



The Parable of the Talents

Welcome to Resurrection Catholic Community Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time November 15, 2020

“To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one—to each according to his ability....” Mt. 25:15

UPCOMING



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW
ADVENT PARISH MEETING
VIA ZOOM & YOUTUBE**
Sunday, December 6 at 2:00 PM

LITURGY & SPIRITUALITY

WELCOME BACK TO CHURCH!

We have **two masses each weekend:**

Saturday at 5:00 PM and Sunday at 10:15 AM. Due to social distancing requirements we have limited seating, and reservations are required. **To reserve a seat for weekend masses please [click here](#).**

Please arrive 10 minutes early for screening.

A letter (and an email) explaining all the safety protocols was sent to all parishioners June 12. If you didn't get it, you can read it [here](#).

Weekday Masses: Tuesday—Friday at 9 am in the church. No reservations needed.

Masks and social distancing are required at all times on church property for everyone's safety.

Thank you for your patience, prayers, and amazing support as we continue to safely adapt to living with the COVID-19 virus. The Bishop has suspended the Sunday mass obligation indefinitely since many people still need to stay at home, and we will continue to live stream our 9 AM weekday and our 10:15 AM Sunday mass.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE October 31-November 15

This year our entire food drive will be done with grocery store gift cards. Can you donate a \$50-\$75 gift card to feed a family for Thanksgiving Day? You can either purchase a grocery store gift card and bring it to the mass with you or you can go to our website and make a special Thanksgiving Food Drive donation by going to our website <https://resurrection-aptos.org> and click on the "Donate Now" button. Choose "Outreach" and indicate that it is for the Thanksgiving Food Drive. **Please make your donation by November 15.** Thank you for your compassionate outreach to our families and individuals in need!



PARISH OFFICE: As a reminder the parish office remains closed to the public. Please call the parish office at 831-688-4300 or email us and we will be happy to get back to you. You will need an appointment to drop something off. Thank you for your understanding.

“LIVE FROM RESURRECTION! IT'S SUNDAY MORNING!”

Our live stream Sunday mass is at **10:15 AM.**

Anytime after 10:00 AM on Sunday, here's how to join us:

Option 1: YouTube (non-interactive)

Go to our YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-OOaTsxzpSPs60Qlt0CIKQ>) (or simply search YouTube for Resurrection Church, Aptos) and look for the "Live Now" video. You'll be able to see and hear everything, but we won't be able to hear you if you want to share a prayer intention or peace greeting (but God will hear you!)

Option 2: Zoom (interactive)

From a computer:

1. Go to: <https://zoom.us/j/429472279>
2. Enter your name (so we'll know you're there!)

From a smart phone or tablet:

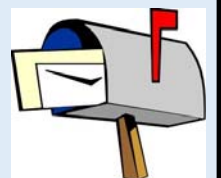
1. Download the Zoom app (if you don't already have it)
2. Start the app and select "Join a Meeting"
3. Enter Meeting ID 429 472 279

From any phone: (audio only)

1. Dial 1-669-900-6833 (a San Jose number)
2. Enter Meeting ID 429 472 279 and #
3. (Enter # again (no "Participant ID" needed))

An email will be sent on Saturdays with a convenient one-click link for computer users and a link to a worship aid for all. A link will also be placed on our website. A Zoom Visual Aid is available on our website.

Parish Mailing Address: If you are mailing anything to the parish please send it to our PO Box 87, Aptos CA 95001 (rather than our street address). We are not receiving mail at our street address since our office is not open (the post office eventually puts the mail sent to our street address into our PO Box but there is a week or two lag time). Thank you.



You may wish to have a trial run by logging on ahead of time. If you get to a page that says "This meeting has not started" then you've succeeded!

