

# St Joseph's of Stratford Parish

National Catholic Church

Since 1907

Weekly Bulletin



33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, Year A

November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## PARISH CONTACTS

*PASTOR*  
Fr Michal Gitner

*PARISH CHAIRPERSON*  
Nancy Sirois

*FINANCE SECRETARY*  
Barbara Chernesky

Dear parishioners,

Last Sunday we collected 47 boxes as a part of the Operation Christmas Child. Thank you all who participated. 21 boxes included the shipping fee of \$9.00, which was even better. Special thank you to Joe Pelland who made sure that the boxes were delivered to the distribution center in Trumbull. That particular center ships 8000 (eight thousand) boxes.

Last Wednesday, we served 96 meals at The Lord's Kitchen. Thank you to Joe and Rob Shandrowski., Paul Lonzenski, Meg Krasko, Nancy Anzalone, Joe Pelland , Jessamyn and Danika and all of you who contributed financially.

It has become an unofficial tradition in our parish for the past 3 years that we gather in the spirit of thanksgiving on Wednesday before Thanksgiving at 9:00 am Mass and breakfast in the classroom afterwards. It is an open invitation to everyone who is free and able to make it that morning.

Fr Michal

## MASS SCHEDULE

**Saturday:** 5:00 pm - Sunday Vigil

**Sunday:** 9:30 am Mass for the soul of Barbara Bednarski (1<sup>st</sup> anniversary)

**Wednesday:** 9:00 am Mass for health

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## FAITH MATTERS

### GOSPEL CHALLENGE

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.'" (Matthew 25:20-21)

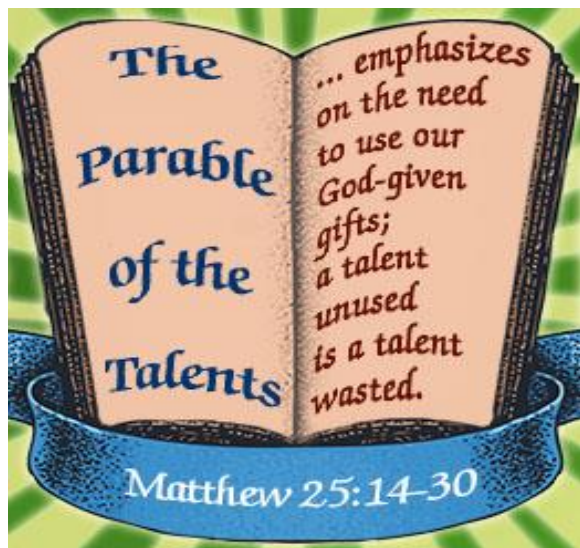
It is all about small things. And faithfulness.

#### THOUGHTS ON THE GOSPEL

The parable in today's gospel reading is so well known, that the word, 'talent', has become part of our language. The original story of Jesus, however, had a far more serious message than the development of natural gifts. The 'talent' Jesus refers to was an enormous quantity of precious metal (around 57 pounds of gold or silver). The immensity of the wealth entrusted to the servants was far beyond the experience of Jesus' hearers. The parable challenges them to recognize that God's immense blessings bring great responsibilities.

The sharp edge of the parable, as Matthew reports it, seems to indicate a background of controversy. It may well be that the original parable of Jesus was a challenge to the Sadducees – the conservative Temple establishment who were not open to wholesome developments that had taken place in the biblical tradition, and were opposed, therefore, to the mission of Jesus. Scholars find grounds for this in the wording of the parable. The master 'hands over' the talents; this term was associated in old Israel with the passing on of the traditions of God's people. The term 'gained' - applied to the profits made by the servants - was associated with the winning of converts. In their self-centred conservatism, the Sadducees had no concern to carry forward Israel's mission to be 'a light to the nations'. As the parable was recalled in Matthew's community, however, it may have been directed against the dangers of complacency in that community - that settled for the minimum requirements of life as the Lord's disciples, and was not ready to set out upon the great adventure of putting into practice the program of the Sermon on the Mount.

