



CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

November 19, 2017

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

MASSES

Monday-Friday 6:30 & 8:00 AM
Saturday 8:00 AM
Saturday Vigil 5:30 PM
Sunday 8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 AM
12:30* & 6:00 PM (*Spanish)

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday-Friday 7:00-8:00 AM &
8:30-9:30 AM
Thursdays 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM

ROSARY

Daily 7:40 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays at 4:30 PM

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Call the Parish Office two months in advance.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Call the Parish Office one year in advance.

Monsignor Jude O'Doherty, Pastor

Father Alex Rivera, Associate Pastor

Father Ireneusz Ekiert, in Residence

Deacon Don Livingstone

Deacon Norman Ruíz-Castañeda

Deacon Thomas V. Eagan

Deacon Marcos Pérez

Deacon Eduardo Smith

CHURCH ADDRESS

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MINISTRY OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION & PASTORAL SERVICES

Mrs. Isabel Prellezo, Director
Telephone: 305.665.0037

MINISTRY OF MUSIC

Mr. Thomas Schuster, Organist
Mr. Georgi Danchev, Choirmaster
Mr. Eddie Valdéz, Cantor
Telephone: 305.667.4911

SCHOOL

Sister Margaret Fagan, IHM, Principal
Ms. Ana Oliva, Vice Principal
5557 S.W. 84 Street
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CONVENT

Sister Carmen Teresa, IHM, Superior
Telephone: 305.667.2144

PASTOR'S PEN

You know the story as Jesus told it. A rich man called together his servants and divided his wealth among them. He gave one five thousand pieces of silver, another two thousand, and a third one thousand. The man then went on a journey and stayed gone a long while. When he came home, he called his servants back together to find out what they had done with his money. The first two men reported that they had doubled their holdings, and both of them were highly commended and rewarded. But the third man told how he had buried his endowment in the ground, and therefore, had nothing to show but the original thousand pieces. In response to this, his master said, *"Take the thousand away from him and give it to the man with ten thousand." Those who have will get more until they grow rich, while those who have not will lose even the little they have."*

Now, what did Jesus mean by this story and especially that last part, which some people have found rather disturbing? On the surface, it seems that He is endorsing the idea that the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. In this parable, Jesus was not discussing economics. He was simply stating a law of life that applies to all of us, rich and poor alike. Each of us has an endowment entrusted to us by God. We do not all have the same. Some have more; others have less, but all of us have something. Now before you start finding injustice in that, stop and consider what a dull world this would be if we were all alike. Not only dull, it would be impossible. Life would just sort of grind to a stop and die of boredom.

We have heard a good bit about the scientific technique called "cloning." I don't understand anything about it except it has something to do with genetic engineering. The idea seems to be that someday scientists will be able to control the hereditary process so that a child is an exact copy of the parent.

Well, the great Giver of Life didn't see fit to do it that way. He made us all individual---separate, distinct and different, no two of us alike, and I suspect, it will always be that way. At least, I hope so because much of the beauty and charm and vitality of life is found in the variety of the

people---a world of billions, all of them made in the image of God, and yet each one is unique. Every time God makes a baby, He breaks the mold and throws it away. You are not a copy. You are an original that has never been copied. So, there is no one else in the world exactly like you!

Jesus said, "He gave one five thousand pieces of silver, another two thousand, and a third one thousand." All of them were different, but each of them had an endowment held in trust for their master. That's how it is with you and me. Each of us has a little piece of God's great gift of life and a little segment of time to see what we can do with it. That is what Jesus is saying: we all have an endowment entrusted to us by God.

The second lesson can best be stated in the little catch phrase, "Use it or lose it." This is what Jesus meant when He said, "Take the thousand away from him and give it to the man with ten thousand." He was not espousing economic injustice. He was simply stating a basic law that applies in every area of living. It is this: life cannot be hoarded. All of its capacities and possibilities are intended to be used and invested. If we refuse to do that, one day we will realize that they have slipped away and we do not even have them any more.

Consider, for example, your capacity to love. You were born with it; we all were. It is a priceless gift, a little part of the very heart of God. But you can't hoard it. You can't hide it. You've got to give it away. You've got to invest it in people. If you do that, it will grow, and you will have more love than you can ever use. Yet, if you don't do that, if you try to keep it for yourself, it will all slip away, and one day you will find yourself wondering if you even know what love means.

Jesus said, "Those who have, will get more until they grow rich, while those who have not will lose even the little they have." But He wasn't talking about money. He was talking about life, your life and mine. Give it to God. Share it with others. The more you give, the more you will have. And in the good sense of the word, you will be one of the rich who keeps getting richer. We don't have to lose it, not if we use it.