The mass will be available for on-demand viewing immediately after mass on our parish YouTube channel (search "[Resurrection Church Aptos](#)")

WEEKDAY MASS (Tuesday—Friday) 9:00 AM
Live and On-Demand on our YouTube Channel
Live on Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/98470808627>

MORNING PRAYER (Mondays) 8:00 AM
On-Demand on our YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-OOaTsxzpSPs60QIt0CIKQ/>

Mass Intentions for November 14—22

Saturday, 11/14

5:00 PM (RE) Pablo Compoginis

Sunday, 11/15

10:15 AM (RE) +Nick Rajkovich, +Paul McGillicuddy,
+Peter Ciccarelli, +Monique Buchner,
+Chris Ow, +Jim Bombardieri,
All Souls, Ivon Mineistra

Monday, 11/16

9:00 AM Morning Prayer



Tuesday, 11/17

9:00 AM (RE) +Gary Hughes

Wednesday, 11/18

9:00 AM (RE) +Dennis Kehoe, +Jim Bombardieri

Thursday, 11/19

9:00 AM (RE) All Souls

Friday, 11/20

9:00 AM (RE) +Gary Hughes

Saturday, 11/21

5:00 PM (RE) Men & Women in the Armed Forces,
those in harm's way & those
wounded physically and spiritually
The People of the Parish

Sunday, 11/22

10:15 AM (RE) +Jim Bombardieri, +Jake Bregante,
+Natividad Acosta, +Michael Lane,
+Paul McGillicuddy, +Chris Ow,
Jessy Varela & Family, All Souls,
The People of the Parish

PARISH EMAIL ADDRESSES

Parish: resurrectionparish@sbcglobal.net

Fr. Romeo Evangelista: reevangelista@att.net

Deacon Patrick Conway: pfconway@sbcglobal.net

Karen Victorino: kmvictorino@sbcglobal.net

Jolene McFeely: jamcfeely@sbcglobal.net

Erma Coty: elcoty@att.net



WOULD YOU LIKE A MASS OFFERED FOR A LOVED ONE? We are still able to take mass requests for daily mass or for the weekend. Please email Jolene at jamcfeely@sbcglobal.net and she will be happy to set up a date for you. The donation per mass is \$10.00. You can mail in a check or pay with your credit card. Thank you!

GOOD NEWS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Prv 31:10-13,19-20,30-31; Ps 128:1-5,
1 Thes 5:1-6; Mt 25:14-30 or
25:14-15,19-21

Monday: Rv 1:1-4;2:1-5; Lk 18:35-43

Tuesday: Rv 3:1-6,14-22; Lk 19:1-10

Wednesday: Rv 4:1-11; Lk 19:11-28

Thursday: Rv 5:1-10; Lk 19:41-44

Friday: Rv 10:8-11; Lk 19:45-48

Saturday: Rv 11:4-12; Lk 20:27-40

Sunday: Ez 34:11-12,15-17; Ps 23:1-3,5-6;
1 Cor 15:20-26,28; Mt 25:31-46



THE MASS NEVER ENDS—IT MUST BE LIVED!

We are invited to continue to reflect upon the Gospel reading (Matthew 25:14-30) and homily as we live out our Eucharist this week. Reflect upon it in your heart and mind, and discuss it with your family, friends and faith community members.

- What are your gifts and talents?
- How have you taken risks in using your gifts and talents? What have been the challenges and rewards?
- Have you ever regretted not using a good opportunity that came your way?

FAITH FORMATION

CATHOLIC INFORMATION NIGHTS

If you (or someone you know) are not Catholic and are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, you are invited to participate in our Catholic Information Nights each Wednesday at 7:30 PM on Zoom through December 2nd. For more information, contact Deacon Patrick at pfconway@sbcglobal.net or 831-840-3750.

PRAYER LINE PRAISE REPORT!

PRAYSE

Have your prayers been answered? Have you experienced a sign of God's love? Please let us know so that we can give thanks and praise to God with you! You can email us or send your praise report to our PO Box 87, Aptos, CA 95001.



