1) Choose a "**Theme**" and peel it off the board. (2) Take a basket. (3) Fill the basket & bring it back to any of the 3 churches (*with your theme*). Please return completed baskets to the parish office as soon as possible. We will arrange the basket and wrap it for you! Thank you for your assistance and support!

*Please clip and drop in collection basket or mail to the office:
14 Park Street, North Attleborough, MA 02760*

Transfiguration Parish Christmas Fair November 25, 2023

We need everyone's help in making our Christmas Fair a big success! Listed below are ways **you** can make a difference. Please circle your choices below!

Yes, I can help with the Christmas Fair this year!

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Please circle what you would like to do:

Help with set-up ~ Help to decorate ~ Bake

Make candy ~ Donate a gift card ~ Donate a bottle of wine

Sponsor a table ~ Help with the Festival of Trees

Work the day of the Fair

Hours available to work: _____

Please contact Karen Smith (508-212-7377) or

Miles Miller (508-369-1349) with any questions.

To volunteer, please contact Colleen Buckley at 508-455-8446.

Festival of Trees

The ever-popular "Festival of Trees" will return to our parish Christmas Fair on Friday evening, November 24, and Saturday, November 25. The center of aisle of Saint Mary Church will become a winter wonderland of lights and themed Christmas trees showcasing the talents of our parishioners. We need your help to make this aspect of our annual Christmas Fair a success. You are invited to sign-up to decorate a tree after any of our Masses. Trees of various sizes are now available for the taking, or you can purchase your own. You choose the theme and use your imagination and creativity to fashion a masterpiece! Many of the stores in our area have their Christmas decorations available now. **Trees need to be returned to St. Mary Church by Wednesday, November 22.** We look forward to displaying your creativity and raffling off your masterpiece!

What-Not Shoppe

Dana Frederick is collecting gently-used household items and new gift items you may have received but cannot use. *Please remember that we cannot accept used electronic items such as TVs, computers, printers, etc.* **You may drop off your donations after any Mass at St. Mary Church, or at the parish office during normal business hours (8am-4pm).** If you need to schedule a different time, or if you have any questions, please contact Dana Frederick at 508-695-3859.

50/50 Raffle

We will be selling tickets for the 50/50 raffle at all Masses starting November 4th through November 19th and at the Fair. Tickets are sold as books of **6 for \$5**. Good luck!

Wine Wheel

Donations are needed for our Wine Wheel. If you have an extra bottle of wine (*or more*) that you would like to donate, we would be most grateful. Donations can be returned after any of the Masses, or by setting up an appointment with a committee member at a convenient time for you. Please contact Kathy Scholtes at 508-930-0119 for more information.

Sewing, Knitting & Crafts

We are looking for any hand-made/sewn items, and any crafts for the fair. Donations can be returned after any of the Masses. Please contact Connie Schnack at 508-695-9774 or Noreen Kiff at 508-310-3570 for more information.

Bakery & Candy Shoppe

Please consider baking some tasty treats for our fair. Our famous meat pies will also be available for sale. Baked goods, candy, and fudge can be dropped off on **Friday, November 24th from 9AM to noon**. Thank you!

Baptism Congratulations

Our prayerful best wishes are extended to five of our children and their families who recently celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism. Please welcome and remember:

Ava James Blase



Daughter of James & April (Cannata) Blase
Godchild of Jack Blase & Samantha Lang

Joseph Michael Genovese



Son of Michael & Alyssa (Caruso) Genovese
Godchild of Gregory Genovese & Stephanie Caruso

Lainey Elizabeth Moroney



Daughter of Ryan & Julie (Brennan) Moroney
Godchild of Kara Brennan

Ellie Rose O'Neill



Daughter of Ross & Lisa (Augusto) O'Neill
Godchild of Benjamin Kaliff & Michaela Deady

Saint of the Week: Blessed Miguel Agustín Pro November 23rd



“Viva Cristo Rey!”—Long live Christ the King!—were the last words Pro uttered before he was executed for being a Catholic priest and serving his flock.

Born into a prosperous, devout family in Guadalupe de Zacatecas, Mexico, Miguel entered the Jesuits in 1911, but three years later fled to Granada, Spain, because of religious persecution in Mexico. He was ordained in Belgium in 1925. Father Pro immediately returned to Mexico, where he served a Church forced to go “underground.” He celebrated the Eucharist clandestinely and ministered the other sacraments to small groups of Catholics.

He and his brother Roberto were arrested on trumped-up charges of attempting to assassinate Mexico’s president. Roberto was spared, but Miguel was sentenced to face a firing squad on November 23, 1927. His funeral became a public demonstration of faith. Miguel Pro was beatified in 1988.

When Fr. Miguel Pro was executed in 1927, no one could have predicted that 52 years later a Pope would visit Mexico, be welcomed by its president, and celebrate open-air Masses before thousands of people. Pope John Paul II made additional trips to Mexico in 1990, 1993, 1999, and 2002. Those who outlawed the Catholic Church in Mexico did not count on the deeply rooted faith of its people, and the willingness of many of them, like Miguel Pro, to die as martyrs. “Viva Cristo Rey!”

Charlee Jean Servant



Daughter of Timothy & Arianna (Ciosek) Servant
Godchild of William Servant & Christine Svendsen

33rd Sunday in Ordinary

Time - November 19, 2023



First Reading

A reading from the Book of Proverbs

When one finds a worthy wife,
her value is far beyond pearls.
Her husband, entrusting his heart to her,
has an unfailing prize.
She brings him good, and not evil,
all the days of her life.
She obtains wool and flax
and works with loving hands.
She puts her hands to the distaff,
and her fingers ply the spindle.
She reaches out her hands to the poor,
and extends her arms to the needy.
Charm is deceptive and beauty fleeting;
the woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.
Give her a reward for her labors,
and let her works praise her at the city gates.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm

R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Blessed are you who fear the LORD,
who walk in his ways!
For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork;
blessed shall you be, and favored.

R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine
in the recesses of your home;
Your children like olive plants
around your table.

R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Behold, thus is the man blessed
who fears the LORD.
The LORD bless you from Zion:
may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem
all the days of your life.

R. Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

Second Reading

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Thessalonians

Concerning times and seasons, brothers and sisters,
you have no need for anything to be written to you.
For you yourselves know very well that the day of the
Lord will come like a thief at night.
When people are saying, "Peace and security, "
then sudden disaster comes upon them,
like labor pains upon a pregnant woman,
and they will not escape.

But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness,
for that day to overtake you like a thief.
For all of you are children of the light
and children of the day.
We are not of the night or of darkness.
Therefore, let us not sleep as the rest do,
but let us stay alert and sober.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Remain in me as I remain in you, says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me bears much fruit.*

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew
Glorify to you, O Lord.

Jesus told his disciples this parable:

"A man going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one—to each according to his ability. Then he went away. Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them, and made another five. Likewise, the one who received two made another two. But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money.

"After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five. He said, 'Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.' Then the one who had received two talents also came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have made two more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.' Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said, 'Master, I knew you were a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter; so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back.' His master said to him in reply, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter? Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return? Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten. For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.'"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

At Our Best:

We often hear the terms “on message” and “on task” these days. This is another way of talking about focus. Strong leaders urge us toward objectives deemed worthy of our time and effort. They marshal our energy toward those great, good objectives. People of vision so engaged, do their best work. Everything else is subordinated to the great work. In times like these, we are at our best.

Comment:

Our first reading from the book of Proverbs describes one person at her best—the valiant woman, the strong wife and homemaker. This image is of a person who does her work successfully and is a boon to her family, her nation. This opening reading is not meant to proffer advice to mothers and wives everywhere. It is, rather, a portrait of a person who is good at what she does. She knows her vocation and goes about it with love and attention and skill.

And so it is for two of the servants in the Gospel parable set before us today. Again, we hear Jesus address the disciples on the question of the final coming of the reign of God and the value of our daily life with this great expectation looming, but not coming any time soon.

To the parable of the wise and foolish virgins (the Gospel of last Sunday), Jesus adds the parable we read today. We have heard this story many times before, for it is told in the other Gospels and is easily remembered. Each servant is given a share of responsibility commensurate with his skills. The task is set forth for the servants. The coins are not gifts, they are responsibilities. There are strings attached. They have something to do and the wit to do it. The master does not ask the impossible. He also does not tell the servants when he'll be back. What to do? Spend? Invest? Hoard? At least, no one spends the silver coins on junk. Two invest the silver coins and one hoards them. The investors are commended for their behavior; the hoarder is condemned for his.

Reflection:

Now, why don't we just consider this as a good old protracted proverb that can be used for one of those get-rich seminars we read about in the newspapers? Because the silver pieces of this parable stand for the Christian's responsibility as a citizen of heaven and of this world. The two responsibilities are one. We are to be engaged in this world of people—the ones on buses and sidewalks and in skyscrapers as well as those on small main streets and in country stores and at home. Let us remember the question facing the early community, for it is the question that we must face: How do we wait, and how do we go on? Is this a paradox?

Paul simply tells us in the second reading that we don't know when the reign of God will come, nor should we be overly worried about it. His image of the thief in the night focuses on the unexpected. To be always wary is impossible. We'll end up on edge; eventually we will let down our guard. Paul reminds us that we live in the daylight of the Resurrection. We are called to the open, fearless engagement of the wise investors and the valiant woman of the first reading. We are not to cringe fearfully in the dark as one who fails to realize his or her own ability and responsibility, as one who buries everything in a dark hole.

Copyright © 2004, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

Reflections for the Week beginning Sunday, November 19, 2023

Sunday, Nov 19, 2023

Curl up with the Good Book

President Franklin D. Roosevelt inaugurated the first National Bible Week. Presidents since have continued the tradition of encouraging scripture reading during the holidays. The practice began in 1941, when NBC radio hosted the National Bible Association's founders. News of the attack on Pearl Harbor interrupted the program, and NBC asked the association to continue reading the Bible all day to a grieving nation. This week, spend some time with scripture daily. Consider reading the book of your choice, from the Old or New Testaments. Or read a psalm of thanksgiving daily. Discover the inspiration.

