

For Use March 6-7, Third Sunday of Lent (B)

Stewardship by the Book

When Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water, He opened the door for a life-changing relationship with Him. Scripture says her testimony drew many others to Him as well. We, too, must be ready to respond whenever and wherever the Lord speaks to us and be prepared for it to change our lives!

Vocation View

Jesus cleaned out the temple of money changers. He was angry; He was zealous; He spoke with authority. He was doing what he had to do, even though it involved risk, danger, insult and wonder. Such is a vocation.

Stewardship Reflections

“You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything...” - EXODUS 20:4

How many “gods” do you put before God? “Idols” do not always take the shape of physical things, things we can touch and feel. Those are easy to recognize. Many times they take the form of things we cannot touch and are much harder to spot like pride, power, ego, time, comfort or health. Pray for God’s help to prune our vices and to grow in virtue.

Family Perspective

Today’s gospel says Jesus chased the merchants out of the temple, it doesn’t say He was angry. Jesus teaches us to act from conviction and not from anger. He didn’t condemn the merchants, only their business practice. Attack the behavior and not the person.

Prayers for Priests

Saint of the Week-Saint Luigi Orione-Feast Day March 12

The founder of The Little Work of Divine Providence, which encompasses two active and two contemplative religious orders for men and women as well as a lay movement, was born in Italy’s Piedmont. After early sojourns with Franciscans and Salesians, he entered the seminary of the Diocese of Tortona and was ordained in 1895. Always devoted to the care of others, especially the poor and sick, Don Orione established schools and learning centers, worker hostels, hospitals, and homes for the elderly, disabled, sick and blind. The members of his apostolate serve today in 300 foundations in Europe, Asia, Africa and North and South America. The dying words of this priest, who was canonized in 2004, were “Jesus ... Jesus... Jesus.”

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For Use March 13-14, Fourth Sunday of Lent (B)

Stewardship by the Book

The blind man was willing to let Jesus minister to him and willingly did all Jesus asked of him. The Pharisees were more resistant to His message, spending their time and energy to disprove the miracle. Which am I more like, the man born blind or the Pharisees?

Vocation View

Jesus told Nicodemus that when we find our calling in life, we are reborn. We really become a new person, fired with a new love, aimed in a new direction with purpose and love. Listen to Jesus' voice. Let Jesus challenge you.

Stewardship Reflections

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son..." - JOHN 3:16

Of all the wonderful gifts that God has given to us, the gift of His own Son is truly the greatest. How can we ever thank God for a gift like that? God does not ask us to sacrifice our own precious firstborn, but He does ask that we are grateful and generous with our God-given gifts. That we nurture and develop our gifts, and in gratitude, generously give back with increase our time in prayer, our talent in charitable works and our treasure to support the mission and ministry of our parish and greater Church.

Family Perspective

Today's gospel speaks of light and darkness. Often a parent is deliberately "left in the dark." Darkness can be comforting for it makes no demands on us. Light can be disturbing for it forces us to take action. Parents walk a delicate balance of when to "sit in the dark" and when to "turn on the lights."

Abuse of Minors or Vulnerable Adults by Priests, Deacons or Others

To report allegations of sexual abuse of minors or vulnerable adults within the Diocese of Gaylord by priests, deacons or other employees or volunteers, regardless of when it occurred, individuals should:

Contact local law enforcement and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (855-444-3911). The Michigan Attorney General's Office has also set up a special phone line for people to share information that may be of help in their ongoing investigation of sexual misconduct by Catholic clergy. That number is 844-324-3374.

You may also contact the Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator, Larry LaCross, at 989-705-9010.

In the State of Michigan many professionals, including clergy, teachers, doctors, counselors and named others are mandated reporters. This means such individuals are **REQUIRED** to make an oral or online report **IMMEDIATELY** to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services if they suspect a child is being neglected or abused in any way. Individuals may call the state report line at the number above, which is answered 24 hours a day, or submit a report online at https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971_7119---00.html.

The Diocese of Gaylord encourages ANYONE who has reason to suspect a child is being abused or neglected in any way to report the matter to local authorities and the Michigan Attorney General Hotline at 844-324-3374.