**PLEASE PRAY for ALL THOSE
in NEED OF HEALING**



Cyrilla Ashley	Annie Enright	Judy Navarro
Cross/Boettcher/ Burghart families	Sean Enright	Zoe Nink
Jessy & Family	Alicia Enriquez	Leo Olson
Lorenzo Abeyta	Irma Enriquez	Gina Orlando
Gregory Ackerson	Terry Erwin	Teresa Oroasco
Marc Adato	Dee Feci	Gabe P.
Javier Anaya	Trent Feliss	Connor Paulbitski
Baby Luke	Greg Finegan	Dave Peasley
Becki Bailey	Mark Emmet Fisher	Ashley M. Pennell
Emi Baldenegro	Roy G.	Anita Perry
Adeline Bautista	Jen Garvey	Gabe Ponce
Dennis Berbach	Andre Grier	Oliver Potts
Maria Bernstein- Brumbaugh	Lita Hebert	Heidi R.
Stacy Bischoff	Kelly Jo Hebert	Pablo R.
Jeraldine Boger	Heike Hempel	Chris Randolph
Lillian Bombardieri	Mary Ann Herlihy	Dawn Renz
Vera Borroel	Robert Higgins	Mary Repetti
Tracy Boyd	Debra Hightower	Joel Rivera
Rick Braun	Rick Housouer	Chellie Roberts
Michelle Brown	Barbara Howley	Suzie Roberts
Betsy Burrows	Patrick Howley	Jose Rufino
Caitlin Jane Buse	Allan Hughes	Valerie Ruschke
Carlos C.	Jim Jackson	John Sargetis
Tony Cacache	Johnathan	Joseph Saucier
Dante Calcagno	Ariel Johnson	Anna Seely
Ardith Campbell	John Jones	Kim Sessa
Delores Carano	D.B.K.	Jill Schauf
John & Marion Cernac	Tony K.	Kelly Scott
Lucy Chacon	Cameron Karleen	Alisha Smith
Chelsea & Family	Geri Karleen	William Smith
Mary Church	Eric, Marth, Andrew & Taryn Kenner	Diane Spoto
Dr. Abraham Cordova	Dylan Kinion	Martina Sprenger & Family
Trish Cronin	Kathy Klapheke	Greg Stewart
Ralph Cross	Mary Klaus	Agnes Subbiondo
Edith Cuevas	Joshua Kobinski	Kathleen Tavares
Nancy Daves	Marion Kusanovich	Paul Thompson
Larry Davis	Michael Laffin	Estelle Turner
Carrie deHart	Matt Lane	Sharon Turner
Tavish deHart	Joan Lawlor	Amy V.F.
Maria Romo de Soto & Family	Eric Lee	Sally van Kaathoven
Lynnette Delgadello	Frank Leonetti	Mark Vaught
Sr. Joan Derry	Carrie Levin	Vlad
Ralph Desmond	Donald Lowery	Lawrence W.
Mary Donatoni	Matthew Ludlow	Stephanie Walsh
Sharon Dougan	Danny Lucas	Mike & Pauline Whalen
Mark Duggan	Michael Lucas	Mary Ann Wright
Robert Duggan	Eileen Mathwig	Michele Wright
Wyatt Duino	Ginny Solari Mazry	Tannis Welch
Pat Emard	Jackie McDow	Gina Wilson
Sophia Emmons	Connie McGill-Fergus	Thom Windsor
Peter Empson	Kathleen McGinley	Maggie Young
	Mary McMenemy	Rosemary Zamora
	Lisa McMenemy	
	Elaine McMenemy	
	George Mungai	
	Joleen Munoz	

Please let the office know when a name can be removed from this prayer list. Thank you.

PRAYER LINE: Please call Rosalie Flores-Aguon (831-359-9799) or Mary Soltis (688-8326) if you or someone you know is in need of prayer or email resurrection.aptos.prayerline@gmail.com

**Stewardship of Treasure
PLATE COLLECTION
November 7 & 8, 2020**

Weekly Plate Collection:	
• Mailed In & All Masses	\$3,812.00
• Electronic	<u>\$1,398.20</u>
• Total	\$5,210.20
Weekly Plate Collection Need (Budget)	\$10,000.00
Plate Collection Average	\$7,811.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFUL SUPPORT!

If you miss a week your donation can be mailed to the parish office at P.O. Box 87, Aptos, CA 95001-0087 or you go to <https://resurrection-aptos.org> and click on the donate now button. Thank you.

