



Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time—November 19, 2017
SAINT MARY’S & SAINT ELIZABETH’S CATHOLIC CHURCHES



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VICTOR DVORAK –DEACON

“I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back.”

We are kind of amused by the third man in today’s Gospel parable. We laugh at his decision to bury the talent he was given, but we shouldn’t. In first century Palestine, this was an accepted practice by law. If you were given a person’s valuables to protect and if you buried them in a very deep hole (so that an ordinary plowman would not inadvertently reveal the treasure), then you were freed from any responsibility for these valuables. If they disappeared, you were blameless. On the other hand, if you invested another person’s money or valuables, you remained responsible for that amount for the rest of your life.

This understanding should characterize our relationship with God. God has invested a lot in us and He expects a return. Though conventional law protected someone who buried valuables, God does not protect such a person. His expectation is that we live our lives investing our faith in everything that we do, hoping to gain a return from Him. Jesus Christ will come again. How will we invest what we have been given until our Lord returns, knowing that He will hold us accountable.

Thanksgiving . . . more than parades and football

Thanksgiving is at least one day a year when we can give thanks to God for His countless blessings. To preserve the spiritual nature of this day, maybe we can consider the following ways to do so: 1) When it is time to say grace before the meal, encourage each family member or invited friend to offer what they are thankful for in the past year. Then conclude with the traditional Catholic meal prayer, “Bless us O Lord”.

- 2) Don’t allow the football game on TV to blare through most of Thanksgiving Day. Turn off the television during the meal and perhaps even after the meal. Play games instead and enjoy conversation with your family.
- 3) Don’t worry about preparing an extensive meal; simplify it. The spread of food is less important than the act of sharing the meal together.
- 4) Make sure you invite someone who may be alone on Thanksgiving Day. They may be hesitant about coming to your home, but insist upon it. They may need that extra encouragement to come, but will be most grateful that you cared enough to ask.
- 5) Come to the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass on Thanksgiving Day at Saint Mary’s Church. The word *Eucharist* means “thanksgiving”, so what better way to give thanks unto the Lord on Thanksgiving Day than by receiving the Holy Eucharist?
- 6) Gather all of your leftovers from your Thanksgiving meal and take them to the following address: 437 Main St., New England, ND. The nice man, wearing a black clerical shirt, will greet you at the door and take your leftovers to his empty fridge. May God bless your soul!



Please let us know It has come to my attention that a number of our parishioners and alumni have not received their latest Saint Mary’s newsletter. Please contact Fr. Gary with these names and addresses and we will get the newsletter out to you in a timely manner. Please forgive us for this oversight.

MASS & ADORATION SCHEDULE

Monday, November 20

7:30 AM SM—Communion Service

Tuesday, November 21

7:30 AM SM —Special Intention of Ken & Martina Stagl

6:00 PM SE—Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7:00 PM SE—+Vi Martin by Keith & Debbie Herold

Wednesday, November 22

7:00 PM SM— Rosary & Mother of Perpetual Help Devotions

7:00 PM SM— +Adam Krebs & +Lyle Krebs by Gene & Judy Krebs

Thursday, November 23

9:00AM SM— In Thanksgiving for the Harvest by Herberholz

Families

Friday, November 24

7:30AM SM- +Kyle Binstock by Ivo & Joan Schoch

12PM-3PM SM— Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, November 25

8:30 AM SM—+Ralph Sticka by Robert & Cely Stagl

5:00 PM SM +Kyle Binstock, +Joe & +Ida Binstock, +James & +Inez Hanson by Victor & Diane Binstock

Sunday, November 26

8:30AM SE +Paul Schiwal by Reed & Lunette Dobitz

10:30AM SM-Pro Populo

Please Keep in Your Prayers:

Patty Frank, Andy Prokop, Mason Urlacher, Henley Johnson, Duane Grundhauser, Pete Schaefer, Alice Candrian, Jeff Hewson, Marilyn Jacobs, Leo Heck, Ross Thomas, Keith Herold, Arlene Rohr, Brenda Barton, Elven Kaufman, Suzette Printz, Jackie Deplanche, Cely Stagl, Linda Reisenauer, Rose Krebs (SE), Russ Lefor, Lori Lefor, Herbert Emmil, Reggie Gentz, Cindy Martin, Tim Theil, Howard Schiwal, Theresa Decker, Alyssa Binstock, Yvonne Fettig, Dale Reindel, Kim Kuhn, Don Miller, Shari Obritsch, Charlotte Krebs, Eugenia Stagl, Bart Rohan, Katherine Splichal, Bonnie (Krebs) Dick, Dorothy Kohl, Colleen Churchill, Thresiamma (Fr. Biju's mom)

Assisted Living and Nursing Home Residents: Archie Jalbert,

Benny Benz, Joan Binstock, Joe Wandler, Sylvia Koppinger, Mike Urlacher, Leona Gordon, Ardelle Kovar, Joan Madler, Cecelia Jung, Donnell Koppinger, Marilyn Jeske, Willie Emmil, Frances Heick, Dale Schroeder

Our Deceased Loved Ones +Carla Rohan+Alvin Rotering +Jeanne Kovar +Bridget Urlacher, +Laura Grundhauser, +Florian Urlacher +Paul Schiwal, + LeRoy Jacobs +Victor Roller +John Herold, + Viola Martin + Viola Neprash +Maggie Schoch, +Rose Lefor, + Mary Ficek + June Stockert +Adeline Bogner +Vern Honeymann, +Kasper Heidt, +Caroline Pechtl, +Jacob Frank,

A point to ponder

Joy is a net of love by which you catch souls.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

♦ **SM KC Meeting** Monday Nov. 20 at 7PM.

♦ **SE fundraiser Sun. Dec. 3.** Breakfast of sausage & farmer hats, followed by auction & bingo with a lunch following. Group 1 is asked to bring desserts, Group 2 asked to bring salads.

On the lighter side A priest was asked to inform a man with a heart condition that he had just inherited a million dollars. Everyone was afraid that the shock would cause a heart attack and he would die. The priest went to the man's house and said, "Joe, what would you do if you inherited a million dollars?" Joe thought for a moment and said, "Well, Father, I think I would give half of it to the church." The priest fell over dead.

St. Mary's Liturgical Assignments November 25 & 26

MINISTRY	Saturday 5 PM	Sunday 10:30AM
Lector	Richard Wandler	Jim Gardner
Mass Servers	Jim K./Will S.	Paige E./Katie S.
Eucharistic Ministers	Cely S./Robert S.	Betty H./Larry H.
Gifts	Dean & Mary F.	Helen K.
Rosary Leader	Mary F.	Susan S.
Greeters	Leonard & Kathy G.	Jake W.
Homebound Minister	David & Vivian H.	David & Vivian H.

Collection Report St. Mary's November 14 & 15

Adult		Youth
\$ 2321.00	Envelopes	\$ 8.07
\$ 41.00	Loose Plate	\$
\$ 2370.00	Total	\$
\$ 4167.00	Month	\$ 53.07

St. Elizabeth's Liturgical Assignments November 26

Lector	Keith H.
Mass Servers	Bailey
Eucharistic Ministers	Dorita & Cindy
Gifts	Tina & Deran
Greeters	Darrell & Dorita
Ushers	Greg K. & Deran

Collection Report St. Elizabeth's November 15

Adult		Youth
\$ 335.00	Envelopes	\$ 14.00
\$ 65.00	Loose Plate	\$
\$ 414.00	Total	\$
\$ 1593.00	Month	\$ 31.00

Death and Dying, A Christian Perspective

“What is the point of visiting a cemetery when we know that the soul, the life principle, is absent?”

