

Blessed are those who fear the Lord.

November 19, 2017

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time



Saturday, November 18

5:30 pm For Patricia Barone by Monteverde Family

Sunday, November 19

8:00 am For Linda Van Hoorebeke by Vanderhoof Family

9:30 am For Teresa Ziko by Skoczylas Family

11:00 am For Tom Mackie by Barbara Schmitt

Monday, November 20

8:45 am For Bill Kuhl by Burke Family

Tuesday, November 21

8:45 am For Willard & Mildred Evans by Zeliff Family

Wednesday, November 22

8:45 am For Special Intention for Bill Betz (living) by Solecki Family

Saturday, November 25

5:30 pm For Clifford Hao by Schmitt Family

Sunday, November 26

8:00 am For

9:30 am For Linda Van Hoorebeke by Steve & Carolyn Kramaritsch

11:00 am For Tony Marucci by Fania Family

For Dorothy Lamalsa by McDermott Family

**REMEMBRANCE MEMORIALS
FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER**

Altar Breads & Wine – In loving memory of Patsy & Philip Marchese by Marchese family.

Sanctuary Lamp – In loving memory of Vito and Marie Benardone by Corry and Benardone families

Mass Candles: For Robert & Monica Horan, 60th Wedding Anniversary by O'Shea Family

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE
NOVEMBER 25, 26, 2017**

Saturday, 5:30 pm

Celebrant: Fr Javier Bareno

Lector: Daniel & Isabella DiLizia

Eucharistic Ministers: Holly Zimmerman, Nancy & Mike Lennon

Altar Servers: Help Needed

Sunday, 8:00 am

Celebrant: Fr. Javier Bareno

Lector: Jim Scott

Eucharistic Ministers: Rick Gebbia, Mark Vetterl

Altar Servers: Help Needed

Sunday, 9:30 am

Celebrant: Fr. Javier Bareno

Lector: Katie Van Wort

Eucharistic Ministers: Eric & Sharon Woelfel, Marylee Terpstra

Altar Servers: Help Needed

Sunday, 11:00 am

Celebrant: Fr. Javier Bareno

Lector: Sharon Donovan

Eucharistic Ministers: Trish Mitchell

Altar Servers: Help Needed

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Monday, Nov. 20

8:45 am Daily Mass

No CEC classes

7:30 pm Boy Scout Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 21

8:45 am Daily Mass

No CEC Classes

7:30 pm Choir

8:00 pm Knights of Columbus

Wednesday, Nov. 22

8:45 am Daily Mass

No CEC classes

Thursday, Nov. 23

Thanksgiving Day

9:00 am Mass

Parish Office Closed

Friday, Nov. 24

Parish Office Closed

Saturday, Nov. 25

8:00 am Men's Bible Study

11:30 am Eagle Scout Ceremony Joseph Pinelli

5:30 pm Mass

Sunday, Nov. 26

8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am Mass

12:00 pm Baptism Zoe Margaret Einspahr

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Current Year	Last Year 2016
November 12, 2017: \$2,464 Envelopes used: 49	November 13, 2016: \$2,072 Envelopes used: 65
Supermarket Gift Cards: November 12, 2017 Sales: \$4,670 Profit: \$233.50 YTD Profit: \$7,099.50 2016 YTD Profit: \$5,846 # of families: 24	St. Mark's Faith Direct Church Code is NJ484

GROCERY GIFT CARD CHALLENGE...

An anonymous donor will match dollar for dollar the increase in gift card fundraiser profits over last year up to \$2,500. Last year we raised \$6,664. The extra gift card profits plus the donation could be an extra \$5,000 for St. Mark's!

FAITH DIRECT...

With Thanksgiving and the Season of Advent coming up, enrolling in Faith Direct is a great way to ensure your gifts to St. Mark the Evangelist are received even while you are traveling for the holidays. Already using Faith Direct? Don't forget to add your Christmas or End-of-Year contributions to your account. Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code: **NJ484**. support of our parish family!

God bless you ...Fr. Marcin

FROM FR. MARCIN... My dear parishioners,

On this 33rd Sunday in Ordinary time, we shall meditate on the parable of the talents which deals with two very important themes and is very current: 1st point - The gifts which each person receives from God and the way in which he receives them. Each person has qualities and talents with which he can and should serve others. 2nd point - The attitude with which persons place themselves before God who has given us His gifts.

