

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 18, 2007

Sing praise to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and melodious song.

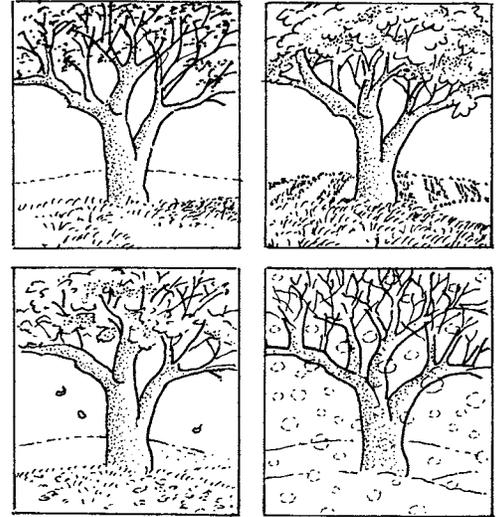
-Psalm 98:5

GOD'S HEALING JUSTICE

An old expression holds that the sun-warmed stone heals. Perhaps. But Malachi explains that only dark, sunless days are in store for those who do not find a place for God in their lives. Conversely, he tells us that the warmth and light of God's healing justice await those who fear the Lord. That's a pretty comforting notion—especially now in the already short and growing even shorter days of November. It's the sun-warmed stone, and then some.

Paul speaks to us of justice as well, but points out that it is not a passive thing. To be treated justly, we need to do our fair share. If we are diligent and persevere we will be rewarded with and by the fruits of our labor. Lastly, Luke, too, tells us to persevere—in faith, this time—and our lives will be secure in God regardless of how we are treated by our enemies.

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Readings for the Week

Monday: 1 Mc 1:10-15, 41-43, 54-57, 62-63;
Lk 18:35-43
Tuesday: 2 Mc 6:18-31; Lk 19:1-10
Wednesday: 2 Mc 7:1, 20-31; Lk 19:11-28
Thursday: 1 Mc 2:15-29; Lk 19:41-44
Thanksgiving Day—Suggested:
Sir 50:22-24; 1 Cor 1:3-9; Lk 17:11-19
Friday: 1 Mc 4:36-37, 52-59; Lk 19:45-48
Saturday: 1 Mc 6:1-13; Lk 20:27-40
Sunday: 2 Sm 5:1-3; Ps 122; Col 1:12-20;
Lk 23:35-43

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Michelle Degmetich	Wendy Semon	Margaret Vandergrift
Agnes Lynch	Belen O'Dell	Pam Gestner
Ray Hutter	Bob Nute	David J. Brown
Robert Battaglia	Kay De Prima	Terry Roy
Barbara Richmond	Bob Hess	Mary Sparks
Harry 'Tom' Thomas	William Henshaw	Rita Arce
Dan Moriarty	Bill Wart	Schuyler Haynes-Binstock

**Missal reading for November 18th is
located on page 86.**

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: 18 NOVEMBER

Theme: *The day of the Lord is a day of hope and joy.*

First Reading: Malachi 3:19-20a
Second Reading: Thessalonians 3:7-12
Gospel: Luke 21: 5-19



Adults: Paul's words to the Thessalonians are tough: if you want to eat, you must work! How does this translate into our society today? How do you reconcile this with Jesus' command to love and feed the poor?

Young People: Learning to work, and working to live are realities of life as you grow up. What role does work play in your life? Do you want to work merely for the money, or do you want to also make a contribution to the human community?

Children: Jesus teaches us that work is good for us. What kind of work do you do during the week? How does it help you?

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, November 18

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Second Collection: Campaign for Human Development
 Coffee and Donuts, Hot Lunch Group
 Sunday BBQ after 5pm Mass

Monday, November 19

5:30pm K.O.C. Monday Night Football, main hall
 7:00pm Midnight Mass Choir, Church

Tuesday, November 20

Table of Plenty Thanksgiving Basket Distribution, garage
 1:00pm Basic Computer Class, Computer Lab
 1:00pm Psalms Spiritual meeting, small conf. room

Wednesday, November 21

Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
All meetings are cancelled including HOT LUNCH



Thursday, November 22

Mass 10:00am
Thanksgiving Day ~ Parish Office Closed
 St. Cecilia, patroness of music



