

Stewardship Messages December 2024

December 1, 2024

First Sunday of Advent

“But when these signs begin to happen, stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand.” Luke 21:28

We have a special opportunity during Advent to refresh and renew – and even grow and enhance – our relationship with God the Father and His son Jesus. Take time to reflect on how you will spend these weeks of Advent to get ready for Christmas.

December 8, 2024

Second Sunday of Advent

“And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value...” Philippians 1:9-10

In the weeks and days before Christmas, it is almost impossible to not put “value” on gifts or shop for “deals.” It is important to remember that the value between gift giving and gift receiving is not about a price tag or an obligation to exchange presents but rather the love between the giver and receiver. There was no monetary value when God gave us His son – and He certainly did not give us a “bargain” or a “deal.” God gave us love. Where can love and things of “real value” be more part of your Christmas preparations?

December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

“Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.” Philippians 4:6

God is abundantly generous in what he gives to us. He gifts us with all we are and all we have. He promises to give us all that we need. But as God loves us we are called to share His love give of ourselves to others. When we trust in God giving us all that we need, it allows us to gratefully and generously share with others.

December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

“For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy.” Luke 1:44

Do you leap for joy when you hear the word of God or in His presence? Do you just hear but not truly “listen” to scripture at Mass or other liturgical celebrations? We are called to be participants not mere observers in our roles as members of the Body of Christ. Pray about how you can be more active in listening and then spreading God’s word and love.

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

“Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come.” - Mark 13:33

It is easy, especially when our lives are going smoothly, to take things for granted. We are comfortable and we can often “put off” doing things. We may think that we “will get to that later,” no matter if it is sharing our gifts with others or preparing our mind and spirit for the end of our earthly days. Listen to God and try to hear how He is calling you to help build His kingdom on earth – today.

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

“Prepare the way of the Lord...” - Mark 1:3

How are you preparing the way of the Lord? Are others seeing you give of your time and treasures and talents to others? Are you setting an example of a good and holy life for others to see? Are your actions and words things to be emulated? Living the type of life that God calls us to live means that we are not just responsible for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well.

December 17, 2023

Third Sunday of Advent

“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18

How does a person “rejoice always?” What does it mean to “pray without ceasing?” To rejoice always doesn’t mean that we rejoice in evil, nor does it mean that we like suffering. A basic explanation is that in all situations we have a reason to rejoice, and that reason is Jesus and our belief that when we place our trust in God and He will provide. To pray without ceasing means that we always have our minds on the things of God, rather than the things of earth.

December 24, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Advent

“Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you!” – Luke 1:28

Mary’s life is the ultimate in hearing God’s call and living it out – relying on God to provide for her needs. Certainly, living God’s will for her was not always easy or carefree for Mary. She accepted the obstacles and uncertainties of her life and was obedient to her role in God’s plan.

December 31, 2023

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

“...as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do.” - Colossians 3:13

Forgiving someone is very hard. It is difficult to even think about forgiving someone who has hurt us or those we love. But it is important to remember that God forgives us through the sacrament of reconciliation. He gives us his forgiveness and mercy. If He forgives us, we can forgive others. It is not easy but pray for strength and grace to forgive.