

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5 2020

# THE GIFT EXCHANGE

A weekly newsletter for GIFT households.

## WHAT'S INSIDE

---

**MAGNIFYING  
THE MASS - 2**

---

## WHAT'S COMING UP

---

### **OCTOBER**

13: TAG @ 7 PM

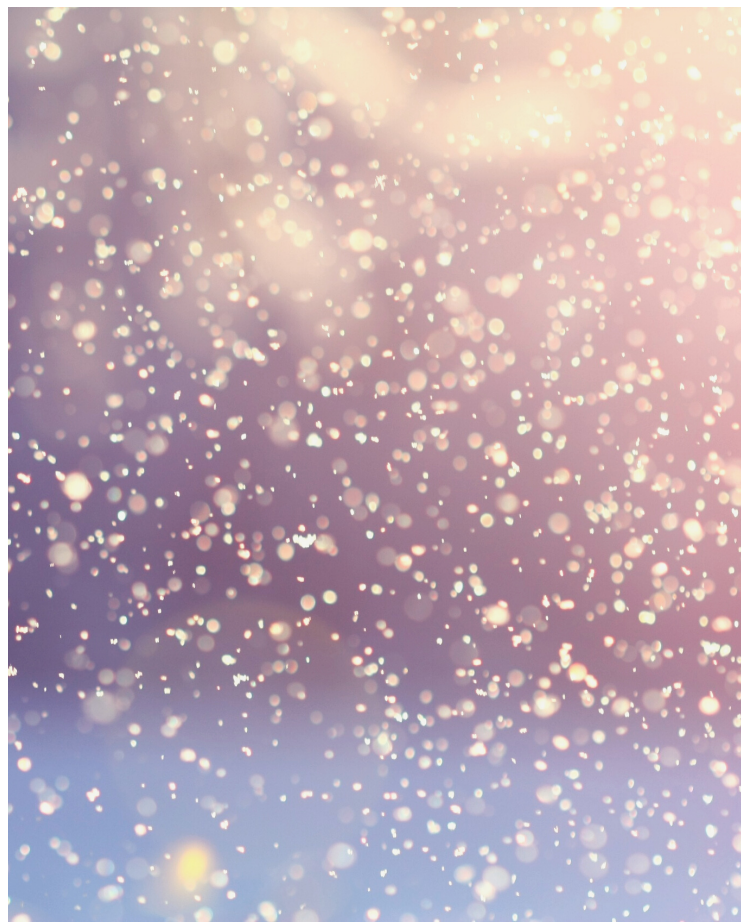
18: GIFT SESSION 3

### **NOVEMBER**

1: ALL SAINTS DAY

3: ELECTION DAY

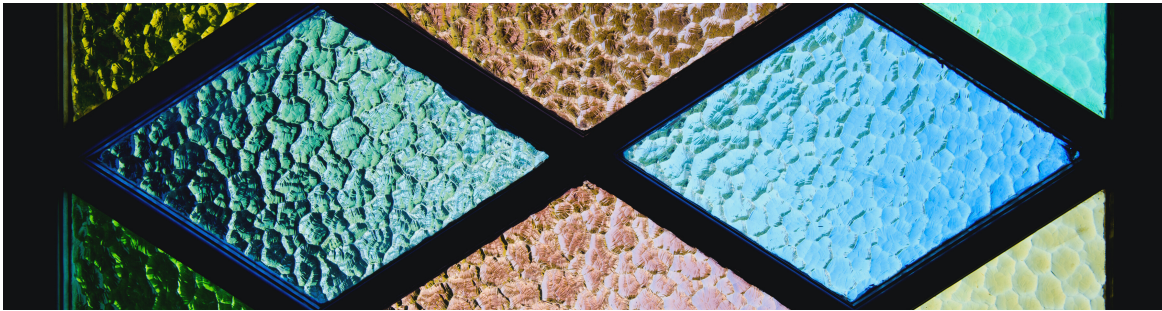
8: GIFT SESSION 3



## GATHERED AS COMMUNITY

### LET IT SNOW

I woke up this morning to a screenshot of the forecast. No words were needed. I knew the second I saw the tiny little snowflake my friend was expressing outrage over the possibility of snow next week. While I am elated, I know not everyone feels this way. Snow is a lot of extra work for most of us and can be a pain; however, this year I challenge you to approach the changing of the seasons a little differently. It feels like most of 2020 has seriously lacked any form of habit, routine or predictability. There is just so much uncertainty! So much that we forget there are things we can still count on. Today, it's the concept of snow. Perhaps not something we would usually look forward to but for the rest of this year I encourage you to find the blessing in that predictability. I am going to going to strive to see the blessing in consistency of things however it appears and I hope you will join me! (Feel free to remind me of this when I am grumbling about getting up earlier in a few weeks because I have to start clearing off my car.)



# MAGNIFYING THE MASS

## TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Reading 1** Isaiah 45:1,4-6

**Reading 2** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5B

**Gospel** Matthew 22:15-21

### Reading 1:

*"It is I who arm you, though you know me not, so that toward the rising and the setting of the sun people may know that there is none besides me."* God has given us every gift, talent and charism we need to live out His word. We can fortify our actions with these gifts. They can be our anchor. But first we must identify them so that we can then use them as we dedicate ourselves to discipleship. What are your gifts? How can you use them to be a disciple?

### Reading 2:

*"For our gospel did not come to you in word alone."* How do you hear the Gospel? Most of the time it is read to us as we sit still and listen. We receive this message passively. However, that is not how we are called to live out our faith. Can we build a just society on the foundation of the Catholic Social teachings if we are passive? Of course not! How can you move the Gospel into action this week?

### Gospel:

Everyone has things that are important to them. In your household, what activities do you spend the most time doing? Go ahead - make a list! Now reflect on each of those - which do you spend the most time on and which are the most important? Are they the same? In this week's Gospel Jesus reminds us the necessity of giving things their proper importance. Is this reflected in your list? If not, how can you make that happen?

***This week's readings*** remind me that what I devote myself to matters. My loyalty matters. Am I more devoted to watching my favorite program every week than anything else? Am I more dedicated to completing this year's National Novel Writing challenge than anything else? Do I attach myself to worldly things at the expense of the love and honor that I owe to God? Yes. All of the time. I lose sight of this this more often than I should. Which this week's readings also remind me of - I am human and I need reminders. Centering myself in scripture, in the lessons of Jesus is a great way to get myself back on track. How can scripture help you get back on track this week?