

Saint Boniface Parish

Faith Formation Handout – Sunday, November 15th

The Thirty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

Matthew 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.'"

How am I being called to share in the Master's joy?

First Grade

God gives each of us different talents and gifts. What talents and gifts has God given you? Name at least ten of them, but there are more than that! It is important to remember that God gives each of us different gifts and that we should not be jealous of what other people have. How can you be joyful and happy for the gifts that other people have received from God?

Second Grade

As Catholics, we should be joyful people all the time, because Jesus always loves us and is taking care of us. What do you think a joyful person looks like? How should a joyful person act? How would a joyful person treat other people? Would you say that you are a joyful person? All the time? What can you do this week to act more joyfully and help others?

Third and Fourth Grades

We experience joy when we have a sense of true happiness even when things are difficult or sad. We can be joyful because we know that God is with us even in moments that are tough. When was a time that you were sad or sick, but knew that God was with you? Was there a time that you were scared or angry, but got through it because you knew God loved you?

Fifth and Sixth Grades

In today's Gospel we hear that the servant who was given many talents and did a lot with them got to share in the Master's joy. What talents have you been given? Name at least ten gifts and talents that you have. How are you sharing them with others to help others to grow in those gifts as well? What is something specific that you can do this week to grow in one of your gifts?

Seventh and Eighth Grades

In today's Gospel we hear the master call the servant that buried his talent a 'wicked and lazy servant'! Why do you think he called him that? Hopefully you are using all of your talents, but what is a gift that you have that you do not use often or as much as you can? When was a time that you could have tried harder but chose to take the easy way and not do your best?

High School and Adults

As we get older and have more responsibilities, it can feel like it is harder and even impossible to be joyful all the time. Being joyful doesn't mean laughing all the time, but rather always knowing that God will be with us and taking comfort in that. When are the easiest

time for you to be joyful? When are the times that you think it will be the most difficult to be joyful?

For this Week...

We are Catholic always and in everything we do. Throughout the week bring your faith into your school, your work, your play and your family. Here are some ideas for you.

Monday

The first step in being able to use and grow in our gifts, which will lead to living in God's joy, is to know what our gifts are. Today, to determine what your gifts are you can do a couple of things – think about what you are naturally good at, list what things you enjoy doing and bring you joy, and acknowledge what others have told you that you are good at.

Tuesday

Knowing what gifts and talents God has given us is not always easy to determine because we usually focus on what we don't have instead of what we do have.

Today, to help yourself and others to see what gifts and talents they have been given and can use, talk with people and point out to them what you see as gifts in their lives. Talk to as many people as you can today!

Wednesday

Thankfulness leads to joy. This may not be obvious to some people, but being thankful helps us to be happy with the things that we have and not always wanting what we don't or cannot have. How often do you say thank you to God and to other people? Today, challenge yourself and others to say thank you as many times as is possible, for big and small things.

Thursday

In Sunday's Gospel we heard about how the good servants increased their gifts. We can help others to do that by helping them to grow in their gifts and increase them. After we point out someone's gifts to them and help them to acknowledge it, we can help them to develop it. Today, talk with someone you see often and help them to grow in one of their gifts.

Friday

It is important that we also grow in our own gifts. It can be tempting and easy to do the least we need to do in order to get through the day, but we were created for excellence, not mediocrity. Today, make a plan on how you will grow in one of your gifts. Maybe spend more time cooking, with music or with art. Perhaps you can volunteer more or donate more money.

Saturday

God is always showering us with His love and never ceasing to bless us with more gifts. You can expect to continue to receive more gifts and talents throughout your life. What are some gifts that you have now that you didn't have before? Today, talk with someone close to you and ask them how they can see that you have changed and grown with different talents.

FROM THE CATECHISM...

By the power of the Holy Spirit, God's children can bear much fruit. He who has grafted us onto the true vine will make us bear 'the fruit of the Spirit:...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.' 'We live by the Spirit'; the more we renounce ourselves, the more we 'walk by the Spirit.'

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 736



today
I CHOOSE
joy

Next Week's Readings

Here are the readings for next Sunday so that on Saturday you can read through them. If you take a few minutes to read them and prepare, you will get a lot more from Mass. They are available online at www.usccb.org. Use the calendar on the right.

Ezekiel 34:11-12,15-17 Psalm 23:1-2,2-3,5-6 1 Corinthians 15:20-26,28 Matthew 25:31-46

This handout was created by the Lynn Catholic Collaborative. For more info on how to use at your parish please email admin@lynnatholic.org