

The Word of Sts. Peter & Paul



January 19, 2025

Saints Peter & Paul UOC

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Reflection on Matthew 25:14-30

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Sisterhood of St.

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One of Jesus' most significant parables regarding work is set in the context of investments (Matt. 25:14-30). A rich man delegates the management of his wealth to his servants, much as investors in today's markets do. He gives five talents (a large unit of money) to the first servant, two talents to the second, and one talent to the third. Two of the servants earn 100 percent returns by trading with the funds, but the third servant hides the money in the ground and earns nothing. The rich man returns, rewards the two who made money, but severely punishes the servant who did nothing.

The meaning of the parable extends far beyond financial investments. God has given each person a wide variety of gifts, and he expects us to employ those gifts in his service. It is not acceptable merely to put those gifts on a closet shelf and ignore them. Like the three servants, we do not have gifts of the same degree. The return God expects of us is commensurate with the gifts we have been given. The servant who received one talent was not con-

demned for failing to reach the five-talent goal; he was condemned because he did nothing with what he was given. The gifts we receive from God include skills, abilities, family connections, social positions, education, experiences, and more. The point of the parable is that we are to use whatever we have been given for God's purposes. The severe consequences to the unproductive servant, far beyond anything triggered by mere business mediocrity, tell us that we are to invest our lives, not waste them.

Yet the particular talent invested in the parable is *money*, on the order of a million U.S. dollars in today's world. In modern English, this fact is obscured because the word *talent* has come to refer mainly to skills or abilities. But this parable concerns money. It depicts investing, not hoarding, as a godly thing to do if it accomplishes godly purposes in a godly manner. In the end, the master praises the two trustworthy servants with the words, "Well done, good and trustworthy servant" (Matthew 25:23). In these words, we see that the master cares about the results ("well done"), the methods ("good"), and the motivation ("trustworthy").

More pointedly for the workplace, it commends putting capital at risk in pursuit of earning a return. Sometimes Christians speak as if growth, productivity, and return on investment were unholy to God. But this parable overturns that notion. We should invest our skills and abilities, but also our wealth and the resources made available to us at work, all for the affairs of God's kingdom. This includes the production of needed goods and services. The volunteer who teaches Sunday school is fulfilling this parable. So are the entrepreneur who starts a new business and gives jobs to others, the health service administrator who initiates an AIDS-awareness campaign, and the machine operator who develops a process innovation.

God does not endow people with identical or necessarily equal gifts. And God does not expect identical or necessarily equal results from everyone's work. In the parable, one servant makes a return of five talents, while another makes two talents. The master praises both equally (Matthew 25:23). It's important to observe that both servants invest for the benefit of their master, and they return to him not only his original investment, but also what they make on his behalf. When we say that everything we

have is a "gift" from God, we don't mean that what we have belongs to us now, instead of to God. We mean that it is a privilege to be entrusted with talents, resources, and opportunities to work toward God's purposes in the world. The implication of the parable is that we if we do so, we take our place among all the faithful, trustworthy servants of God, no matter how big or small our accomplishments may seem.



Liturgical Schedule



Sunday
January 19
8:15 Matins
9:00am Hours
9:30am Divine
Liturgy

30 Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 5
St. Macarius the Great of Egypt (390). Virgin-martyr Euphrasia of Nicomedia (303). Ven. Macarius of Alexandria (394). St. Arsenius, archbishop of Kerkyra (Corfu) (953). Ven. Macarius of the Kyiv Caves (12th c.). Ven. Macarius, deacon of the Kyiv Caves (13th-14th c.). Matins Gospel (8): Jn. 20:11-18; 2 Cor. 6:1-10; Mt. 25:14-30; Venn: Gal.5:22 - 6:2; Mt. 11:27-30

Sunday
January 26
8:45am Matins
9:30am Hours
10:00 am
Divine Liturgy

31 Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 6 Ven. Xenophon and his wife, St. Mary, and their two sons, Sts. Arcadius and John (6thc.). Martyrs Ananias presbyter, Peter, and seven soldiers (295). Ven. Symeon «the Ancient» (ca. 390). Translation of the relics of St. Theodore, abbot of the Studion (845). St. Joseph, bishop of Thessalonica (830). Matins (9): Jn. 20: 19-31; 2 Cor. 6:16-7:1; Mt. 15:21-28

