**Stewardship by the Book**

**CYCLE A**

**ADVENT**

**First Sunday of Advent**

“At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come,” says today’s Gospel. Good stewards know that they are accountable to God for all they have and are and strive to live in readiness for His coming.

**Second Sunday of Advent**

We must be good stewards of God’s gifts to us, receiving them gratefully and cultivating them with care lest we be the ones about John the Baptist speaks today: “Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

**Third Sunday of Advent**

Each of us has his or her own role to play in the coming of the Kingdom of God. John the Baptist was called to be the herald of the Messiah, preparing the way of the Lord. To what is the Lord calling me?

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

When he discovered that Mary was with child, Joseph resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead the protector of the child Jesus and His mother Mary. God grant that I may be as open to the leading of the Holy Spirit!

**CHRISTMAS TIME**

**Christmas Day**

Joseph’s obedience to God was not a one-time thing. His attention to the angel’s warning kept Jesus from being murdered by Herod and led to the fulfillment of the prophecy that the Messiah would be a Nazorean. Fidelity to God’s will assures the best use of my talents, too!

**Holy**

Joseph’s obedience to God was not a one-time thing. His attention to the angel’s warning kept Jesus from being murdered by Herod and led to the fulfillment of the prophecy that the Messiah would be a Nazorean. Fidelity to God’s will assures the best use of my talents, too!

**New Year’s Day**

Today’s second reading reminds us that through Christ we have been delivered from the law and become sons and daughters of God. New Years’s Day provides a perfect opportunity to ask ourselves the question: Does my life reflect my gratitude for all that my loving Father has given me?

**Epiphany**

Today we remember the three wise men from the East who cam to pay homage to the infant Jesus, bringing him rich gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The gifts we bring- our time and service and some share of what we earn for the work we do are equally precious in His sight.

**LENT**

**First Sunday of Lent**

What temptations lure us from the path of discipleship? Possession? Pride? Power? Oh Lord, create for us a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within us!

**Second Sunday of Lent**

Bear your share of the hardship which the gospel entails, St. Paul tells Timothy in today’s second reading. What sacrifice is asked of me for the sake of the Gospel? How willing am I to bear my share?

**Third Sunday of Lent**

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 out lives!

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

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?

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

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.

**Passion (Palm) Sunday**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name if the Lord! shout the crowds in today’s Gospel. May *we* be always ready to share our blessings when *we* are sent in His name!

\*\*OR\*\*

“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?

**EASTER TIME**

**Easter Sunday**

Very early in the morning after the sabbath, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb to anoint Jesus body with precious oils. The reward of this good and conscientious steward was to be the first to know that Jesus had been raised from the dead! Alleluia!

**Second Sunday of Easter**

Jesus meets the need of each disciple. To the fearful in the upper room, He speaks words of peace. To doubting Thomas, He provides the tangible proof of His resurrection. What do *I* need to become His disciple? What do I have to share that might meet someone else's need?

**Third Sunday of Easter**

The disciples on the road to Emmaus walked and talked with Jesus all day long, but it was not until they offered Him hospitality and He blessed and broke the bread that they recognized Him. Simple acts of loving kindness *still* reveal the presence of God in our midst.

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Jesus says I came that they may have life and have it to the full. Good stewards are grateful for the gift of life and joyfully share their abundance with others.

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

The one who has faith in me will do the works I do, and far greater than these, Jesus tells his disciples. That’s quite an assignment for us as Christian stewards!

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Those who obey the commandments, Jesus says in today’s Gospel, are the ones who really love Him. Does my stewardship reveal my love for Jesus?

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

In today’s Gospel, Jesus prays, I have given You glory on earth by finishing the work You gave Me to do. Good stewards follow His example by using their time and talents for the glory of God.

**Pentecost Sunday**

In the second reading today, St. Paul reminds the Corinthians, “There are different gifts, but the same Spirit; there are different ministries but the same Lord.” How am I using my gifts for the common good?

**First Sunday after Pentecost / Holy Trinity Sunday**

The Gospel today is sometimes called the Gospel in miniature because it so concisely sums up the Gospel message. In even more condensed form, “God loved... God gave...,” it is the paradigm for stewardship we give because we love.

**Body and Blood of Christ**

The Scriptures today remind us that we, many though we are, are one body for we all partake of the one loaf. How are we using our gifts of time and talent to build up the body of Christ?

**ORDINARY TIME**

**First Sunday / Baptism of our Lord**

Our baptism like the Lord’s is a consecration to service. The bishops’ pastoral on stewardship reminds us that “.... there is a fundamental obligation arising from the sacrament of baptism that people place their gifts, their resourcestheir selvesat God’s service in and through the Church.”

