

# The Parable of the Talents

MATTHEW 25:14-30







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*Mass Intentions*  
  
*for the Week*  
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**THE THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
NOVEMBER 19, 2023**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18**

*The Mass of the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time*

4:00PM Debbie & Robert Anderson—Memorial

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

*The Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

7:30 AM Teresa M. Romano—4th Anniversary

9:00AM Ann E. Gardiner—1st Anniversary

10:30AM Marion Gillcrist—Memorial

5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20**

*Weekday*

7:30AM James C. Andoscia, Sr. —Memorial

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21**

*The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

7:30AM Special Intention

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22**

*St. Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr*

7:30AM Edward V. Healey, Jr.—Birthday Remembrance

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23-THANKSGIVING DAY**

*Thanksgiving Day*

9:00AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24**

*St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest & Companion Martyrs*

7:30AM President John F. Kennedy—Memorial

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25**

*Weekday; St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr; BVM*

8:30AM Richard Belanger—1st Anniversary

*The Mass of Anticipation for Christ the King*

4:00PM James Riley—Memorial

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26**

*Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe*

7:30AM Pauline A. MacDonald—1st Anniversary

9:00AM Carlos Hernandez Ulacia—Memorial

10:30AM Gina M. Ponte—1st Anniversary

5:00PM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy



**We must  
empty  
Purgatory  
with our  
prayers.**

**-St. Padre Pio**



Dear Parishioners:

It's hard to believe, but we celebrate Thanksgiving Day this Thursday. We watch football games on Thanksgiving Day, and the dining room tables are filled with delicious food. However, this can overshadow the real importance and meaning of Thanksgiving. The English Catholic writer G.K. Chesterton said: *"The worst moment for an atheist is when he is really thankful and has no one to thank."*

Thanksgiving Day, first and foremost, a day to thank God for our blessings and bounty. Scripture is filled with praise and Thanksgiving to God for all He has done for His people. The readings for Thanksgiving Day Mass reflect this gratitude to God, particularly the Gospel story of the 10 lepers whom Jesus cured and the one Samaritan who returned to thank Him.

While most Americans know the Puritan history of Thanksgiving Day, some historians claim that the first Thanksgiving was actually a Catholic celebration. More than 50 years before the Mayflower's arrival to these shores, a group of Spanish colonists celebrated Mass and had a feast with native Timucuan in what would become the oldest settlement in the U.S. — St. Augustine, Florida. Some suggest this was the first Thanksgiving.

Historians also point to a different group of Spaniards led by Don Juan de Oñate, who, in 1598, journeyed through the dangerous Chihuahuan Desert that spans northern Mexico and southern Texas, seeking to colonize the American

southwest. After safely reaching the Rio Grande, Franciscan missionaries offered a Mass of Thanksgiving for the colonists, and a great feast with the natives followed.

The Spaniards eventually settled at Santa Fe. The Texas Almanac notes that various historians point to this event and the new settlement as milestones of Spanish influence in America — *"one of hundreds of towns the Spanish had already established in the New World"* before the arrival of the Puritans at Plymouth.

Even if these other "first Thanksgiving" were not celebrated as the original Thanksgiving, the traditionally held Thanksgiving with the Puritans did have a Catholic attendee — Squanto. He was the Native American who taught the Puritan settlers survival techniques in their new land. Years prior, he had been captured by the English and freed by Franciscans who educated and catechized him.

When those Spanish priests stopped to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving, it was the most Catholic thing to do. It is part of our faith as Catholics to thank God for the many blessings he has bestowed on us. Most importantly, we give thanks for the gift of his son, Jesus Christ, who suffered, died, and rose for us and our salvation.

As Catholics, we celebrate Thanksgiving every time we come to Mass. The word Eucharist comes from the Greek word for Thanksgiving and is a reminder that, as followers of Christ, we have much to be thankful for. We are thankful for

his love and his mercy. We are thankful for the Catholic faith passed on to us by the Communion of Saints. In our gratitude, we find peace and joy.