Friday, November 23

Parish Office Closed
 10:30am -Noon Food Distribution, Garage

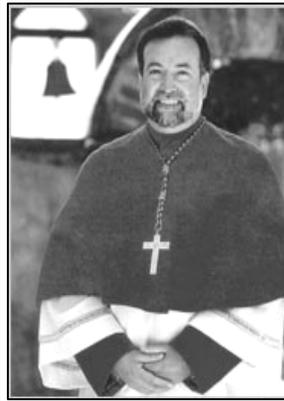
Saturday, November 24

St. Andrew Dung-Lac and His Companions, martyrs

Sunday, November 25

Christ the King (last Sunday of Ordinary Time)
 NO Coffee and Donuts

Nov. 18 - Vespers Service open to the Public



Official welcoming for Bishop Jaime Soto on **Sunday, Nov 18, at 3:00 p.m.** in the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, a Vespers Service will be the first official occasion to welcome **Coadjutor Bishop Jaime Soto** to the Diocese of Sacramento. The public is cordially invited to attend this service and a reception following the service.

There will also be a welcoming mass at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Chico at 12:00 noon on December 8th. This event is open to all. You are encouraged to take advantage of these events to meet our new bishop. The title, Coadjutor means that when Bishop Weigand retires, Bishop Soto will become "the Ordinary" or the ordinary authority of the diocese. It does not mean that they now share power. Until Bishop Weigand retires, Bishop Soto serves as the Auxiliary Bishop, helping Bishop Weigand as directed and Bishop Weigand retains full control of the Diocese of Sacramento. Bishop Weigand has no current plans to retire. We can expect his retirement sometime in the next five years as he nears the mandatory retirement age of 75. Bishop Soto is relatively young at age 51.

Happy Thanksgiving!



The parish office will
 be closed on



**Thursday & Friday,
 November 22nd and 23rd for the
 Thanksgiving Holiday.**

Thanksgiving Holiday Mass Times

Thursday, Thanksgiving Day 10:00 am
 Friday and Saturday (Regular Schedule) 8:30 am

We encourage you to attend Mass with the entire family on Thanksgiving. Let us remember to whom we are Thankful. All things flow from God. Look to Jesus for guidance and give thanks to the Father for all the abundance we enjoy.

The collection at the Mass will be for the Reach-Out Account, to help parishioners who find themselves in need. This money is set aside for distribution by the pastor to help our brothers and sisters registered in the parish who find themselves in need of help. This is the only account we have which is used almost exclusively for parishioners.

Bring Your Thanksgiving Bread to Mass!

We would like to start a tradition of having the bread for the Thanksgiving meal blessed at Mass.



On Thanksgiving Day you are encouraged to bring the bread you will eat at the meal and we will bless it at the end of the service.

Your Need to Give

Our Talent and Time:

We have over 200 active volunteers in many ministries. This participation by parishioners giving of their talent and time is very important and without it the parish would have little effect. With their help we have become a significant and effective Body of Christ bringing the Gospel to our community. We are very thankful for this participation and encourage each parishioner to consider joining these active parishioners. It is as enriching to you as it is to the parish.

The Need for Treasure that Exists:

We often talk about the financial needs of the parish and how it depends on the sacrificial giving of parishioners to operate. We have a large and busy parish with many activities. It cannot operate without your participation and we ask you to take a careful look at your weekly contribution.

Your Need to Participate with Your Treasure:

What we may not talk about enough is the need we each have to be generous in contributing to God's work with our treasure. It is God's work that is done in the parish for we are the tools He works through. We are the Body of Christ left by our Lord to carry out His work. Each member is important to that body, and together we help to spread the Gospel, the Good News of our Salvation.

Dedicating Part of Our Life's Work to God:

By giving to the works of the Church we give of our work to the work of God. Many don't like to talk about money but in fact it is an efficient means that allows each of us to do what we do best while enabling us to support those activities most important to us. We do not have to be evangelists to support evangelization. We simply need to apply what we earn from what we do best towards that task.

The same goes for serving the poor, visiting the sick, training our children, religious education, and the celebration of Mass. Whatever our own skill is, the money we earn helps us make our work be for God. The biblical tradition of tithing was for 10 percent of all one earns to be dedicated to God and His works. Many of the protestant Churches insist on this and some actually make out contracts. Catholics do not follow this strategy but our need is also great.

