

From the Pastor's Desk



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Jesus tells the story of a master going on a long journey. He entrusts his money to his three servants while he is away. The money is the greatest unit of accounting Greek money, based on the weight of a precious metal such as silver or gold. The master gives each of them the responsibility for a huge amount of money according to each one's ability. While the master is away, the servants take the initiative in managing his property.

After a long time, the master returns and calls the three servants for an accounting. The first and second servants have doubled his money. The master is thus overjoyed and rewards them for being "good and faithful" stewards. The third servant, however, has hidden the money, for fear of his master, and now returns it to him. The master gets angry and condemns him as a "wicked, lazy servant."

Jesus' story is not difficult to understand, for the scene is very contemporary. It speaks of a down-to-earth reality about taking responsibility and being accountable to the boss for money or task. The initiative one takes will determine the success or failure of the enterprise.

As a parable, however Jesus' story is saying something more. Saint Matthew touches on the end-time where the master is Jesus, the Son of Man coming back to judge the world. The servants are the disciples entrusted with his work or mission while they await his coming. During his absence, since only God knows the day and hour of his return, the disciples are enjoined to be watchful and to act appropriately as responsible stewards.

Good and faithful disciples imitate God, who is good, and are consistent with their commitment as trusted servants. They will be rewarded with greater task and responsibilities as they enter into the joy and abundance of the reign of God. On the contrary, the disciples do not perceive the love and trust of the master for them and do not appropriately act or take risks on the tasks and responsibilities, due to fear and laziness, and cannot come before God's presence.

The parable speaks about discipleship, especially the relationship of trust and love between the Master and the disciples, and the latter's commitment to fulfil the tasks and responsibilities entrusted them in the Christian community.

Your Servant in Christ,
Fr Khanh D. Nguyen, Pastor

THANKSGIVING DAY MASS will be at 9 am on Thursday, November 23. As is our custom, non-perishable food items will be collected at Mass. The food and monetary collection will be given to St. Vincent de Paul to serve those in need in our community.

❖ READINGS FOR THE WEEK ❖

Monday, November 20, St. Edmund the Martyr, 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63; Gosp Luke 18:35-43 **Mass at 8:45 am**

Tuesday, November 21, St. Albert of Louvain, 2 Mc 6:18-31; Gosp Luke 19:1-10 - **No morning Mass**

Wednesday, November 22 St. Cecilia, 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Gosp Luke 19:11-28 – **Mass at 8:45 am**

Thursday, November 23, St. Columban, Sirach 50:22-24; Gosp Luke 17:11-19 – **Mass at 9:00 am**

Friday, November 24, St. Andrew Dung-Lac, 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; Gosp Luke 19:45-48 – **Mass at 8:45 am**

Saturday, November 25, St. Catherine of Alexandria, 1 Mc 6:1-13; 19:6-9; Gosp Luke 20:27-40 - **Mass at 8:45 am**

November 26 Feast of Christ the King, Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17; Gosp Matthew 25:31-46

PARISH STEWARDSHIP Happy Thanksgiving! We are especially thankful for the 122 pledge cards that have been turned in representing about 20% of registered households. Please prayerfully consider filling out and returning your pledge card during this thanksgiving season. Additional blank pledge cards can be found in the church pews and are available at the Parish Office. We will be sending follow up letters soon. "God so loved He gave". In thanksgiving for the food before us, the friends and family beside us, and the faith we share, we give our gifts back to the Lord!

ONLINE GIVING If you are currently giving online, please fill out a pledge card and return it to the parish, then please go online to update your pledge.

ADVENT GIVING TREE Today starts the St. Matthew Advent Giving Tree. The list and description of the agencies in this year's program is in the bulletin insert. We invite you to select gift tags located in the baskets on the steps of the altar. The color coded tags represent fourteen agencies that help needy families and individuals in our community. Last year, St. Matthew donated over 600 gifts through the Advent Giving Tree. Please join us in this long-standing tradition during Advent season. For information or questions, please call Monica Williams at 206-915-7555.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS There will be a training meeting on **Monday November 27 at 7:00 pm** in the church. Due to many changes, all current EMs need to attend or make arrangements with Jolene Lynch. We need more EMs and Sacristans. All parishioners, please prayerfully consider becoming a part of this sacred ministry for Mass. For information, contact inslynch@comcast.net.

Sacred Story Week Seven

Choose the time and place for your 15 minute prayer time.

- Establishing the ritual is vital to your discipline of prayer.
- Seek a technology free place, a place apart.
- Don't read ahead, we can't do Sacred Story by going faster

Week 7

- This week is a big milestone, as it brings us to the "10 Commandments Examination of Conscience."
- We are learning to open our hearts to God and give our attention to what moves us.
- Remember that God is not the "cop in the rearview mirror" but the Divine Physician.
- We explore our deeper selves so that we can grow in holiness, peace, freedom and right relationship with God.
- Jesus is with you working through a slow process that is both challenging and rewarding.

Affirmation for the Week

- *"The ten commandments are a profound gift from God to the Chosen People and to all humankind."*

Information

- The next Sacred Story is December 4, 7:00 pm at Parish Office, Library. All are welcome!
- If you wish to receive regular e-mail, contact marycross@aol.com and msloane@comcast.net

SCHOOL BOOKKEEPER POSITION OPEN St. Matthew School is seeking a part-time bookkeeper with proven bookkeeping and accounting skills to join our team. For necessary qualifications, a full job description and an application, please go to the school website <http://www.stmattschool.org/> Any questions, please call Karen Herlihy. 206-362-2785.

SOCK IT TO HOMELESSNESS Operation Nightwatch at 302-14th Avenue South needs men's white socks for the homeless. They are on their feet all day and rarely have more than one pair, which are often wet. If you'd like to help, please bring new white socks on Sundays to the Church vestibule or weekdays to the Parish Office by **December 14**. We will deliver them on December 15. Any questions, call Jackie or Clark @ 206-866-4103.



Good stewards are like the industrious and reliable servants in today's Gospel, prudently using and multiplying the gifts entrusted to them by God.

St. Matthew School News

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"Excellence – Diversity – Community"



#GivingTuesday Many people do their holiday shopping on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. If you are planning to give on #GivingTuesday, please consider supporting our own St. Matthew School. Your gift will impact students and teachers this year. Thank you!



Leavenworth Village of Lights

Join us On Sunday, December 10 as we are filled to the brim with Christmas cheer. An amazing amount of Christmas lights will light the town at our annual motor coach trip to the Leavenworth Lighting Festival. Sing traditional, and not so traditional, Christmas songs. Enjoy roasted Chestnuts, Hot Brots, Steaming Spiced Wine, Christmas Characters, Horse Drawn Carriage Rides, Sledding and many other activities to build family traditions for years to come! **Cost: \$38 per seat** (payable to St Matthew and sent to the Parish Office)

A COMPLETE LIST OF EVERY ATTENDEE, WITH A CELL PHONE CONTACT NUMBER, MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR REQUEST.

Leave: 7am from St. Matthew West Parking Lot (arrive by 6:45 to be checked in and get your bus assignment) **Return: Around 8:30 pm** to St Matthew. Luxury Motor Coach (bus) with a lavatory, movies and fun. (For the return trip please have about \$3 cash per person for a tip for the drivers.)



Sunday Env/Loose/Holy Days

	<u>11/12/2017</u>	<u>YTD 11/012/2017</u>
Budgeted	\$ 7,620	\$ 192,600
Collected	\$ 8,171	\$ 178,158
Difference	\$ 551	< \$ 14,442