Our experience as Catholics shows the path to a fulfilling and joyful life. To be happy is to be grateful. We are called to share our gratitude, bounty, and blessings with others. That is the lesson of the Thanksgiving feast.

So, this Thanksgiving, be the face, hands, and feet of Christ to all you encounter. Share the mercy and love God has given us. Act generously and charitably to those in need. Gather not only around the dinner table with family and friends but most importantly gather at the Altar of God, where we celebrate the eucharistic Thanksgiving.

Join us in giving God thanks on Thanksgiving Day at 9:00am Mass. There is no better way to offer God our gratitude than attending Holy Mass. St. Teresa of Avila said: *"In all created things discern the providence and wisdom of God, and in all things give Him thanks."*

We wish you a Happy Thanksgiving Day. Be assured of our prayers for your safe travel and blessing for the holiday. I am traveling to my Sister's home in Saratoga, NY, for Thanksgiving Day Dinner. Do good. Be well. God Bless. I've given up on the Pats. Bring on the draft!! Happy Thanksgiving!

*Father Healey*



**Michael Joseph Belakonis,**  
and his parents, Jacob and Vanessa.

**Lorenzo Anthony Bucci,**  
and his parents, David and Stacey.

**Cameron David Cole,**  
and his parents, Andrew and Gina.

**Colin Patrick Foley,**  
and his parents, Ryan and Lannon.

**Maeve Greene McDevitt,**  
and her parents, Brendan and Caitlin.

**Roland Allan Joslyn and  
Hannah Rose Traficante,**  
and their parents Leonard and Audra.

*“Dear brothers and sisters: these children have been reborn through Baptism, and are now called children of God, for so indeed they are. Through Confirmation they will receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit and, approaching the altar of the Lord, they will share at the table of Sacrifice, and will call upon God as Father in the midst of the Church.” — The Rite of Baptism*

## Weekly Collection

**November 12, 2023**

Weekly.....\$10,476.00

EFT.....\$6,072.00

**Total=\$16,548.00**

Outreach.....\$785.00

Annual Collection (To Date).....\$107,612.00

**November 13, 2022**

Weekly.....\$15,853.00

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### Second Collections

**This Week: The Catholic Campaign for Human Development**



## Happy Thanksgiving

The OLM Parish Office is closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday from Noon on Wednesday, November 22 until Monday, November 27 at 8:00AM



The flowers at the Marian Shrine are donated in memory of Robert and Michael Stokes.

***In your charity, please pray for them.***

**OLM's 3rd Annual Children's Christmas Bazaar 2023**

**DATE: SATURDAY, 12/2/2023**  
**TIME: 2:00 - 3:30PM**  
**LOCATION: MERCY PARK (INCLEMENT WEATHER: OLM SCHOOL GYM)**

Calling all OLM parish and school children! You are invited to sell your baked goods, artwork and crafts at this year's bazaar. Scan the code for more information and to register as a seller.





## OLM FAITH FORMATION

UPDATE

### First Communion Class Schedule

Sunday, December 3

### 2024 Confirmation Class Schedule

Sunday, November 19

Sunday, December 10

Sunday, December 17

For questions and more information please contact Mr. Jeremy Long, Director of Faith Formation at 884-4968 or email at [faithformation@olmparish.org](mailto:faithformation@olmparish.org)



•**OLM Food Pantry** is always in need of food items and paper goods for the members of our local community. Please place all donated items in the box in the vestibule of Church or the box on the porch of Mercy House. **All food items should be unexpired and non-perishable.** We also are in need of paper goods (paper towels, napkins). Thank you for your support.

•**OLM Bereavement Group:** Our next meeting is on **Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 4:00pm** in Mercy House. All those adults experiencing sorrow, grief or loneliness are most welcome to attend for prayer and discussion.