THE MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

Since the 16th century, Catholics have assigned entire months to special devotions. As a reminder of our duty to pray for the suffering faithful in Purgatory, the Church has dedicated the month of November to the Holy Souls. There may be a little confusion about purgatory, since some think that it was a teaching that changed with Vatican II. This was not the case, and actually the concept of a place of purification for the departed soul before reaching heaven has been part of the Christian faith from the very beginning.

The Holy Souls are those who have died in the state of grace but who have not yet fully atoned for the temporal punishments due to their sins. Even sins that are forgiven in the Sacrament of Confession still need to be made up for by penance and good works. Everything that enters heaven must be perfectly clean; it is God's infinite mercy which grants this chance to make up for any expiation not finished by a soul while on earth. While in purgatory, all remaining love of self is transformed into pure Love of God. The Holy Souls cannot help themselves. They have made it, they are certain of entering Heaven, but they first must suffer for a time. It is our great privilege, as members of the Communion of Saints, to be able to shorten their time of separation from God by our prayers, good works, and, especially, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches: *"All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation; but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven. The Church gives the name purgatory to this final purification of the elect, which is entirely different from the punishment of the damned."*

From the earliest days of Christianity, the Church taught that praying for the dead was an act of charity, one of the spiritual works of mercy, which can help souls enter into the fullness of heaven more quickly. On the walls above the graves of the early Christians during the first three centuries, there are many references for prayers for the

dead. Scripture mentions that certain sins can be forgiven *"in the age to come"* (Matthew 12), and Catholics have always prayed for the departed, for the relief of their souls, because *"It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from their sins."* (II Maccabees)

During this month of November, let us bear in mind our departed relatives are friends who have died in the love of God, and offer up our prayers and sacrifices to help them. Our sufferings, according to St. Paul, *"make up for what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ."* This means that our sufferings can be offered up for any intentions and act just like a prayer. When we do this, God pours out His grace (as He does through all our prayers) and they become redemptive. Therefore we should patiently bear our sufferings and *"offer them up"* While those in heaven don't need our prayers, those who are undergoing purification prior to entering full union with God in heaven can avail themselves of our help. If the persons we pray for are no longer in purgatory and have already gone on to heaven, the Lord will apply our prayers to others who are in need of them. Through the Communion of Saints, the souls in purgatory can also intercede on behalf of the living. They will certainly be eternally grateful to those who show compassion to them during their time of purification.

O Lord, who art ever merciful and bounteous with Thy gifts, look down upon the suffering souls in purgatory. Remember not their offenses and negligence's, but be mindful of Thy loving mercy, which is from all eternity. Cleanse them of their sins and fulfill their ardent desires that they may be made worthy to behold Thee face to face in Thy glory. May they soon be united with Thee and those blessed words which will call them to their heavenly home: "Come, blessed of My Father, take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

MASS INTENTIONS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Mass Intentions</u>	<u>Requested by</u>
Saturday Nov. 18	5:30 PM	+ George & Carmina Aguilera Soldiers in Harm's Way Dr. Romeo Majano	Family Shahin Family Gloria Garity
Sunday Nov. 19	8:00 AM	Nicolas Pistorino	Pistorino Family
	9:30 AM	+ Ofelia Gomez + Isabel Valiente + Roberto Suero, Sr, + Gerald & Patricia Bean	Manuel & Cecilia De Zarraga Miriam Northland Beatriz Suero Patricia Villacorta
	11:00 AM	PEOPLE OF EPIPHANY	
	12:30 PM	+ George & Maria Azar + Rosa Esculpi	Family Family
	6:00 PM	+ Gloria Lopez Cubas Gaby & Megan Bustamante	Sotolongo Family Family
Monday Nov. 20	6:30 AM	+ Silvia de Sosa de Jorge + Adrienne Gouraige	Family Family
	8:00 AM	In Thanksgiving + Joy K. Pistorino	Norman Salas Family Pistorino Family
Tuesday Nov. 21	6:30 AM	+ Rams' Family Members Holy Souls in Purgatory	Rams Family Ely Fleites
	8:00 AM	+ Eduardo Cutillas, Sr. Benjamin Guerrero + George Brian Brodeur	Elena Wilson Diskin Family Mari Pantin
Wednesday Nov. 22	6:30 AM	+ Hugo E. Rams + Nicolas Gutierrez	Family Aleida Gutierrez
	8:00 AM	+ Sinesio Moas + Hortensia Suarez	Mercedes Moas Ma. Theresa Lage
Thursday Nov. 23	6:30 AM	No Mass	
	8:00 AM	No Mass	
	9:30 AM	Thanksgiving Mass	
Friday Nov. 24	6:30 AM	No Mass	
	8:00 AM	+ Digna & Alejandro Asuaje + Maria A. & Jose E. Smith	Zambrano-Hernandez Family Roberto Smith
Saturday Nov. 25	8:00 AM	+ Wlodzimierz Grocholski Andres Moas Maria Elizabeth Pistorino-Swire	Family Family Pistorino Family
Saturday Nov. 25 <i>(Sunday Vigil)</i>	5:30 PM	Gabriel Becerra Adelle Moas + Julio Martinez	Family Mercedes Moas Martinez Family
Sunday Nov. 26	8:00 AM	Fr. Guillermo Garcia-Tunon Florinda Garcia	Pistorino Family Pistorino Family
	9:30 AM	+ Pepito Lopez + Adelaida Miranda	Ray Lopez Family Cristina Miranda & Family
	11:00 AM	PEOPLE OF EPIPHANY	
	12:30 PM	+ Yaneth & Ramon Azar + Juan Evangelista Camargo	Family Roman Family
	6:00 PM	+ Minela Paulus Arana-Marquez Family + Clara Maria Taboada	Marianela Perez Family Family