Voluntary Giving:

Catholics have the tradition of voluntary sacrificial giving. We certainly encourage tithing but nobody keeps track so as to put pressure on individuals to comply. Instead we seek for our parishioners to have that inner conversion that compels

them to participate. We hope that you will want to support the liturgy (all those things that help us to celebrate Mass) and will want to support the various ministries out of the love that you feel for your community, for God, and for your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Setting a Goal:

Ten percent may be hard at first and may be impossible for some but one needs to start somewhere. One could start at two or three percent and grow from there. Allow the giving to grow as time moves on and as your faith empowers you. It is amazing how something that seems impossible at first becomes a fairly easy reality later. What is important is that we start with a sacrificial giving, something that makes a difference.

Making a Sacrifice:

Sacrifice is a time honored Catholic Christian tradition. We sacrifice meals and enjoyable activities during Lent to demonstrate our thanksgiving for God. Making sacrifices is considered good practice that leads to a holy and good life. It leads us to be humble and thankful for what we have and keeps us focused on the fact that this life is temporary but life with Christ is forever. We seek to emulate Christ so as to be with him.

Sacrificial Giving:

Sacrificial Giving means that we do not just give from what we have left over on Sunday. We should plan our giving and it should have some affect on our life. Christ calls us to bear our cross. Sacrificial giving is part of that cross in that we make a conscious decision to have less for ourselves so that the works of God and the people we serve should have more. This follows the example of Jesus who gave His total self on our behalf, at a time when we had done nothing to deserve it.

What is amazing is that as we allow God to work within us and take up these sacrificial practices, we do not feel deprived at all. In fact, we begin to realize our blessings. We find that we do not have to have the best and latest because we are happy to have what we need and realize the abundance we enjoy. We realize that we are helping others and allow our inner being, where God dwells, to come out and form us into something wonderfully new.

The Path to Happiness:

As Christians we do not find our happiness in material things. We find it whenever we follow the example of Christ. In following that example we give true meaning to our life. We are no longer just existing, day to day, but are

allowing God to form us and are helping to build the Kingdom of God in the world. The emptiness inside is filled and we become more than what we were. We become true parts of the Body of Christ and allow God to be seen in our works, in our growing love, and in our peaceful nature.

My Own Experience:

I can tell you that when I first read about sacrificial giving, my first thought was “Wow that’s a lot!” My second was a question, “Is that percentage of the net or gross?” What I did is simply start to set an amount to give that felt significant. Over time I increased that amount as I could and gave some larger gifts when the opportunity occurred.

My giving slowed considerably on a regular basis during seminary but I did contribute well over half the cost of my education and continued to give at parishes when I could. As a priest my goal is the 10 percent and I am trying to make that a percentage of both the cash I receive and at least part of the non-cash benefits I receive, such as housing.

A Family Decision:

I believe families should try to have all involved in their giving to the Church. Discuss what you are or might do without to make your giving sacrificial. Allow the children to participate by making their own sacrifice towards that family goal and allow them to see the donations being made. Explain to them that this is something between you and God, that it is your response and theirs to all the gifts you have received from God. Those gifts include not only our faith and salvation but each member of the family. Each is a blessing to the others. The abundance we have when compared to much of the world is a favor we should not ignore. God is generous to us and we should also be generous to God.

The Restraints to Giving:

The Church and I fully realize that not all are able to contribute to the extent mentioned. I realize it is easier for a single man such as me than for a family or someone living on fixed income during their retirement years. The key is to look for that sacrificial amount that answers the need in your heart and allows God to work within you. Jesus will measure what you have given from your heart more than the amount you give. Many parishioners have found ways to be very generous and others give from what little they have. We are all grateful for your generosity in whatever form it takes.

End of Tax Year Gifts:

Many people come across windfalls in their lives through sales of assets or gifts received. You may want to share such windfalls with the Church. Your accountant can point out some favorable tax advantages to gifts of assets to the Church. This includes the avoidance of capital gains of assets which have

increased in value and income deductions to offset other income. Of course, the true benefit comes from knowing the good you are able to do with the blessings God has bestowed upon you.

That Final Gift:

Parishioners of all ages should make arrangements for the distribution of assets at death. This is very important for those with young children or other obligations. The problem of guardianship then becomes of primary importance.