•**For more information,** please contact the OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 401-884-4410 or via email at [outreach@olmparish.org](mailto:outreach@olmparish.org)



### Calendar

•**Tuesday, November 21:** OLM School Mass at 8:15am; PK & Kindergarten Thanksgiving Feast; Audubon Society Visits Grades 1 & 2

•**Wednesday, November 22:** No School for the Thanksgiving Day Holiday; School resumes on Monday, November 27

*A Happy Thanksgiving to our OLM School Faculty, Staff, Students, Families and Alumni.*

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Come explore the Catholic Faith and prepare for the Sacraments of Initiation at our RCIA Class. Classes begin this month. For more information, contact Father Mahoney at 401-884-4968 or by email: [associatepastor@olmparish.org](mailto:associatepastor@olmparish.org)

## ◆ Thanksgiving Day

THANKSGIVING DAY may be observed with a special Mass at Catholic churches throughout the United States of America. The day is a secular holiday with strong religious roots. This day implies that there is a God, that God is provident, that we recognize what God has done, that we can address God about our blessings, and that the best thing we can say is “Thanks.”

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops includes this day on the liturgical calendar for the country as an optional memorial. Parishes are therefore not obliged to observe it. They may celebrate whatever weekday Mass would otherwise fall on that day this year. But most parishes choose to make this a special Mass of Thanksgiving. If anyone knows how to give thanks to God, the Church should know how to do it best. The very word *Eucharist* means “thanksgiving.” There is no more fitting way to celebrate this feast than to join in prayer at the table of the Lord.

*The Roman Missal* offers a set of prayers that the priest may use for a Thanksgiving Day Mass, including a special Preface to open the Eucharistic Prayer. Readings may be taken from the lectionary’s Mass “In Thanksgiving to God.” There are several choices here, so the readings you hear may change from year to year.

Some churches observe other customs. There may be a food collection at Mass so that those who have trouble paying for groceries will benefit from the generosity of the faithful. Or parishes might invite you to bring some of the food you will eat at your own table this day. In that case, you may hear the Blessing of Food on Thanksgiving Day from the *Book of Blessings*.

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Written by Paul Turner.

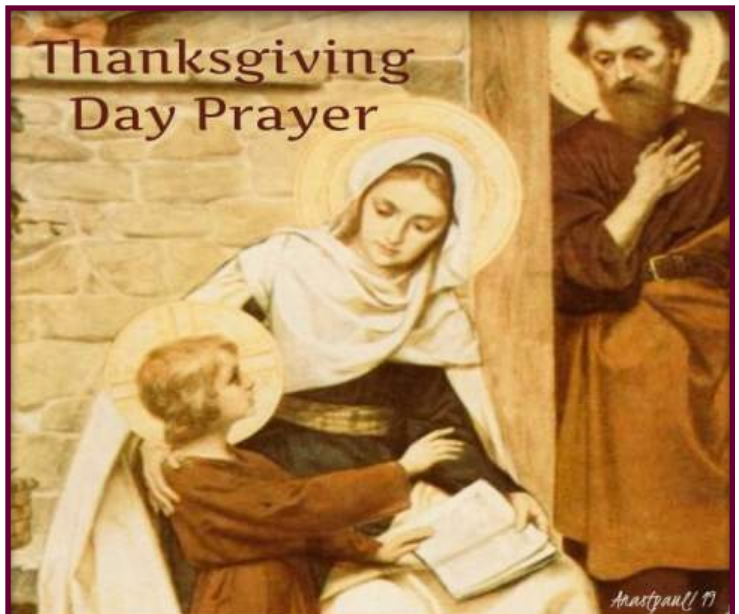


**Thanksgiving Day  
Thursday, November 23  
Mass at 9:00 AM**



**Join us in Giving Thanks to God  
for Our Blessings & Bounty**

**Thanksgiving  
Day Prayer**



We thank you, Father,  
for the gift of Jesus, Your Son,  
who came to our earth  
and lived in a simple home.  
We have a greater appreciation  
of the value and dignity of the human family  
because He loved and was loved  
within its shelter.  
Bless us this day,  
may we grow in love,  
for each other in our family  
and so give thanks to You,  
who are the Maker of all human families  
and our abiding peace.  
Amen



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