

DUE: Monday Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>

**Confirmation Mass Assignment**

October 2, 2011

27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43

**Instructions:** Read the gospel and gospel reflection, then answer the questions. Turn in with a signed bulletin.

**Gospel Reflection**

Jesus compares God to a vineyard owner whose messengers go to the tenants of the vineyard to collect his share of the grapes at harvest time. But the tenants beat, stone, or murder the owner's messengers. When the owner sends his son, the tenants treat him as they did the messenger. They kill the son, hoping to keep the vineyard, his inheritance, for themselves.

The son in the parable is Jesus, of course, and the messengers are God's prophets, who speak in God's name. Jesus is reminding us that the kingdom will be taken away from those who do not give God a harvest of good works.

**Gospel Questions:**

Can you find the scriptures that Jesus quotes while telling this parable? Name the people and things that were rejected in this parable.

When Jesus was telling the story of what happened to the prophets and to the son, how do you think he must have felt? Are we rejecting any of God's messengers, or in any way rejecting Jesus? How can we accept Jesus and his messengers in our lives?

What prayers can help us offer the harvest of our lives and work to God?

DUE: Monday Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>

**Confirmation Mass Assignment**

October 9, 2011

28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14 or 1-10

***Instructions:*** Read the gospel and gospel reflection, then answer the questions. Turn in with a signed bulletin.

**Gospel Reflection:**

This is a story that actually happened: When a groom-to-be called off the wedding, the bride decided to go ahead with the wedding banquet. Instead of inviting friends and relatives, she invited some homeless people. These unlikely guests in their thrift-shop clothes had a wonderful time. And the bride who didn't become a bride had the joy of sharing her banquet with them. This story is very similar to today's gospel and the parable Jesus tells about the feast hosted by God. The invited guests do not show up, so other guests are gathered from the streets and invited to share the table and the joy. Sometimes we might ignore God's invitation.

**Gospel Questions:**

Do we recognize that God has an invitation for us every day? How can we receive and accept it?

Have you ever thought that other things were more important, or that you were too busy to accept God's invitation to the Eucharist, sacraments, prayer, or doing something pleasing to God and helpful to others? What were they and why?

DUE: Monday Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>

**Confirmation Mass Assignment**

October 16, 2011

29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-21

**Instructions:** Read the gospel and gospel reflection, then answer the questions. Turn in with a signed bulletin.

**Gospel Reflection**

Jesus too is full of surprises! When his enemies think they have laid the perfect trap for him, Jesus doesn't get caught. His questioners ask whether it is against God's law to pay taxes to the Roman emperor, a pagan ruler. If Jesus says yes, he will be in trouble with the Romans. If he says no, he will be in trouble with the majority of his own people. Jesus gives a masterful answer. He tells his questioners that if they use Caesar's money, then they have to pay for it. But they must also pay what belongs to God, who takes care of our needs. Jesus' answer addresses a much more important issue: our relationship with God.

**Gospel Questions:**

Jesus' enemies want to trap him and they start the conversation by saying nice things. What do they say? What is the trick question they finally ask? What does Jesus answer?

What would you say that in your life "belongs to Caesar?" What do you think this means?

Can you think of any issues in our country where the ideas of the government might be a problem to one who is trying to live for God?

DUE: Monday Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>

**Confirmation Mass Assignment**

October 23, 2011

30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

**Instructions:** Read the gospel and gospel reflection, then answer the questions. Turn in with a signed bulletin.

**Gospel Reflection**

When you heard the Pharisee's question to Jesus, did you know what the answer would be? If not, now would be a good time to learn the answer by heart. Which is the greatest commandment? Jesus quotes the law of love in two parts. First we must love God with our entire selves. Out of that love of God grows the love of others. We must love our neighbors with as much care and concern as we have for ourselves. Does it seem very easy to love? As we try to do it, we will find it can be very difficult.

**Gospel Questions:**

Why do you think most people say that this is the most important teaching of Jesus? Why is it called the "law of love"?

How does this sum up the ten commandments and other teachings of Jesus?

Who are our neighbors? What does "as yourself" mean?

DUE: Tuesday Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>

**Confirmation Mass Assignment**

October 30, 2011

31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12

***Instructions:*** Read the gospel and gospel reflection, then answer the questions. Turn in with a signed bulletin.

**Gospel Reflection**

Today's gospel reminds us that the good example of one person can have far reaching effects. The advice Jesus gives is that our lives--not just our words--should bring the good news to others. In other words, we should practice what we preach. When we fail to do this, we rob our beliefs of their power to affect others. Think of the early Christian martyrs whose example of faith led others to Christ.

**Gospel Questions:**

What does it mean when Jesus says about the religious leaders of his day "their words are bold but their deeds are few?"