Saint of the Week-St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary-Solemnity March 19

The spouse of Mary the mother of Jesus and the legal father of Jesus according to Jewish law, Joseph is a model of humility and obedience to God's will. He followed God's instructions, given by angels in dreams, and took the pregnant Mary into his home as his wife, protected her and Jesus at the child's birth in Bethlehem through the family's sojourn in Egypt, and provided for them as a carpenter in Nazareth. This feast, which was celebrated locally as early as the ninth century, became a universal feast in the fifteenth century, when it was placed on the liturgical calendar. Pope Pius IX named St. Joseph Patron of the Universal Church in 1870; he is also the patron saint of carpenters, the dying, and workers.

“Being a guardian is the distinctive trait of Joseph: Being the guardian is his great mission . . . We look to Joseph as the model educator, who watches over and accompanies Jesus as he grows ‘in wisdom, age and grace,’ as the Gospel says. He was not Jesus’ father: the father of Jesus was God, but he was a father to Jesus, he was a father to Jesus in order to help him grow. And how did he help him grow? In wisdom, age and grace.” —Pope Francis, March 19, 2014

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For Use March 20-21, Fifth Sunday of Lent (B)

Stewardship by the Book

When Jesus heard about the illness of His friend, Lazarus, He responded, “This illness is not to end in death; rather it is for God’s glory, that through it the Son of God may be glorified. ‘Every aspect of our lives ‘ our gifts as well as our sufferings ‘ can, if surrendered to Christ, lead to blessing for ourselves and others.

Vocation View

Unless a seed first dries out and dies, it cannot be planted in the earth to grow. Unless we die to our selfish ways, we can never expect to be people who will “lay down their lives for their friends.”

Stewardship Reflections

“I will be their God and they shall be my people.” - JEREMIAH 31:33

What does it mean to be God’s people? It means we recognize that everything we have and everything we are belongs to God. We aren’t “owners” of anything, we are merely “stewards” of the gifts God has

given us. It means we are willing to use our gifts and our lives to care for our family, our neighbors and for people we don't know, just as God cares for each of us.

Family Perspective

Relationships come with a price tag. We must be willing to entrust ourselves to another, to let go of our autonomy and die to our independence. It is in dying to our independence that we find interdependence with others.

Saint of the Week-Saint Basil the Younger-Feast Day March 26

As a young man, Basil began living as a hermit near Constantinople, now Istanbul, Turkey. Courtiers of the Byzantine emperor, alarmed at his appearance and fearful of his influence, had him arrested and questioned as a spy. Basil would say only that he was a pilgrim and stranger on earth, but he denounced their immoral lifestyles. According to his hagiography, he survived their cruel tortures and being thrown to a lion unharmed, and was saved from an official drowning by two dolphins. These miracles won him freedom. Thereafter, many of the faithful came to his hermitage for healing, prophecies and instruction. Basil reportedly lived to the age of 110.

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For Use March 27-28, Passion (Palm) Sunday (B)

Stewardship by the Book

"The Lord God has given me a well-trained tongue, that I may know how to speak to the weary a word that will rouse them." says Isaiah in today's first reading. The gifts God has given us are likewise given for the good of others. How am I using my gifts?

Vocation View

Blessed are those that come in the name of the Lord. Blessed are they who live their lives in the name of the Lord.

Stewardship Reflections

"Pilate again said to them, 'Then what shall I do with the man whom you call the King of the Jews?' And they cried out again, 'Crucify him.'" – MARK 15:12-13

Jesus told us "whatever you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me." Every day we are presented opportunities to help someone. Every day we have the opportunity to see the face of Jesus in others and be the face of Jesus to others. Every day we pass by someone in need. Pray for the strength and courage to be the answer to someone's prayer.

Family Perspective

The Passion of Jesus makes it clear, no one escapes suffering. Suffering is inevitable but no one should suffer alone. That is one of the primary roles of families, to stand with and support each other in suffering.

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The Diocese of Gaylord encourages **ANYONE** who has reason to suspect a child is being abused or neglected in any way to report the matter to local authorities and the Michigan Attorney General Hotline at 844-324-3374.

Saint of the Week-Saint Berthold- Feast Day March 29

Not much is known about this hermit who is considered by some historians to be the founder of the order of Carmelite friars. Various legends had him born in Limoges, France, educated at the University of Paris, and participating in the Crusades in Turkey. What is known is that he directed a group of Frankish hermits living on Mount Carmel in Palestine in the second half of the 12th century. The existence on Mount Carmel of a church and hermitage in the spiritual tradition of the prophet Elijah is documented from 1163 on. After Berthold's death, the hermits were led by another Frenchman, St. Brocard; Carmelite houses became well-established throughout Europe by 1300.

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