**Second Sunday**

Today’s responsorial Psalm is the theme song of the good steward: “Here am I Lord; I come to do your will.” May I, too, stand ready to offer myself and my gifts in the service of God.

**Third Sunday**

The watchword today is immediately. Peter and Andrew, James and John all respond *immediately*to the call of Christ. May I be as open as God’s call and as ready to use my talents in His service as those first disciples were!

**Fourth Sunday**

Blessed are they who are what they are and do what they do *for the sake of the kingdom*! The Gospel today assures good stewards that their suffering and their service on behalf of the Kingdom *will* be rewarded!

**Fifth Sunday**

In the first reading, Isaiah urges us in the name of the Lord to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, and clothe the naked. If we do so, he assures us, the Lord will hear and answer *our* cries for help in time of need.

\*\*OR\*\*

The Gospel today reminds us that our lives and our deeds must serve as examples to others, pointing the way to the Father. Not for our own benefit do we labor, but so that others may see our good works and give glory to our Father in heaven.

**Sixth Sunday**

Stewardship involves more than just the gift we bring to the altar. Today’s readings say clearly that it is fidelity to God’s law that makes our offering acceptable.

**Seventh Sunday**

In today’s first reading, the Israelites are urged to love their neighbors as themselves. In the Gospel, Jesus spells out how we are to do that to give generously to those who ask of us and not to turn our backs on those who seek to borrow.

**Eighth Sunday**

In today’s second reading we are told, “Now it is of course required of stewards that they be found trustworthy.” How do my daily activities indicate that God can trust me to be a good steward to my neighbor, my enemy, and anyone who crosses my path?

**Ninth Sunday**

In today’s Gospel, Matthew explains that only those who do the will of the Father will enter into the kingdom of heaven. Is it God’s will or my own will that I follow daily? Do I ‘love my neighbor as myself’ and if so, how have I followed that call by giving of my time, talent and treasure to others?

**Tenth Sunday**

**11th Sunday**

In today’s Gospel, Jesus sends out the disciples to meet the needs of others. His admonition to them is the same challenge he makes to us: The gift you have received, give as a gift.

**12th Sunday**

The Psalmist assures us that the Lord hears the poor. Often, however, He answers their need through the generous gifts of good stewards.

\*\*OR\*\*

Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, Jesus tells us in the Gospel today, and nothing hidden that will not become known. May our stewardship of God’s gifts be such that we would not be ashamed if it were seen in the clear light of day.

**13th Sunday**

Both the first reading and the Gospel today speak of hospitality and welcome. Our ministers of hospitality are a most visible example of using one’s time and talents to welcome the people of God. But the Gospel assures us that all who give even just a cup of cold water to one of His lowliest ones will be rewarded.

**14th Sunday**

“Let all Your works give You thanks, O Lord, and let Your faithful ones bless You,” says the Psalmist. Stewardship is this attitude of gratitude for the many gifts God has given us.

**15th Sunday**

May our stewardship of time, talent, and treasure show us to be among those who have heard the message of Christ and taken it in, yielding a hundred- or sixty- or thirty fold!

**16th Sunday**

“Those who are just must be kind,” says today’s first reading. If our words and deeds are kind and selfless, we will be like the good seed in the Gospel parable and gathered as wheat in the Lord’s harvest.

**17th Sunday**

“The law of Your mouth is to me more precious than thousands of gold and silver pieces,” says the Psalmist today. Does the amount of my offering suggest that I could honestly say the same?

**18th Sunday**

In today’s Gospel, Jesus feeds the five thousand with five loaves and two fish. The message of stewardship is that God’s gifts, *shared*, will always be more than enough.

**19th Sunday**

Elijah recognized the voice of God not in the strong and heavy wind, not in the earthquake, and not in the fire, but in a tiny whispering sound. May we find enough quiet in our clamorous world to hear His voice and discern what He is calling us to do and be.

**20th Sunday**

In today’s second reading, St. Paul tells the Romans, “God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable.” To what is God calling me today? What gifts are mine to share?

**21st Sunday**

In today’s readings, St. Paul reminds the Romans and us that all things come from God: For from Him and through Him and for Him all things are. Good Stewards understand that *all* is a gift and share generously the gifts of time, talent, and treasure with which they’ve been blessed.

**22nd Sunday**

In today’s readings St. Paul exhorts the Romans to *total* stewardship. Brothers and sisters, he urges, “... offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God.”

**23rd Sunday**

Am I my brother’s keeper? All three readings today suggest that for the Christian steward the answer is “Yes!”

