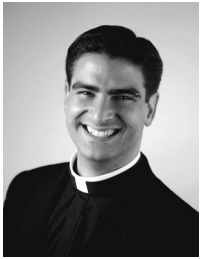


NOVEMBER 18 & 19, 2023



Dear Friends in Christ,

As we approach the end of the liturgical year, our readings focus on the end times. In Paul's Letter to the Thessalonians, he tells them that *the day of the Lord will come like a thief at night* – unseen and unannounced. Or it will be like labor pains upon a pregnant woman – sudden and bringing risk. We may not know the exact hour of the Lord's return, but it is expected and inescapable. Therefore, we should be prepared.

Today's Gospel gives us a little more information about what to expect upon Jesus' return. In the story, the master distributes his possessions to his servants according to their abilities. One servant receives five talents, another two, and a third receives only one. Then the master leaves for a long time. When he returns, he expects an account of what the servants have done with his talents. Two of the servants are praised, and the third is cast out.

The talents in the story are coins, but we know that God gives all kinds of gifts, both temporal and spiritual. Everything he gives, he expects us to use. The fact that gifts are not distributed equally encourages us to share them. Not only are we invited to share what we have, but also to consider what we lack, recognizing that we need the gifts of others. We were created to live in a community of mutual giving and receiving modeled on the Trinity. We are brought into unity through the variety of what we bring to the kingdom. It does not have to be much – but in order to participate in the kingdom we must take what we have been given and grow it, invest in it, and return with it to the Lord and the building up of the body of Christ.

At the conclusion of the parable, the master says, *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.* The third servant buried his talent in the ground out of fear of a demanding master. He is not being punished so much as suffering the natural consequences of his action: He may not remain in the company of the master.

We can use only the gifts we have been given, but if we use them as God intends, he will multiply them. If, on the other hand, we sit idle or hide them away, their benefits will be taken from us. The ultimate benefit, the final payout for a life of good and faithful service, is eternal joy with God.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Marco

EVENTS CALENDAR

Thurs:	All Day 7:30 am 10 am 11:30 am	Parish Office Closed Gobble gallop 5k Thanksgiving Mass Thanksgiving Meal
Fri:	All Day	Parish Office Closed
Sun:	After Mass	Fellowship Sunday

November 20—November 26

IHM FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY The next Fellowship Sunday is on Sunday, November 26. Join us in the Parish Hall for coffee, donuts, and fellowship after mass!

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED from Thursday, November 23 until Tuesday, November 28. Happy Thanksgiving!

CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATING HELP Seeking assistance from family and friends! Join us on Monday, December 18 at 10 am to bring decorations down from the loft, and on Thursday, December 23 at 10 am to decorate the church. Your help makes the process quick and enjoyable. To participate, please reach out to Pat DeCarlo at 240-925-0021 or Linda Hidalgo at 240-298-5264. We look forward to your support!

IHM YOUTH CHRISTMAS CHOIR Want to sing with the angels at the 5 pm Christmas Eve Mass and the play starting at 4:30 pm beforehand? All the children of the parish are welcome to join the choir for the Pageant and the Mass. There will be rehearsals on Sunday, December 3 and Sunday, December 17 at 3 pm. Dress rehearsal is on Friday, December 22 at 5:30 pm. Contact Mary at 240-434-8876 or mary@ihmrcc.org. You can also sign up on the list by the Music Room Office in the hallway. Parents, please leave good contact information.

MASS WITH HEALING PRAYERS This month's Mass with Healing Prayers is at 7 pm on Monday, November 27. After Mass, we will have Eucharistic Adoration and prayers for healing with laying on of hands. Confessions begin at 6:30 pm and continue as long as there are penitents.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT We are seeking volunteers to assist with and actors to participate in with this year's Children's Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve. If interested, call the Children's Faith Formation office at 301-863-8793 or Kayla Krause at 412-477-9115. Following are the dates for the pageant:

December 3 at 3:00 pm, Role and Costume assignments
December 17 at 3:00 pm, Rehearsal
December 22 at 5:30 pm, Dress rehearsal
December 24 at 4:30 pm, Christmas pageant

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASS Intentions

November 20 — November 26

Monday	1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63/Ps 119:53, 61, 134, 150, 155, 158/Lk 18:35-43
9:00 am	All Departed Souls
Tuesday	2 Mc 6:18-31/PS 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/ Lk 19:1-10
5:30 pm	All Departed Souls
Wednesday	2 Mc 7:1, 20-31/Ps 17:1bcd, 5-6, 8b and 15/ Lk 19:11-28
9:00 am	All Departed Souls
Thursday	1 Mc 2:15-29/Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6, 14-15/ Lk 19:41-44
10:00 am	All Departed Souls
Friday	1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59/1 Chr 29:10bcd, 11abc, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Lk 19:45-48
9:00 am	All Departed Souls
Saturday	1 Mc 6:1-13/Ps 9:2-3, 4 and 6, 16 and 19/ Lk 20:27-40
9:00 am	All Departed Souls
4:00 pm	All Departed Souls
Sunday	Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/Ps 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6/1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-46
8:30 am	All IHM Parishioners
11:15 am	All Departed Souls
1:00 pm	All Departed Souls



LITTLE FLOWER SCHOOL Little Flower School is looking for a full-time English and reading teacher for Grades 7 & 8 to begin January 2024. Please contact our principal, Ms. Keeton, at ckeeton@littleflowercatholic.org if

interested or to learn more.