Remember Resurrection Catholic Community in your will. Contact Karen Victorino in the parish office.

My Weekly Offering

Your weekly offering can be given securely to Resurrection via our website

<https://resurrection-aptos.org>

or by scanning the QR Code



or by downloading the free app **Give Plus+** in the Google Play Store or Apple Store

or by mailing your donation to Resurrection Church, PO Box 87, Aptos, CA 95001

Your weekly offering helps pay for 70% of our operating expenses, expenses which continue even during the shutdown. Our staff is still working for you "behind the scenes". We thank you for your patience and for your continued support of the parish!

CONFIRMATION FOR CATHOLIC ADULTS

Please contact Deacon Patrick at 831-840-3750 or pfconway@sbcglobal.net for more information.

K-12 FAITH FORMATION & SACRAMENTS

For information please contact Deacon Patrick at 831-840-3750 or pfconway@sbcglobal.net

ONLINE DIOCESAN YOUTH DAY FOR ALL TEENS & YOUNG ADULTS with guest Paul J. Kim

Friday, November 20 from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM

This will be a time of prayer, reflection and music, interaction with one another, and hear a great presentation by Paul J. Kim. Paul J. Kim is one of the most sought-after Catholic youth & young adult speakers in America. The way he presents is a rare gift to witness and has impacted people of all ages in 46 states and in 7 countries over the past decade. Moving his audiences from laughter in one moment, to deep reflection and prayer in another; Paul utilizes his many talents (i.e. music – beatboxing, comedy, inspirational talks) to communicate the Gospel message of Christ to people in a way that is engaging, entertaining, and altogether life-changing

Live streaming event on Facebook and YouTube.

Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/Catholic-Youth-Diocese-of-Monterey-111225350657735/>

YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xth3Vv2Bh4g&ab_channel=CatholicYouthDioceseofMonterey

Target: Youth, young adults, and whoever wants to participate No registration required

POPE FRANCIS NEW ENCYCLICAL! Pope Francis doesn't write many encyclicals, but when he does, they're game-changers! *Fratelli Tutti (Brothers and Sisters All)* is his first since *Laudato Si'* in 2015, and it's a powerful pastoral statement and critique of many disturbing trends in our world today. You can read/download the entire 92-page document [here](#), or you can read/download a 21-page overview [here](#). A two-page summary is available [here](#), and Questions and Answers [here](#). We encourage you to read and reflect on this important letter!

OUTREACH

MANTLES OF CARING: The members of Mantles of Caring are occupying their isolation time with knitting and crocheting. There is a lovely array of handmade items available for your selection. Would you like a lovely, soft cap for a cancer patient? Perhaps, a baby blanket for a new grandchild? Or a prayer shawl for a Covid-19 patient? These items and more are available now. Contact Sue Panches (831) 661-0783 to find exactly what you are looking for and how to get it. Thank you.



FOOD PANTRY: Our Food Pantry continues to serve the needs of the poorest of our community each Monday and Friday morning from 10:00 AM to noon. Thanks to being an official distribution center for the Second Harvest Food Bank, and your generous donations, we have plenty of food to offer those who need it. We are able to purchase what we need from the Food Bank at a fraction of retail cost thanks to your generous donations, and we receive many free things from the Food Bank as well. We are so grateful for our generous volunteers who come each week to serve the clients and to make the food bags and keep everything organized. Truly Christ is revealed in the breaking of the bread!

SHELTER UPDATE: Our round-the-clock shelter continues to operate smoothly in Markey Community Center. Our little "family" of 17 beautiful people are able to shelter-in-place thanks to the gift of our center. They spend their time quietly reading, doing puzzles, keeping everything spotless, watching TV and movies, and enjoying our beautiful grounds in the lovely spring weather. During the shelter-in-place order, meals are being brought in by local caterers and restaurants, and we thank them for this wonderful, compassionate service! Shelter staff are onsite 12 hours each day to provide support, and one of the guests serves as the overnight monitor. Our mobile shower unit is on-site three days a week, and we thank our faithful and brave volunteers for providing this service. Our guests are so very grateful for our hospitality and want you to know it! Thank you for your ongoing support of the parish which makes it possible for us to be of service to others!