**24th Sunday**

Stewardship is not optional! “None of us lives as his own master and none of us dies as his own master,” says St. Paul. “While we live we are responsible to the Lord, and when we die we die as his servants.”

**25th Sunday**

Good stewards follow the advice of St. Paul and conduct themselves by wise use of their time and talents in a way worthy of the Gospel of Christ.

**26th Sunday**

The first son in today’s Gospel said he would do his father’s bidding, but did not. The second son balked at first, but then repented and did as he was asked. What service is God calling me to do? Which son am I more like?

**27th Sunday**

In the Gospel today, the owner of the vineyard sent messengers to collect his share of the harvest from the tenant farmers; but there was not a single good steward on the property! God is the owner, we are the tenants. What sort of stewards are we?

**28th Sunday**

In today’s second reading, St. Paul thanks the Philippians for being willing to share in his hardships and promises that God, in turn, will fully supply all their needs. Our God truly cannot be outdone in generosity.

**29th Sunday**

Each year at tax time, we conscientiously give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar. Does my stewardship indicate that I am as faithful about giving “God what belongs to God”?

**30th Sunday**

We fulfill the commandment to love our neighbor when we exercise good stewardship joyfully sharing our gifts of life, abilities, and resources to meet our neighbors’ need.

**31st Sunday**

“The greatest among you will be the one who serves the rest,” Jesus says in today’s Gospel. What wonderful, good news for those who give their time in service to others!

**32nd Sunday**

Like the sensible bridesmaids in today’s parable, good stewards make sure that they, and whatever gifts are theirs to share, are ready to serve when the Master calls.

**33rd Sunday**

The worthy wife described in today’s first reading is a perfect example of active stewardship, reaching out her hands to the poor and extending her arms to the needy.

**RELIGIOUS FEAST DAYS**

**Christ the King**

When the Son of Man comes in glory, may we be among those who have fed the hungry, welcomed the stranger, and clothed the naked. For Jesus tells us clearly that it is those who have demonstrated good stewardship by sharing their gifts with the less fortunate who will receive God’s blessing and inherit the kingdom.

**Feast of All Saints**

**Feast of All Souls**

**Cycle B**

**ADVENT**

**First Sunday of Advent**

We are the servants of God, each with his or her own task. We will be judged good stewards if, at His coming, He finds us ready and conscientiously pursuing the task to which we have been called.

**Second Sunday of Advent**

John the Baptist’s call to repentance is echoed in the U.S. bishops ‘pastoral letter on stewardship: Christians must beg God for the grace of conversion: the grace to know who they are, to whom they belong, how they are to live the grace to repent and change and grow, the grace to become good disciples and stewards.

**Third Sunday of Advent**

All of the people in today’s readings the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

In the first reading God promises King David that his house and his kingdom will endure forever. It is through Mary’s “Yes, I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say.” that the promise finds fulfillment.

**CHRISTMAS TIME**

**Christmas**

The shepherds who heard the joyous news from the angels on that first Christmas night and then hurried to find the infant Savior must surely have been changed by that experience. How has His coming changed my life?

**Holy Family**

“Whatever you do,” says St. Paul to the Colossians, “...do in the name of the Lord Jesus. Give thanks to God the Father through Him. And so it is that we offer our gifts in the Eucharist through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit...”

**New Year’s Day**

The first reading today recalls Gods special blessing upon the Israelites. The Lord has been gracious to us as well, pouring into our hearts that spirit which knows Him as Father and makes us His children. May we, like Mary, treasure these things in our hearts and live gratefully!

**Epiphany**

The three wise men who came from the East to pay homage to the infant Jesus brought Him rich gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh as part of their worship. What gifts have I brought to this celebration to offer to the newborn Savior?

**Baptism of our Lord**

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. The US bishops pastoral on stewardship reminds us that Baptism gives all of His disciples a share in His priestly work and calls them to offer up the world and all that is in it especially themselves to the Lord of all.

**LENT**

**First Sunday of Lent (Mark 1:12-15)**

The waters of Baptism make us part of the new covenant in Christ. But the bishops’ pastoral letter on stewardship reminds us that there is a fundamental obligation arising from the sacrament of baptism. . . that people place their gifts, their resources their selves at God’s service in and through the Church.

**Second Sunday of Lent (Mark 9:2-10)**

Abraham was prepared to sacrifice his only son Isaac. St. Paul reminds us that God Himself did not spare his own son. Are *my* gifts to the Lord of my resources, of my time, of myself also sacrificial?