It is also a time to remember your parish. End of life gifts can help your parish to grow into the future and put an accent on the work of your life, ensuring that some of it goes to the work of God. Such gifts can be given in stated cash amounts, as a percentage of the estate, or in certain property or assets.

At St. Thomas More we have several accounts that could be used for these purposes. The amount could be given to the General Fund, to our Education Fund, to the Building Fund, or to our Scholarship Fund. We will be more than happy to discuss this with you further.

Hufford Estate Gift

We are pleased to announce that we have been included in the Hufford estate. It is likely to be nine months to a year before we can give a firm report on what the parish might receive and restrictions put on the gift which may limit how it is used.



Have your personal or family portrait taken at our small hall and receive a free 8” X 10” portrait as well as a free parish directory. Your participation also helps the parish to get more pages to display our activities and ministries. There is no hard sell and no obligation to buy anything.

If you haven’t signed up yet, time is fast running out. We are now taking appointments for the final two days of picture taking, on **Friday, December 7th**, from **3:00 pm to 9:30 pm** and on **Saturday, December 8th**, from **10:00 am to 5:00 pm**. Please contact the office as soon as possible as appointment times are being filled in.

These are the last two days of the picture taking process. We want you to smile in our directory. Please make your appointment as soon as possible! Thank you.

Parish Pay ~ making it easier to give

Parish pay is provided for your convenience. You can choose the amount you wish to give monthly as well as the amounts for all of the second collections throughout the year. They are all listed, including those for St. Vincent de Paul which happen four times per year.

If you wish to use this service, it will automatically deduct the amounts you choose from your checking account or charge it to a credit card. You can change the amount each month or let it continue automatically. For those used to the modern way of doing things this can be a great service that helps you plan contributions ahead of time.

You can access this service directly through a link on our website at www.stmparadise.com or via the ParishPay link at www.parishpay.com. You can also contact the office and either Janet Bertagna or Father Steven can make the entries for you, both initially and as you wish to make changes.

Father Steven Foppiano

Persevere in Faith

The first reading, psalm, and Gospel today all tell us to have hope and know that God will have His day. Justice will be done! Too often we look at the world in its chaos and wonder how God can allow this to happen. The real question will come from God when He asks us what we did to help!

Jesus warns us of trying times but also warns us not to listen to the dooms day advocates who will declare the end is near. The end will not follow immediately the troubles that occur and the troubles we have may not be as bad as we think. The U.N. recently reported that poverty in the world is rapidly decreasing due to market economics and that we are in one of the most peaceful times of history.

Remember, it is a big world and all the problems we hear and read about each day are scattered and often exaggerated. Think of how our times compare with World War I or II, the Dark Ages, or the 100 Years War. Our anxiety is sometimes a result of us thinking all things revolve around us. There is a great deal of hope in the world and good people are striving to do good things everyday. We only hear about the evil that occurs while all the good misses the headlines but it occurs everyday, all around us. A great deal of it occurs right here in our parish and community. People do look out for each other, in family, in friendships, and even among strangers.



Jesus says that we will not so much see the Kingdom of God coming because it is amongst us. As we say, the Kingdom of God, although not yet perfected, exists in the Church. If we do not see that, then we should ask ourselves why not? What are we not doing? Where ever we gather in His name, Jesus is there. Are we carrying out the work He gave us?

Jesus did not tell us to sit back and await the coming of the Kingdom. He told us to help to build the Kingdom here on earth to reflect the Kingdom of Heaven. We do that through our Good Works, through our Love of God, and through our Love for One Another. That is why we gather here, to be renewed in our mission to be and to build the Kingdom of God on Earth. It is here, it is in us, we need only to let it reveal itself in our works and in our gatherings.



Father Steven Foppiano

Sacrificial Donations

November 10-11, 2007

Sunday Collections	\$	4,437.00
Thanksgiving Baskets	\$	1,798.00
Youth Group	\$	42.00
Table of Plenty	\$	980.00
Building and Maintenance	\$	190.00
	\$	7,447.00

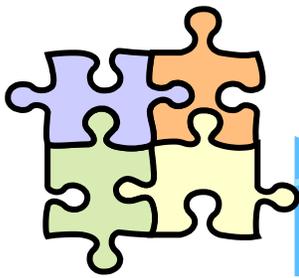
Thank you for your generosity!

