

IF WE RISK ALL FOR CHRIST AND THE GOSPEL, WE WILL BE REWARDED WITH THE PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE.

The Victorians were noted for their interest in all things related to death. They built great tombs for their heroes and cherished their loved ones through the possession of *memento mori* – Personal items that once belonged to loved ones, such as a lock of hair or a favorite photograph. For them death was a part of life – ubiquitous and very democratic. What was important was what was left behind. In addition to their ornate tombs, the Victorians also loved grandiose epitaphs that recalled for posterity the great achievements of deceased heroes and national figures.

As we come to the end of another liturgical year, our readings seem solemn and sober, challenging us to reflect on our own lives and to consider our own epitaphs – what we will leave behind or what others will say about us. Will they say that we used our God-given talents well? That we did our part to improve that little piece of the world we inhabited? Today’s readings help us with this challenge.

The Gospel tells of three investors and invites us to identify with them – the two who risked and gained and the one who, stricken by fear, made sure he did not lose the little he had. Our initial reaction might be to side with the prudent guy and why not? In today’s world where the market can be so unpredictable, it makes sense to be cautious, especially when dealing with another’s money.

Yet is that what Jesus wants? If we equate the word talent with a huge amount of money, we run the risk of misunderstanding this parable. Instead, we should see it as referring to something of tremendous value – the Gospel message. Because Matthew has chosen to place this parable ahead of the Last Judgement, we know that it speaks to us of success, failure and judgement. Some scholars suggest the parable is really an accusation against the Pharisees for their spiritual timidity. They knew the promise of the Good News, and yet chose to bury it in a tomb of rules and regulations. On the other hand, Jesus exhorts his disciples to take risks – to invest their whole lives in the truth of the Gospel and, if necessary, to risk all for the glory of God.

By first leading us to favor the timid servant, Jesus then turns the story upside down. The irony is that he loses everything – even the little he has. For we need to take note of the fact that each is given according to his ability and that when risked, the reward is a share in the master’s joy.

So what, then, is the moral of this parable? If we see it as an exhortation to work diligently and fearlessly for the return of Christ, then now is the time for all Christians to use and, if necessary, to risk all their gifts and talents, their resources and faith to share Christ with others and to bear the fruit of the dividends of that investment.

RCIA.

This week the RCIA class will be studying the Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist - with Father Colten. Please pray for the Candidates and Catechumens as they are learning the teachings and traditions of our faith. For more information, please call Penny or Greg Payne at 365-6348.

THANKSGIVING MASS

Nativity Cathedral’s Annual Thanksgiving Day Mass will take place on Thanksgiving Day, November 23, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. Like previous years, bring your favorite Thanksgiving Day Dish to bless and an offering to the poor.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Mon Nov 20	1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63, Lk 18:35-43
Tues Nov 21	2 Mc 6:18-31, Lk 19:1-10, Zec 2:14-17, Mt 12:46-50
Wed Nov 22	2 Mc 7:1, 20-31, Lk 19:11-28, Hos 2:16b, 17b, 21-22, Mat 25:1-13
Thur Nov 23	1 Mc 2:15-29, Lk 19:41-44
Fri Nov 24	1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59, 1 Chr 29:10-12, Lk 19:45-48
Sat Nov 25	1 Mc 6:1-13, Lk 20:27-40
Sun Nov 26	Ez 34:11-12, 15-17, 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28, Mt 25:31-46



YOUR SUNDAY TITHING AND CONTRIBUTIONS

<i>Regular Collections</i>	\$	10,227.06
<i>Nativity Maintenance</i>	\$	702.00
<i>Nativity Elem.</i>		485.00
<i>Capital Improvement</i>	\$	787.00
Miscellaneous	\$	583.00
TOTAL COLLECTION	\$	12,784.06

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS OFFERING

Happy Thanksgiving



We wish you all a blessed and enjoyable Thanksgiving Holiday.