**Third Sunday of Lent (John 2:13-25)**

You shall not covet is perhaps a difficult commandment to keep in our consumer society. But as Christian stewards, we know that we are the recipients and caretakers of God’s many gifts. May this understanding that *all* is gift help us be less resentful of the gifts of others.

**Fourth Sunday of Lent (John 3: 14-21)**

All that we have and all that we are comes form the Lord. “We are truly his handiwork,” says St. Paul in the second reading, created in Christ Jesus to lead the life of good deeds which God prepared for us in advance.

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

“If anyone would serve me,” says Jesus in today’s Gospel, “let him follow me; where I am, there will my servant be.” In what ways is Jesus inviting *me* to follow Him? What services is He asking of me?

**EASTER TIME**

**Easter Sunday (John 20:1-9)**

Alleluia! Christ is risen and is victorious over sin and death! We are good stewards of our faith if, like St. Paul, we share this good news whenever and wherever we can.

**Second Sunday of Easter (John 20:19-31)**

The Christian community described in Acts understood and practiced *total* stewardship. St. Paul reports that the believers did not claim anything as their own**,** but held everything in common, and distributed to each whatever was needed.

**Third Sunday of Easter (Luke 24: 35-48)**

The disciples in today’s Gospel came to know Jesus in the breaking of the bread. When we share what we have with those who are in need, we, too, will discover Jesus in our midst.

**Fourth Sunday of Easter (John 10:11-18)**

To be good stewards we must be good shepherds, willing to lay down our lives for those committed to our care, not mere hired hands who run off, leaving the sheep to be snatched and scattered by the wolf.

**Fifth Sunday of Easter (John 15:1-8)**

The good steward lives the advice of St. John, loving in deed and in truth, rather than just talking about it.

**Sixth Sunday of Easter (John 15: 9-17)**

Jesus’ commandment is that His disciples love one another, even to the point of laying down their lives, if necessary. What gifts of myself my skills and talents, my time and resources will best demonstrate my love for God’s people?

**Seventh Sunday of Easter (John 17:11-19)**

Jesus is the perfect steward watching carefully over all who had been entrusted to Him by the Father and then sending them all out into the world in service. May I similarly protect and wisely use the gifts entrusted to me!

**Pentecost Sunday (John15:26-27: 16:12-15)**

St. Paul reminds us today that all of our gifts have their source in the Holy Spirit and that those gifts are given for the common good. What gifts are mine to share?

**Trinity Sunday (Matthew 28: 16-20)**

Today’s second reading reminds us that we are the adopted sons and daughters the heirs of God. We are good stewards of our inheritance when we share our faith and fulfill our Lord’s command to go...and make disciples of all the nations.

**Body & Blood of Christ (Mark 14: 12-16: 22-26)**

The bishops’ stewardship pastoral asks, And what do Christians bring to the Eucharistic celebration and join there with Jesus’ offering? The answer: Their lives as Christian disciples; their personal vocations and the stewardship they have exercised regarding them; their individual contributions to the great work of restoring all things in Christ.

**ORDINARY TIME**

**First Sunday**

**Baptism of Our Lord (Mark 1:7-11)**

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. The US bishops pastoral on stewardship reminds us that Baptism gives all of His disciples a share in His priestly work and calls them to offer up the world and all that is in it especially themselves to the Lord of all.

**Third Sunday (Mark 1:14-20)**

There is a certain urgency in today’s Gospel as Jesus calls His first disciples Andrew and Simon, James and John. Each one follows Jesus *immediately*, unhesitatingly abandoning nets and boats and father and fellow-workers. To what is Jesus calling me at *this* moment, in *these* circumstances? What will I need to abandon in order to follow Him?

**Fourth Sunday (Mark 1:21-28)**

Moses told the people, ”A prophet like me will the Lord, your God raise up for you from among your own kinsmen.” God still provides among His people the gifts and talents necessary to continue the work of His Church. What gifts are yours to share?

**Fifth Sunday Mark (1:29-39)**

Like St. Paul in the second reading, the good steward can say, ‘I do all that I do for the sake of the gospel in the hope of having a share in it’s blessings.”

**Sixth Sunday (Mark 1:40-45)**

In today’s second reading, St. Paul urges the Corinthians to “do all for the glory of God.” If we follow that advice in everything we do, we cannot help but be good stewards.

**Seventh Sunday (Mark 2:1-12)**

Forgiveness, too, is a gift from God. Freed from the paralysis of sin, the man in today’s Gospel was able to stand and give witness to the power of God. How do I let sin cripple me? Am I a good steward of the gift of God’s forgiveness?

