

FROM THE DESK OF **Fr. Julius**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ; Grace and peace!



A worthy group of themes runs through our liturgy this final Sunday in Ordinary time, driven by the rich theology of ‘gift.’ With Thanksgiving fast approaching, we have a reminder of what we’ve been *given* as a nation of families: observing the God-given gifts present with the ‘worthy wife’ from Proverbs, and the talents that we all have been endowed with from St Matthew, we must be urged to account for our many blessings.

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ues that thread in the Second Reading by advising the Thessalonians to ‘stay awake and be sober’, uplifting each other as they wait for the “day of the Lord.” We do not need to figure out *when* Jesus will return, but to live in such a reverent way towards God, that we may be ready at all times. Respect towards our neighbors, willingness to risk personal security for our Lord, are like arrows pointing us toward the Second Coming as we approach Advent.

In praying with the Gospel of today, especially Matthew 25: 24-25, Jesus relays a series of parables that portray different teachable qualities for the end of time. Our parable today of the prosperous man going on a journey and entrusting his property to three servants, “each according to his ability,” brings us to question how we have used our gifts to benefit others. By His grace, there need be no fear of losing them (unlike the third servant). We even detect that the two servants’ reward grew into an increased share of their master’s joy! Indeed, anything we offer freely to God, He can consecrate, enrich and enlarge. Another huge lesson from this parable is the necessary reminder that one day, unknown to anyone, we shall be called to give an account of our stewardship. Are you ready?

One of the greatest treasures as baptized Christians is our ability to love! Each of us has had this gift written on our hearts, alongside the abundance of faith. Our Blessed Mother is a constant reminder of the gift of graces, especially when we remember to ask! Our Lady of Lourdes said, “I do not promise you happiness in this world, but in the next.” Our responsibility is not just to preserve and “keep” the Faith, but to give what we have received back to others.

Joyous Sunday!