Who are some people in your own life who have brought you closer to God? How have they done this?

What does Jesus say about service? About humility?

How will you act so that your life can be a message of faith to everyone you meet?

DUE: Tuesday Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>

## **Confirmation Mass Assignment**

November 6, 2011

32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

**Instructions:** Read the gospel and gospel reflection, then answer the questions. Turn in with a signed bulletin.

### **Gospel Reflection**

Why do we need the gift of wisdom? Why do we need to be prepared daily for Christ's coming? The parable in today's gospel provides some answers. According to the parable, five foolish bridesmaids go out to meet the bridegroom without bringing any extra oil for their lamps (the bridegroom in this story represents Christ). When the bridegroom finally arrives at midnight, the foolish bridesmaids have to run off in the opposite direction to purchase more oil. By the time they get back, the door to the wedding celebration is locked. And the groom says to them "I do not know you."

### **Gospel Questions:**

A parable is a story told to teach a lesson. What is the lesson of the story of the wise and foolish bridesmaids?

Name some ways that Jesus comes into our lives.

How does Jesus come at life's end? How can we wisely be ready when he comes? According to this story, can wisdom be borrowed?

Name some wise people or wisdom figures in our lives who can help us to discover sensible ways of acting.

Why would an oil lamp burning be a symbol of wisdom and remind you of this gospel?

DUE: Tuesday Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>

**Confirmation Mass Assignment**

November 13, 2011

33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30 or 25:14-15, 19-21

**Instructions:** Read the gospel and gospel reflection, then answer the questions. Turn in with a signed bulletin.

**Gospel Reflection**

Why do you think Jesus told his disciples the parable in today's reading? Perhaps he does not want them to mistake being humble with hiding ones skills and abilities. Each of the three servants receives a certain amount of money from the master. The first two servants use their gift wisely and increase their master's investment. But the third servant, out of fear and lack of self-confidence, buries the money. When the master returns, that servant has nothing to offer him but the small amount received in the first place.

**Gospel Questions:**

When the wise servants report to their master, he says, "Come share your master's joy." Have you ever felt joy after you have done a good job at something? Give detail.

When God gives talents and blessings, what does he expect?

What does it mean to "settle accounts?"

Why does the third servant bury his funds?

Have you ever been afraid to do something good?

What makes you afraid?

In the first reading, the woman was praised for "fear of the Lord." In this gospel, fear got the servant into trouble. What is the difference between "fear" and "fear of the Lord?"

DUE: Tuesday Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>

**Confirmation Mass Assignment**

November 20, 2011

Christ the King

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

**Instructions:** Read the gospel and gospel reflection, then answer the questions. Turn in with a signed bulletin.

**Gospel Reflection**

Today, on the feast of Christ the King, we read that a ruler or leader should be like a shepherd. The leader is to care for all the people and protect them. And a wise and loving ruler knows that what is important for the people is equally important for their leader. In today's gospel, the ruler is also a judge. At the last judgment, Christ is pictured as the king who judges the nations. How does he judge? On the basis of care and concern for the needy. Did you notice in the gospel that all the people were surprised at the king's answer to their questions? How lucky we are to have Jesus tell us what they did not seem to know, that when we do for others, we do to him, and that we will be judged on our works of mercy and justice. Take a moment to think about these works that the gospel mentions. Ask Christ to reign and rule in your heart and in the whole world.

**Gospel Questions:**

In this reading, what criteria does the ruler/judge use to separate the good and evil ones?

List the actions, called Works of Mercy, that are rewarded in this story.

List the actions that are not rewarded.

Those who were brought into the kingdom and those who were excluded asked the same question. What was the question? What was the answer? What truth is being suggested?

What does the king say at the end of both judgments?

Who are "the least" referred to in this story?

DUE: Tuesday, Nov. 29th, 2011

## Confirmation Mass Assignment

First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2011

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

**Instructions:** Read the gospel and gospel reflection, then answer the questions. Turn in with a signed bulletin.

Gospel Reflection:

We are reminded in today's gospel that the world as we know it will pass away, and God's Kingdom will come in full. Jesus tells a parable about a master who went away and left each of his servants with a specific task to do. No one knew when the owner would return, just as no one can know when God's plan will be fulfilled. The words of Jesus were quite clear to the early Christians and to us today. We must be watchful and always ready for Jesus' return. Each of us needs to stay on task with how we want to live our lives expecting Jesus' return. One way to do this during the holiday season is to slow down and hear the words of the gospel rather than getting caught up in the rush of the world around us.

Gospel Questions:

1. I remember having a problem once when I was not watching very carefully. The results were disastrous when..
  
2. When I have to wait for something really important I usually feel...
  
3. The one change I plan to make this Advent season in order to be ready for Jesus' coming is...