"SAFE SPACES" PARKING HOSPITALITY Some people without homes live in their vehicles, whether they be cars or vans or RV's. Resurrection has joined with other faith communities and organizations in Santa Cruz County to provide safe and supervised overnight parking for some of these brother and sisters. The program is managed by the Association of Faith Communities, of which Resurrection is a founding member, and which also manages our shelter program. We currently have two guests staying in their camper vans at night, safe and secure. We had electrical outlets installed in two of our lamp posts to provide power for our guests. It cost around \$2,500 to do this. If you'd like to contribute to this, you may make a donation to the parish for "Safe Spaces."

RESURRECTION CARD-CRAFTERS: HOLIDAY CARDS 2020

The Card-Crafters are back in action, ready to help make your holidays easier and, at the same time, benefit the parish's homeless ministries. In these challenging times, are you looking for something unique for friends, family or other special people in your life? The parish's Card-Crafters have a limited supply of lovely hand-made Christmas cards to send individually or to accompany holiday gifts. For the past four years, the parish's Card-Crafting group has been making and selling a variety of holiday and gen-



eral greeting cards in the church entryway several times per year after weekend Masses. Due to COVID restrictions, this is not possible at this time. But, from November 15 – December 15, hand-made holiday cards can be ordered from our stock on hand (and we do have about 60 of our best-selling “Madonna and Child” design, plus about the same number of other holiday designs). Each card / envelope set comes safely packaged in a sealed clear plastic envelope.

Our plan for this 2020 Holiday Card Sale:

1. Sell cards in prepared packets of 3 for \$10.00 (a saving of \$2.00 over our regular price of \$4.00 per card). We can handle only payments by cash or check.
2. If you would like to view SAMPLE packets or place an order, please contact Pat Lorenzo (708-2068 or pat.lorenzo336@yahoo.com). She will be happy to text you photos of sample cards in stock.
3. Pre-ordered card pick up after weekend masses. Pat Lorenzo will communicate with you about what date and time you can pick up your cards. We are limited to the number of people who can pick up each week due to social distancing.

All proceeds from card sales benefit the parish’s outreach programs for the homeless - in particular, the Faith Community Shelter which has been sheltering in place (SAFELY since early April) and the Safe Spaces Parking Program which has been providing a safe haven for 3 registered vehicles per night since early July. Please contact Pat Lorenzo for further information (831-708-2068) or pat.lorenzo336@yahoo.com).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESURRECTION WOMEN’S GUILD MEETING: Ladies are you new to the community and wish to meet new people?



Perhaps you desire to do more for our community and expand your Catholic faith....Well, then the Resurrection Women’s Guild is the place for you! Working together to reach the goals of the Guild gives each member the chance to give back to others in

friendship and Christian charity. In times of illness, loss or celebration, the women of the Guild stand ready to serve and support one another and the entire Resurrection Community. Our General Meeting will be held on Monday, November 16th at 11:00 AM in a ZOOM meeting format due to COVID-19. Detailed log-in instructions will be e-mailed to members prior to the meeting. Questions or to request Zoom login information if you are just joining please contact Karen Rice at rice2791@gmail.com or 831 688-4128 or Guild President Barbara Sissom at bsissom@sbcglobal.net or (831) 708-2888.

RETRouvaille MARRIAGE PROGRAM:

The Retrouvaille marriage program is another great resource for struggling couples. No one **ever** asks what your problems are. Led by mentor couples who have been there the program gives you the tools to deal with your problems privately between the two of you. To learn more about the VIRTUAL, online program starting with a weekend January 14-17 please email

Retrouvaille_Santa_CruzMonterey@mail.vresp.com

or call one of our caring volunteers at 831-479-1260. Or, you can register at www.HelpOurMarriage.org All inquiries are held in the strictest confidence.



DON’T FORGET TO SUPPORT OUR BULLETIN ADVERTISERS!