**Eighth Sunday (Mark 3:18-22)**

St. Paul tells the Corinthians that they are living letters, “known and read by all.” What does the letter of *my* life reveal to those who read it? Can they tell by the way I live that I belong to Christ and that all I am and have is His?

**Ninth Sunday (Mark 2:23-3:6)**

Today’s first reading is a powerful reminder that time is also a gift of God for which we must be accountable. Six days to work, says the Scripture, and a seventh for the Lord. What share of my time do I devote to the Lord?

**Tenth Sunday (Mark 3:20-35)**

Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden because of their disobedience. But Jesus says in today’s Gospel that when we are obedient to God’s will when we use our gifts to serve one another we become part of His family. Whoever does the will of God is brother and sister and mother to me.

**11th Sunday (Mark 4:26-34)**

Like the sower in today’s Gospel, I scatter as seed my gifts of time, talent, and resources; and I trust that, by God’s grace and in God’s time, these small gifts of myself may grow and flourish and help to bring about the Kingdom of God.

**12th Sunday (Mark 4:35-41)**

St. Paul reminds us in the second reading that Christ died so that those who live might live no longer for themselves. What we give to and do for others, we give to and do for Jesus!

**13th Sunday (Mark 5:21-34) A**

Today’s reading from St. Paul explains the divine economy of stewardship -- The relief of others ought not to impoverish you; there should be a certain equality. Your plenty at the present time should supply their need so that their surplus may in turn one day supply your need.

**14th Sunday (Mark 6:1-6)**

This weekend as we recall the celebration of the Independence of our country, we will do well to echo the Psalmist, saying, “Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.” May we always recognize and use wisely the gifts of freedom and abundance. He has showered upon us.

**15th Sunday (Mark 6:7-13)**

Today’s readings are about being chosen and sent. The prophet Amos was chosen by the Lord and sent to use his talents for the people of God. The Gospel recounts the story of the sending of the twelvedisciples; and in the second reading, St. Paul reminds us that we, too, are chosen. For what have I been chosen? To whom have I been sent?

**17th Sunday (John 6:1-5)**

“The hand of the Lord feed us,” says the Psalmist, “he answers all our needs.” Both Elisha’s servant in the first reading and the disciples in the Gospel story who witnessed the feeding of the five thousand saw this happen and knew it to be true.

**18th Sunday (John 6:24-35)**

The crowd in today’s Gospel demanded a sign of Jesus and wanted to know what work He did to inspire their faith. May our faithful stewardship be a sign to others that we, like the Ephesians in the second reading, have laid aside our former way of life and acquired a fresh, spiritual way of thinking in Christ.

**19th Sunday (John 6:41-51)**

The gifts of God that the angel brought to Elijah food, water, rest, and encouragement were given, not for his own good alone, but to strengthen him for service. How am I using my gifts to serve others?

**20th Sunday (John 6: 51-58)**

“Those who seek the Lord want for no good thing,” says today’s Psalm. But in the second reading St. Paul reminds us that, thus blessed by the Lord, the good steward should “give thanks to God the Father always and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**21st Sunday (John 6: 60-69)**

In today’s first reading, Joshua challenges the people to decide whom they will serve. Recalling God’s faithfulness to them and to their ancestors, the people declare, “We also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.” May we, too, be mindful of God’s gifts to us and renew our commitment to serve Him with grateful hearts.

**22nd Sunday (Mark 7:1-8,14-15, 21-23)**

“Every worthwhile gift, every genuine benefit comes from above,” says St. James in the second reading. But he reminds us, true worship of God involves *using* those good gifts to benefit the less fortunate. Good stewardship is not optional; it is the hallmark of our faith!

**23rd Sunday (Mark 7:31-37)**

The good steward must not show favoritism. The rich may have many material gifts to share, but St. James reminds us in the second reading that God has chosen the world’s poor to be rich in faith and inheritors of God’s kingdom**.**

**24th Sunday (Mark 8: 27-35)**

In the second reading today, St. James has harsh words for those who do not put their faith into action. May we be such good stewards of God’s gifts to us that we can never be accused of having “faith that does nothing in practice.”

**25th Sunday (Mark 9:30-37)**

Today’s second reading warns that a heart consumed with avarice and envy leads to jealousy, strife, conflicts and disputes. A giving heart, in contrast can sing instead with the psalmist, “Freely will I offer you sacrifice; I will praise your name, O Lord, for its goodness.”

**26th Sunday (Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48)**

St. James warns in today’s second reading that those who hoard their wealth and live only for themselves will be condemned. But in the Gospel, Jesus assures us that all who give of themselves for His sake will be rewarded.

