

FROM THE DESK OF **Fr. Julius**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ; Grace and peace!



These two Sundays in our liturgical worship are bundled together by Holy Mother Church, to move us closer to Blessed Advent and the Four Last Things. Today's timeless liturgy invites us to contemplate the treasures given to us by our Lord. Next Sunday, just prior to moving into Advent, we celebrate The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, a glorious reminder to surrender our hearts to Him.

In our First Reading today, the 'worthy wife' is a portrait of a holy woman who used what she *had* and used it for others, reminding us of a Martha/Mary blend. St. Paul continues that thread in the Second Reading by advising the young Church in

Thessa-
lonica to 'stay awake and be sober,' uplifting one another as they waited for the "day of the Lord." We do not need to identify when Jesus will return, but to live in such a reverent way towards God and our neighbor, that we may be ready at all times. Charity towards our brothers and sisters and the willingness to risk personal security for our Lord, are like signposts pointing us toward the Second Coming as we approach Advent.

In praying with the Gospel today, particularly St. Matthew 25: 24-25, Jesus relays a series of parables that portray different teachable qualities for the end of time. Here is the prosperous man going on a journey and entrusting his property to three servants, "each according to his ability." This has us question 'how have we used our gifts to benefit others?' By His grace, there need be no fear of losing them (unlike the third servant). We even detect that the two servants' reward grew through an increased share of their master's joy! Indeed, anything we offer freely to God, He can consecrate, enrich, and enlarge. Consider the reminder from this Gospel reading, that one day, unknown by us, we shall be called to give an account of our stewardship. Are you prepared?

One of the greatest treasures as baptized Christians is our natural ability to love! Each of us has had this gift written on our hearts, alongside the abundance of faith. Our Blessed Mother is a constant reminder of the gift of grace, especially when we remember to ask! Our response is not just to preserve and "keep" the Faith, but to share what we have received with each other.

With Thanksgiving soon approaching, we have a reminder of what we've been given as a nation of families, infusing this secular holiday with Catholic faith. Every time we go to Mass, we celebrate the greatest Thanksgiving, the celebration of the Eucharist, a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Father, a blessing by which the Church expresses her gratitude to God for all His benefits, for all that He has accomplished." (CCC ~1360).

A Joyous Sunday!