

STEWARDSHIP BULLETIN REFLECTIONS

April 2020 – June 2020

April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday

“As they were marching out, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name; this man they pressed into service to carry his cross.” MATTHEW 27:32

The Lord calls us to love God and to love our neighbor. Every day we are presented with opportunities to love our neighbor and help him “carry his cross”. These opportunities aren’t usually big events, they are usually ordinary occurrences like helping someone carry their groceries or holding the door open for them. The key is putting the other person’s needs before our own and not expecting anything in return.

April 12, 2020

Easter Sunday

“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” COLOSSIANS 3:2

Do you put God first in all things? Possessions, money, power, ego can easily become gods to many of us. Do a quick check of what is important to you. Is God at the very top of the list? If not, your priorities need to be re-adjusted. Don’t let earthly things become a god before God. This is also the first commandment – I am the Lord your God, you shall not have any strange gods before me.

April 19, 2020

2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

“Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’” JOHN 20:19

Are you good at making people feel welcome? When you meet someone new, like a new neighbor, a new work colleague or a new parishioner, do you make them feel at home? Many of us can probably do a much better job at this. When we make people feel welcome, we make them feel like they are included instead of being excluded. We are made for relationships – with God and each other. A simple “hello” and a smile goes a long way.

April 26, 2020

3rd Sunday of Easter

“Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the scriptures?” LUKE 24:32

How often do we take the time to discern what Jesus wants from us? Are our prayers always petitions, asking Jesus to do things for us? If so, that’s a one-sided relationship. Living our faith means developing a personal relationship with Jesus. Just like any friendship, there is give and take, each side listening to each other and helping each other out. Take time in silence to listen to what Jesus is asking of you.

May 3, 2020

4th Sunday of Easter

“And Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ...” ACTS 2:38

The word “repent” means to turn from sin, to change our actions. Change that is permanent comes from within. It requires prayer, discipline and perseverance. Change is also hard. We have to recognize that we are broken and need help. The good news - we are not alone in our journey. Ask Jesus daily for guidance and patiently listen for his response.

May 10, 2020

5th Sunday of Easter

“The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.” 1 PETER 2:7

Every person has been given gifts from the Holy Spirit. These are called “charisms” and they are used to build God’s kingdom of earth. While many people are able to recognize their natural talents and abilities, they may be unsure of their charisms. If you know someone who is struggling for a direction in life, give them a little encouragement. Help them discern their charisms and how God is calling them to use them. Remember - no gift is too small or insignificant in God’s salvation plan.

May 17, 2020

6th Sunday of Easter

“For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be God’s will, than for doing evil.” 1 PETER 3:17

The old line says “if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans.” Many of us are diligent in our planning and making sure things are progressing smoothly. Then disaster strikes, we don’t get the result that was intended or an unforeseen problem arises. Many times we may respond negatively and ask, “Why me? I did everything right!” Here’s the thing – adversity humbles us and reminds us of our dependence on God and not on our own self-reliance. Rest assured, God has a better plan in store for you.

May 24, 2020

7th Sunday of Easter (The Ascension of the Lord)

“I am praying for them...” JOHN 17: 9

Prayer is the foundation of our Faith and the foundation of Stewardship. Pray in good times and in bad. Prayer is always the first best option in any situation, not just the last resort. Pray for friends and family and for those that don’t treat you very well. Pray to give praise, to thank and to ask God for help. Pray to see what God wants you to do with the gifts He has given you.

May 31, 2020

Pentecost Sunday

“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.” 1 CORINTHIANS 12:7

To receive the gift of the Holy Spirit you must open your heart and invite Him in! Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts, words and actions every day! Be grateful for all the gifts God has given you! Regardless of our individual circumstances, God has given all of us many blessings. What we do with those gifts is our gift back to God! By generously sharing everything we have and everything we are, we become more “God-centered” and less “self-centered” and our lives truly reflect God’s light, love and mercy.

June 7, 2020

Most Holy Trinity

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son...” JOHN 3:16

Is your love conditional? Is there a price others have to pay to receive your love and forgiveness? Are you generous with your time, skills, money and possessions? If you give someone something, do you expect something in return? Do you give your time freely or do you “fit it in” when it’s convenient for you? God desires a personal relationship with us so much that He gave us His Son, unconditionally! Pray for a grateful and generous heart.

June 14, 2020

Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

“Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.” 1 CORINTHIANS 10:17

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to lead holy lives and invite others to join us. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, serves a twofold purpose. One, it helps build God’s kingdom here on earth. Two, it helps us strengthen each other’s relationship with God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. It becomes our roadmap to Heaven. Let’s help each other get there!

June 21, 2020

12th Sunday of Ordinary Times

“Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father.” MATTHEW 10:32

Would others know that you are Catholic by the way you act and speak? Do you share your Catholic faith with others? Do you defend your Catholic faith when the situation arises or do you remain silent? Do you pray in public before meals? Pray for the strength and courage to be a joyful witness of our Catholic faith when the opportunity presents itself. Let us become the radiant light and bold witness that we are called to be!

June 28, 2020

13th Sunday of Ordinary Times

“...whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me.” MATTHEW 10:38

Pope Benedict XVI said “The world offers you comfort. But you were not made for comfort, you were made for greatness”. “Comfort” puts me first. “Picking up your cross and following Jesus” puts God and others first. Why settle for comfort when you can achieve greatness! Pick up your cross, ask Jesus for guidance on using your gifts and live the life God intended for you!