

This week at St. James the Apostle

November 15, 2020
Open Mind • Open Heart • Open Door



Photos courtesy of Willie Lagos

SINCE YOU WERE FAITHFUL IN SMALL THINGS (PARABLE OF TALENTS)

The parable of talents has a deep message,
To every Christian this story is a challenge.
You will give to God an account of your talent
Talents are God's gifts to you and only for rent.

You can use them or waste them, depends on your
choice,
The more you plan and use them the more you'll
rejoice.
They are not yours to waste or bury underground,
You have no right to destroy them on any ground.

A man on a journey called three of his servants,
He distributed among them different talents.
The one who got five talents quickly made five more,
Doubling his master's gifts the second one did score.

Whining and blaming the third one hid the money,
Against his master he even spoke calumny.
He didn't see what other two saw in his master,
His master stripped him of position and power.

Your talents are to be used, not to be buried,
If well used there's no need for you to be worried.
The better you use them the greater you love God,
For they are God's gifts and use them for others' good.

Don't say you're born with no special talent or gift,
These negative thoughts will cause you from God to drift.
You are differently blessed as you're very special,
God loves everyone, He will never be partial.

Questions:

1. What purpose has God given you?
2. What talents has He given you to fulfill this purpose?
3. What are you doing about it?

Reflections:

Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, "God does not want you to be successful. Instead, He wants you to be faithful." The two servants whom their master entrusted with talents proved to be faithful to their master by diligently putting the money to good use. In turn, their master rewarded them for their faithfulness. By honestly putting the money to good use and doubling it they also proved that they were trustworthy. Their master was impressed and immediately rewarded them with greater responsibilities and power. The story illustrates, among other things, that honesty is the best policy. One who is capable of being honest in small matters shows his strength of character and is considered rare in society, which is typified more by corruption than anything else. I once asked an editor of a leading newspaper about the relationship between reporting and honesty. He promptly answered by saying that they have nothing to do with each other.

I believe the purpose of the parable of talents is not actually about the business acumen of the servants. Rather a far deeper meaning has been placed in this parable by Jesus, who wants us to understand what they actually did with their master's talents, making it clear that we have no right to bury the treasures received from God, who provides varied talents and gifts to everyone. The first lesson of the parable is ultra-clear: it is God who gives us these gifts and talents. The second part is also important: the gifts belong to God, who ultimately demands their return. This is the primary message and must not be missed: God's gifts do NOT belong to us and we must never



MESSAGE FROM FR. ANTONY

take them for granted or ignore them. God entrusts us with His precious gifts, which are far beyond what we could possibly deserve out of God's infinite goodness and mercy. They are given to us according to our ability and our role is to use them for the greater glory of God, our Creator, to whom we are accountable. The final lesson of the parable is in recognizing that our greatest gift from God is Life itself. Jesus our Master will come to judge each one of us and to see what we did with our lives. He will decide whether to give us infinite life.

It is also interesting to note that the master does not give any instructions to his servants as to what they should do with the talents. God expects initiative and the intelligence He has provided to us. As the parable highlights, the more we share God's gifts and resources the more we multiply them. But there is always the danger, that out of our own blindness and weakness we fail to recognize our own talents and gifts. Instead we may look at gifts or resources of others out of envy. This results in infinite loss and is a trap we must strive to avoid. Probably this is what happened to the third servant who was given only one talent. He saw that his master had given his fellow servants more talents and may have thought that was unfair. His jealousy blinded him from seeing the trust his master had placed in him. This would likely have led to low self-esteem and he would have even blamed everyone else for his unhappiness and misery, which is evidenced by the accusations he levelled against his master, whom he did not trust. God does not endow people with identical or necessarily equal gifts, but our trust and faith should be enough to accept such disparities. If you do as well as you can with the gifts given to you by God, you will hear His "Well done." Though the gifts are varied, they all have equal worth, since one cannot compare infinities! For the same reason, all people have equal worth. At the same time, the parable ends with the talent taken from the third servant being given to the one with ten talents. Equal worth does not necessarily mean equal compensation. Some positions require more skill or ability and thus are compensated accordingly. The two servants who did well are rewarded in different amounts. But they are both praised identically. The implication of the parable is that we are to use whatever talents we've been given to the best of our ability for God's glory, and when we have done that, we are on an equal playing field with other faithful, trustworthy servants of God.