**27th Sunday (Mark 10:2-16)**

The phrase in today’s Psalm, “May you see your children’s children,” is really a prayer for long life. The good steward knows that *every* day is a gift from God, to be lived with joy and thanksgiving. “May the Lord bless us all the days of our lives!”

**28th Sunday (Mark 10:17-30)**

In today’s Gospel, Jesus asks the rich young man to give away all that he has in order to have treasure in heaven. But he is unable to free himself from his possessions, and so he goes sadly away. Does what *I* own keep *me* from following Jesus?

**29th Sunday (Mark 10:35-45)**

Good stewards must not argue about who is the most important. Today’s Gospel says clearly that those who aspire to greatness must humbly serve the needs of all. Even Jesus came not to be served, but to serve.

**30th Sunday (Mark 10:46-52)**

Today’s Psalm says, ”The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy.” Good stewards demonstrate by their living and giving that they understand God as the source of all they are and have.

**31st Sunday (Mark 12: 28b-34)**

What percentage does God ask of me as a good steward? *All* of my heart, *all* of my soul, *all* of my mind, and *all* of my strength!

**32nd Sunday (Mark 12:38-44)**

Both widows in today’s readings gave all they had to the work of the Lord, one using all her remaining food to feed Elijah and the other offering her two copper coins to the temple treasury. Faithful stewards give all that is asked and trust the Lord to be faithful to His promises.

**CYCLE C**

**ADVENT**

**First Sunday of Advent**

“Be on guard,” Jesus warns in today’s Gospel, “lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence.” Let us heed His warning and follow the advice of St. Paul, conducting ourselves in a way pleasing to God, overflowing with love for one another.

**Second Sunday of Advent**

Good stewards believe that God, who has begun His good work in them, will carry it through to completion. In words and deeds, they can sing with the psalmist, “The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!”

**Third Sunday of Advent**

Today’s Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship: “Let the man who has two coats give to him who has none. The man who has food should do the same.”

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship, she who had given herself to bear the Savior gave her time and love to others as well.

**CHRISTMAS TIME**

**Christmas**

Rejoice! The Word became flesh and dwells among us! Oh, come, let us adore Him!

**Holy Family**

The first reading today provides a challenging guideline for the good stewardship of our family relationships. How do I measure up?

**Mary, Mother of God**

**Epiphany**

The three kings in today’s Gospel traveled a great distance at considerable cost to offer their richest gifts to the Infant Jesus. How far will *I* go and what will *I* offer to do homage to this newborn King and Savior?

**LENT**

**First Sunday of Lent**

Today’s first reading describes the offering of first fruits the people of Israel were to present to the Lord in thanksgiving for their deliverance from Egypt and the gift of the promised land. Is my offering at today’s Mass an appropriate response to the many blessings the Lord has given me?

**Second Sunday of Lent**

Peter, James, and John wanted to build a “booth” for Jesus and just stay on the mountain where His transfiguration took place. But the Son of God, the Chosen One, knew that He must instead keep moving toward His Crucifixion. We, too, must rise from worship and do what we can to hasten the coming of the Kingdom.

**Third Sunday of Lent**

The parable in today’s Gospel clearly warns that we, like the fig tree, will be judged by our fruit. While God mercifully provides us with the time and opportunity, let us give witness to our faith with deeds of kindness and generosity!

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

The stewardship message in the parable of the prodigal Son is that it is never too late to become a good steward all along, but blessed, too, is the prodigal who had to lose all he had in order to understand the value of what he’d been given.

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

In today’s second reading, St. Paul says, “For his sake I have forfeited everything; I have accounted all else to rubbish so that Christ may be my wealth.” Does my stewardship suggest that I could say the same?

**Passion (Palm) Sunday**

In the Gospel story of the first Palm Sunday we hear that the owners of the ass had only to be told, “The Master has need of it,” to give the animal gladly. Do I give as readily to the Lord’s work?

**EASTER TIME**

**Easter Sunday**

In the second reading today, St. Paul reminds the Colossians that they have been raised with Christ, exhorting them to “be intent on the things above rather than on things of earth.” We too, have been raised with Christ. Let us rejoice and be glad!

**Second Sunday of Easter**

“Blessed are they who have not seen and have believed,” Jesus says in today’s Gospel. For those who have not seen to believe, however, we must be good stewards of our faith, living it joyfully and sharing it generously. Then, in our time too, men and women in great numbers will be “added to the Lord.”

**Third Sunday of Easter**

In today’s Gospel, Jesus tells Peter again and again, “If you love Me, feed my sheep.” He says the same to each of us, “If you love Me, use the gifts I have given you to serve your brothers and sisters.”

**Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Paul and Barnabas encountered both violent rejection and joyful acceptance of the message that they preached. We, too, may meet with mixed reactions when we use our gifts in the service of God. But, the Gospel assures us, the reward for those who follow faithfully is eternal life.

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

In today’s Gospel, Jesus gives His disciples -- and us -- a new commandment: Love one another. Good stewards who spend their time and talents in service to others are well on their way to fulfilling this commandment.

**Sixth Sunday of Easter**

Today’s reading from Revelation offers a vision of the City of God, the new Jerusalem. But, the bishops’ pastoral on stewardship reminds us, that life to come is in continuity with this present life through the human goods, the worthy human purposes, which people foster now.

**Seventh Sunday of Easter**

The second reading today contains the somber warning that Jesus is coming soon and will bring to each person the reward that his or her conduct deserves. Has my stewardship of the blessings entrusted to me been such that I could respond joyfully, “Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!”?

**Pentecost Sunday (John 14: 15-16, 23-26)**

One miracle of Pentecost was that, despite their diversity, each listener heard God’s word in his or her own language. The meaning for stewardship is that, by sharing the gifts poured out on us by the Holy Spirit, we will be empowered to meet the needs of our brothers and sisters, whatever they may be.

**First Sunday after Pentecost**

**Trinity Sunday**

Today’s Psalm reminds us that we have been crowned with glory and honor and given rule over the works of God’s hands. But we must be good stewards, for the Lord will surely hold us accountable for the use of those gifts!

**Body & Blood of Christ**

In today’s Gospel, the disciples suggest that Jesus disperse the crowd so that they might *individually* seek food and lodging. The miracle of the feeding of the five thousand is Jesus” powerful reminder that when we *share* our gifts in His name there is always more than enough!

**Baptism of our Lord**

**1st Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Jesus, whom God called my beloved Son, is also the “servant” of whom Isaiah speaks in the first reading. We who are baptized in Christ must follow His example and use our time and resources in the service of God and neighbor.

**Second Sunday**

In today’s second reading, St. Paul tells the Corinthians (and us) that all of our gifts are from God and that they are given, not for ourselves alone, but for the common good. But the generosity of God knows no limits -- the miracle at Cana reminds us that whenever we faithfully do as God asks, He can change our gifts of water into wine!

**Third Sunday**

The U.S. bishops’ pastoral on stewardship reinforces todays reading from I Corinthians: “Because its individual members do collectively make up the Body of Christ, that body’s health and well-being are the responsibility of the members -- the personal responsibility of each one of us. We all are stewards of the Church.”

**Fourth Sunday**

Jeremiah declares that the Lord knew him before he was born and dedicated and appointed him to his role as prophet even before he drew breath. We, too, are known and sent by the Lord. What deeds of love and service are mine to perform?

**Fifth Sunday**

In today’s readings, both Isaiah and Peter hear the call of God and feel themselves unworthy. But, reassured by the Lord, both answer and follow. Do *I* hear the Lord asking, “Whom shall I send?” Am I prepared to answer “Here I am. Send *me*!?”

**Sixth Sunday**

The words of the Psalmist echo the theme of all of today’s readings. “Happy are they who hope in the Lord.” As good stewards, firmly grounded in that hope, may *we* bear fruit in due season -- assisting the poor, feeding the hungry, and consoling the sorrowful whenever we have the chance.

**Seventh Sunday**

Today’s Gospel has encouraging words for good stewards – “Give and it shall be given to you. For the measure you measure with will be measured back to you.” What encouragement to give generously of the resources entrusted to our care!

**Eighth Sunday**

**Ninth Sunday**

**Tenth Sunday**

**11th Sunday**

In today’s Gospel, Jesus forgives the sinful woman by saying, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.” How wonderful it is that our faith can sustain us though we may have sinned, and by loving Jesus fully, we too can be saved!

**12th Sunday**

“Who do you say that I am?” Jesus asks Peter in today’s gospel. Does my use of the gifts and talents entrusted to me accurately reflect *my* answer to that same question? How willing am I to deny myself, take up my cross, and follow in His steps?

**13th Sunday**

In today’s second reading, St. Paul provides a wonderful one-sentence summary of Christian stewardship: “Out of love, place yourselves at one another’s service.”

**14th Sunday**

“The harvest is rich,” Jesus tells the seventy-two in today’s Gospel, “but the workers are few.” The situation is the same today. How can I help with God’s harvest? Am I called in to the field? Am I one would could provide food or shelter or wages to those who toil in the fields of the Lord?