STILL TIME TO JOIN IN PREPARATION:

Wednesday nights – 7:00 p.m. – Sanctuary Choir Rehearsals for Christmas Eve Concert/Midnight Mass. **SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** • Thanksgiving Mass – Thursday, November 23rd – 10:00 a.m. • Sunday, November 26th – “Christ the King” Celebration Mass with the Sanctuary Choir and Guest Trumpet – Professor Natalie Hughes from the University of Mobile. • Concert Series Concert II: “Messiah Chorus” – Friday, December 1st – 7:00 p.m. • Seminary Student(s) Ordination to Deacon – Mass Celebration – Saturday, December 2nd – 10 a.m. • Nativity Children’s Choir sings for City of Biloxi Christmas Program – Saturday, December 2nd – 10 a.m. • Concert Series Concert III: “Concert/Service of Advent Lessons & Reflections” – Sunday, December 3rd – 3:00 p.m. We are still seeking sponsors for our Concert Series that currently has events scheduled through June - 2018. For more information, please contact: **TERRY D. MADDOX:** Office: 228 967-7230 Cell: 251 406-1454 E-Mail: terrydalemaddox@gmail.com

The Sanctuary Choir will hold a special rehearsal this Sunday night, November 19th from 6:45 – 8:15 p.m. This rehearsal will be in lieu of the cancelled rehearsal normally scheduled that would have fallen on Thanksgiving Eve, November 22nd.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS	LECTORS	ALTAR SERVERS
Nov 25 4:00 pm 1. Jim Coskey 2. Kathleen Coskey 3. Helen Languirand 4. Patrick Hall 5. Gayle Mavar	Nov 25 4:00 pm Rhonda Clark	Nov 25 4:00 pm Sofia Carreon McKinzy Mathis
Nov 26 7:00 am 1. Jim Shugart 2. Nancy Powell 3. Linda Stewart	Nov 26 7:00 am Joe Powell	Nov 26 7:00 am Wyeth Stewart Alex Stewart Alec Ryan
9:00 am 1. Barbra Ziz 2. Linda Welter 3. Judy Trahan 4. Sharon Tash 5. Belinda Corley	9:00 am Terry Simon	9:00 am Morgan Newman Rhys Newman Rush Newman Triston Davis
11:00 am 1. John Sherman 2. Marianne Sherman 3. Sondra Williams 4. Susan Toche 5. Robert Moniot	11:00 am Johnny Williams	11:00 am Hadyn Hollis Greyson Ross McRae Ross
5:30 pm 1. Annette Luther 2. Tricia Creel 3. Roland Creel	5:30 pm Mary Townsend	5:30 pm Annabelle Landry Veronika Landry Julia Landry
	CANTORS	
	Nov 25 4:00 pm William Endicott	5:30 pm
	Nov 26 9:00 am John Welter	
	11:00 am Sean Rossy	

MASS INTENTIONS

	6:30 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Mon Nov 20	Brent Amyot	Deacon Ben Wimberly
Tue Nov 21	Mary Rosella McAuliffée	Matthew Mobeley (SI)
Wed Nov 22	Thomas Edward Connell	Collins-Sims Fly.
Thur Nov 23	Emmett McAuliffée	Richard White
Fri Nov 24	Herbert/Bertha McDonnell	Daminh Chuong
Sat Nov 25	8 Maurice Ambrose McAuliffée	4 Walter Blessey
Sun Nov 26	7 - Betty Lou Callegari	9 - F. T. P.
11	Tommy Sliman	5:30 Clare Hornsby

PLEASE KEEP OUR SICK IN YOUR PRAYERS

Sister Jackie Tarrant, Beverly Hammond, Macklin Holloway, Mary Wimberly, Kim Wilkerson, Pete Skermetta, Candy Widener, Lehwmon Skrmetti, Tiffany Whitehead, Lena Marchioni, Kay Lawson, Holly Hill, Georgia Bellais Dominick, Maxine Kiddinger, Marie Manning, Lisa Walker Kirkman, Raymond Egers, Betty Hilton, Mary Lancaster, Mickey Bradley, Cheryl Terry, Gwen Gollotte, Greg Hotaling, Jack Joachim, Jr., Eugene LaCaze, Mabel Viator, Michael Zorich and Karen Skermetta.

