



Stewardship

A Way of Life

Stewardship Bulletin Items October 2, 2011 through December 25, 2011

October 2, 2011 – 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Each of us is called to be a steward in God's vineyard. If we lose sight of who owns the vineyard, however, we can get into trouble. If we start to think that we are our own Lord and Master, we may forget that obedience to God -- the Master of all -- is the only true way to achieve success, which for us is eternal life.

October 9, 2011 – 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

All are invited to be part of God's Kingdom, but materialism and self-concern can, in effect, relegate God's invitation to the junk mail pile. Those who accept the invitation are those who follow Jesus in both word and deed. Send in your RSVP today; accept God's invitation to be His steward, following Jesus and receiving a seat at the heavenly banquet.

October 16, 2011 – 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

To what do we owe our primary duty: God's commands or the values of this world? As Christian Stewards, we need to get this dimension of our lives correct if all the rest is going to fit into place. Following God's laws and living by gospel values are to be our primary concern as good Stewards.

October 23, 2011 – 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Loving God and neighbor is far more than pious platitudes. It strikes at the core of how we are to conduct ourselves as stewards of Jesus. It's not always a welcome command, especially when we are in the middle of an argument. *To love* is God's great command to each of us, nonetheless.

October 30, 2011 – 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

As Jesus' stewards, we are to be focused on growing in faith and humbly serving others. Many people have a habit of expecting more of others than they do of themselves. They notice the splinter in someone else's eye, yet fail to see the plank in their own (*Matt 7:3-5*). This is not God's way. We see this in the life of Jesus, who did not demand of others what He, Himself, would not do.

November 6, 2011 – 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

We are not to be complacent, but always ready to meet the Lord. We believe that it is more likely that we will meet Jesus in our death, rather than at the end of time; but regardless of when it happens, we are to be ready stewards, prepared just as the wise virgins of today's gospel parable were.

November 13, 2011 – 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

A good spouse makes use of his or her gifts for the benefit of their family. As members of God's family, we, too, are to use our gifts to enhance our family's well-being. Let us strive today and always to look for ways to put our gifts to use in helping build up God's kingdom on earth.

November 20, 2011 – Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, the King

On the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the King, we focus on God's Kingdom as one of compassion and love. When we do works of mercy and justice we honor Christ as King and give witness to the reality that He is the Ruler of our hearts and our lives.

**November 27, 2011 –
First Sunday of Advent**

As we enter into Advent and prepare for Christ's return, we do so with new texts for Mass. Today we begin using the new translation of the *Roman Missal*. But these new Mass texts are more about content continuity than change, more about Tradition than translation. Let us see these changes as an opportunity to pray with even greater fervor.

**December 4, 2011 –
Second Sunday of Advent**

It is not enough to celebrate that Christ came into the world. We are also to continually make our hearts places where His love grows within us as we interact with one another. Doing this helps prepare us to stand before the Lord, so we might be judged worthy of eternal life.

**December 11, 2011 –
Third Sunday of Advent**

The return of Christ in glory is an article of our faith. It is part of the Good News that we proclaim, and a cause for rejoicing. During this Advent season, as we focus on preparing for the return of Christ, let us embrace and witness to the world an attitude of joyful expectation, proclaiming through our words and actions the coming of the Lord.

**December 18, 2011 –
4th Sunday of Advent**

God promised David a dynasty that would *stand firm forever*. This promise was a source of hope for the Jewish people. They anticipated a time when a great leader would arise and defeat Israel's enemies. Jesus came from the House of David; his reign has endured, and the enemies -- including sin and death -- have been defeated for all who believe.

**December 25, 2011 –
Nativity of the Lord**

Today we celebrate anew the birth of Jesus. He is the Son of God, the Word of God, through Whom all things were created. He is the true Light of the world, becoming one of us to dispel the darkness of sin and evil, and to win our salvation. Let us rejoice in the Lord and be glad.