MASS INTENTIONS may be requested at the parish office during regular office hours (M—F, 8 am—4 pm) in person or by phone (301-863-8144 x11), or by e-mailing julian@ihmrcc.org. Your desired date may not be available. We now have the ability to accept Mass intention stipends online (but only **after** the date has been accepted by the office).



To sign up for Formed, the premier site to access Catholic Media online, go to www.formed.org and press “sign up” and then enter the ZIP code of the parish “20653”, follow the directions to create an account, and then enjoy!



Continuing our discussion of the catechumenate formation:

This period of time is full of excitement and discernment for the candidates, the catechumens and especially the facilitators. It is time of study about Christ and His church, a time of discernment on this wonderful journey of faith and most of all, it is a time when everyone will begin looking at their life, their faith and their beliefs in the light of Holy Mother Church.

They are not alone on this journey as they will be walking with their RCIA sponsors who not only serve as guides, but also aid in determining their readiness to continue on this journey of faith.

If you have any questions or would like to inquire about this journey, please feel free to contact the RCIA coordinator at rcia@ihmrcc.org or contact the parish office at (301) 863-8144.

MASS WITH HEALING PRAYERS This month’s Mass with Healing Prayers is at 7 pm on Monday, November 27. After Mass, we will have Eucharistic Adoration and prayers for healing with laying on of hands. Confessions begin at 6:30 pm and continue as long as there are penitents.



PLEASE PRAY THAT THE SICK MAY BE RESTORED TO FULL HEALTH

Audrey Somers, Kathleen Floyd, Mary Oliver, Jane Kenyon, Linda F. Gieser, Ralph Gough Sr., Betty LePore, Joseph, Rylee Corliss, Alan Stapanon, Ruby Garcia, Mia Garcia, Matthew Riddell, Marie C. Williams, Kaylee Klier, Wanda Slater, Enedina Melendez, Hector Perez, Josephine, Glenn Thompson III, John Worrell, Jim Makin, Carmen Colby, Gary Green, Grace Miedzinski, Bruce Riddell, Katelyn Corliss, Robert Weaver, Devlin Rich, Ana Gates, Dennis Berg, Alejandra Spargo, Lisa and Paul Crowe, Adele Bavani, Violette Ghalbouny, Helen Pearson, John Flynn, Michael Briscoe, Patricia A. Louis, Susan Marie Hollis, Norma Jean Jubeck, Melva Coates, Frances Roof, Jayne C.

Please note: names will remain on this list for two months, unless otherwise notified. To keep a name on the list, please resubmit by contacting bulletin@ihmrcc.org, or call the Parish Office.

PAPAL PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER

We pray for the Holy Father; as he fulfills his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Follow us on



CANDLES (from *Sacred Signs*, Fr. Romano Guardini, 1927)

We stand in a double and contrary relationship to objects outside ourselves. We stand to the world and all its contents as when God brought the animals to the first man for him to name. Among them all Adam could find no companion. Between man and the rest of creation there is a barrier of difference, which neither scientific knowledge nor moral depravity can remove or efface. Man is of another make from every other earthly creature. To him they are foreign. His kinship is with God.

On the other hand, he is related to everything that exists in the world. Everywhere we feel somehow at home. The shapes, attitudes, movements of objects all speak to us, all are a means of communication. It is the incessant occupation of the human soul to express through them its own interior life, and to make them serve as its signs and symbols. Every notable form we come across strikes us as expressing something in our own nature, and reminds us of ourselves.

This feeling of our connection with things is the source of metaphor and simile. We are profoundly estranged from, yet mysteriously connected with, outside objects. They are not us, and yet all that is or happens is an image to us of ourselves.

One of these image-objects strikes me, and I think most people, as having more than ordinary force and beauty. It is that of a lighted candle. There it rises, firmly fixed in the metal cup on the broad-based, long-shafted candlestick, spare and white, yet not wan, distinct against whatever background, consuming in the little flame that flickers above it the pure substance of the wax in softly-shining light. It seems a symbol of selfless generosity. It stands so unwavering in its place, so erect, so clear and disinterested, in perfect readiness to be of service. It stands, where it is well to stand, before God.

