

## Lesson for Sunday, November 15, 2020 (The 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Dear Grade 4-5 Venture Families,

Blessings to each of you. I hope that you are having a good week; staying healthy and safe and successfully navigating all that is on your plate. Please find below the outline to this week's lesson for your child. My goal, as always, is to try to streamline lessons and make them as easy to navigate as possible. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you are having difficulty with anything or need clarification.

- This is our first lesson in the new batch of Pflaum Gospel Weeklies that we had asked you to stop by the office and pick up these past two weeks. We are working this week on the November 15 Lesson. The date for each week can be found in the top corner of the Gospel Weekly. **If you have not yet stopped by the office to pick up the next 8 weeks of lessons that run from November 15 – January 10, please call and arrange to do so ASAP.**
- The complete lesson can be found by going to the Holy Family website at [holyfamilyrockland.org](http://holyfamilyrockland.org). Hover over the Menu button on the right corner of the main landing page and then Click on Faith Formation. Next, choose your child's grade level, **Grade 4-5 Venture**. Everything you need for the week is found there: (Remember, I will always give you lots of options – you do what you can get to each week based on your families schedule and your child's abilities.)
  1. Links to the Parent Teaching Guide pages to help your children each week
  2. A digital copy of their lesson (they have the hard copy)
  3. A video clip and activities to support the lesson.
  4. Prayers: Please continue to work on the Act of Contrition. It is in the Student Venture Handbook on page 52. This is a prayer that should be memorized by 4/5<sup>th</sup> grade. It is the prayer that we say when we go to Confession after spending time examining the choices that we make, particularly those that cause us to be separated from God. (Sin occurs when you know something is wrong, but you choose to do it anyway.)
- **Lesson Background:** (Matthew 25:14–30) In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells us another parable or story about three servants. Their master entrusts them with varying amounts of money (in those days it was called talents). Two of the servants double their money, but fear gets in the way of the third servant. All he can do is save what he has by burying it in the ground. Like the talents that the master gave to his servants, we know that each of us has been given gifts from God to use for good, to serve Him. The challenge for all of us is to recognize the gifts we have been given and our responsibility to care for those gifts. That means caring for each other and the world we live in.
- **Our Venture Gospel Weekly focuses on using our "talents" our God-given gifts for good:** Take some time this week to talk about the gifts and talents that God has given your family. Talk, too, about how each of you can use these gifts. Ask your child to explain to you why Jesus used parables (stories) to teach about God's kingdom. Let your child lead the family in sharing how the family can use its gifts and talents to make things better and to have a positive effect on people's lives.
- **Pray Together:** Pray Together: When you and your child complete this week's lesson, make a litany prayer (a prayer list of phrases) of all the many gifts and talents each member of your family possesses, some examples are:

Honesty	Patience	Musical
Compassionate	Kindness	Intelligence
Theatrical	Athletic	Artistic
Prayerfulness	Good Listener	Leader

After each is mentioned, the whole family can say together: "Thanks Be to God!"

- **Lastly, and most important:** Please make a point of signing up to attend 10:00 AM Sunday Mass in person (if your family is comfortable with that) or watching Mass together as a family this week (preferably on Sunday). The easiest way to access the Mass recording is on our website. It is also showing on local cable WRPS. We always want our children to make the connection, like the great Road to Emmaus story in the Bible (Luke 24: 13-35), that we learn the scripture readings and then we celebrate Eucharist in the Mass – even if it is Spiritual Communion during this time of the pandemic.

We miss you! We love you! Please let us know if we can help in any way to make this process as smooth as possible for your family. We continue to pray for the health and safety of all our families and offer prayers of gratitude for all those that are working here in our area and around the world to aid those affected by the Coronavirus.

Yours in Christ,  
Liz Davis