

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

The Word of God this Sunday the second to the last Sunday of the liturgical year invites us to be vigilant and hardworking, in the expectation of the Lord's return at the end of time. The Gospel passage recounts the famous Parable of the Talents, related by Saint Matthew. The "talent" was an ancient Roman coin, of great value, and precisely because of this parable's popularity it became synonymous with personal gifts, which everyone is called to develop. In fact, the text speaks of "a man going on a journey [who] called his servants and entrusted to them his property". The man in the parable represents Christ himself, the servants are the disciples and the talents are the gifts that Jesus entrusts to them. These gifts, in addition to their natural qualities, thus represent the riches that the Lord Jesus has bequeathed to us as a legacy, so that we may make them productive: his Word, deposited in the Holy Gospel; Baptism, which renews us in the Holy Spirit; prayer the "Our Father" that we raise to God as his children, united in the Son; his forgiveness, which he commanded be offered to all; the Sacrament of his Body sacrificed and his Blood poured out; in a word: the Kingdom of God, which is God himself, present and alive in our midst.

This is the treasure that Jesus entrusted to his friends at the end of his brief life on earth. Today's parable stresses the inner disposition necessary to accept and develop this gift. Fear is the wrong attitude: the servant who is afraid of his master and fears his return hides the coin in the earth and it does not produce any fruit. This happens, for example, to those who after receiving Baptism, Communion and Confirmation subsequently bury these gifts beneath a blanket of prejudice, beneath a false image of God that paralyzes faith and good works, thus betraying the Lord's expectations. However, the parable places a greater emphasis on the good fruits brought by the disciples who, happy with the gift they received, did not keep it hidden with fear and jealousy but made it profitable by sharing it and partaking in it. Yes, what Christ has given us is multiplied in its giving! It is a treasure made to be spent, invested and shared with all, as we are taught by the Apostle Paul, that great administrator of Jesus' talents. The Gospel teaching that the liturgy offers us today has also had a strong effect at the historical and social level, encouraging an active and entrepreneurial spirit in the Christian people.

The central message, however, concerns the spirit of responsibility with which to receive God's Kingdom: a responsibility to God and to humanity. This attitude of the heart is embodied perfectly in the Virgin Mary who, on receiving the most precious gift of all, Jesus himself, offered him to the world with immense love. Let us ask her to help us to be "good and faithful servants" so that we may one day enter "into the joy of our Lord".



There will be a Giving Tree in the Narthex. Please consider making a donation. All donations are split between the Elks Club and the Rotary Club at the Port Jervis High School.

Holy Hour has commenced on Mondays in the Chapel. Confessions will be heard from 5:30pm until 6:15pm. Adoration will be from 5:30 pm until 6:30pm.

Our Avon fundraiser began October 14th to raise funds for the bus to Washington, DC in January for the March for Life. If you would like see a catalog, please stop by the parish office. Various items besides makeup available for purchase. Start your Christmas shopping early! You can also place your orders online at : Avon.com/fundraiser/stmaryspj The fundraiser has been extended until November 24th.

The 2nd collection next weekend is for Charity & Justice.
Please give it your prayerful consideration.

Family Advent Wreath Making

This year we have a few options for wreath making and honoring the Advent season with your family. Pre-made Pre-ordered Wreaths will be available for \$20 per wreath (details to follow) Bundles-To-Go will be available (includes all materials to make your own wreath at home) \$15 per wreath (details to follow) Family Wreath Making Event Saturday November, 28th from 10 am to 12 pm in Most Sacred Heart Hall. Limited space available. Social distancing guidelines will be following, masks required. \$15 per wreath

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Family Name: _____

Telephone #: _____

Adults: _____ Children: _____

Premade: \$20 each Quantity: _____

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St. Mary’s will continue the tradition of providing those in need within our community with food baskets for Christmas. It has expanded to include additional foods considering children are off from school and normally that is where they get a daily meal. You will find bins in the narthex where you can place non perishable items or stop by the parish office. Children in the Religious Ed. program are encouraged to bring items to their classrooms.

Thank you in advance.

Simplify your Christmas shopping!

The St. Nicholas Faire will be held at St. Mary’s Most Sacred Heart Hall on Sunday, December 6, 2020. The fair will be held from 9:30 AM to 2 PM. There will be hand-crafted items lovingly created by local crafters. You’ll be shopping close to home as you have the opportunity to purchase items from independent consultants representing Young Living Essential Oils, Pampered Chef, and many more. There will also be a Bake Sale, raffles, and a Gingerbread House Contest. Everyone in attendance will be asked to wear a mask and socially distance themselves from other shoppers. St. Nicholas will not be able to pose for photos this year due to COVID restrictions. In addition there will be a Virtual St. Nicholas Faire on Facebook all weekend long. This year’s Faire is hosted by CDA #114 Court Madonna to aid in their charitable projects. For more information, or if you would like to be considered as a vendor, either in person or virtually, contact Eileen: St.NickFaire@gmail.com.

Announced Masses

- Monday, November 16 (Margaret of Scotland; Gertrude, virgin)
9:00am G. Joseph Giuffre, by Bob and Nancy Dunn
- Tuesday, November 17 (Elizabeth of Hungary, religious)
9:00am Ed Eckes, by Nancy Smith
- Wednesday, November 18 (Dedication of the Basilica of Peter and Paul, apostles; Rose Phillipine Duchesne, virgin)
9:00am Ed Eckes, by the Adamcik family
Hannah Babey, by Mark & Jean Fox
- Thursday, November 19
9:00am Ed Eckes, by Mike & Carol Braun
Kathleen Cleary Santiago, by Aggie Devore
- Saturday, November 21
4:00pm The parishioners of St. Mary’s
- Sunday, November 22 (Christ the King)
8:30am Kenneth P. Das, by Violet & David Dhaniram
- 11:30am Olga Agnes, by Deacon Rich & Joann Marino

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Debi Cotugno, Michael Bello, Michael Barnes, William Lincoln, Jeannine Lincoln, James Lincoln, Charles Hildebrandt, Maureen Hildebrandt, Walter Szpakowicz, Aedan Roach, Robin Radzikowski, James Roach, John F Flynn, Jr., Catherine Simons, Michael Medaglia, Robert Witherow, Allen Lynch, Enid Decker, Jackie Mundy, Chris Marion, III, Allan Garcia, Eric Hildebrandt, Stephen A. Odrechowski, Scott Robertson, Eva Scopino, Jan Kaminiski, Ellen Pentland, Leticia Nuestro, Christina Nuestro, Alice Drew, Catherine Scopino, Amelia Quinn, Tonya Addy, Jackie Hamilton, Brandon Ulrichs, Helen Eckes, Gloria Hicks, Stephanie Gaide, Elizabeth Startup Jones, MaryLynn Beam, Nancy Crumley, Carol Gomillion, David Lisker, Donald Wolff, Carmen Lagatol, Carmen Ramos, Jose Brito, Wayne DeMarco, and Carmella Balsamello.

The Cardinal’s Appeal is still ongoing. Our goal is \$34,500. We have received pledges totaling \$19,080 from 97 donors. You can visit Cardinalsappeal.org. All Donations can be mailed directly to :The Cardinal’s Appeal PO Box 4020 NY, NY 10261. Our Parish number is 518.

St. Mary’s Food Pantry is still available to all in our local and area communities. The next date will be Friday, November 20th from 10am until noon. If you or anyone you know is in need of food, please have them come during those times.

The collection for November 7th/8th was \$6,161.50. Thank you for your continued generosity.