MASS SCHEDULES

Nov 25/26

Lectors

Altar Servers

**Extraordinary Ministers
Of Holy Communion**

Sat 5:30 PM
Msgr. O'Doherty

John O'Sullivan
Debby Menegay

O McClintock
P Padron
J Peredo
M Puente
L Rosabal
C Tsaoussis
E Aguirre
J Alvarez

C Gloria Gonzalez
1 Gloria Gonzalez
2 Luis Gonzalez
3 Lilliam Arguelles
4 Alfredo Arguelles
5 Lynn Arguelles
6 Vivian Delgado
7 Sergio Delgado

Sun 8:00 AM
Fr. Ekiert

Kellie Montoya
Julio Ramirez

V Fortuny
I Johnson

C Maria Eisenhart
1 Maria Eisenhart
2 Paul Eisenhart
3 Chuck Broyard
4 Mariana O'Naghten
5 Juan O'Naghten

Sun 9:30 AM
Fr. Ekiert

Jason Johnson
Pat Parker

R Bumanglag
V Fortuny
A Gonzalez
G Gonzalez

C Marisol Collins
1 Marisol Collins
2 Alex Collins
3 Ron Quintero
4 Monica Perez
5 Alfie Perez
6 Michael Renfrow
7 Maria Renfrow

Sun 11:00 AM
Msgr. O'Doherty

Peter Avenarius
Guillermo Castillo

O Gigante
C Gonzalez
E Gonzalez
C E Hoynack
C Hoynack
I Mestre
L Molina
A Okunski

C Ana-Maria Avila
1 Ana-Maria Avila
2 Gloria Barbier
3 Ana Maria Hernandez
4 Lourdes Cooper
5 John Cooper
6 Manolo Dominguez
7 Maite Dominguez
8 Leon Avila

Sun 12:30 PM
Fr. Rivera

Susana Agurto
Gisela Cacciamani

C Delgado
I Gurdian

C Mary Gonzalez
1 Mary Gonzalez
2 Humberto Gonzalez
3 Gabriel Gurdian
4 Pedro Marrero
5 Bernuil Marrero
6 Jose Martinez Elejalde
7 Aleida Gutierrez

Sun 6:00 PM
Fr. Rivera

Cecilia M. Altonaga
Tamara Clavero

A Negret
E Ramirez
R Rivera
A Sanchez
J Tong
L Vizcaino
I Zumpano
V Alonso

C Esther Maria Sousa
1 Esther Maria Sousa
2 Nuri Gaston
3 Jose Gaston
4 Janet Iglesias
5 Rene Iglesias
6 Mary Lee
7 Steven Lee

ANNOUNCEMENTS



A THANKSGIVING GOOD SAMARITAN

Joe Anderson went to Mass every day at the Church of St. Francis in Lower Manhattan. He attended the seven o'clock mass and, like most of us, sat in the same pew every morning.

Joe knew that today was going to be different. It was Thanksgiving Day and everyone in New York was preparing for the big Parade. But Mass came first. As Joe rushed around the streets blowing in his hands to keep warm, all he could think of was Thanksgiving Dinner. He finally arrived at the Church...knelt down in his pew and prayed.

