

WELCOME TO
HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

Serving the People of Virginia and Mountain Iron
306 2nd Street So. Virginia, Minnesota 55792

Holy Spirit Parish Staff

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218-741-6344

November 19, 2023



33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“Well done, my good and faithful servant.” – Mt 25:21

Testimony of Faith

Stewardship of Treasury Fiscal Year July 2023- June 2024

Month of November 2023

Monthly Goal.....\$40,583.00

Received to Date for
month.....\$16,342.61

Annual Goal

23/24.....\$487,000.00

Received to Date.....
.....\$177,298.31

UCA Collected for 2023
\$34,864.00

Capital Campaign
\$4,242,615.54

Marquette Catholic School
Endowment
Fund Balance:
\$134,184.50

Holy Spirit Endowment Fund
Balance
\$46,664.03

Marriage: Contact parish office as soon as possible and at least **6 months prior** to desired wedding date.

Baptism: Infant baptism during Mass or privately. Call parish to arrange pre-baptism parent session or request information. Forms available on the parish website.

Anointing of the Sick: Call the Parish office to schedule Sacrament or Communion calls for the homebound.

**Natural Family Planning:
Northland Family
Programs** Call Susie Marchetti at 218-966-0899

Written by Bishop Robert Barron
Sept. 23, 2014



The attendance at our daily Mundelein Seminary on Labor Day weekend was sparse. Many of the students had gone home while others were on a special tour of Chicago churches. The celebrant and preacher for the Sunday Mass was Fr. Robert Schoenstene, our veteran Old Testament professor. Fr. Schoenstene offered the best interpretation I've ever heard of a particularly puzzling parable of the Lord, and I wanted to make sure his reading got a wider audience.

The parable in question is the one concerning the rich man who gives talents to three of his servants and then sets out on a journey. Upon his return, he assesses the situation and discovers that the servant to whom he had given five talents had invested them fruitfully and that the servant to whom he had given three talents had done the same. But he finds, to his chagrin, that the slave to whom he had entrusted one talent had simply buried the wealth and had garnered neither gain nor interest. Angered, he orders that the one talent be taken from the timid servant and given to the servant who had invested most boldly. And then comes the devastating moral lesson: "For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away."

The standard reading of this story—on display in thousands of sermons and fervorinos—is that the talents symbolize gifts and abilities that God has given to us and that he expects us to "spend" generously or "invest" wisely. This interpretation is supported by the fairly accidental relationship that obtains between "talent" in the ancient Biblical sense of the term and "talent" in ordinary English today. Fr. Schoenstene specified that a talent in ancient times was a measure of something particularly weighty, usually silver or gold. A single talent might represent as much as 50 pounds of precious metal and, as such, was not something that one carried around in one's pocket. We might make a comparison between a talent and a unit of gold kept at Fort Knox, or an ingot of silver preserved in a safe deposit box. What the contemporary reader will likely miss, and what the ancient Jewish reader would have caught immediately, is the connection to heaviness: a talent was weighty, and five talents was massively heavy. Heaviness would have brought to mind the heaviest weight of all, which was the *kabod* of Yahweh. That term was rendered in Greek as *doxa* and in Latin as *gloria*, both of which carry the connotation of luminosity, but the basic sense of the Hebrew word is heaviness, gravitas.

And this *kabod Yahweh* was to be found in the Jerusalem Temple, resting upon the mercy seat within the Holy of Holies. Therefore, what was heaviest (most glorious) of all was the mercy of God, which abided in infinite, inexhaustible abundance in the Holy Temple.

Con't.....

Parish News

Con't.....

In light of these clarifications, we can read Jesus' parable with fresh eyes. The talents given to the three servants are not so much monetary gifts or personal capacities; they are a share in the mercy of God, a participation in the weightiness of the divine love. But since mercy is always directed to the other, these "talents" are designed to be shared. In point of fact, they will increase precisely in the measure that they are given away. The problem with the timid servant who buried his talent is not that he was an ineffective venture capitalist but that he fundamentally misunderstood the nature of what he had been given. The divine mercy—received as a pure gift—is meant to be given to others as a pure gift. Buried in the ground, that is to say, hugged tightly to oneself as one's own possession, such a talent necessarily evanesces. And this is why the master's seemingly harsh words should not be read as the punishment of an angry God but as an expression of spiritual physics: the divine mercy will grow in you only inasmuch as you give it to others. To "have" the *kabod Yahweh* is precisely not to have it in the ordinary sense of the term.

What comes to mind here is the most famous of all of Jesus' parables, namely, the story of the Prodigal Son. Using a term that also carried a monetary sense in ancient times, the younger son says, "Father give me my share of the *ousia* (substance or wealth) that is coming to me. Notice how in one sentence, he manages to mention himself three times! The father gives away his *ousia*, for that is all he knows how to do, but the foolish son squanders the money in short order. The spiritual lesson is the same: the divine *ousia* is a gift and it can be "had" only inasmuch as it becomes a gift for others. When we try to cling to it as a possession, it disappears.