Think of all the gifts and graces and blessings we have received from God. We received the gift of life, family, friends, work, education, home, and all the conveniences of life. We can move up to a higher level of appreciation. We have received the gift of faith, forgiveness of our sins through Jesus' death and resurrection, continuing relationship with Jesus through Mass and the sacraments, prayer, and the Sacred Scriptures, the gift of his mother Mary as our spiritual mother also. How much do we value each of the blessings we have received? What do we make of what God has given to us? Are we selfish and lazy with what God has given to us or do we put it to good use?

I would like to see the talents in the parable taught by Jesus referring to virtues. A virtue is a good habit built up over time by practicing what is good. Therefore a virtue is something that increases as we do the right thing. Just as virtues increase by doing good, virtues also help us to do good. Virtues help us to control our passions and our conduct. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says virtues "make possible ease, self-mastery, and joy in leading a morally good life" and they "are acquired by human effort." (Catechism §1804).

In other words, just as the first two men in the parable worked to increase their talents we also have to work to increase our virtues. Virtues do not increase if we do nothing. There are four main human virtues and we call them human virtues for the simple reason that they "are acquired by human effort." (Catechism §1804), by education and perseverance. The four are prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance.

- Prudence helps us discern what is truly good in every circumstance, and guides our conscience as we make judgments.
- Justice is giving to God and neighbor what is their due, and promotes harmony in relationships.
- Fortitude is being firm during difficulties and constantly wanting what is good, and helps us to conquer fear so that if necessary we can even face trials and persecutions, and helps us to master our will and keep our desires within what is honorable.
- Temperance helps us to moderate pleasure and balance our consumption of goods.

There are three theological virtues. These virtues are poured into us by God so we call them theological virtues. They are faith, hope and charity.

- Faith is believing all that God has said and revealed to us and that the Church proposes to us because God is truth, and leads to professing our faith, giving witness to our faith and producing good works.
- Hope is desiring heaven and eternal life, and purifies our activities so that they have heaven as their goal.
- Charity is loving God above all things, and loving our neighbor for the sake of God, and raises up human love and perfects it like divine love.

The parable teaches us that salvation is not simply a question of "once saved, always saved" or once you profess Jesus as your Lord and Savior then everything is okay from then on. Surely the parable is teaching us that spiritual growth is ongoing for the rest of our lives.

It is not a question of once saved, always saved, but growing in virtue and fruits of the spirit for the rest of our lives. Let us double the talents, increasing our virtues of prudence, justice, fortitude and temperance. Let us allow the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity open us up ever more to God and his activity in our lives and let us allow the gifts of the Holy Spirit to bear fruits in our lives so that we may be worthy to hear, "Come, share your master's joy"

As we approach the conclusion of the Church Year 2017, the liturgy reminds us of "end times." Next Sunday we will commemorate the Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. This will be the final Sunday of the Church Year 2017. This is the time we are invited to consider our own end in death and the accounting which we will need to make before our Master and Lord, Jesus Christ. So are you getting ready for the end? The Apostle Paul reminds us today, "For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night."

OUR LADY OF THE MOUNTAIN PRAY FOR US...
ST. MARK PRAY FOR US...

.THANKSGIVING.

On this Thanksgiving Day, we are encouraged to pause and give thanks to God. When we give thanks, we bring to mind God's gifts to us. This, in turn, reminds us of God's gracious nature. We think, not just of what God has done, but also of who God is. Thus, thanks is a point of entry to praise. In the language of Psalm 100, we enter God's gates with thanksgiving, so that we might go into his courts with praise. There's no biblical rule that states that thanks must always come before praise. But, for many of us, thanksgiving for what God has done leads us to praise God for who he is.

So, may you enter God's gates with thanksgiving today, so that you might celebrate in his courts with praise! May God give you a rich and blessed Thanksgiving Day!

All praise be to you, O God, giver of all good gifts! All praise be to you, because your grace and mercy are without end! All praise be to you for the gift of life in this world, and life forever in the age to come! All praise to you, O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen!

THANKSGIVING MASSES – The Mass schedule for Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 23rd is: St. Mark's at 9:00 a.m. and OLM 9:30 a.m.

NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH OF ALL SOULS...

In the tradition of the Catholic Church, the month of November is set aside for the remembrance of all the faithful departed. Wouldn't it be nice to honor your loved one by having a daily or weekend mass said for them? Please call the parish office to make arrangements for a mass card.

SPECIAL THANKS TO RON ZIELENSKY...

Ron is a parishioner of Our Lady of the Mountain Church, for making the missal stand and two shelves, one for The Blessed Virgin Mary statue (left side) and the other one is waiting for St. Joseph statue (right side). Thank you Ron.

