



"It will be as when a man who was going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them."

MATTHEW 25:14



The Edges: Where God Works

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Those who are willing to take great risks are often the ones who give birth to dreams of growth and new life. Often it is at the scary edge of life where such growth ultimately takes place. In 1776, those who sparked a revolution and risked their personal wealth founded a new nation. President Abraham Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, when many were urging him not to do so, thus opening the door of freedom to those who found it locked. In South Africa, Nelson Mandela risked speaking out against apartheid, was imprisoned for twenty-seven years, and was eventually freed to become the leader of a new South Africa.

So often those who risk to make life new are those who are living at the growing edge of God's reign, instruments of God bringing creation to new life.

In the parable in this week's Gospel, three individuals are entrusted with a treasure of great worth. The third person backs away from any risk, burying it because he is stifled by fear. God's dynamic presence, on the other hand, grows when individuals risk doing the right thing in spite of the consequences, when they are willing to speak an unpopular truth, when they take a stand for those on the edges of society, when they break down the barriers of racism and oppression. In the end, we need to listen less to our fears and more to our dreams. It's where God does God's best work: at the edges. ●

Reflect

When have you risked bringing about new life?



Holy Trinity

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
212 S. Main St. PO Box 159
Cherry, IL 61317-0159
Phone 815-894-2006
Office Email
HolyTSP@gmail.com

Pastor of the Three Churches
Fr. Thaddeus Tran

Main Office: Holy Trinity Rectory
Pastoral Assistant: Julie Hollinger
Email: JulieHTC@outlook.com

Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday 9 am - 1 pm



St. Thomas More

St Thomas More Catholic Church
302 Chestnut St.
Dalzell, IL 61320
Phone 815-663-6201
Email
thomasmore32@gmail.com

Adoration Room at STM
Open Monday - Sunday
Regular Hours
9 am - 6 pm

Rav/Tort Group taking orders now
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St. Patrick

St. Patrick Catholic Church
106 Church St.
Arlington, IL 61312
Phone 815-894-2006
Mail: PO Box 159 Cherry IL 61317

Website for the Three Churches
www.bureaucatholic.org
and on Facebook at
"Bureau Catholic Churches"

Facebook for the Three Churches
Use Link on Home Page
www.bureaucatholic.org

Emergency Number for all 3 Churches 779-248-2164



9:45 am - 11:00 am at Cherry Church Hall
Sunday, November 19th - K thru 4th grade & Confirmation class
Sunday, November 26th - No Class
Sunday, December 3rd Children's Mass - 5th Grade CCD Students

Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of November 20, 2023

Monday	11/20			† No Mass
Tuesday	11/21	9:00 am	STM	† John Balma
Wednesday	11/22	5:30 pm	HT	† Dec. Members Klein Family
Thursday	11/23	9:00 am	HT	† Wayne, Leroy, & Lucille Pinter
Friday	11/24	9:00 am	STM	† Dec. Members Bacidore Family

Mass Intentions for the weekend of November 25-26, 2023

Saturday	11/25	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	† For The Parishioners
Sunday	11/26	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	† Robert Destri/Harry Volant
		10:30 am	St Patrick	† Kathy Bonucchi
		5:00 pm	St Thomas More	† No Mass

The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Feast Day: November 21st

Tradition believes that Joachim and Anne were barren, and for that reason people of the biblical era would have viewed the couple with suspicion and looked down on them. Like any other couple hoping to conceive, Joachim and Anne prayed to God, asking for the blessing of a child. God heard their prayer, and they were grateful to Him. The story of Joachim and Anne like the Old Testament account of the barren Hannah, who begged God for a child and later gave birth to Samuel. Maximus the Confessor, draws out the similarity in his *The Life of the Virgin*, comparing the name Hannah and Anna. The Presentation of Mary reminds us of Hannah's willingness to offer Samuel back to God because Joachim and Anne bring the child Mary to the temple in a similar fashion at the age of 3.

The Presentation of Mary highlights the fact Mary chooses God at this point in her life, even if at such a young age. On Dec. 8 the Church celebrates Mary's preservation from Original sin, called her Immaculate Conception. We could say that God chose Mary, as he foresaw the merits of Christ's cross and applied them to Mary. But the Presentation allows Mary to exercise her free will and choose to live her life devoted to God. Mary's choice lends us an example to follow. Each day is an opportunity for us to renew and recommit ourselves to the Lord's service, just as she did in the temple.

Catholics can look back and see Mary's time in the temple, from the age of 3 to 12, as a time of advent and preparation. God called her to be there, and, in turn, she chose God. Because of this, God prepared her to receive the savior of the world. The celebration of Mary's presentation in the temple is an anticipation of the Advent we commence around the time of this feast. Throughout the holy season of Advent, with Mary we can listen to the prophecies, watch and pray for the coming of the Dawn from on high.

