

Stewardship Messages

Lent 2019

March 9/10

First Sunday of Lent

"I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O Lord, have given me." Deuteronomy 26:10

This passage addresses the "first fruits." Do you give to God from your "first fruits" – the best you have; the best you have to offer, or do you give from the "leftovers?" Do you recognize that all you have – and all you have to give – are gifts from God? How can you give from a grateful and generous heart every day?

March 16/17

Second Sunday of Lent

"He then said to him, 'I am the Lord who brought you from the land of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession.'" Genesis 15:7

The Lord gave Abraham, Moses and the Israelites a land to possess. He also gives each one of us gifts, like our homes, our property and our possessions. Whether these are expansive or modest, they are all gifts from God. How do you show gratitude for the home and other gifts? Do you return any of your financial gifts in appreciation to God?

March 23/24

Third Sunday of Lent

"He said to the gardener, 'For three years now, I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree, but have found none.'" Luke 13:7

Each one of us can be like a barren fig tree at times. Sometimes, we do not generously share what we have with others. How will you respond when God asks you what have done with all of the gifts He has given you? We are not only called to be generous, but we are called to nurture our gifts and give back with increase.

March 30/31

Fourth Sunday of Lent

"... No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan." Joshua 5:12

For the 40 years that the Israelites journeyed in the desert, God provided them with food in the form of manna. The manna ceased as soon as they were able to enjoy the fruits for the Promised Land. Similarly, as God's blessings to the Israelites changed, His blessings to us may change over time. It is important to remember that He will provide us what we need.

Are you looking for ways to help with your Lenten experience?
Here are some ideas for Lent and the beginning of the Easter season.
(from the International Catholic Stewardship Council)

1. Attempt a more intentional prayer life – start a habit of praying in the morning and before bedtime.
2. Make a prayer basket for your home. Fill the basket with slips of paper or construction paper hearts (get the children involved) with the names or intentions that you wish to pray for as a family this Lent. Pick one out before each meal and remember that person or intention in your prayer.
3. Attend a weekday Mass.
4. Pray the Rosary.
5. Make a point of experiencing the sacrament of reconciliation. Consider inviting someone who has been away from the sacrament to join you.
6. Pray for someone with whom you are out of touch.
7. Resolve to stop engaging in rumors, gossip and negative chatter that devalues others.
8. Begin and end each week with an email thanking someone for all that they do.
9. Be sure to say grace before you eat at restaurants – just like you would at home.
10. Pray before the Blessed Sacrament.
11. Invite someone who's been away from church to attend Mass with you.
12. Make a gift to a charitable cause. Make it a sacrificial gift.
13. Attend a parish or diocesan event centered on faith issues.
14. Learn about the life of a saint – maybe your parish saint or a saint who shares your name.
15. Visit someone who's alone.
16. Reflect on the most pressing challenges confronting our Church and pray for a Spirit-filled response.
17. Pray for our Holy Father, Pope Francis.
18. Attend the Stations of the Cross.
19. Find out if there is a person participating in your parish's RCIA program and send a note of encouragement.
20. Embrace periods of silence in each day.
21. Offer to be part of the church preparation crew or cleanup crew for the Easter Triduum liturgies.
22. Commit to a parish ministry or try a different ministry than the one in which you are already engaged.
23. Cut your media consumption to open time for prayer or scripture reading.
24. Dedicate a portion of your time during Lent to service others such as volunteering at a soup kitchen or homeless shelter.
25. Invite someone you know who will be alone to Easter Sunday dinner.