It stands in its appointed place, self-consumed in light and warmth.

Yes, of course the candle is unconscious of what it does. It has no soul. But we can give it a soul by making it an expression of our own attitude.

Stir up in yourself the same generous readiness to be used. "Lord, here am I." Let the clean, spare, serviceable candle bespeak your own attitude. Let your readiness grow into steadfast loyalty. Even as this candle, O Lord, would I stand in your presence.

Do not weaken in or try to evade your vocation. Persevere. Do not keep asking why and to what purpose. To be consumed in truth and love, in light and warmth, for God, is the profoundest purpose of human life.

THANKSGIVING DINNER at IHM is 11:30 am until 2 pm. To volunteer, go to thanksgiving.ihmrcc.org. Dinner is free and open to everyone.



INAUGURAL IHM GOBBLE GALLOP 5K

IHM will be hosting our inaugural Gobble Gallop 5K this year on Thanksgiving morning. To register, visit gobble.ihmrcc.org. To volunteer, visit 5kvolunteer.ihmrcc.org.

IHM MOTHER'S GROUP We're considering a Mom's Club at IHM, for moms with children of all ages to connect, learn, and grow in faith together. If you're interested in learning more, contact Emily Yazawa at emily.m.yazawa@gmail.com.

VICTORY TO LFS BASKETBALL Congratulations to the LFS Varsity Boys Basketball Team for winning their Championship Game against St. John Francis Regis. Well played by all involved, and congratulations once again to the victors!

GREIVING WITH GREAT HOPE A 5-week, small group workshop to help people grieving the loss of a loved one. The Workshop will be Sundays from 3 pm until 5 pm from January 7th to February 4th, 2024 at St. Aloysius in Leonardtown. For more information, please contact Jennifer Bicknell at 301-475-8064, ext. 11 or jbicknell@saintalloysiuschurch.org. You can sign up online at <https://www.saintalloysiuschurch.org>.

LAZARUS COMMITTEE Are you looking for a way to support grieving families in our parish? Consider joining the Lazarus Committee, a group of volunteers who prepare and serve meals after the funerals of active and registered parishioners. This is a meaningful ministry that offers comfort and fellowship to those who have lost a loved one. To learn more or to sign up, please call Pat at 240-925-0021 or Linda at 240-298-5264. Thank you for your generosity and compassion.

PRAYER CHAIN The Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Shrine has a prayer line where you can talk and pray with someone over the phone. The prayer line is open Monday through Friday from 10 am to 5 pm. Call 1-866-202-4934.

BULLETIN DEADLINE Please email your submission to bulletin@ihmrcc.org by Wednesday at 10 am prior to the Sunday of publication. All entries are subject to editing.

ALTAR FLOWERS/SANCTUARY CANDLES If you would like to donate the Altar Flowers or Sanctuary Candles in memory or for special intentions of a loved one, please call the Parish Office or email at cindy@ihmrcc.org.



November 19, 2023

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31 | 1 Thes 5:1-6 | Mt 25:14-30

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

When we think of gifts, we may picture a child eagerly ripping into wrapping paper on a birthday or at Christmas. Oh, the anticipation and the joy seen through a child's eyes! In contemplating today's Scriptures, it occurs to me that the gifts God has given to us should fill us with the same joy and sense of gratitude as that child. Although there are many facets to the parable of the talents which Jesus tells his disciples in today's Gospel, what stands out to me comes at the very beginning: "A man going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them." No small thing to be entrusted with the master's possessions! In the same way, God *entrusts* us with his gifts – they are all we have and all we are. And, like the master in the parable, God expects us to use our gifts and talents to build his kingdom here on earth – to multiply his goodness in the world.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Does the parable seem a bit harsh at the end? After all, the last servant didn't squander the money he was given, he simply gave it back in the same form in which it was given to him. But let's think about our generous God and the gifts and talents he has given us. God expects us to *use* these gifts, not hide them under a bushel. If we are lazy with and inattentive to our God-given gifts, they will shrink and fade away. We will be squandering our invitation to full participation in the kingdom of God. Obviously, each of God's children has unique gifts, just as the servants in the parable received different numbers of talents *according to their ability*. With this in mind, let us consider how we can share our singular gifts and help others do the same. No gift or talent is too small, and God has given us everything we need to use each gift wisely. Empowered by God's love and grace, let us use our blessings for his glory.

WITNESS The imagery of the "wicked, lazy" servant being punished, coupled with St. Paul's words that the Lord will come "like a thief at night," impart urgency to the task before us. In order to be prepared to give God an accounting of how we are using his gifts, let us start growing them today. Offer forgiveness, love someone whom it is hard to love, show mercy; in other words, be a blessing to others and see how that goodness multiplies.