

**33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
November 19th, 2017**

Stewardship Reflection:

“Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you have been faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities.”

- Matthew 25:21

God expects us to nurture and develop the gifts He has given us and then generously return a portion with increase. He doesn't want us to waste or hoard the gifts He has given us; He expects us to grow our gifts, use them wisely and be generous with them. Unfortunately, many of us are not generous in proportion to all that God has given us.

-Copyright © 2017, by Archdiocese of St. Louis

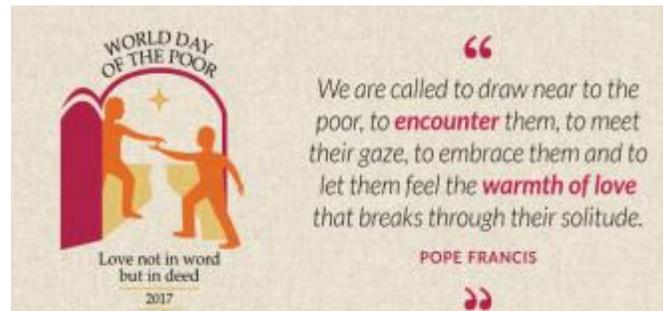
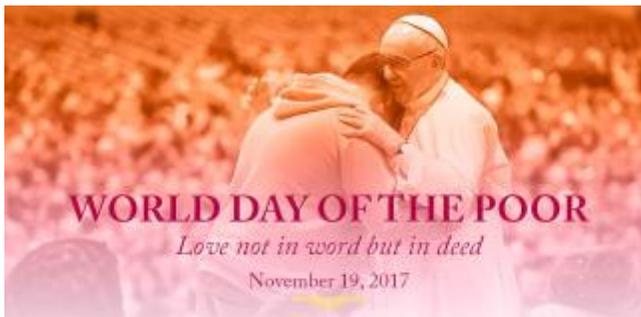
Project Advance:

Live Gratefully, Give Generously

Thank you to those who have responded to this year's Project Advance. Participation in Project Advance shows that we are striving to live the Gospel; people working and giving together, helping to make our community and lives richer through faith and service. This annual appeal makes our parishes vital communities and enables us to reach out to those who are struggling and marginalized. Every gift of Project Advance matters and usually fills your soul with the joy of God. So please make your contribution or pledge today if you have not done so. It's never too late. Tax receipts will be issued for donations received before Dec31, 2017. There are forms available at the back of the church or you can donate online at www.rcav.org/giving, or contact the parish office.

Happy American Thanksgiving: Nov 23, 2017

Blessings from Immaculate Conception Parish to our brothers and sisters in United States. May all of you be blessed with God's love, joy, grace and peace.



Pope Francis has declared the first World Day of the Poor this coming Sunday, November 19.

Archbishop Miller has written a letter to all the faithful:

“In declaring this the first World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis has given us a great gift. The approach of Advent – a season known for giving, but also for rampant consumerism – makes this an opportune time to reflect on the kind of society we want to live in.

Surrounded by wealth and comfort, many in our culture resist any form of material or physical self-denial. At the same time, others in our midst have no roof over their head, struggle daily to feed themselves and their families, and go without the essentials of life necessary to survive.

Pope Francis has declared a World Day of the Poor, not a World Day of Prayer for the Poor. Of course, he wants us to pray, but the Holy Father also wants us to examine our lives closely and see how we are being called to help the needy around us.

I invite you to read the Pope's letter for the World Day of the Poor, in which he condemns “the contrast between the empty words so frequently on our lips and the concrete deeds against which we are called to measure ourselves.” In response, let us love, not just with words but with deeds.”

You can download or read the rest of his letter by visiting www.rcav.org



Saturday, December 2 from 8:30am – 1pm

SAVE THE DATE for our old-fashioned Christmas Fair! This year we will be introducing the Christmas Marketplace where there will be gift items of all kinds. If you are able to donate handmade crafts – Christmas ornaments, handknits, jams & jellies and other handcrafted items – or if you have a business making/selling handcrafted items and would like to book a table in our Marketplace – please contact Kim Jacob (778)994-9785 or kimberly.jacob@hotmail.com. Home baking donations are also very much appreciated, closer to the date – please contact Kim for more information.

“If you have two coats, one of them belongs to the poor” – Mother Teresa

The Knights of Columbus are again collecting warm winter clothing to be distributed by Catholic Charities to those people in need on the Downtown East Side. Men's, women's and children's clothing, gently-used but clean, will be accepted at the Parish Center until December 4th. Thank you for the overwhelming response last year.

The Knights are also collecting **Turkey Dollars** as offered by Stongs Market to deliver turkeys to DTES Catholic Charities and to the Covenant House on December 23. A collection box is located at the Church entrance. Thank you for your generosity.

Thank you to those who came out to the Seniors' Social that was held on Nov 13. It was a successful event and everyone had a great time singing and gathering. Thank you to Anne who organized this event and Ed Gacek for the music.

***Our Next Sunday Twilight Mass:
Dec 3 at 8:00 PM***



As we are approaching the end of 2017, the parish office is going to prepare the 2018 Sunday envelopes soon. Please kindly update your contact info with Kathy at the parish office. Thanks for your cooperation.

ICS Students will be selling Christmas Fair Raffle Tickets after Mass each weekend until the Fair on Saturday, Dec 2. Don't miss your chance to win one of our fabulous cash prizes. Tickets are \$5 each and only 4000 tickets are printed. The draw will take place at the Fair at 1230pm and tickets are also available in the school office. Thank you for supporting our Little Blue School!

Little Flower Academy is accepting applications from prospective Grade Eight candidates for the 2018-2019 school year. All students wishing to apply must sit the Entrance Exam on Saturday, Dec 9, 2017. To apply please fill out the online form on school website www.lfabc.org/apply or contact Kathi Wilson at (604)738-9016.

St. Patrick Regional Secondary School is having their Open House on January 15, 2018 at 6pm. Application packages may be picked up in the school office during the Open House or from the school office after the 15th. Completed applications will only be accepted on Wednesday, Feb 7, 2018 from 3-6pm.

✍ Mark Your Calendars

- Dec 2** - Immaculate Conception School Christmas Fair
- Dec 3** - First Sunday of Advent
- Dec 4 at 7 pm** - Advent Confessions
- Dec 5** - IC Women Christmas Potluck
- Dec 8** - Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception