

## 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

Proverbs 31:10-13,  
19-20,30-31  
Ps 128:1-5  
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6  
Matthew 25:14-30

### Monday November 20

1 Maccabees 1:10-15,  
41-43,54-57,62-63  
Ps 119:53,61,134,  
150,155,158  
Luke 18:35-43

### Tuesday November 21

#### Presentation of Mary

2 Maccabees 6:18-31  
Ps 3:2-7  
Luke 19:1-10

### Wednesday November 22

#### St. Cecilia

2 Maccabees 7:1,20-31  
Ps 17:1,5-6,8b,15  
Luke 19:11-28

### Thursday November 23

#### Thanksgiving to God

Sirach 50:22-24  
Ps 145:2-11  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
Luke 17:11-19

### Friday November 24

#### Sts. Andrew Dung-Lac & co

1 Maccabees 4:3-37,52-59  
1 Chronicles 29:10-12  
Luke 19:45-48

### Saturday November 25

1 Maccabees 6:1-13  
Ps 9:2-3,4,6,16, 19  
Luke 20:27-40

This Sunday's Gospel reading reminds us not to bury the gifts that God has given us. To do so is to be a "wicked, lazy servant!"

Ouch.

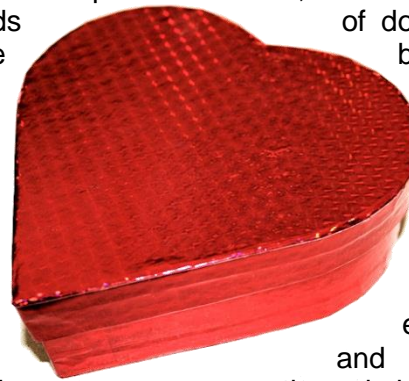
We all have at least one buried talent. There's more we could be doing for the kingdom of God, but we think: "Not me. I'm not gifted enough" or "Someone else can do it better" or "God can't be telling me to do *that*" or "I don't have the time, the financial resources, the know-how, or good enough health".

There's no holy excuse for wasting anything good that God has given us, but sadly it happens quite often, because we don't realize how necessary our talents are for the Church and our joint mission of spreading Christ's influence upon the world.

What's pushing your gifts and talents aside? What's interfering with your usefulness to the kingdom of God? Now is the time to open wide your potential and release your tal-

ents into God's plans!

We are all gifted "enough" to make a difference for God's kingdom, because our abilities come from him.



We're his servants, and it's up to him, not us, to decide what we're capable of doing. Even the homebound and the bedridden have a divine purpose that can be accomplished in their circumstances and sufferings. Often, these precious people are very powerful prayer warriors and have some of the soundest wisdom on earth.

Have you wondered: "If God is so good, why does he allow evil?" The answer is: It's we who allow it! We are the Body of Christ on earth. We are his hands and feet and vocal chords. Jesus wants to make our world more heavenly; he does it through us.

### Reflect & Discuss:

1. What good have you done? Hear God assuring you: "Well done, my good and faithful servant! Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you greater responsibilities. Come, share your Master's joy!"
2. What "greater responsibilities" can you say yes to using the gifts that he's provided? What's stopping you from saying yes?
3. How would you recommend, based on your experiences, that Christians invest the gifts of God?
4. How do you identify (a) your giftedness and (b) God's purpose for it?