



ST. MARY PARISH - NO MASSES

ST. PETER'S, Ayton – NO MASSES

ST. THOMAS, Harriston – NO MASSES

Pope Francis' Prayer to Our Lady, Health of the Sick

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

*At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain,
with steadfast faith.*

You, Salvation of the Roman People, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that,

as you did at Cana of Galilee,

joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,

to conform ourselves to the Father's will

and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us,

through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

*Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from
every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.*

- Pope Francis, March 2020

It is true that God's power triumphs over everything, but humble and suffering prayer prevails over God himself.

- St. Pius of Pietrelcina

It is simply impossible to lead, without the aid of prayer, a virtuous life.

- St. John Chrysostom

First Reading

Wisdom 18:6-9

The Hebrew people awaited the salvation of the just.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 33:1,12,18-22

Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own.

Second Reading

Hebrews 11:1-2,8-19

We will look for the city designed and built by God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 12:32-48

You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Jesus' instructions on how to be ready for the coming judgment continue in the stories and sayings found in today's Gospel. We are not to be like the greedy rich man in last Sunday's Gospel who planned to store his great harvest in barns rather than share it. We are, rather, to share our wealth with those in need. The antidote for the anxiety brought on by the coming judgment is to relinquish our possessions and provide for the needs of others. Our treasure will be in heaven where it will not wear out or be destroyed.

The other major way to be ready for the coming judgment is to be watchful. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells a parable about watchfulness to begin making this point. We must be like servants waiting for the master's return from a wedding banquet, which, even now, can last for a few days in the Middle East. We must be watchful so that even if the master comes after midnight, we will be ready for him. This is what the coming of the Son of Man will be like.

Peter asks if this parable is meant for the apostles or for the large crowd that has gathered to listen to Jesus. Without answering Peter's question, Jesus responds with another parable about servants awaiting the return of their master. It begins with a question: "Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward whom the master will put in charge of his servants to distribute the food allowance at the proper time?" This parable adds to the theme of watchfulness; it explains how to wait and reminds us of the reward for the faithful follower at the heavenly

banquet after the judgment. If it is addressed to the apostles, then it could also be addressed to leadership in the early Church. Either way, the parables reminds us that we should be found doing our jobs when the master arrives. If we are doing our jobs, our reward will be great. But if we relax, neglect our duties, and begin to act like the greedy rich man—eating, drinking, and making merry—we will not have a place in the kingdom. Watchfulness means living in such a consistently moral and obedient way that we are always ready to give an account to God of how we have lived.

Family Connection

Years ago, most families had only one or two clocks in their home. Today, we have clocks everywhere—on our walls, on our microwave ovens, on our DVD players, on our cell phones, and so on. As a family, go through the house and count how many clocks (time-telling devices) your family has. Talk about important events for which family members need to be on time. Recall experiences of being late for something, either as individuals or as a family. Explain that in this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus talks about how important it is for us to be aware and alert, otherwise, we will miss something.

Read aloud Luke 12:32-48. Talk about the parable that Jesus told and discuss how the master will feel if he arrives to find his servant doing his job. Discuss what our job is as disciples of Jesus. Explain that, just as we need to be aware of the time so that we don't miss anything important, we also need to be alert and focused on our jobs, our responsibilities as followers of Jesus.

Encourage each family member to place a sacred symbol near the clock that they use most in the house and to use the symbol and the clock as a reminder that it is always "time" for us to be acting like disciples of Christ.

Prayer for a Pandemic

May we who are merely inconvenienced, remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors, remember those who are most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home, respect and support those who must choose between preserving their health or paying their rent.

May we who have flexibility to care for our children when their schools are closed, remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips, remember those who have no place to go.

May we who are losing on our investments, remember those who have no money to invest.

God's Word for reflection

³“When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, ¹⁴if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

- Chronicles 7: 13-14

Please pray the Rosary for peace in our families!

We must fast with our whole heart, that is to say, willingly, wholeheartedly, universally and entirely.

- St. Francis de Sales

PRAY FOR THE SICK

We pray for all our sick parishioners, especially Nellie Franco, Colleen McManus, Adell Mueller, Mary Carney, Dustin Purvis, Lucas Reinhart, Laura Walker, Bert Holmes, David McCarthy, Lonta Williams, Glen Wright, Bob McIntee.

DIOCESAN CALENDAR

Mon. – Rev. D. Walter **Tues.** – Most Rev. M. Ustrzycki

Wed. – Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny (S.J.C.)

May we who settle in for quarantine at home, remember those who have no home.

During this time, when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us each find ways to be the loving embrace of humanity to our neighbors.

Be aware. Be accepting. Be supportive. Be kind.