Halfway through Mass, he heard rustling noises behind him which continued on throughout the Mass. At Communion time, Joe rose and had an opportunity to see who was making the noise. Much to his surprise, he saw a homeless man with two shopping bags, and noticed a pair of rosary beads entwined in the man's fingers. The homeless man rose from his pew and followed Joe to receive Holy Communion. Joe was so taken by this man, he waited for him outside the Church. When the homeless man pushed open the church door, Joe said to him...

"Good morning! Happy Thanksgiving. Would you like to have a cup of coffee with me?" "That would be nice," said the homeless man. "What is your name?" Joe asked, "Mine is Joe." "George Pehuy," he answered.

After they finished drinking their coffee, Joe offered George ten dollars. He took it and then turned to Joe... "Joe, thank you...I was a successful doctor in Los Angeles until I got hooked on drugs. I'm trying to make a comeback, but it's rough. My mother told me to pray, go to Mass and say the Rosary, and God will help me. I know now she was right because you helped me. Joe shook his hand and walked away.

Joe thought to himself...today is Thanksgiving Day and what a wonderful gift God gave me to just lend a hand to someone in need. As he walked away, he said to himself: "You never know when God will use you as a Good Samaritan so everyone be ready.

Happy Thanksgiving!

THE GOODNESS OF GOD

The week of Thanksgiving we think of the "Goodness of God." Most everyone conceives God in terms of goodness. Exactly what the goodness of God means we are not quite sure. I think we tend to give it an economic interpretation or, at least, we perceive Him to be good because of everything He gives us. But, the Scriptures warn us not to draw an equation between the goodness of God and material abundance. We should be grateful for the material blessings we enjoy, but we must not make our spiritual condition contingent upon them. It is fitting and proper that we should give thanks for the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the cars we drive, and the homes we live in. Yet, God forbid, should we awaken in the morning and find everything gone, it would in no way detract from the goodness of God.

The goodness of God is expressed best by **HIS PRESENCE** to us. This is something we all need to know and be more aware of. Sometimes, we are almost afraid to admit it because we don't want to hide behind a religious dream. We want to deal with reality. But, if we can see the truth of it...that is what Divine help for daily living really means. It is not something magical or sentimental. It is something real and practical. His Presence does not make life easy; it makes life meaningful. That is what we need. The thing that wears people out in life is not the struggle, but the sense of futility, the emptiness of it all. We can handle the struggle as long as we believe there is a purpose to it, that we are accomplishing something. That is what the "Word of God" keeps telling us. We are not merely stumbling from meaningless crisis to meaningless crisis. We are going somewhere with God. We are building something for eternity. That is what the goodness of God means--not so much what He gives us as what He is doing with us, working side by side with us in meeting the everyday challenges of life.

So we give thanks every day, and most especially on Thanksgiving Day for whatever degree of prosperity we enjoy. But, most of all, we are thankful for His Presence that fills life with meaning and strength and purpose and direction. And we can say with the poet....

*"Yet in the maddening maze of things,
And tossed by storm and flood, to one fixed
trust my spirit clings; I know that God is good."*

ANNOUNCEMENTS



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE ST. MARTIN DE PORRES

**Gift Tags will be available next weekend after
all the Masses (November 25 and 26)**

We are once again given the opportunity to be generous sharing the Good News of Christ's birth with the people from St. Martin de Porres. Our goal is to provide Christmas gifts for nearly 1,000 children and make Christmas a happy event for them.

- ✓ Make sure the gifts are age and sex appropriate. If a toy requires batteries, please include them. No used toys at this time, please!
- ✓ **All gifts should be "UNWRAPPED"** and please firmly attach the original tag.
- ✓ Please bring your gifts to the Religious Education Office **no later than Friday, December 15.**

For more information, please contact the
Religious Education Office at 305.665.0037



sacrament of
BAPTISM

The next session of our Baptism Preparation Program will be held **on Saturday, December 9.** The program runs from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the Epiphany Parish Center.

**Attendance by the parents
is a pre-requisite for the child's Baptism.**

WELCOME TO EPIPHANY CHURCH

Whether you are visiting or new in the area, we extend to you the hospitality of Christ.

If you would like more information about our parish, or wish to join our Faith Community, please call 305.667.4911 or stop by the Rectory.

We also invite you to visit our website and become familiar with the many activities of our parish community.

www.epiphanycatholicchurch.com



THE SUNDAY PRESCHOOL & THE HOLY FAMILY CENTER

Open during the **9:30** and **11:00 AM** Masses.

The **Holy Family Center** offers tender, loving care for young children from birth to 3 years of age.

The Sunday Pre-school is a formal religion program based on the Sunday readings.

Avail yourselves of this service to families. Children enjoy our program and you have the opportunity to worship without distractions.

