

WELCOME (BACK)!

WORD OF THE WEEK

MATTHEW 25: 14-30



"At that time God's kingdom will also be like a man leaving home to travel to another place for a visit. Before he left, he talked with his servants. He told his servants to take care of his things while he was gone. He decided how much each servant would be able to care for. The man gave one servant five bags of money. He gave another servant two bags. And he gave a third servant one bag. Then he left. The servant who got five bags went quickly to invest the money. Those five bags of money earned five more. It was the same with the servant who had two bags. That servant invested the money and earned two more. But the servant who got one bag of money went away and dug a hole in the ground. Then he hid his master's money in the hole.

After a long time the master came home. He asked the servants what they did with his money. The servant who got five bags brought that amount and five more bags of money to the master. The servant said, 'Master, you trusted me to care for five bags of money. So I used them to earn five more.'"The master answered, 'You did right. You are a good servant who can be trusted. You did well with that small amount of money. So I will let you care for much greater things. Come and share my happiness with me.'"Then the servant who got two bags of money came to the master. The servant said, 'Master, you gave me two bags of money to care for. So I used your two bags to earn two more.'"The master answered, 'You did right. You are a good servant who can be trusted. You did well with a small amount of money. So I will let you care for much greater things. Come and share my happiness with me.'"Then the servant who got one bag of money came to the master. The servant said, 'Master, I knew you were a very hard man. You harvest what you did not plant. You gather crops where you did not put any seed. So I was afraid. I went and hid your money in the ground. Here is the one bag of money you gave me.'"The master answered, 'You are a bad and lazy servant! You say you knew that I harvest what I did not plant and that I gather crops where I did not put any seed. So you should have put my money in the bank. Then, when I came home, I would get my money back. And I would also get the interest that my money earned.'"So the master told his other servants, 'Take the one bag of money from that servant and give it to the servant who has ten bags.

Everyone who uses what they have will get more. They will have much more than they need. But people who do not use what they have will have everything taken away from them.' Then the master said, 'Throw that useless servant outside into the darkness, where people will cry and grind their teeth with pain.'

Our Word of the Week this week is an interesting story and we may find ourselves feeling really sorry for the last servant, but it gives us a very clear message for the year ahead.

Each of us have gifts and talents that we can invest into this year. These gifts and talents contribute to our school community and without you investing them into the year ahead, making sure you are using them, our school community isn't going to be the best it can be! We want you to use your gifts to make our school the best school it can be, so that everyone can flourish and do their best. Also the more you invest, put into the year, the more you will get out of it.




- What are your gifts and talents?
- How can you use your gifts and talents to make our school the best it can be?
- How can you use your gifts and talents to make sure that everyone feels loved, welcome, part of our community and so they can reach their full potential?



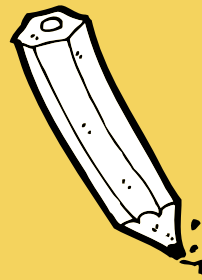
PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Dear God, thank you for giving us gifts we can use for the good of our school community and the world around us. Help us to always remember and value the gifts we have but also the gifts of others. Help us to use these gifts and encourage others to use theirs too so we can work together as one community growing together in the spirit of Christ's love.
Amen.



“RIVERS DO NOT DRINK THEIR OWN WATER; TREES DO NOT EAT THEIR OWN FRUIT; THE SUN DOES NOT SHINE ON ITSELF AND FLOWERS DO NOT SPREAD THEIR FRAGRANCE FOR THEMSELVES. LIVING FOR OTHERS IS A RULE OF NATURE. WE ARE ALL BORN TO HELP EACH OTHER. NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT IT IS...LIFE IS GOOD WHEN YOU ARE HAPPY, BUT MUCH BETTER WHEN OTHERS ARE HAPPY BECAUSE OF YOU.”

COMMUNITY IS REALLY IMPORTANT AND WE ALL HAVE OUR PART TO PLAY. THIS IS WHAT POPR FRANCIS HAS TO DAY ABOUT COMMUNITY.



I'm am sure it feels very strange coming back into school to start this new year and the school day does look a bit different too.

Take a moment this morning to reflect in silence or by writing something down on these questions. Think about how you are feeling right now.

- One silver lining from lockdown.
- The hardest thing about lockdown.
- What do you want your future self to remember about the time of lockdown?
- How are you feeling right now?
- Three things you are looking forward to this year?