

## Stewardship Messages December 2023

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

***“Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.” - Mark 13:33***

It is easy, especially when our lives are going smoothly, to take things for granted. We are comfortable and we can often “put off” doing things. We may think that we “will get to that later,” no matter if it is sharing our gifts with others or preparing our mind and spirit for the end of our earthly days. Listen to God and try to hear how He is calling you to help build His kingdom on earth – today.

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

***“Prepare the way of the Lord...” - Mark 1:3***

How are you preparing the way of the Lord? Are others seeing you give of your time and treasures and talents to others? Are you setting an example of a good and holy life for others to see? Are your actions and words things to be emulated? Living the type of life that God calls us to live means that we are not just responsible for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well.

December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

***“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18***

How does a person “rejoice always?” What does it mean to “pray without ceasing?” To rejoice always doesn’t mean that we rejoice in evil, nor does it mean that we like suffering. A basic explanation is that in all situations we have a reason to rejoice, and that reason is Jesus and our belief that when we place our trust in God and He will provide. To pray without ceasing means that we always have our minds on the things of God, rather than the things of earth.

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

***“Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you!” – Luke 1:28***

Mary’s life is the ultimate in hearing God’s call and living it out – relying on God to provide for her needs. Certainly, living God’s will for her was not always easy or carefree for Mary. She accepted the obstacles and uncertainties of her life and was obedient to her role in God’s plan.

December 31, 2023

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

***“...as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.” - Colossians 3:13***

Forgiving someone is very hard. It is difficult to even think about forgiving someone who has hurt us or those we love. But it is important to remember that God forgives us through the sacrament of reconciliation. He gives us his forgiveness and mercy. If He forgives us, we can forgive others. It is not easy but pray for strength and grace to forgive.