Parish Pilgrim Virgin Sign-Up & Ministry

During the week **November 19,** the Parish Pilgrim Virgin will be in the home of:

Frank and Vivian Perez-Siam 305.270.2261
John & Maria Pistorino 305.661.5224

To receive the Pilgrim Virgin in your home during 2018, please **sign up** December 9/10 and December 16/17 after all the Masses.

The visit of our Blessed Mother to our home is an opportunity to pray with her as a family. Family prayer is a great tool to keep Jesus Christ as the center and most important thing in our lives.

For more information, please call
Luis & Patricia Siman at 305.498.5936



PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

Rosa Maria Alvarez; Corina Basulto; Rose Bronzetti; Arno Batschauer; Tati Cabrera; Jeannette Conner; Pat Clarke; Robert Germroth; Stephen Hohaus; Ana Alicia Fernandez; Cesar Iziq, Jr.; Patsy Kamercia; Paige Klekner; Daniel Manichello; Maria Laura Martinez; Janel Sierra; Eleanor Stritter; Esther Suarez; Paulina Tawil; Francesco Torres; Teodula Wong; Alice Wood.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:

Thomas Brennan; Rina Izquierdo; Miguel Antonio Jimenez; Monica Johnson; Carmen Lauterbach; Michael Nuin; Elaine Schwartz.

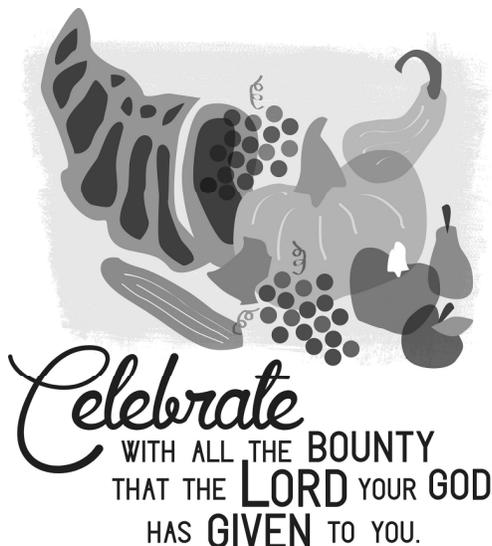
A TIME TO GIVE THANKS

Thanksgiving Day is a holiday we can be particularly proud of as Americans. It is a moment set aside for grateful recognition of God's primacy in our lives by a people whose foremost creed demands that we honor the self-sufficient individual, the man or woman whom nobody can push around, who glories in being self-made and who is making it. We like to identify with people such as John Wayne -- nobody pushed him around. We point to people like Henry Ford who started off by selling newspapers. We admire people who came here as refugees and have done very well. But, on Thanksgiving Day, we swim against the tide of achievement and accept our insufficiency and admit of our reliance on God. There is a kind of liberating humility attached to Thanksgiving whose spirit we hope will linger on beyond the day. It isn't always necessary to stumble and fall before we are grateful for being able to walk. It isn't always necessary to taste sin before we thank God for mercy. It isn't necessary to be brought to our knees by hard luck, bad health or some real heartbreak before being grateful to God for the wonderful things in our life. It really isn't necessary to go to jail before being grateful for the freedom that we enjoy and it really isn't necessary to be humbled to the point of nothingness before recognizing the primacy of God in our lives.

But it isn't easy either. It is so easy to be blinded by our own prosperity. We can achieve such an inordinate sense of security on our own abilities and achievements that we can cut God out or, at least, put Him in the back burner. We can alienate ourselves from people through our arrogance, developed by acquiring a status which society would have us believe is a step above. It can be very hard to deal with success. The moment we see it only as the result of our own hard work or ingenuity is the moment of our downfall. We are reminded on Thanksgiving Day to always put it in the context of a most generous God.

Nothing can be more fitting than to celebrate God's goodness in the Eucharist on Thanksgiving Day. Whether it's providential or accidental, it is at least, interesting that Thanksgiving Day was set on a Thursday. The real Thanksgiving, the Eucharist, was initiated on a Thursday. The very word Eucharist means thanksgiving. We do not go to Mass primarily to get something but to praise and thank God for what has been given. It is here that we cry out to God in one voice: "You are the Lord, we are your children. Without you, we cannot live; with you, we live forever."

Let us give thanks on Thursday by coming to Mass and acknowledging that God has been very good to us.



Thanksgiving Day Mass

Thursday, November 23

9:30 AM

There will be a collection for the poor.

There will be no other Mass this day and there will be no 6:30 AM Mass on Friday, November 24.
