

**November 18-19, 2017**  
**Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Proverbs 31:10-31      First Thessalonians 5:1-6      Matthew 25:14-30**

At first, everything is pure gift with no expectations. The REALIZATION that more is expected dawns slowly as we age. As infants we come to expect that people will smile at us, make pleasant sounds, hold us gently and respond to our utterances by feeding us or changing our diaper. Little do we know that the smiles, loving sounds and tender care are intended to help us FEEL safe as we develop...they come with an expectation. Responding with glee to new toys we are quickly urged to SHARE and our little minds struggle with the earliest concept that what we think is ours is not just for our own selfish use. With each year of growth we learn how to live within a complex social network of family, school, neighborhood and eventually, work place and world. As maturity hones our talents, skills and abilities, we learn to join our 'gifts' with those of others to create and build, heal and promote, lift up and explore. With the Solemnity of Christ the King occurring next weekend this Liturgical Year has run its course and the traditional autumn ritual of gathering the HARVEST occurs. The SPIRITUAL HARVEST consists of what we have done with our individual gifts to advance the teachings of Jesus in our individual and communal worlds. On our earlier journeys of discovery from infancy to maturity we became aware of our gifts and talents....now the question is what have we done with them? Have we worked just for our own benefit or have we opened ourselves to be of service to Father, Son and Holy Spirit? The Gospel is strong in its EXPECTATION that we will DO SOMETHING with what we have been given...to not succumb to the fear of losing whatever we have. Risk is rewarded...especially risk in the name of Jesus and in the application of the Gospel. A whole year of hearing the Gospel anew through the lens of fresh experiences and personal growth has come and gone...how have we used our lives to renew the world, to make it a better, wholer, kinder, place? Did we take RISKS or did we bury what God has given us?

How will Jesus greet us?

'Well-done, good and faithful servant. Come, share your master's joy!'

or

'You wicked, lazy servant!'

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Arguably these being the busiest travel days of the year, thank you for making time to gather with your Santa Clara community for Mass. On Thanksgiving Day our usual 8:30am Mass will be celebrated so feel free, if you can take a break from the oven and stove, to come and express your gratitude to God. Next weekend will be our Heart and Soul Christmas Family Adoptions for families from our Sister Parish of Immaculate Heart of Mary in Santa Ana. If you REALLY, REALLY desire adopting a family, please consider coming to the Saturday 5pm or Sunday 8am as we only have 110 families...and they get snapped up quickly. As you gather with your family and/or friends during this week, please know that among the greatest gifts for which I am grateful on Thanksgiving are YOU! Thank you for helping Santa Clara de Asis is all that Jesus is calling us to be....and for challenging me to continually be the best Pastor I can be...and remember, you are loved. FKB