All Soul’s Day (November 2nd) in the United States is just another working day for Americans, but in Italy, it is a national holiday. There are countless flower stands throughout every city and village, offering a wide array of bouquets and sprays to be placed upon the graves of the faithful departed. In addition to offering flowers, families share a meal with their departed loved ones . . . a *refragarium*. They bring a picnic lunch to the cemetery and they have lunch right beside the grave of their loved one, even setting a place for him or her. We may find this a bit unusual, because deep down we wonder why we should even visit a cemetery. The dead cannot hear us. Their soul is not present; only their body remains. One should just stay home or visit a church to seek communion with the dead in prayer. Besides, the cemetery only compounds one’s grief and does not help in the healing process. Such is the conventional wisdom, but such thinking is not Catholic, for the Church encourages the pious practice of visiting cemeteries, for a couple of reasons.

First, granted the soul of a departed loved one is not present at the grave, but this does not in any way deny the dignity of the body. The human body was created in love by God and with the coming of Christmas, we remember that our God, in the person of Jesus Christ, took upon Himself a human body. Therefore, whether in life or in death, the body is sacred and has a dignity far greater than any of God’s creations. Thus, when we pray before the grave (the body) of a departed loved one, our thoughts and prayers are more profound because they rise up before God, the Creator and Redeemer of the faithful departed. Our prayers for their salvation are much more powerful when we pray in the presence of the body that we hope will be raised up at the end of time, when body and soul shall be united again in the glory of heaven.

Second, praying at the cemetery puts all of life in perspective. It is amazing the sense of relief when one visits a cemetery, for death reminds us to let go of life’s worries and concerns. Why are we angry with others? Why do we allow stress to bring us down? We do we refuse to forgive others? Why are unhappy about all the possessions we do not have? All of life’s problems melt away when we frequently visit a cemetery, for the words of Jesus come to mind, “Can any of you by worrying add a moment to your lifespan?” The graves of the cemetery remind us that one day we shall all die. Why not live life to the fullest and see every day as a gift from God, so that we can indeed rest in peace, with God and everyone in our lives? People who visit a cemetery are not afraid of death, for they know the meaning of life.

As you mourn the death of a loved one, visit their grave and do so frequently. Talk to them as if they were present, pray for them, and ask them to pray for you, so that one day you may be with them forever in heaven. You will receive much peace and consolation, as those who mourned the death of Jesus Christ at His tomb were consoled by His Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Christ comforts and rewards those who forget themselves for others, especially the Poor Souls, whom we commend to His loving mercy.

BINGO . . . Calling All Faithful Catholics! Please join us on Sunday evening, November 19th, from 6:00-8:30 pm for our Turkey BINGO at the Saint Mary’s cafeteria. Each round of BINGO will offer prizes that will help complete your Thanksgiving meal: apple pies, pumpkin pies, hams, and turkeys. BINGO prices: \$1.00 per card for adults; 50 cents per card for kids 12 and under. All proceeds that night benefit youth activities throughout the year. It will be a fun night, but if anyone has a slip of the tongue and calls the Turkey BINGO the Father Gary BINGO (as if the terms are interchangeable) he will storm out with all of the pies. You have been warned!

Thank you for your generosity

Thank you to the following individuals/families who donated the four new chasubles at Saint Mary’s Church:
White (Dan & Maureen Gardner)
Green (Benedict Benz & family)
Purple (Richard Stagl)
Red (Larry & Betty Heick)
May God bless you for your generous gift in these chasubles, which will bring greater glory and solemnity to the Holy Mass.

Welcome to the Body of Christ

We offer our prayers and congratulations to *Bailie Grace Mylan-Lee, Lillian Chanell Hinkson, and Morgan Lee*, who were baptized this past Sunday at Saint Mary’s Church. May God bless these children, now children of God, and may they be assured of our prayers for them as they begin the beautiful journey of faith, with its final goal of eternal glory in heaven.

World Day of the Poor– November 19, 2017

Dear God Our Father,

As we remember the World Day of the Poor, we pray for our family and for all families who experience poverty around the world. When we eat, we thank you for our meal, and we remember families who do not have enough food. We do not waste what we have, and we share our food with others. When we play, we thank you for the gift of free time and safety, and we pray especially for all the children around the world who are not able to play freely. When we pray, we thank you for our family, and we pray for all families around the world who live in poverty. May you be with them, and help our family to always remember to reach out to them. Amen