Daily Mass Intentions

November 17-25, 2007

Sat.	8:30am	Holy Souls
	5:00pm	People of St. Thomas More †
Sun.	8:00am	Helen Hazard †
	10:30am	Don Shelburne †
	5:00pm	Holy Souls
Mon.	8:30am	Donald Pera †
Tue.	8:30am	Marcia Nunes †
Wed.	8:30am	Holy Souls
Thur.	8:30am	Thanksgiving to Maria Auxiliadora
Fri.	8:30am	Holy Souls
Sat.	8:30am	Chuck Waelbrock †
	5:00pm	Holy Souls
Sun.	8:00am	Thomas Morris †
	10:30am	People of St Thomas More
	5:00pm	Kimberly Mc Gregor †

† Denotes deceased †



"By your perseverance you will secure your lives."

ROCK At-A-Glance

Saturday, 17 November
10-11:30am
Altar Server Training Part II
HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESSE!!!

Sunday, 18 November
HAPPY BIRTHDAY MARY!!!
10:30am — Children's Liturgy
2:30pm — The ROCK
Grades 9-12
5pm — ROCK...the Liturgy!

Monday, 19 November
6:30pm — The ROCK
"PROJECT 12 DAYS:"
ON LOCATION AT
GROCERY OUTLET!!!
Drop off at Grocery Outlet
Pick up at St. Thomas More
Grades 7-12

Tuesday, 20 November
9am — Thanksgiving Basket
Team Reports to Basement
NO RCIC — seeya next week!

Wednesday, 21 November
NO FAITH FORMATION!!!

Thursday, 22 November
HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY BRADY!
NO ROCK Grades 6-8!!!
10am — Thanksgiving Mass
Bring your bread for the table
to receive a special blessing!

Sunday, 25 November
FEAST of CHRIST THE KING
10:30am — Children's Liturgy
2:30pm — The ROCK
Grades 9-12
5pm — ROCK...the Liturgy!

Monday, 26 November
6:30pm — The ROCK
Grades 7-12

Got questions about Youth
Ministry at St. Thomas More?
Contact Colleen at 877.4554
colleen@stmparadise.com



NOVEMBER ALTAR OF REMEMBRANCE... Thanks to everyone who has already brought in pictures for the Altar of Remembrance! We will continue to collect pictures of your departed family members, friends, and loved ones throughout the month of November! Anyone may add a picture to the prayer space or a name to the Book of Remembrance at any time! We are a Catholic Christian community who are called to become part of the communion of saints — ordinary people who lived extraordinary lives!!!

OUR CONGRATULATIONS AND PRAYERS GO OUT TO THE FOLLOWING FAITH FORMATION CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO HAVE DISCERNED THE BEGINNING OR CONTINUATION OF THEIR CALL TO TRAINING IN THE MINISTRY OF ALTAR SERVERS!

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Marianna Burton | Trevor McWilliams |
| Spencer Genna | Camryn Quinn |
| Lexi Gregorio | Erica Salas |
| Shanna Heller | Aisa Webster |
| Benjamin Lewandowski | Mariah Burescica |
| Hope Lindsey | Jimmy Cleary |
| Anna Maguire | Bradley Muniz |
| William Marks | Joey Quinn |
| Ryan Kelly | Sam Kelly |
| Austin Hess | Antoni Diaz-Infante |
| Quinn Ballou | Frankie Cleary |
| Nick Gomez | Conner Heller |
- & Allie Muniz

Random Thoughts... what wonderful readings we have this week! What's wonderful about them is that the message of working hard with the goal, mission, and vision of eternal life in our hearts, minds, and souls is most surely reflected quite visibly through our Parish Altar of Remembrance! We are reminded by faces we both know and do not know that choosing a life of servant leadership — as Jesus did — is the example of God's Love in Action we are called to live out! These people are reminders for us to pray — to serve — and to make an impact in the lives of others around us! This Sunday is the last Sunday in Ordinary Time — so we both remind and prepare to welcome Christ the King!

SECRET ANGELS NEEDED to help supply Polaroid film for Christmas Carnival on 12/9!!! Please contact Colleen at 877-4554 if you can arrange to donate some film for our instant cameras!!!

WE ARE STILL SEEKING PRAYER SPONSORS for our 10 children and young people preparing for sacraments this year! Please contact Colleen at 877-4554 to be assigned someone to pray for!

