

Stewardship Messages

February 2023

February 5, 2023

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“... your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.” Matthew 5:16

Good works and generosity are noticed – and others often are inspired to do similar things. When we serve others through our stewardship of our gifts of time and treasure, we model a generous and grateful lifestyle to others. However, we are not to call great attention to our generosity, but rather give of ourselves as recognition of the gifts God gave us. Others will recognize genuine generosity and humility.

February 12, 2023

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.” Matthew 5:20

While it may be difficult to relate to Jesus' reference to the Pharisees, there can be some comparisons in our lives. Like the Pharisees who lived strictly according to the law but in doing so elevated themselves above others, sometimes we can follow the rules of the Church, but not live out the love of the Lord. Going through the motions of regularly attending Mass and receiving the Sacraments, but then being mean-spirited or selfish with the gifts that God gave us or holding ourselves at higher level than others is like being a modern Pharisee. It is not enough to just “live by the rules.” We must show love and share our gifts with others.

February 19, 2023

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

“But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you ...” Matthew 5:44

This is a big statement from Jesus and one that is often difficult to follow. Of course, it is easy to love our family and friends and people who think and live like us. But, Jesus calls us to love our enemies. Praying about how to do that is important. Whenever we pray, we get closer to God. In praying about how to do something that is difficult we can get new insights into ourselves and strengthen our relationship with God.

February 26, 2023

First Sunday of Lent

“It is written: ‘The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.’” Matthew 4:10

This is not an easy thing to follow, especially in our world that is filled with so many messages and temptations of riches and power. Jesus sets the example for us when the devil tempts him with luxuries and power. He turns away from worldly things and puts service to his Father at the center. He reminds us that we are to put God at the center of our lives, too. This Lent could be a good time to start examining how you could make your life more God-centered.

January 1, 2023

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

“And Mary kept all of these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” – Luke 2:19

Mary is the premium example of hearing and following the Lord’s call. Certainly, she was confused, scared and maybe even amazed. She was a young girl called to do something and live a life that no one had ever been asked to do before. Ask Mary to help you to recognize, understand and live out your call.

January 8, 2023

Epiphany of the Lord

“Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.” – Matthew 2:11

Although the gifts that we offer to Jesus are not precious metal or fragrant or healing materials like the Magi presented, we are all called to give whatever we can. We are called to generously share our gifts. In the sharing, our gifts are precious.

January 15, 2023

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

“For now the Lord has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb ...” – Isaiah 49:5

Each of us have different gifts. They are gifts from God. We are called to return those gifts to God through our service to others. No one's journey is the same. Gratefully embrace your gifts and return them to God by using them as He intended.

January 22, 2023

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

“He called them and they immediately left their boat and their father and followed Him.” Matthew 4:21-22

The first apostles left everything behind – their families and their livelihood. All of us are not called to make such a dramatic change as did Peter, Andrew, James and John, but we are called to put God first in all things in our lives. For each of us that means something different, but through prayer and sharing our gifts we come to realize how to put God first.

January 29, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” – Matthew 5:3

Some of the Beatitudes can be difficult to understand by our modern language meanings. The phrase “poor in spirit” speaks of a spiritual condition of poverty. It describes a person who recognizes his or her need for God. Those who do rely on God realize that God is at the center of all things are one in the kingdom of God.