This week we are giving a shout out to our Catholic Schools: Good Shepherd, Salesian Sisters Elementary & Junior High & St. Francis High School. See the attached advertising page for all our advertisers. We are grateful for our advertisers continued support of the parish.

HOLIDAY GREENERY FUNDRAISER: We are **NOT** going to have the holiday wreath & greenery fundraiser this year.



Resurrection Church—Aptos, California



Resurrection Catholic Community

AMAZON SMILE: Many of you already shop on Amazon—now you can support Resurrection Church's Building Fund for Markey Community Center by using Amazon Smile. Log into your Amazon account by going to smile.amazon.com, using your same credentials to log in and choose Resurrection Church in Aptos, CA as your charity of choice. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible smile.amazon.com purchases made by supporters to Resurrection Church. Help spread the word!

Go to settings in the Amazon app and turn on Amazon Smile to use Amazon Smile in your app.



Thank you for your support!

LET'S BREAK BREAD "TOGETHER" RECIPE UP-

DATE: Thanks for submitting your recipes. They all look delicious! It's not too late to submit recipes to Karen Victorino at kmvictorino@sbcglobal.net. Our goal is to produce an electronic copy of all the recipes submitted before Thanksgiving.

We may not be able to gather to share a meal together right now but we can still connect with one another around food! Perhaps you've mastered a new recipe or maybe perfected one you've had. Would you consider sharing it? If you'd like to submit your recipes via email I'll compile them and put them on our website and put a link in our eBulletin and also in our What's Happening email. (If it's a recipe you've gotten from the internet or a cookbook please make sure you give credit to the person who created it by listing the website or cookbook name). Be sure to let me know if it is okay to put either your phone number and/or email address on your recipe in case people have questions. Let's break bread together! "Give us today our daily bread..." - Matthew 6:11



\$10,000 RAFFLE

Our \$10,000 Raffle is an annual event which is a huge part of our operating budget for the year. We are giving thanks for all the blessings we have received. As a way to give thanks would you consider purchasing a raffle ticket?

Raffle tickets will not be sold after mass. Raffle tickets may also be purchased directly from our website by clicking on the "Donate Now" button, <https://resurrection-aptos.org>. We will mail the ticket stubs to you.

The raffle is this **Sunday, November 15** after the 10:15 am mass. The drawing will be live-streamed.

Questions? Karen Victorino at 831-688-4300 or kmvictorino@sbcglobal.net

As of November 13 we have sold 371 raffle tickets.

(Our goal is to sell 405 tickets)

Thank you for your support!

Raffle Prizes to Date:

- \$100 in gift cards from local merchants
- Four \$250 gift cards from Deluxe Foods of Aptos
- \$150.00 cash prize in memory of Tim Freitas
- \$100.00 cash prize in memory of Todd Schouten
- \$400.00 cash prize in honor of Joe Repetti
- \$100 Safeway Gift Card
- Wire Sculpture by Lou Licon
- Photo Album & \$50 Cash
- Power Smokeless Grill
- A cord of wood, delivered
- Tea Basket with tea cups and plates
- Two \$100 Gift Certificates from the Haute Enchilada
- Annieglass Roman Antique Three Section Tray
- \$100 Gift Card for Persephone
- Gift Baskets: "Souper Supper", "Gardener's Delight", "Spot of Tea", "It's the Bees Knees"
- "Mangia! Mangia!" (2017 Magnum of Scherrer Zinfandel with a Pasta Bowl Serving Set and Italian Cookbook)
- "A Day Out" (Women's Shawl, purse, brooch, VISA gift card)
- Two Lands End Tote Bags with 2017 Magnum of Scherrer Zinfandel, Charcuterie Serving Board & Wine Glasses
- Bavarian Reindeer
- Ray Cook Manta Ray junior golf starter set (ages 3-5); a dozen Titleist Pro V1 golf balls; Taylor-Made Men's Slider 5 Wood 19 degree loft with headcover; Hot Z Sport Cart Bag



A Reflection by Erma Coty

Finally! The frost is on the pumpkin. It seems like we went from extremely hot days to bone chilling winter cold without passing through autumn. Or, I am just spending more time inside and have not experienced the transition that happens in the fall.