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

TODAY'S READINGS: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; Matthew 25:14-30 (157). "For all of you are children of the light and children of the day. We are not of the night or of darkness."

Monday, Nov 20, 2023

Can we talk?

The word *bible* is from a Greek word meaning "book." If you could have no other book, the Bible would be the one! As you count your blessings this week, don't forget to give thanks for sacred scripture and spend some time with the inspired word of God. If you haven't before, try *lectio divina* (Latin for "divine reading")—it's a traditional monastic form of praying with scripture in a meditative way to open ourselves to hearing what God is saying to us and listening for our own interior response. Scripture isn't just text, it's the Living Word—strike up a conversation!

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Maccabees 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Luke 18:35-43 (497). "What do you want me to do for you?"

Tuesday, Nov 21, 2023

Mary, most exemplary

According to tradition, Mary's parents—an elderly Anne and Joachim—were so grateful for the unexpected birth of their daughter, they presented her in the Temple to thank God. Accounts also say the toddler Mary "danced with joy" on the third step of the Temple, signifying her future role. Other qualities of the Blessed Mother, present even from her youth, are enumerated in the "Ten Evangelical Virtues of Mary" that we're all encouraged to emulate as Christians: pure, prudent, humble, faithful, devout, obedient, poor, patient, merciful, and sorrowful. Cultivate these in your own life by praying the Virtues of Mary chaplet used by the Marian religious order since 1699.

MEMORIAL OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Maccabees 6:18-31; Luke 19:1-10 (498). "Today salvation has come to this house."

Wednesday, Nov 22, 2023

Let the music play!

Today's gospel from Luke tells the parable of the 10 gold coins. Matthew tells the same parable (Matt. 25:14-30), only he replaces Luke's "gold coins" with "talents." Whichever version you read, it's clear that God wants us to make the most of what we've been given—and that he recognizes our efforts! In honor of today's Feast of Saint Cecilia, patron of music and musicians, enjoy Anton

Bruckner's Te Deum as performed by the talented musicians of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia (National Academy of St. Cecilia, founded under Pope Sixtus V in 1585) or check out the contemporary namesake band La Santa Cecilia, recipient of the 2013 Grammy for Best Latin Rock Album (Alternative or Urban).

MEMORIAL OF CECILIA, MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: 2 Maccabees 7:1, 20-31; Luke 19:11-28 (499). "I tell you, to everyone who has, more will be given, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."

Thursday, Nov 23, 2023

Give thanks for a virtuous day

Because Thanksgiving brings together family members, personalities sometimes grate, children might misbehave, and the gravy surely will spill. It's an ideal day to practice what the Catechism of the Catholic Church calls the "cardinal virtues": prudence (think before you act), justice (be fair), fortitude (don't give up), and temperance (maintain your equilibrium). These virtues smooth out the bumps in human interaction. Ask God to increase in you the virtue you most need for a happy celebration today.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Maccabees 2:15-29; Luke 19:41-44 (500). Mass for Thanksgiving Day (943-947). "If this day you only knew what makes for peace."

Friday, Nov 24, 2023

Follow the rule

"Keep the rule, and the rule will keep you." In this monastic proverb, "rule" refers to the daily rhythm of life for monks and nuns that is grounded in their foundation and charism as a community and oriented toward Jesus the Christ. The rule helps the community develop habits for prayer, work, relationships, study, and even play. Monastics still follow a rule of life, as do other intentional communities. Each of us can develop a rule of life according to our own daily rhythm and relationship with God. This rule will keep us grounded, even when the inevitable storms of life roll in.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Maccabees 4:36-37, 52-59; Luke 19:45-48 (501). "Let us go up to purify the sanctuary and rededicate it."

Saturday, Nov 25, 2023

No room for violence

On this day in 1960 a trio of courageous sisters was brutally assassinated for opposing the murderous regime of Dominican dictator Rafael Trujillo. Since 1993, the U.N. has commemorated World Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women in honor of the Mirabal sisters. It is an appropriate coincidence that today we also honor Catherine of Alexandria, a young convert martyred at the tender age of 18 during Roman persecutions around the year 300. She was reportedly subject to terrible tortures, but her courage instead attracted hundreds more converts. No woman should have to endure violence for any reason. Today is a day we can honor martyrs both modern and ancient with a firm "No más, no more."

MEMORIAL OF CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA, YOUTH MARTYR

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Maccabees 6:1-13; Luke 20:27-40 (502). "They are the children of God because they are the ones who will rise."

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



©2023 TrueQuest Communications. TakeFiveForFaith.com; mail@takefiveforfaith.com. All rights reserved. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. For more information about TAKE FIVE and our regular contributors, go to PrepareTheWord.com. Free daily email and app available online at TakeFiveForFaith.com/subscribe.