

STEWARDSHIP BULLETIN REFLECTIONS

October 2017 – December 2017

October 1, 2017

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Do nothing out of selfishness; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves...”

Philippians 2:3

Pride and ego are hard things to control. We see how others act or dress and think we are superior to them. We idolize our own self-image. But, if we truly believe everything is a gift from God, we recognize all the people that God has put in our lives as gifts! We are grateful for how they enrich our lives. Pray every day for the people in your life.

October 8, 2017

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“The stone the builders rejected has become the corner stone...” - MATTHEW 21:42

Jesus was the corner stone and He was rejected by the religious and political leaders of his day, as well as ordinary citizens. Living a stewardship lifestyle may cause you to be “rejected” by others in today’s society. For example, saying grace before a meal in a restaurant may attract some strange looks from some. But to others it is sign that God is alive and well!

October 15, 2017

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“My God will supply whatever you need...” - PHILIPPIANS 4:19

God really does provide for those who are grateful and generous. This is very difficult for people that don’t live a stewardship lifestyle to believe. People are skeptical and say it’s just coincidence. If you are skeptical, try living a stewardship lifestyle for just one month – be generous with your gifts of time, talent and treasure and see how God provides for your needs.

October 22, 2017

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.”

- MATTHEW 22:21

Everything we are and everything we have belongs to God. We aren’t “owners” of anything, we are merely “stewards” of the gifts God has given each of us. All God is asking is that we give back a portion of what He gave us. This is the essence of Stewardship. God should be our first priority in everything. All else comes second.

October 29, 2017

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.”

– MATTHEW 22:37

Do you put other “gods” before God? Is your love of money, power, status or some personal possession greater than your love for God? Do you really recognize that everything you have and everything you are is a gift from God? The good news – it’s not too late to put God first in your life in all things.

November 5, 2017

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Whoever exalts himself will be humbled; but whoever humbles himself will be exalted.” - MATTHEW

23:12

Jesus gave His life to serve, not to be served. Putting other’s needs before our own needs is a sign of becoming a mature disciple, of following Jesus’ example. Humility is really a sign of a strength. By putting other’s needs first we declare to the world that we are putting our complete trust in God. When we align our thoughts and actions with God’s plan for us, the result is Joy and Peace.

November 12, 2017

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Therefore, stay awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour.” - MATTHEW 25:13

Many of us have put off doing something because we think we are too busy. We’ve all said, “I’ll do it later when I have time.” Unfortunately, too many of us apply this attitude to our Faith. Jesus’ call is urgent, in the here and now, in your current circumstances. Don’t delay, how is God calling you to use your gifts today?

November 19, 2017

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you have been faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities.”- MATTHEW 25:21

God expects us to nurture and develop the gifts He has given us and then generously return a portion with increase. He doesn’t want us to waste or hoard the gifts He has given us; He expects us to grow our gifts, use them wisely and be generous with them. Unfortunately, many of us are not generous in proportion to all that God has given us.

November 26, 2017

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

“...whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers, you did for me” – MATTHEW 25:40

Most of us are generous when it's convenient for us. We are generous when we have the time or the money. But, generosity is the opposite of that. It means giving of one's time, money, compassion, forgiveness or mercy when it's not convenient; when it's not on our schedule, but on the other person's schedule.

December 3, 2017

First Sunday of Advent

"Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time will come." - MARK 13:33

We all take things for granted. In particular, we take time for granted. Our lives are so busy, many of us are planning our time - our days, weeks, months, even years in advance. Remember, our time on earth is a gift. None of us knows how long we will be here. Start today and begin thanking God for each and every day. Take time in silence, every day, and listen to what God is saying to you.

December 10, 2017

2nd Sunday of Advent

"Prepare the way of the Lord..." - MARK 1:3

We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, does just that – it puts us on the path to holiness and it invites others to be holy, too.

December 17, 2017

3rd Sunday of Advent

"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" – 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16 - 18

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations.

December 24, 2017

4th Sunday of Advent

"Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" – LUKE 1:28

Faith is a gift from God. Take time in silence and thank Him for all the gifts He has given you. Try to set aside any anger or resentment you have and really open your heart to receive the gift of God's mercy and forgiveness. We can't give what we don't have. We need to receive God's mercy and forgiveness first before we can give it to others.

December 31, 2017

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

"...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive." - COLOSSIANS 3:13

Forgiveness – one of the hardest things for people to do. It's amazing how long we can hold a grudge or be angry with someone. As we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, take this opportunity to give the gift of forgiveness to someone - maybe someone in your family, maybe a friend, maybe a co-worker or neighbor or, maybe yourself. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.