2017 BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL IN GIVING, WE RECEIVE

This time of year, as our nation plans to celebrate Thanksgiving, let us reflect on how we use all of the gifts given to us by a loving God. Consider showing your thanks for all your blessings by making a gift to the 2017 Bishop's Annual Appeal. As we are reminded in this year's Appeal theme – *In Giving, We Receive* – your participation not only impacts the lives of tens of thousands of people in need, but it benefits you as well. Please make a pledge today! For your convenience, you can make an online gift or pledge at www.2017appeal.org.

FROM FR. SLAWEK...

St. Cecilia

Martyr (ca. Third Century) November 22

Though St. Cecilia has long enjoyed a popular cult, the first account of her life dates only from the fifth century. According to this story she was born to a patrician family in Rome and raised as a Christian. Although she wished to consecrate her life to God, she was betrothed to marry a young man named Valerian. On their wedding night she related to her husband that an angel watched over her and that if he "touched her in the way of marriage" the angel would be angry and cause him suffering. When Valerian asked to see this angel, Cecilia told him that if he received baptism he too would see the angel. Remarkably, Valerian consented.

The couple dedicated themselves to good works, particularly the perilous task of burying the bodies of martyrs. As a result they were eventually arrested and ordered to make sacrifices to the gods. Upon their refusal they were both executed. The soldier assigned to behead Cecilia botched the job. Left for dead, she lingered for three days.

Cecilia is depicted in art with a musical instrument. Her designation as patron of music apparently owes itself to a line in her biography that describes her on her wedding day "singing to the Lord in her heart."

FROM FR. JAVIER...

TEACHING FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH - THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

The Fourth Commandment – Fourth Part

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, the fourth commandment applies to the Authorities in Civil Society too.

According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church in the numeral 2235 says "Those who exercise authority should do so as a service. *Whoever would be great among you must be your servant.*" The exercise of authority is measured morally in terms of its divine origin, its reasonable nature and its specific object. No one can command or establish what is contrary to the dignity of persons and the natural law. The exercise of authority is meant to give outward expression to a just hierarchy of values in order to facilitate the exercise of freedom and responsibility by all. Those in authority should practice distributive justice wisely, taking account of the needs and contribution of each, with a view to harmony and peace. They should

take care that the regulations and measures they adopt are not a source of temptation by setting personal interest against that of the community".

Political authorities are obliged to respect the fundamental rights of the human person. They will dispense justice humanely by respecting the rights of everyone, especially of families and the disadvantaged.

The political rights attached to citizenship can and should be granted according to the requirements of the common good. They cannot be suspended by public authorities without legitimate and proportionate reasons. Political rights are meant to be exercised for the common good of the nation and the human community.

Also it is the duty of citizens to contribute along with the civil authorities to the good of society in a spirit of truth, justice, solidarity, and freedom. The love and service of one's country follow from the duty of gratitude and belong to the order of charity. Submission to legitimate authorities and service of the common good require citizens to fulfill their roles in the life of the political community. May the Lord be in your families.



FUNDRAISER FOR ST. MARK'S. Sat., Nov. 25th 10 am to 7pm - Join us at **Charming Charlie in the Streets of Chester** for a unique shopping experience. Both men and women can shop smarter by using this beautifully designed store to find a fabulous variety of women's accessories arranged by color making shopping a breeze. Just tell the cashier, as you check out, that you are shopping for St. Mark's and a percentage of your total will be paid towards our fundraiser. Thank you in advance for making the effort to support St. Mark's. Questions? Call Barbara Burke 908-876-3557

ST. MARK'S 11TH INVITATIONAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT...

Sunday, December 3rd 4:00 pm – Free Admission. Ring in the holidays with music by...The Americana Troupe, Church of the Messiah Bell Choir, the Joyful Silvertones. Hosted by the Choir of St. Mark's. A Free Will Offering will be taken. Refreshments served after the concert.

ST. MARK'S NEW YEARS DAY 5K RUN...

St. Marks is hosting a 5K run on January 1. This is a great way to start the year off with a bang. Currently we are looking for people and businesses to sponsor the event as well as volunteers to help us with the planning. If you are interested, please reach out to Pat Regan at Patrick.regan@outlook.com.



SAVE THE DATE...

St. Mark's Annual Pot Luck Lunch, Sunday, January 28th 12:00 pm. Help us welcome our newest parishioners! Sign-ups to start Dec. 9th.

NEEDED...

Young man needs 7-8 passenger van for part time work. Able to pay about \$2,000. Call Judy 908-399-7305 or Courtney 347-528-3657