A talent was a measurement of weight, usually in silver. One talent was a large sum of money worth about 6,000 denarii. Since one denarius was the usual payment for a day's labor, a talent was roughly the value of twenty years of work by an ordinary person. One talent is worth roughly \$500,000 in USA currency at this moment. Jesus used a large sum of money when describing the Kingdom of God to outline the extreme value that Jesus would someday entrust to his faithful disciple. The parable of the talents is considered to be an exhortation to Jesus' disciples to use their God-given gifts in the service of God, and to take risks for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Failure to use one's gifts, the parable suggests, will result in severe judgment.

Looking at what we have with a sense of love and gratitude to God is the key to good use of our talents that God has loaned them to us for an unspecified period of time. I would like to conclude by asking, "Are you fully using your talents? Or like the third servant have you buried them and indulge in self-pity?"

If you or someone you know is in need, please
consider calling *St. Vincent de Paul*
510-796-5494.



St. James the Apostle Catholic Church invites you to our **DAILY VIRTUAL ROSARY** that started on November 1st.

Let us continue to honor our Blessed Mother Mary in an evening of prayer and reflection.

Please join us on Zoom every night at 7:00pm Pacific time
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3834698894>
Meeting ID: 383 469 8894

You can find links and information on the St. James website and Facebook. Please share this with your family and friends. God bless you always!

ONE MILLION ROSARIES FOR OUR FAMILIES

The Blessed Virgin Mary promises her special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the Rosary.

Please join St. James the Apostle Catholic Church in this pilgrimage by praying the Rosary every day for the protection of our families and peace in the entire world. Help us pray one million Rosaries.

Sign up below to join us and commit yourself and/or your family to promote this devotion to our Blessed Mother Mary. Please go to the St. James the Apostle website - <https://sjapostle.net/> and complete the Rosary Pledge Form.

If you and/or your family have been praying the Rosary since the beginning of this year, please complete the Rosary Report Form on the St. James the Apostle website - <https://sjapostle.net/>. We are counting the number of people who prayed the Rosary. For example, if there are five members in your family that prayed together, you will enter "5" on the form. You may submit this form daily, weekly or monthly, however you prefer.

Thank you for your love and devotion to our Blessed Mother Mary.

From the Weekly Collection Counters:

We are asking for parishioners' help so that our counting and scanning can go more smoothly.

- Please write your envelope number on your check in the memo line.
- On your envelope, please write ✓ or cash or online.
- Please **DO NOT** use felt tip or colored pens on your check. Blue or black ink only.
- On the first line, please write only dollars and include .00 - Example:

\$100.00

NOT 20 ₪

NOT 20²⁰/100

Thanks so much for your help!!

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Monday-Saturday Mass: 8:30am
Saturday Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday Masses: 8:30am, 10:00am, 12:00noon
Rosary before Mass: Monday - Saturday 8:05am
 Saturday 4:30pm
 Wednesday 7:10pm
 Sunday 8:00am and 11:40am
 2nd Sunday 9:30am
 Masses 8:30am & 7:30pm
 Saturday 4:00pm or by appt.
 9:00 - 10:00am
First Fridays: Adoration 9:00 am-6:30pm
 Sacred Heart Novena 6:30pm
 Benediction 7:15pm
 Healing Mass 7:30pm
Our Mother of Perpetual Help: Mass & Novena, Wednesdays, 7:30pm

DEVOTIONS

Weekly:
 Bible Study Wed. 9:30 am (Kitchen)
 Divine Mercy Chaplet: Thurs, after morning Mass
In the Small Chapel:
 Legion of Mary Tues 9:30am
 Bible Study with a Difference Thurs. 7:00pm
 Charismatic Prayer Meeting 2nd & 3rd Fridays 7:00pm

