

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 (26kg 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 recognise 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



Come and join in your master's happiness

into practice the program of the Sermon on the Mount. The conclusion, 'To anyone who has, will be given more; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away' – a saying of Jesus that appears several times in the gospels – was probably added by Matthew, to drive home the point of the parable. Its meaning for Jesus was that one who is spiritually open will enjoy God's ongoing blessings; whereas one who is closed will miss the opportunities offered them. Matthew emphasises the seriousness of the parable's lesson by concluding his narrative – as he does in other places – with reference to the 'weeping and gnashing of teeth' in store for those who have no place in the Kingdom.

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.

John Thornhill sm
www.theemmausseries.com

What will you say when you meet God face to face? Better still, what will God say to you? Will you be able to answer that you served faithfully? Can you answer that now?

If God is calling you, contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Archdiocesan Vocations Director, 416-968-0997 vocations@vocations.ca www.vocationstoronto.ca

Readings ~ Proverbs 31.10-13, 16-18, 20, 26, 28-31 ~ 1 Thessalonians 5.1-6 ~ Matthew 25.14-30

PARISH

Mass Intentions This Week – November 20 to November 26

Please join us as we pray for the following announced intentions...

| | Intention(s): | Offered by: |
|----------------|--|----------------|
| Monday, 9am | ✠ Joan Johnston | Flynn family |
| Tuesday, 9am | ✠ Jack Drohan | family |
| Wednesday, 9am | ✠ Lynne Graham | family |
| Thursday, 9am | ✠ Ismael Caceres | Delia Urosevic |
| Friday, 9am | ✠ Marian & Jacqueline Gorski | family |
| Saturday, 9am | ✠ Joan Morgan-Hart | Barbara Morgan |
| 5:15pm | ✠ Steve LeMesurier | Michael Foran |
| Sunday, 8am | ✠ Louis Anthony Coutinho | family |
| 9:30am | ☞ Celebrated for the needs of all members of our parish family ☞ | |
| 11am | ✠ Romi Dubrovskis | family |
| 12:30pm | ✠ Stan Dybka | family |

November: Month of Remembrance

The month of November is dedicated to commemorating our loved ones who have died in the Lord. The shrine of St. Joseph is suitably decorated and The Book of the Dead is available to receive the names of our dearly departed. All Souls' Day envelopes are available.

Children's Liturgy of the Word – This program for young parishioners (4-10 years of age) takes place on Sundays at the 9:30am Mass. Please note that access to the hall is through the west glassed-in stairwell.

Offertory Envelopes – We are in the process of preparing the 2018 offertory envelopes for mailing. Please call the office at 416 231 6016 or email luisa@sorrows.ca to update your information for any changes or if you do not have assigned envelopes but wish to begin using them.

Phase II Renovation -The entire Cliveden south stairwell as well as the north exterior basement stairwell are closed during construction. **Basement hall and washrooms can be accessed through the glassed-in stairwell on the west side of the church.**

While access is limited, please contact the parish office if you wish to receive Communion at home.

Special Collection this weekend - Shepherds' Trust



The mission of The Shepherds' Trust is to help raise awareness and funds so that elderly and disabled priests are provided with sufficient financial resources to lead a dignified life after many years of ministry. The fund supports the needs of retired clergy in the Archdiocese of Toronto who have served for many years. Thank you for your generous support.

Drop In Family Advent Event – Sunday, Nov. 26, 10:30am-1pm, OLS Parish Hall

Our Children's Liturgy of the Word invites you to a Family Advent Event on Sunday, November 26, 10:30am-1:00pm in the parish hall. Bring your children or grandchildren and join your parish family in learning more about this beautiful first season of the church year. Free-will offering welcome. Let us know if you can join us so that we have enough craft supplies. Email Jennifer at jennifer.wolfs@rogers.com or luisa@sorrows.ca by Thursday November 23.

OLS St. Vincent de Paul Adopt-a-Family

During the year our volunteers serve people who can barely afford life's necessities. For these families, Christmas gifts for the children and a festive meal are impossible. You can change that by adopting a family and sharing your Christmas spirit. Please contact olsadoptfamily@gmail.com or call 647 770 4805 by December 1st. Tax Receipts Available.