Saturday
February 1

Vespers at 5:00pm

Sunday
February 2
8:15am Matins
9:00am Hours
9:30am Divine
Liturgy

32 Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 7
THE MEETING OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. Matins Gospel (10): Jn. 21:1-14; Of Sunday: 1 Tim. 4:9-15; Lk. 19:1-10; Meeting: Heb. 7:7-17; Lk. 2:22-40

Sunday School Corner



Dear Miss Church Manners,
We were visiting your church last week and we stayed after for the coffee hour. Boy! Was I ever excited to know there was a pancake breakfast going on. I do love my pancakes! One of the older kids at the serving table made an announcement saying that people should be generous with their donations as they weren't making any money. I don't understand what that was all about. What was the donation for? I asked my mom and she wasn't sure either. Someone suggested that I should ask you as you are in the know of these things.

Signed...
Buttering you up for an answer.

Dear Flatterer,
First, I'm glad you visited our church and we hope you and your family will come again soon. I'm with you – I do love my pancakes too and look forward to the monthly Pancake Flip hosted by the Jr. UOL (Ukrainian Orthodox League). These younger members of our parish volunteer and work hard at the Church, helping out with various projects. Not to mention they are a great bunch of kids who have fun and enjoy each other's company. To answer your question the Pancake-Flip is a fundraiser for this organization. The Juniors are doing everything they can to raise money to help pay for their attending the annual UOL national convention. This year's convention is going to be in Florida! The money that is donated is first applied to the expense of hosting the breakfast. Granted, some items are donated, but remember, it does cost money to buy the pancake mix, potatoes, meats, juice, coffee and desserts. Anything collected above this is what is put aside for them for their trip. It's not that they were being greedy by saying they are not making money. There was a valid reason they were making the plea. Minimum request was \$5. I don't know of any other place where you can get a full -all you can eat breakfast- for this amount of money. It's money well spent and for a worthwhile cause....our Juniors!!!
Come sit by me at the next Pancake Flip and we'll see whose stack of pancakes is taller!
God Bless You and your appetite!
Miss Church Manners (a.k.a. Etta Kitt)

Happy and Blessed birthday o our Parish Council presidner , choir director Sub-deacon George Cepynsky! Mnohaya Lita!

Mark your calendars

Sunday January 26 — Painting Party with Natalia

Sunday February 9 — Soup-er Bowl Sunday

Have a bowl of soup for a good cause.

Sunday February 23 — Prayer for Peace in Ukraine

Sunday's Second Collection

Sunday's Second Special Collection is dedicated each month to a different cause: Month of January - Orland Park Food Pantry
Month of February to the victims of Californian wild fires.

Sisterhood of St. Anne



God bless our volunteers!

We had a very very successful Christmas Pie-roggi Bake sale. Thank you very much to the morning and evening crew!

We are always looking for more volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, don't be shy. Come for one hour or two, it will make a huge difference.

Schedule:

January 20 at 8:30am -make potato balls

January 21 at 5:30pm-pinch potato

January 22 at 8:30am make potato balls

January 23 5:30pm-pinch potato

January 27 at 8:30am -make kraut balls

January 28 at 5:30pm- pinch kraut

January 29 Days- make cheese balls

January 30 at 8:30am- pinch cheese

February 3 at 8:30am - boil cabbage

February 4 at 5:30pm-make Holubtsi

February 5 at 8:30am - package Hokubtsi

February 6 Thursday sale 11am-2pm

February 8 Saturday sale 10am-2pm

Seven Day Vigil Candles

- For the health and God's blessings for Janet Ganske by the Nevels Family
- God's blessings for Pat Beck by the Nevels
- God's blessings for Mary Wisniowski
- by the Nevels
- God's blessings for Larry Pierog by the Nevels
- For the health of Fr. Taras & PM Lora Naumenko by Fr. Vasyl & PM Olenka
- For the health and God's blessing of Father Vasyl
- by Gbur/lang Families
- For the health of Pat Beck by John & MaryJo Grzymiski
- For the health of Janet Ganske by John & MaryJo Grzymiski
- For the health of Pat Beck by Pat Wolsko
- For the health of Mary Wisniowski by Pat Wolsko
- For the health of Fr. Vasyl by Pat Wolsko
- For the health John Batura by Fr. Vasyl
- For God's mercy on the people who lost their lives in New Orleans and for the health of the people recovering
- by Gbur/Lang Families
- For God's mercy on the people who have lost their lives and homes in the Californian Wildfires
- by Gbur & Lang Families
- For the health of Pat Beck by Fr. Vasyl