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: 18 NOVEMBER

Theme: *The day of the Lord is a day of hope and joy.*

- First Reading: Malachi 3:19-20a
 Second Reading: Thessalonians 3:7-12
 Gospel: Luke 21: 5-19

Adults: Paul's words to the Thessalonians are tough: if you want to eat, you must work! How does this translate into our society today? How do you reconcile this with Jesus' command to love and feed the poor?

Young People: Learning to work, and working to live are realities of life as you grow up. What role does work play in your life? Do you want to work merely for the money, or do you want to also make a contribution to the human community?

Children: Jesus teaches us that work is good for us. What kind of work do you do during the week? How does it help you?



FAITH FORMATION STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

- Don't forget about upcoming dates:
 21 November — NO Faith Formation
 28 November — Family Faith Formation
 28 November — Quick Choir Check-in
 30 November — Choir Rehearsal
 1 December — First Reconciliation (2nd)
 5 December — Reconciliation Service
 12 December — Faith Formation
 14 December — Choir Rehearsal
 19 December — Faith Formation
 21 December — Choir Rehearsal
 24 December — 5pm Family Vigil Mass

We are still seeking more Faith Formation team members - remember - we're a flock! We continue to pray that those still discerning their call will continue to come forward. Our community honors our personal Baptismal promises as well as those of the families and children in our community when we do more than contribute - when we really commit - to developing our faith community by being heralds of the Gospel! Please contact Colleen to find out more about being part of a fun, diverse, dedicated, and hardworking ministry! 877-4454! Thx!

Christmas Benefit Concert Featuring Fret Not Gospel

The Fret Not Gospel Band will be performing on Saturday, December 1st from 7:30-9pm (doors open at 7) in our church. Fret Not plays old-time American roots gospel, from the traditions of the black and white rural churches, in the way our grandfathers and great-aunts did back in the old days. The group is a big believer in the excellence of old-time music and performs for charities and other worthy causes. Further information on the group can be found at www.fretnotgospel.com.



The event will be a benefit concert for the Table of Plenty food ministry. Fret Not has graciously offered to come from

Oakland to play at no charge, and they will donate proceeds from CD sales to Table of Plenty. Non-perishable food items may be donated at the door and monetary donations will also be accepted during a collection for Table of Plenty. Admission is free, and tickets are not required.

Plan on attending the concert to begin this year's Christmas season with an evening of inspiring music, while supporting Table of Plenty and those it serves.

Special Christmas Choir

All with the desire to serve the Lord with your voice are invited to join our Christmas choir for the 2007 Midnight Mass. Our first practice will be held Nov. 12 at 7pm in the church.



Please call Dorothy Byers at 873-1759 or Mike Degmetich at 873-4913. If you play an instrument, we invite you to bring it along. This event is a joyful experience. Please give it your prayerful consideration.

"Table of Plenty" Food Ministry Answered Prayers

Thank you to everyone who has been praying for Table of Plenty during its food shortage. God answered those prayers in several ways. First, we were connected to the CA Emergency Food Link food bank in Sacramento. We were able to purchase a great deal of food there last week for a bargain price of eight cents per pound. This new source of food will fill in the shortage left by the previous food bank. A few other smaller sources have been able to donate food too. Also, many generous parishioners helped out with additional donations of food and money which helped us get through the month while we were experiencing a shortage of food. Table of Plenty is now in the position to continue serving the 150 families signed up with the program. Thank you for your prayers and generosity!



"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink...I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me."

Annual Christmas Boutique and Bake Sale

The Ladies of STM Guild's annual Christmas Boutique and Bake Sale will be held on Saturday, December 1 from 8am until 6:30pm and on Sunday, December 2 from 8am until 1pm in the Church Hall.

Please plan to view a variety of baked goods, candies, jams, and gift items offered for sale.

Raffle tickets for some great prizes will also be available.



Thanksgiving Food Baskets

This year our parish will be giving out up to 150 food "baskets" to Ridge families for Thanksgiving. These bags will contain all the trimmings needed for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Each family will also receive their choice of either a turkey or a ham. **Stuffing, olives, canned corn and green beans, cranberry sauce, gravy packets, frosting, and cake mixes** may be left in the baskets in the vestibule.