COMMUNITY

Christmas Card Sale – This Weekend Only!

Before and after each Mass this weekend, Msgr. Joe Shiels will be selling his photo Christmas cards with a Christian Christmas message. They will be in packs of 6 for \$5.00 and 12 for \$10.00. Msgr. Joe himself took all the photos on the cards. Many will have the Christmas pictures of our parish.

Campaign Life Christmas Cakes - Campaign Life Christmas cakes are available this weekend after each Mass. The fruitcakes come from the monks of Val Notre-Dame Abbey in Quebec. The cakes are scrumptious, rich and exquisitely delicious. They really make wonderful gifts for family and friends. Pricing: traditional bar cakes (600 gm) \$18; while the larger deluxe cakes (1kg) \$25.00.

Out of the Cold Concerts – Saturday, Nov. 25, 12:30pm & 3pm, All Saints Kingsway

The OOTC concerts sponsored by the Kingsway Business Improvement Area are scheduled on Saturday, November 25, 12:30 - 2:00 and 3:00 - 4:30 at the Anglican Church of All Saints Kingsway. The concerts feature the senior choir of Our Lady of Sorrows, All Saints Kingsway and members of the Royal York United and Lambton Kingsway United Choirs with the Salvation Army Etobicoke Citadel Silver Band. Once again, our special guest narrator will be Michael Kramer from the New Classical 96.3 reading for us a Christmas story. All proceeds go to sustain the Out of the Cold program administered by All Saints Kingsway. For inquiries call 416 233 1125.

Development and Peace Caritas Canada (DPCC)

Women at the Heart of Peace postcard campaign

Cardinal Collins invites you to participate in an archdiocesan weekend of action to put **women at the heart of peace**. Women are among the most vulnerable during times of war. But they are also important when it comes to creating and sustaining peace. The weekend of Nov. 25/26, feast of Christ the King, you will be invited to sign a simple postcard from the DPCC. It asks the federal government to give women around the world the resources that they need to be at the heart of peace. For more information visit www.devp.org/en/education/fall2017.

Work of the Heart: Responding to the 94 Calls to Action – Monday, Nov. 20, 7-9pm

St. Joan of Arc Development and Peace invites you to a special evening with Jennifer Henry, Executive Director of KAIROS Canada. Join us, as people of faith, in a heartfelt response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and its 94 Calls to Action. (St. Joan of Arc Hall – 1701 Bloor St. W. just east of Keele).

Benefit Concert to End Abuse to Women and Girls – Wednesday, Nov. 22, Lula Lounge

The concert is presented by Catholic Family Services of Toronto and features Canadian saxophonist Enrico Galante and vocalist Dan. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. Advance tickets \$40 or \$45 at the door. For ticket inquiries call 416 921 1163. All proceeds go to Catholic Family Services of Toronto's Women Abuse Programs.

Holy Name of Mary College School Information Evening

Students currently in grade 8 are invited to attend the Information Evening on Tuesday, November 23 from 7-9pm. HNMCS is an independent Catholic school that offers a university preparatory programme to students in grades 5-12. For information go to www.hnmc.ca or call 905 891 1890 ext 103.

Senior Men's High School Retreat Saturday, Nov. 25, 8:30am-5pm, Our Lady of the Airways Parish

This retreat is an invitation for young men, in grades 11 and 12, to cultivate a deeper prayer life and relationship with Christ in order to better discern God's call in their lives. To register online go to www.vocationstoronto.ca. Deadline for online registration is on Monday, November 20.

Christmas Craft & Bake Sale - Sunday, Nov. 26, 9:00am-3:00pm

Mary, Mother of God school warmly invites you to their Christmas Craft & Bake Sale at St Vincent de Paul Church Hall, 263 Roncesvalles Ave. Come and savour yummy baked goods, check out the lunch bar for delicious sandwiches and soup, sweets, and shop for one-of-a-kind Christmas gifts!

New Beginnings Dinner & Seminar – Thursday, November 30, 6-8pm, St. John of the Cross

New Beginnings Ministry is hosting a Dinner and Seminar with Dr. Josephine Lombardi on *Being Our Best Self*. To register for this free event, please search: "Eventbrite New Beginnings Fall 2017" or call 416 921 1163. Please RSVP by November 24.