

STEWARDSHIP BULLETIN REFLECTIONS

October 2018 – December 2018

October 7, 2018

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“So out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.” (GENESIS 2:19)

The creation story reminds us of two important points. First, since the start, God has put the entire world into our care. Second, stewardship has been around since the beginning of mankind, it isn't something recently invented by the Church. Just as past generations built our Church, it is now our responsibility to continue to nurture and develop these gifts for future generations.

October 14, 2018

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” (MARK 10:25)

Jesus uses tough language that we may not want to hear. But, we are all called to be generous with all our gifts. Not just the ones we pick and choose, but all our gifts: our time in prayer to God, our talent in participating in parish ministries and our treasure supporting our local parish and other charities.

October 21, 2018

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“For the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (MARK 10:45)

If you held a mirror up to your life, would it reflect God's love and mercy? If you are struggling with this, try changing your attitude from “I want more” to “thank you God for everything you have given me, I have enough to share”. This change in perspective will bring you joy through service to others.

October 28, 2018

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“And Jesus said to him, ‘Go your way; your faith has made you well.’ And immediately he received his sight and followed him on the way.” (MARK 10:52)

Faith is believing in something even though you may not be able to see it. Many people think that miracles don't happen anymore. But, if you focus on the positive, not the negative, focus on your blessings instead of your hardships, miracles will seem common and you will see God's active presence in your daily life.

November 4, 2018

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

“And ‘to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself’ is worth more than all the burnt offerings and sacrifices.” (MARK 12:33)

Of all the gifts that God gives us the one He wants the most is our heart. He wants us to share out of love, not out of obligation. Using our talent in parish ministry and contributing money to support our parish mission is important, but it’s more important to spend time in prayer with God daily and discern how He is calling us to be generous with all of our gifts. Not just the visible ones, but the invisible ones like love, mercy and forgiveness.

November 11, 2018

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they all contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living. ” (MARK 12:43-44)

Jesus gets right to the point – we are all called to give money to support the mission of the Church, regardless of our circumstance. No gift is too small or insignificant! Giving money to support the mission of our local parish is a matter of our faith, just like praying and participating in parish ministries. When you make a financial offering, is it from your “first fruits” or from what is “left over”?

November 18, 2018

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“And then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.” (MARK 13:26)

We will all have that day when we are standing before God and our life is played out like a movie. When this happens and God asks each of us, “What have you done with the gifts that I have given you?” How will you respond?

November 25, 2018

Feast of Christ the King

“Jesus answered, ‘My kingdom does not belong to this world.’ (JOHN 18:36)

How often do we put all our time and energy into building a kingdom here on earth, forgetting that life here is short? The real kingdom is in the next life. Yet, how much time and energy do we invest in working for that eternal kingdom?

December 2, 2018

1st Sunday of Advent

“But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.” (LUKE 21:28)

We celebrate Advent each year in preparation of the birth of Jesus, His first coming, as we await his second coming. In this Advent season, use the sacrament of Reconciliation to strengthen your relationship with Jesus. It's never too late.

December 9, 2018

2nd Sunday of Advent

"And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value..." (PHILIPPIANS 1:9-10)

Glittery holiday ads can blind us to our stewardship values and distort our needs and wants. It is important that during this season of endless buying we remember that each of us also has the need to give back to God and to those that are in need.

December 16, 2018

3rd Sunday of Advent

"Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." (PHILIPPIANS 4:6)

St. Paul reminds us that our God is an abundant God, the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. When we trust that God will take care of us, it is easier for us to share what we have been given.

December 23, 2018

4th Sunday of Advent

"For behold, when the voice of your greeting came to my ears, the babe in my womb leaped for joy." (LUKE 1:44)

When you hear the scripture readings and Gospel reading each Sunday, do you "leap for joy?" If not, don't blame the lecturer or priest, rather look inside yourself. Do you prepare for Mass each week or do you just show up and expect to be entertained? We are called to be active participants, not passive bystanders.

December 30, 2018

Feast of the Holy Family

"See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are." (1 JOHN 3:1)

During this season of giving, let us remember the most important gift we have received – being children of God. As God's children, it's important that we express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children and other family members and friends that you love them, frequently.