

PROPER 29: SERVICE AND GIVING THANKS

THE STORY:
MATTHEW 25:31-46

This is the culmination of Jesus' teaching in Matthew, (and for us it is also the finale of the church year) and Jesus does not mince words telling those gathered around him about what we are all called to do and what we all can do each and everyday. This is not rocket science. It's about treating each person we meet as if they were Jesus, because they are and therefore should be given all the same respect and honor as our Lord.

YOUNGER CHILDREN

Reflection Questions:

I wonder what you remember about our story today?

• I wonder what message Jesus was trying to get across?

• I wonder what it meant when Jesus said, "just as you did not do to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me."

OLDER YOUTH

*Do you believe that history is headed toward a climactic, inescapable, conclusive day of judgment?

*Who are the people gathered before Jesus in the final judgement pictured by this parable? Among the options are Gentiles, Jews, the church, non-believers and all of humanity. Who do you think they are?

*Similarly, who are the hungry, thirsty, naked, strange, sick, imprisoned people who have either been helped or not helped? Among the options are "There's no way to tell," "All people in general," and "Followers of Jesus." Who do you think they are?

ACTIVITIES

1. Write or draw thank you notes to give to people as a way of appreciating what someone has done for you this past year.

2. Choose a project from the attached list and ask your parent and/or a parish member to help you plan and carry out your plan.