(Excerpted from simplycatholic.com)



Thanksgiving Day Mass

As we get ready for this year's Thanksgiving celebration, please be reminded there will be a morning Mass at Holy Trinity at 9:00am. Come to this Mass so together we can thank God for all the blessings we have received throughout the year. Also, be reminded that because of the long weekend there will be no 5pm Mass at STM on Sunday Nov. 26th.

CCD News

CCD parents check your email; an email about Christmas program was sent out. Please reply ASAP.

Our next Children's Mass will be December 3rd. Our 5th grade CCD class will be participating in the Mass. Please have children at the church by 8:15 am.

Sunday STM 5pm Mass Information

Please be reminded that the Sunday 5pm Mass is just an optional Mass, which means it may be cancelled if needed. On the other hand the 3 other weekend Masses, such as the Saturday 4pm and Sunday 8:30am & 10:30am are obligatory to the priest. Hence, please check with the church office, website or our bulletin for the STM 5pm availability. A good suggestion is to sign up for our BCR alert; we always send an alert out to your cell phone in case of a cancellation of the above Mass, or for any important church news.

St. Patrick Church Fundraising Activity

Saturday, December 2, 2023 – Orders are being taken now by calling Ann Hunter at 815-638-2691 or Lauren Koch at 815-252-2334 or by filling out the sausage order sheets which are in back of the churches. Cost is \$20 for 5lb bag for bulk or cased. Orders are due by Nov. 26th. Volunteers are needed to help make the sausage on Saturday Dec. 2nd. Thank you for your support.

Religious Education Highlights

- Upcoming Christmas Program will be on December 20th at 6:00pm held at St. Thomas More
- Confirmation date has been set for Sunday, April 7th at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception in Peoria

LATEST OFFERING'S

NOV 12TH WEEKEND

HT – \$2,264.00

RETIRE \$500 FLOWERS \$175

SP – \$ 791.00

FLOWERS \$125

STM – \$1,522.00

W. MISSION \$25 HUMAN DEVELOP \$25
FLOWERS \$85



CONFESSIONS

CONFESSIONS WILL BE

SAT. NOV 25TH

10:30 - 11:15 AM AT

ST THOMAS MORE

IN THE HALL

Dear Padre,

My grandmother says Catholics used to fast from midnight until they received Communion. When did the fasting time change to only one hour, and why?

The ancient discipline of fasting before Communion became a universal practice by the fifth century. Until 1953, those who would receive holy Communion refrained from consuming food, water, and medicine from midnight to the time of Communion. In 1953 and 1957, Pope Pius XII reduced the fast from food to three hours and from water for one hour (*Christus Dominus* and *Sacram Communionem*).

In 1966, Pope St. Paul VI further reduced the fast to one hour and allowed water and medicine at any time (*Paenitemini*). In 1973, he reduced the fast for the sick and elderly to fifteen minutes before Communion when one hour is prohibitive (*Immensae Caritatis*).

The loosening of the restrictions was in no way intended to lessen the reverence for the holy Eucharist. The changes were made to allow as many Catholics as possible to receive the Eucharist, which can be difficult when priests are in short supply. For the same reason, *Immensae Caritatis* also allowed the practice of having extraordinary ministers give Communion. Despite the changes to the Communion fast, unity and uniformity have been maintained. And of course, Catholics are free to fast before Communion beyond the duration and degree currently prescribed. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Today the Church tells us: "Use what God has given you and look at the poor." At times, we think that to be Christian means not to do harm. And not doing harm is good. But not doing good is not good. We must do good, come out of ourselves and look...at those who are more in need.

ANGELUS, ROME, NOVEMBER 15, 2020



MONDAY

November 20

Weekday

1 Mc 1:10–15, 41–43, 54–57, 62–63
Lk 18:35–43

TUESDAY

November 21

Presentation of
the Blessed Virgin
Mary

2 Mc 6:18–31
Lk 19:1–10

WEDNESDAY

November 22

St. Cecilia, Virgin
and Martyr
2 Mc 7:1, 20–31
Lk 19:11–28

THURSDAY

November 23

Weekday

1 Mc 2:15–29
Lk 19:41–44
Thanksgiving Day
Sir 50:22–24
1 Cor 1:3–9
Lk 17:11–19

FRIDAY

November 24

St. Andrew
Dung-Lac, Priest,
and Companions,
Martyrs
1 Mc 4:36–37,
52–59
Lk 19:45–48

SATURDAY

November 25

Weekday

1 Mc 6:1–13
Lk 20:27–40

SUNDAY

November 26

Our Lord Jesus
Christ,
King of the
Universe
Ez 34:11–12,
15–17
1 Cor 15:20–26,
28
Mt 25:31–46