NATIVITY BVM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*As we celebrate this wonderful time of Thanksgiving, we would like to offer our appreciation to our Bishop, priests and parishioners for their unfailing support of our school. You are remembered each day in our morning prayer at school.

*Nativity BVM School will not be in session from November 20th through November 24th in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. Classes will resume on Monday, November 27th.

*Nativity BVM School will participate in **I GIVE CATHOLIC** on Tuesday, November 28th. This year's donations will be used to purchase books and resources for our library.

For more information, please visit our school's website at www.nativitybvm.org.

*Mark your calendars! Nativity BVM School will be hosting a **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA** on Saturday, December 2nd, from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. at the Half Shell Oyster House on Lameuse St. For more information, please visit our school's website.

MUSIC FOR THIS WEEKEND

ENTRANCE HYMN	#585
OFFERTORY	#460
COMMUNION	#353
SENDING	#419

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Be sure to avail yourself to our Lord's Infinite Mercy during the Advent Season in preparation to celebrate Christmas. Our Advent Communal Penance Service is scheduled for Thursday, December 7, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

CCD

CCD classes will not meet on Wed., Nov. 22. We hope you all have a wonderful, blessed Thanksgiving! Classes will resume on Wed., Nov. 29. In December, CCD classes will meet on Dec. 6 and Dec. 13. We will have a Penance Service on December 6 for students in grades 3-11, and a Christmas party on December 13 for all CCD students! Thanks for supporting your wonderful children and our CCD program!

BINGO MANIA

There will be no Bingo this week. We wish all of our Bingo volunteers a very blessed Thanksgiving. We will resume Bingo on November 28th, 2017, at 5:30 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 20 Women of Mary, at 5:30 p.m.

Nov 21 Men of St. Joseph, 7:00 a.m. – SHC

NO BINGO

RCIA at 6:00 p.m.

Nov 22 - Cleaning Team "B"

Nov 23 **THANKSGIVING MASS at 10:00 a.m.**

Nativity Rectory closed

Nov 24 Nativity Rectory closed

NATIVITY B.V.M. YOUTH MINISTRY

November 20th - Prepare Thanksgiving Baskets with St. Vincent de Paul, 8:00 a.m. to noon at the Youth Hall in the Sacred Heart Center. If you are interested in joining Youth Ministry, attending upcoming events, or have questions, please contact Kristy Arguelles by phone, 324-9934, or email nativityyouthministrybiloxi@gmail.com

MESSIAH CHORUS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The Gulf Coast Messiah Chorus is returning to Nativity BVM Cathedral to perform Handel's Messiah. The concert is scheduled for Friday, December 1st, beginning at 7:00 P.m. Come and enjoy this free concert to welcome in the Advent and Christmas Seasons.

OUR LADY OF FATIMA MASS

The local chapter of the International Order of Alhambra in conjunction with Our Lady of Fatima will be holding a Mass for people with Special Needs. The Mass will be next Sunday November 26 at 2 pm at Our Lady of Fatima Church on Pass Road. This Mass is designed to involve as many people with special needs as want to participate. Following Mass there will be a social in the Saints Mary and Joseph rooms of the parish hall. If you plan on participating at Mass and/or attending the social, please call Jim Rigby @ 435-5665 by Friday the 24th so we can account for how many will be attending and what position will be open.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SECOND COLLECTION

Next week's second collection will be for the benefit of our Nativity Cathedral St. Vincent de Paul Society who are diligent and generous in assisting our local poor in Biloxi. Please be generous on the weekend of November 26th and 27th in the second collection.