The parable of Jesus points to the 'Day of the Lord' when God's people will be called to account for the responsibilities brought by the great blessings they have received. In today's reading from Paul's letter to the Thessalonians, Paul continues his instruction concerning the Lord's return, echoing the imagery used by Jesus in the gospels. Life must go on; it is not given to us to know the 'times and seasons' of the final reckoning; the 'Day of the Lord' will come 'like a thief in the night'; God's people must 'stay awake and sober', living as 'children of the light'. It is not difficult to see that these themes provide the background of today's parable. The master is a long time in coming, and arrives unexpectedly to 'go through the servants' accounts'. The servants who have administered well the wealth entrusted to them are to be entrusted with 'greater things'; they will share in 'their master's happiness' – a clear reference, for those who have ears to hear, of the blessings of the final Kingdom. If we appreciate the greatness of the blessings brought by faith in Christ, we will be aware of the responsibilities they bring.



## PARISH CALENDAR

**Nov 19<sup>th</sup>**

Parish Board meeting - 10:30 am

**Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Thanksgiving breakfast after 9:30 am Mass

**Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Christmas Fair

**Dec 9<sup>th</sup>**

Parish Advent Recollection Day

### BY THE WEEK

Sundays: Mercy Tabernacle Church  
12:30 - 2:30 pm

Tuesdays: Mercy Tabernacle Church  
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Wednesdays: AA meeting 12:00 pm  
Irish dance classes 6:00 pm

Thursdays: AA men's meeting 7:30 pm

*For news input in the weekly bulletin, please contact  
Father Michal by Wed: mgitner@gmail.com*

### Readers roster

	Nov 19 <sup>th</sup>	Nov 26 <sup>th</sup>
9:30am	Joe Pelland	Jean Macionus

Next Sunday's readings: Ez 34:11-12,15-17,

1 Cor 15:20-26,28, Matt 25:31-46

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"We all yearn for what we have lost.  
But sometimes,  
we forget what we have."

Mitch Albom

## NEWS AND EVENTS

### ST JOSEPH'S CHRISTMAS FAIR – Dec 2, 2017

To continue the celebration of St. Joseph's 110th Anniversary, the Parish Board is asking the people of St. Joseph's to work together to contribute towards the running of the Christmas Fair. It is only two weeks away and almost ready to go. Now, we need to spread the word around among your family members and friends that this is happening. Thanksgiving gatherings provide us with such opportunity.

### WINTER IS COMING!

With cold weather coming, the less fortunate need your help! If you have winter items you won't be using, please bring them here to St. Joseph's. Your extra clothes, boots, blankets, etc., will be brought to our friends at Blessed Sacrament Church, which is preparing for the arrival of many victims of the hurricane in Puerto Rico and helps others in our community stay warm. Thank you for your generosity.

### CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

It has been the Ladies' Society initiative, and tradition, on behalf of the parish to prepare food baskets to the needy through Sterling House outreach program. The Ladies make up 4 huge laundry baskets of goods and need our help.

*The list of items needed: cake mixes, tuna fish, spam, gravy, cereal, pasta, noodles, rice, spaghetti sauce, breakfast bars, soups, coffee, tea, hot cocoa, peas, corn, beans, cookies, crackers, jelly, peanut butter, canned milk, honey.*

### ADVENT RECOLLECION DAY

Like in the past years we will hold a day of recollection in order to prepare ourselves spiritually for Christmas. It will take place on Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup> from 9 am to 1 pm. More details to follow.

### PARISH BULLETIN

If anyone wishes to support the printing of our weekly bulleting, please see Fr Michal. Your help is very much appreciated.

## Sunday Readings

### First Reading

**Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20, 31-30**

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.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

Response to the Psalm

**Blessed are those who fear the Lord.**

### Second Reading

**1 Thess 5:1-6**

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.

**The word of the Lord.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord;  
my branches bear much fruit.

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia**

### Gospel

**Matthew 25:13-14, 19-21**

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.

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.'"

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

October 8<sup>th</sup> – December 25<sup>th</sup> issues of the bulletin is sponsored by Paul Lonzenski

If anyone wishes to contribute to the printing cost of the bulletin, please contact Fr Michal.

