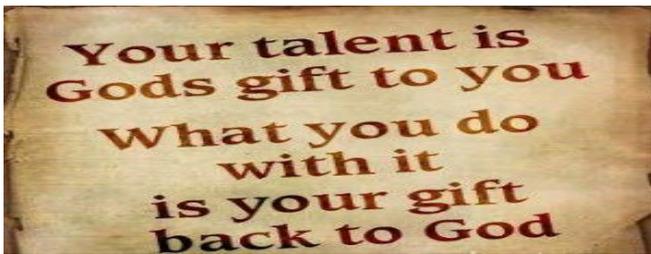


WORD FOR THOUGHT

The whole truth came out when the servant who had received a mere one million reported in. Before he ever spoke of what he did, he told the master what he thought of him: "You are demanding, you harvest what you did not plant, you go for everything you can get. So I decided to have nothing to do with your projects. Look I return to you exactly what you gave me, nothing more nothing less." In effect the servant was saying, "I want nothing to do with your endeavors." While the story says that the master ordered that he be thrown out, that was no more than the logical conclusion of a process the servant himself had set in motion. He had already chosen to exclude himself from the master's business. If he wouldn't take part in the master's plan, it was impossible for him to share the master's joy.

Today's readings remind us that everything we have is a gift from God given so that we may know God's joy. Each of us must then decide what to make of the time of our lives.



RESPECT LIFE CORNER

Let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us stay alert and be sober." In the Second Reading, Paul has a "call for action" directed to the Thessalonians, and now to us. Paul warns of complacency before it's too late. Living in a state of inertia today, by choosing a life of entertainment, comfort and ease can very well cost us life with Christ later. Paul urges us to "keep the faith" now, knowing that Christ is coming back. It is not for us to know when, but to be ready. As we examine our priorities and our lifestyles, we must think of Christ's model of agape love-willing the good of the other. We are called to serve our brothers and sisters, to care for them, as Christ is alive in each one of us. By serving others, we serve Him, who is Love Eternal.

LEARN, ACT, CONNECT AND PRAY: As the days grow shorter and colder, dark nights surround us. What are ways we can reach out and make a difference? One way is to donate, clean, extra clothing and items that are in good condition, for those who have very little. In our diocese, two of the poorest cities in Illinois are here in our midst. At the St. Vincent Drop-In Shelter in East St. Louis, consider donating tooth paste, soap, closed-toed shoes in good condition and jeans of all sizes. The homeless are allowed to shop in a "free" store after check in. Perhaps our prayers and donations can provide support and make someone's day a bit brighter. We are the arms of Christ, His co-workers in the vineyard, until He comes again in all His glory.

CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Next week our special collection is for CCHD. Forty million people in the US live in poverty, including many in our diocese. This collection supports programs that empower people to identify and address the obstacles they face as they work to bring positive change to their communities. Please be as generous as you can.

VOCATIONS CORNER **DID YOU KNOW??**

A study commissioned by the Knights of Columbus revealed that 75% of Catholic young people who had seriously considered religious life felt they were never encouraged to pursue that goal. Do you know someone who would make a good priest? Your encouragement may be all they need.

TIS (ALMOST) THE SEASON

In two weeks we will begin a new Church year! We would like to invite you to join us and fellow parishioners for the BEST ADVENT EVER, a free E-mail program from Dynamic Catholic. Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for Christmas, but we often get distracted and busy. Don't let this Advent pass you by. Slow down and focus on what matters most. Each day you will receive an e-mail with short inspirational videos, practical tips for your everyday life, and real-life stories of hope. All you have to do is sign up at BestAdventEver.com. Get ready for the best Christmas of your life!

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

SJB's athletic dept. will be holding a Mattress Fundraiser sale the entire month of November at the Red Bud Mattress store. Mention SJB's athletics when you visit so they are credited. Contact Deb Hahn at 282-3215 to order your script cards.

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

This year SPPCS PTO is adding a wrapping station to the Santa's Cottage and they are looking for donations of new or gently used holiday gift bags, new or gently used wrapping paper, tissue paper, bags, boxes, gift tags and bows. If you would like to donate, please drop your items in the school office or email sppcspto@gamil.com to coordinate a time to drop off items.

GIBAULT HIGH SCHOOL

For questions or information on all things Gibault, contact Kelly Day, Director of Enrollment at kday@gibalthawks.com or 618-939-3883.

PROJECT RACHEL

Confidential help line: 618-722-5068.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

***SOMETIMES WE ARE SO BUSY ADDING UP
OUR TROUBLES THAT WE FORGET TO
COUNT OUR BLESSINGS!***

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading

PRV 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

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.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps128:1-2, 3, 4-5

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

1 THES 5:1-6

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.

Gospel Acclamation

JN 15:4A, 5B

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

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

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

MT 25:14-30

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 wailing and grinding of teeth.'"