Advent Adoration 2023

There is a new board available in gathering space to sign up for Adoration 2023—If you are already signed up for Tues-Thurs., your name should still be in that time slot—feel free to make changes if needed.

Please stay tuned to Facebook, Holy Spirit Website, and upcoming bulletins for our Advent schedules.

Upcoming Changes:

Ben's Tuesday Bible Study will not meet Tues., Nov. 21. Will return Tues. Nov. 28.

Interested in Becoming Catholic?

There is still time! If you are someone who is interested in becoming Catholic, you are invited to join our parish RCIA program, which meets Monday evenings from 6:30pm-8pm at the New Marquette School- 1301 Chestnut St.

**The program does not meet this week, Nov. 20, but will be back in session Nov. 27. **

We would love to have you join us and learn more. God bless you!

Deer Hunters Mass

Nov. 19 @7pm

Good Luck Hunters!



Prayer Service for Jeremy Lawrence and his family will be held by Fr. Brandon Moravitz, at Holy Spirit Parish on Tues., Nov. 21, at 6:30pm. Please join us!

Faith Formation Reminders

Grades K-8 will not meet for Wednesday evenings until Dec.6.

High School Edge (Grades 9-11) will meet on Wednesday Nov. 29.

Please see the Faith Formation Newsletter on our website for all schedules.

Holy Spirit Fall Mass Schedule

Daily Masses at Holy Spirit

Mon.-Fri
Mass at 8:30am

Wed.
Mass 5:30pm

Daily Masses at Marquette Middle School

(When school is in session)

Mon.-Thurs.
Mass at 10:45am

Weekend Masses at Holy Spirit

Sat. 4:30pm
Sun. 8am & 10am

Confessions at Holy Spirit

Wed. 4:45 pm
Sat. 3:00 pm—4:00 pm

Adoration at Holy Spirit

Tues. & Thurs. 9am-9pm

Rosaries at Holy Spirit

Thurs. 8pm
-Prayer for Vocations

Monday 8:30 AM † 10:45 AM MCS	November 20 Dorothy Vranicar The Ringhand Family
Tuesday 8:30 AM † 10:45 AM MCS	November 21 David Anderson The Milani Family
Wednesday 8:30 AM † 10:45AM MCS 5:30 PM †	November 22 Mordini & Rukavina Families The Hagberg Family Our Parish Family
Thursday 8:30 AM † 10:45 AM MCS	November 23 Merico & Ann Olivanti No School/No Mass
Friday 8:30 AM †	November 24 Bev & Mel Aus
Saturday 4:30 PM †	November 25 Jack Smrekar
Sunday 8:00 AM † 10:00 AM †	November 26 Eleanor Gagnon Paul Haverkamp

Altar Server Schedule Weekend of November 25-26

Sat. 4:30pm	Sun. 8:00am	Sun. 10:00 am
K. Roark	L. Flatley	G. Devich
M. Pollak	P. Gramm	G. Zebro
C. Pollak	C. Hagberg	J. Berlin
		C. Berlin
		J. Berlin

Sacristan Schedule Weekend of November 25-26

11/25 Sat. 4:30pm	L. Cope
11/26 Sun. 8:00am	S. Skube
11/26 Sun. 10:00am	C. Gerzin

Lector Schedule Weekend of November 25-26

11/25 Sat. 4:30pm	D. Krall
11/26 Sun. 8:00am	J. Skube
11/26 Sun. 10:00am	D. Schultz

Formed.org Feature

Prepare for Advent with two NEW Advent series from the Augustine Institute:

Rooted: Rediscover the Jesse Tree This Advent is a presentation for adults. This new 22-episode series guides Catholics through a daily Advent reflection using the Jesse Tree model traditionally practiced by families. Each seven-minute episode introduces the ancestors of Jesus Christ, shares a Scripture passage, and offers an engaging, practical reflection. Hosted by Dr. Scott Hefelfinger, **Rooted** helps viewers apply the passage and related teachings to each day of Advent, guided by the Church's teaching. Episodes begin on December 3, the First Sunday of Advent, and end on December 24, the Fourth Sunday of Advent.

Drawing Closer to God: A Catholic Art Show for Kids is the second NEW feature. Journey through Advent with the whole family! Join art teacher Ms. Kim as she teaches children to draw different scenes from the Christmas story, including the Annunciation, shepherds' visit, the Nativity scene, and more. With compelling storytelling, Ms. Kim points out key details from Scripture and Catholic tradition. As kids follow along and learn new art skills, they also learn to see the connections between the big picture of God's story and their place within it. Go to formed.org to sign up for email reminders for these two programs and to receive printable coloring pages.