

# Stewardship Messages

## Epiphany through Ordinary Time

Jan. 5/6

Epiphany of the Lord

*"... the Gentiles are co-heirs, members of the same body, and co-partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the Gospel."* Ephesians 3:6

The Epiphany of the Lord celebrates that Christ came to all of us – not just the Hebrews. All of us, no matter our background, have unique gifts, given to us by God. How do you use your gifts to play a role in the Body of Christ?

Jan. 12/13

Baptism of the Lord

*"John answered them all saying, 'I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'" Luke 3:16*

In baptism, we "die with Christ" to do God's will. As baptized Catholics we are called to give the gift of ourselves to Jesus. We are to trust in God and allow the Holy Spirit to work through us for the glory of God.

Jan. 19/20

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"To each individual the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit."* 1 Corinthians 12:7

Reflect on how God has blessed you. Are you using your gifts as God intended for you? No one else can live the life God planned for you. Ask for His guidance. Listen for His word. Feel His love in your life.

Jan. 26/27

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared..."* Nehemiah 8:10

In this passage, there is a message that God does not forbid us from enjoying good things in life. It is OK to be happy, but, God expects us to be grateful and to share our blessings with those in need – and not expect anything in return.

**Feb. 2/3**

**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*“Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, love is not pompous,  
it is not inflated ...” 1 Corinthians 13:4*

Do you get jealous of the “things” that other people possess, rather than focus on the gifts that God has given to you? Do you acquire more things just to impress others? Pray to be less “self-centered” and more “God-centered.”

**Feb. 9/10**

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?’  
‘Here I am,’ I said. ‘Send me!’” Isaiah 6:8*

Sometimes the way that God asks, “Whom shall I send?” are not grand. The calls to “go” could be as simple as a kind word to someone in line at the coffee shop; lending a listening ear to a friend who is worrying; or volunteering for a local organization or ministry at your parish. How often are you willing to say, “Here I am”?

**Feb. 16/17**

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*“Blesses are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you and insult you, and denounce your name as evil on  
account of the Son of Man.” Luke 6:22*

So often it is easier to not respond when someone jokes meanly or makes evil comments about God, the Catholic Church or our faith. Arguing is not comfortable for many people – especially when it is about something so personal. Pray for the strength and courage to say the right words and be a witness to the Gospel in difficult situations.

**Feb. 23/24**

**Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*“But rather, love your enemies and do good to them, and lend expecting nothing back.” Luke 6:35*

This is not easy. Very often we need help to show mercy and compassion toward those who do us wrong. It may be hard, but perhaps start with the little annoyances that you experience. Say a prayer for the person who caused you to feel unwanted or irritated. Say a prayer to be strong and not vengeful.

**March 2/3**

**Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*“A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit.” Luke 6:43*

How do you give the gifts that God has given you to “bear good fruit?” Listen to God and ask Him for guidance in how He is calling you to use your unique gifts for His glory.