

STEWARDSHIP BULLETIN REFLECTIONS

July 2024 – September 2024

July 7, 2024

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“As the Lord spoke to me, the spirit entered me and set me on my feet, and I heard the one who was speaking say to me, ‘Son of man, I am sending you...’” EZEKIEL 2:2-3

God has a plan for each of us. He calls us to do something for Him. But, He doesn't leave us on our own to figure it out. He gives us the resources we need to do His work. Are you listening for God's call? When you hear it, do you get on your feet and do the work He asks of you? Do not be afraid. God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called. Answer His call.

July 14, 2024

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick – no food, no sack, no money in their belts.” MARK 6:8

Imagine taking nothing but a stick when you go on a trip. The Apostles must have really trusted in God's providential care. Think of all the material things “we can't live without” in today's world. We make our life's journey more difficult because of all the material baggage that we drag along. Putting God first in everything and putting our money and possessions second gives us freedom because we don't become “slaves” to wanting to acquire more things.

July 21, 2024

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“He said to them, “Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.” MARK 6:31

Do you spend time, every day, alone and in silence listening to how God is calling you? If not, you are missing out on a wonderful opportunity to develop a more personal relationship with Him. Unless we talk and more importantly, listen to God every day, how else will we know how He is calling us? Consider making a retreat this year, spend some “alone” time with God.

July 28, 2024

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?” JOHN 6:9

The miracle of the Loaves and Fishes carries two important messages. First, no matter how little we have, we always have enough to share. Second, Christ can take our humble gifts and do great things with them if we are just willing to let Him. Nothing is impossible with God. All of our gifts, big or small, were given to us for a reason. No gift is too small or insignificant!

August 4, 2024

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Each day the people are to go out and gather their daily portion; thus will I test them, to see whether they follow my instructions or not." EXODUS 16:4

When the Israelites gathered more than their daily portion of manna, the surplus became wormy and rotten. In the same way today, self-reliance, pride and ego leads to hoarding and excessive surplus of goods and money. Living a stewardship lifestyle helps us discern our "wants" from our "needs". Living a grateful and generous lifestyle reminds us that God will provide all that we need and that we have plenty to share.

August 11, 2024

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Get up and eat or the journey will be too much for you!" 1 KINGS 19:7

God knows that committing to a stewardship lifestyle is difficult. However, we were not designed to do it on our own, we need God's help. Fortunately, God gave us the greatest gift of all, His son, Jesus. Through the gift of the Eucharist, we unite our sacrifice with Jesus' sacrifice to do the will of God, Our Father. We receive the strength and courage to be His missionary disciples.

August 18, 2024

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him." John 6:56

This line from Scripture is what ultimately separates Catholics from our Protestant brothers and sisters. Jesus is really present in the bread and wine that are consecrated at Holy Mass. It is His actual body and blood that we consume. This is the greatest gift that we can receive. The Eucharist shows us how great of love that Jesus has for each of us.

August 25, 2024

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

"If it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today whom you will serve...As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." JOSHUA 24:15

When we commit to serve the Lord, we become a disciple in the work of the Lord. A disciple is a person who spends time in prayer every day, joyfully participates in charitable works and generously supports their local parish and Church mission. If we say we serve God, our words and actions should reflect the Gospel message to others.

September 1, 2024

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Be doers of the word and not hearers only..." JAMES 1:22

It's easy to understand the definition of stewardship – living a grateful and generous life. The hard part is doing it! How do your words and actions reflect God's word? Do you share your time in prayer with God daily? Do you use your talent to help those in need without expecting anything in return? Are you generous with your financial resources? If not, what are you waiting for?

September 8, 2024

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?” JAMES 2:5

What is more important – being rich in faith or rich in possessions? Society tells us that possessions are most important. God teaches a different lesson. When we are rich in faith, we keep God first and experience true joy and peace. When we put possessions first, we soon realize we can never have enough and happiness is fleeting. When we put faith over possessions we truly realize it is better to give than receive.

September 15, 2024

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.” MARK 8:34

Living a stewardship lifestyle means not only being responsible for my own life, but for the lives of others as well. We realize that our gifts are not intended for ourselves, rather they are meant to be shared with others. “Taking up my cross” means doing things when someone else needs me and not when it’s convenient for me.

September 22, 2024

Stewardship Awareness Sunday in the Archdiocese of St. Louis

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.” MARK 9:35

Jesus teaches us that we are called to love one another. Love involves sacrifice. Sacrifice is a word that many of us don’t like to hear. We think it means that we must give up something that we want. However, the literal meaning of sacrifice is “to make holy,” from the words “sacer” = sacred and “facere” = to make. In other words, when we sacrifice, we make our lives holy by sharing our gifts in the service of God.

September 29, 2024

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward.” MARK 9:41

We are made in God’s image and likeness. We tend to forget this. When you look at others, do you see the face of Jesus in them? When others look at you, do they see the face of Jesus in you? When we realize that all lives matter to God, then gratitude and generosity become easier. Why? Because that’s the way we are made! We are one Body of Christ; when one of us is hurting, all of us feel the pain.