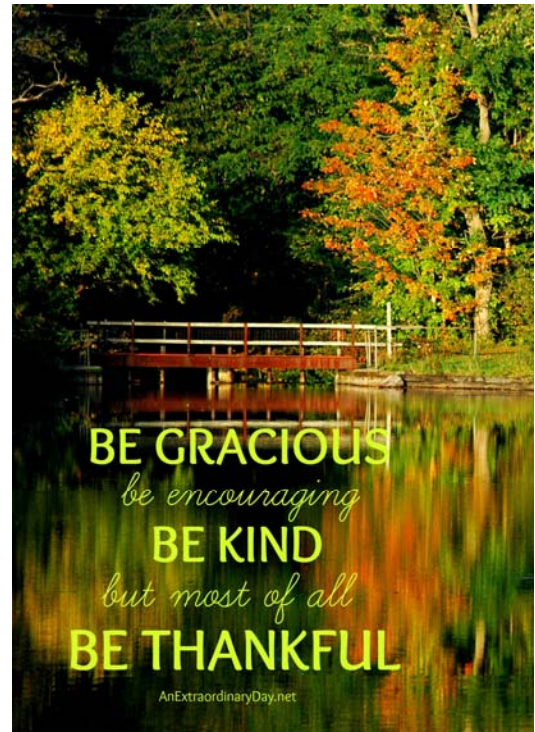
The weather reminds me of the time when we were exploring color palettes to determine if we were “winter or summer” personalities. It makes me smile to think how obsessed we were in going through our closet to decide what outfits fit into our assigned season. All I really had to do was pay attention to what I wore and what collected dust in the closet or drawer. With COVID in the mix I seem to stick to sweat pants (of almost any color), reaching for Levis only when I get dressed up to go to the grocery store. My “Sunday go to meetin’” clothes are in serious disuse. And shopping is way out of the question.

With the change of seasons we also prepare for the changes in the liturgical season. We look forward to Advent and of course Christmas. But first, we enjoy the secular month of November and we celebrate Thanksgiving. I look forward to seeing my favorite holiday movie, *Home for the Holidays*. For those who haven't seen it, it chronicles Thanksgiving weekend with a typical family getting together for the holiday. Warning! It is not a Hallmark movie that celebrates the holiday we all wish we had. It is the more familiar, and gloriously dysfunctional, family gathering we all know too well. Who doesn't have a great Thanksgiving story about their most memorable family gathering? I wouldn't trade the weirdly bizarre and often humorous stories I remember for the Hallmark-worthy perfection I look forward to watching each year.

Thanksgiving is a day for football games, communal food preparation, and familiar menus that comfort our souls and provide leftovers that sustain us for the rest of the week. Families gather together either in person or virtually. I guess COVID has helped us learn to use technology that allows face to face communications with those missing from the table. And it allows us to express gleeful regrets when sadly informing the disruptive relatives that Thanksgiving gatherings will not happen in 2020. This is the year we give thanks with only those who are in our daily lives and belong to our safe contacts.

Those of us, who are older or at risk, are less likely this year to volunteer at a food kitchen or shelter to help serve at a communal dinner. But we can still donate money or turkeys to Second Harvest or to the Salvation Army. Some may share a plate of food with a lonely neighbor or an acquaintance. And we all can offer prayers of thanks for blessings, prayers of healing for those who are lonely or ill, and prayers of condolence for those who have suffered loss (especially for those affected by the fires and from COVID-19).

For all we have, for friends, for the blessings of faith and the hope we have for tomorrow, we will give thanks.



ENSEMBLE MONTEREY FREE MUSIC:

Ensemble Monterey is offering free music downloads at www.thesundancelanestore.com, click on the Ensemble Monterey logo, then click for your free downloads. Ensemble Monterey is sharing this gift of music to help raise our spirits. This can be downloaded as many times as you want and free to the whole community.



Thank you Ensemble Monterey!