Monthly:

Divine Mercy Cenacle 7:00pm, 2nd and 4th
 Prayer Meeting Mondays (Small Chapel)
 Our Lady of Vailankanni First Saturday 7:00pm
 Sacred Heart 6:30pm 1st Friday
 Enthronement (formal ceremony to make the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus as the King of the house), please contact: Cora Surla (510)676-2757; or Tessie Ricafort (510)825-5645

KNIGHT'S CORNER

Would you like to join the "Men in Blue Blazers?" The Knights of Columbus of St. James the Apostle Council No. 14541 is accepting applicants. A prospective candidate must be a practicing Catholic and at least 18 years of age. This is a great opportunity for single and married men to serve God and the parish's community activities, set an example for its youth and make families closer to God.

If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Sydney Jacques sydjacques@gmail.com 209-445-8630. Or ask a Knight! Thank you.

We are men of faith & men of action.



Please remember those in the Armed Services:

Evelyn Surla (Air Force) Spec. Tara Mueller,
 Sgt. Kristan Jofel T. Carado, Major Jenny Ryan,
 Captain David Evans

And Parishioners and friends who need our prayers or who are ill.

Deacon Ernie Dandan, Bingbing Kielian,
 Erminda Perea, Joe Parrish, Priscilla Verdeflor,
 Bob Nehls, Ron Lord, Monica Horton, Arabella
 Horton, Danny Powell, Cody Maisono, John
 DiPaola, Evelyn Reyes, Frank Smith, Concha
 Garcia, Joel Rivera, Melanie O'Connor,
 Katherine Gomes, Laura Skaff, Alice Ferreira,
 Agnes Harris, Ray Ballin, Martha Torres



To add or update this list, send an email to bulletin@sjapostle.net or phone the parish office at 510-792-1962 and leave a message.

ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE PARISH OFFICE HOURS

M-F 9:00AM TO NOON - SUNDAY 9:30AM TO 11:30AM

REGISTRATION IN THE PARISH

Warmest welcome to all who worship in our Community. If you are not registered in the Parish, please complete a registration form available at church entrance or at the Parish Office or drop the form below in the collection basket.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please call the Parish Office when a parishioner is home-bound or hospitalized to arrange for Holy Communion and Anointing of the Sick.

MARRIAGES AND BAPTISMS

Please contact the Parish Office at least 6 months in advance for weddings and 3 months in advance for Baptisms.

BAPTISMS

To have your child baptized, please **make an appointment** with Father Antony. Come to the St. James Parish office or call the Parish Office at 510-792-1962. For more details, please go to the Church website (Parish Info) or contact Marcial Vasco 650-303-7106.

Baptism Preparation/Training class: First Saturday of the month from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm in the Small Chapel.

Baptism Celebration: Last Saturday of the month 11:30am-12:30pm in the church

FUNERALS

We recommend using Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services / Holy Sepulchre Cemetery and Holy Angels Funeral and Cremation Services. You may contact Shirley Aldana @ 510-537-6600 X 133.

MOTHER TERESA CENTER RESERVATIONS.

Call 510-999-5940, email MTC@sjapostle.net, or leave a message at the Parish Office at 510-792-1962. (No prices or quotes are given over the phone or in an e-mail.)



Fr. Antony Vazhappilly, Pastor
Ernie Dandan, Deacon

Welcome, New Members!

We encourage you to register in the parish so that you can receive communication via email or regular mail.

Registration information is essential for the office to respond to requests, send important parish and diocesan information and verify donations for tax purposes. If you need a letter of good standing to be a sponsor or Godparent for a baptism or marriage, registration is very important.

Please fill out this form and place it in the collection basket and we will mail you a Parish Registration form. You can also find a registration form on the website (sjapostle.net) - Parish Info - Parish Membership.

Name

Address

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BEATIFICATION OF FR. MCGIVNEY, CONT'D



Photos courtesy of Willie Lagos

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