**15th Sunday**

The Good Samaritan was also a good steward, giving his time and his treasure to meet his neighbor’s need. At the end of this familiar story, Jesus urges his hearers, and us, to go and do the same!

**16th Sunday**

Today’s readings speak of hospitality. Abraham, who cheerfully did for his guests all that desert hospitality required, was rewarded with his heart’s desire, a son. Martha also busied herself with all the details of hospitality, but grudgingly and with complaint. Am I a cheerful or a grudging giver?

**17th Sunday**

Jesus is describing God’s immeasurable generosity when He says in today’s Gospel, “Whoever asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds; whoever knocks, is admitted.” But it should also be the description of us as Christian stewards, those seeking to follow Christ by using our gifts in service to others.

**18th Sunday**

Seeing Jesus transfigured made Peter want to *do* something to mark the event. But the voice from the cloud said clearly that the first task of those who recognize Jesus as Lord is to *listen* to Jesus, and then act!

**19th Sunday**

Am I waiting for the “right” time to become a good steward? Do I plan to share my time and talents “later”? Today’s gospel warns those who are procrastinating about stewardship to be prepared – “at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

**20th Sunday**

In today’s second reading, St. Paul encourages us not to grow weary or lose heart, but to persevere in following Jesus. Our willingness to give of ourselves, even in the face of conflict and division, is one way to measure our discipleship.

**21st Sunday**

Today’s reading from Isaiah describes the Israelites bringing their offering to the Lord “in clean vessels.” The gift of myself - my patient endurance and fidelity to the will of God - is as important as the monetary gift I offer.

**22nd Sunday**

In the gospel today, Jesus warns us not to give in hope of repayment, but to give open-handedly to the poor and needy. That sort of giving mirrors the bountiful giving of God, and Jesus assures us it is blessed indeed.

**23rd Sunday**

Jesus tells the crowd that only those who renounce all of their possessions can be His disciples. Is he truly asking us to give up *everything*? Perhaps instead He is trying to tell us that everything we think we own is really a gift from God. Good stewards know how to strive to use those gifts accountably.

**24th Sunday**

We can hear God speaking to us today in the words of the father to his elder son: “You are with me always, and everything I have is yours.” What is my response to such remarkable generosity? Do I give joyfully and generously as God gives to me?

**25th Sunday**

The dishonest manager in today’s parable knew how to manipulate money to his own advantage. But the gospel warns that no one can serve both God and money. Which do I serve? Is my stewardship such that anyone can tell?

**26th Sunday**

The sin of the rich man in today’s parable was not that he was rich, but that he failed to share his wealth with the beggar at his gate. He knew Lazarus, perhaps walked by him every time he came in or out, but did nothing to relieve his suffering. Is there a Lazarus in my life? What am I doing to help?

**27th Sunday**

When will I have given enough of my income, of my time, of my talents? Today’s gospel suggests that only total stewardship will do: “When you have done all you have been commanded to do, say ‘We are useless servants. We have done no more than our duty.’”

**28th Sunday**

Jesus healed ten lepers in today’s Gospel. Only one (10%) came back to say thank you. I, too, have received many blessings from the Lord, indeed, all I am and all I have is a gift! How often have I remembered to thank him?

**29th Sunday**

Today’s theme is perseverance, Moses keeping his hands upraised throughout the battle, Paul urging Timothy to stay with the task of preaching and teaching, and the widow appealing to the corrupt judge. To be faithful stewards of God’s gifts, we too must persevere in the roles to which we are called.

**30th Sunday**

Both the first reading and today’s psalm say clearly that the Lord hears the cry of the poor. Have I been given the gifts, of time or money or abilities, to be the means by which God answers their need?

**31st Sunday**

We are called to be good stewards of our personal vocations. St. Paul’s prayer for the Thessalonians is therefore ours, too, “that our God may make (us) worthy of his calling and powerfully bring to fulfillment every good purpose and every effort of faith.”

**32nd Sunday**

In today’s second reading, St. Paul prays that the Thessalonians may be strengthened “in every good deed and word.” May we, too, be strengthened and empowered to use our time and talents for the good of others.

**33rd Sunday**

Today’s readings paint a somewhat frightening picture of the end of time. But the gospel ends with the assurance to faithful stewards that those who persevere will be saved.

**RELIGIOUS FEAST DAYS**

**Transfiguration**

**Christ the King**

Today we celebrate Christ the King and are reminded that all was created through Him and for Him. Does my stewardship of the blessings entrusted to me give evidence that Christ is Lord of *my* life?

**Ascension**

**The Assumption**