

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: 1 Kings 3:5, 7-12
Resp. Psalm: Psalm 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130
Second Reading: Romans 8:28-30
Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

[Full readings can be found here!](#)

1. HEAR

Grab your bible and look up the Gospel reading. Don't have one? No worries you can find the Gospel reading by clicking [HERE](#). (Bishop O'Connell's Gospel Reflection page.)

As an alternative to reading the Gospel, you can listen and audio with the proclamation for adults by clicking [HERE](#). (YouTube, Perfect Little Gentleman channel, 1:37 min)

Children can also watch a video proclamation of the Gospel by clicking [HERE](#). (YouTube, FuegodeAmoryVida channel, 2:35 min)

2. PRAY

Gather with your family or a friend around a prayer space in your home. Each person finds something they consider to be most valuable to them, and place it on the prayer table.

(Someone leads this moment of prayer by inviting all to make the sign of the cross.)

Today, we listen how King Solomon ask God to give him what he considered most valuable. But notice he didn't ask for money or power. Instead he asked for the most valuable gift: the wisdom to be a good ruler of his people. He considered God's gift of wisdom above any other thing of value.

Now, look at all the objects on the prayer space, that each of us considers to be of great value.

Do you believe that those objects are truly more valuable than other gifts God has given you? *(Allow for a brief moment of silence.)*

If you don't think that object is so valuable anymore, come forward and remove it from the prayer space. As you do so, say out loud one gift from God you would like to trade the object for.

Now, in silence, take a moment to thank Jesus for the gift you have asked for. *(To close this moment of prayer, all recite the Our Father together.)*

3. TALK

In today's Gospel Jesus delivers a powerful message: we are all most valuable to God the Father, and he loves us with unconditional love. God knows that we are as valuable as the buried treasure, as the pearl of great price, and as the good fish that got caught in the net.

Pair with another person, and reflect on the following questions:

- **What are the gifts God has given me that make me a person of great value?**
- **How do I put those gifts to good use for the benefit of my loved ones?**

Allow time for brief sharing of their responses to each question. When finished, invite all present to write one of their gifts on a piece of paper, and place it on the prayer table.