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- In memory of Julian Naumenko by PM Olenka & Fr. Vasyl
 - In memory of Julian Naumenko
 - by John & Mary Jo Grzymiski
 - In memory of Winnie Taylor by Supilowski Family
 - In memory of Tony Kaczor and Tony Kovco
 - by Supilowski Family
 - In memory of Ozzie & Joanne Supilowski
 - by Supilowski Family
 - In memory of newly reposed servant of God Julian Naumenko and deepest sympathy to the Naumenko Family
 - by Gbur/Lang Families
 - In memory of Uriy on the first anniversary of his stepping into eternity. Memory Eternal. Heavenly Kingdom!

Building Fund Donations

In memory of Sharon Burger-Zellinger—\$500.00 in memory of parents Stanley & Ollie Kuzanek

Prayer Corner for the Month of January



We ask all of you to remember in your prayers the following individuals, who are in need of God's healing and grace:

Mark, Roman, Judy Broud, Joshua Mark, Mary Wisniowski, Mary Pirtle, Nathan, Gail, Allie Branch, Mike Moran, Christopher Flavin, Even, Edward, Bob Lewandowski, Michael Melnyk, Lilia, Andy, Bohdan, Ralph Palm, David, Irine, Zoriana, Lev, Alla Grzymiski, Kathy Grzymiski, Nicole, John & Patti, Barbara Patronik, Barbara & Katie Bruce, Michael Kimak, Chloe McKinney, Yuriy Zmysly, Dorothy Seliga, Halyna & Wolodymer Kashpar, Mykola, Priest Vasyl Dovhan, Frankie, Alexander, Anatoli & Pamela, Janet, Sam and Natalia.

Pray for soldiers in Ukraine: Maksym, Taras, Yaroslav, Pavlo, Slavko, Mikola, Victor, Taras, Yuriy, Stepan, Volodimer, Mykola, Svitlana, medic Stella, Oleg, Yuriy, Dmitro, Bohdan, Roman, Mykola, Kostia, Vitaliy, missing in action Volodimer, Taras, Mykola, wounded Roman, prisoner Taras.

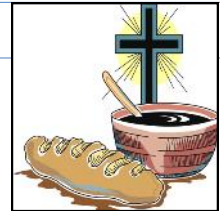
Pray for Our expecting mother: Daria, Anna, Myroslava

Soup-er Bowl Sunday 2025

It's the time of the year again for

Soup-er Bowl Sunday February 9, 2025

We are going to have our Annual Soup-er Bowl Sunday to raise funds for St. Andrew's Society Soup Kitchens for elderly in Ukraine Eat in or take out!



We are looking for volunteers— Soup chefs to shine with their talents create their masterpieces – soups and share with the parish family. If you don't know how to cook, you can donate supplies: Paper bowls, utensils, crackers, oyster crackers etc.

In the past 12 years our humble parish has raised over or close to \$2000.00 each time!!!

Memorial Service



Monthly memorial January 26

In memory of Michael & Pauline Demkowicz and brother Robert requested by Bubnich Family
In memory of all of those who reposed in the Lord in the month of January

Coffee Hour Schedule



Sponsored coffee hours

You can sponsor coffee hour monetarily by donating \$50.00 to cover the cost of one coffee hour. If you would like to volunteer, please let PM Olenka or Fr. Vasyl know:

January 19— Lilian Cepynsky

January 26— open

February 2—open

February 9— Soup-er Bowl Sunday

A decorative border on the left side of the flyer featuring large blue and orange flowers with green leaves and stems.

WELCOME
PAINT
& SIP
with *Natalia Bryndzia*

Join us for the
afternoon of
FUN and fellowship

Only
\$30.00 per
person

at the church
hall St. Peter & Paul
Palos Park

BRING YOUR OWN APPETISERS/ DRINKS

Sunday, January 26, 2025
AT 2PM

For more info and register see PM Olenka
RSVP by 01/22/2025

A circular inset photograph showing two women sitting at a table, engaged in painting. One woman is standing and looking at a canvas, while the other is seated and painting.

sponsored by SR UOL