

## Stewardship Messages February 2026

**February 1, 2026**

**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

***“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*** – Matthew 5:3

When Jesus refers to “the poor in spirit” in the Beatitudes, He is referring to recognizing one’s own spiritual need for God and the knowledge that we need to rely on Him rather than our own self. To attain the kingdom of heaven, we need to detach ourselves from earthly things and focus on heavenly things and how we best fit into serving God’s kingdom on earth.

**February 8, 2026**

**5th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

***“Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.”*** -- Matthew 5:16

While you should not do good deeds using the unique gifts that God has given you “for show” and for people to praise you; when you are a good steward others notice. When they notice, they often follow your example. Doing good works can encourage others to use their gifts.

What example are you showing others to encourage them to also use their gifts for the glory of God?

**February 15, 2026**

**6th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

***“I tell you, unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.”*** -- Matthew 5:20

The Pharisees were known for their strict adherence to Jewish tradition and law and knowledge of the Torah. They emphasized personal piety but often elevated themselves above others. Jesus criticized them for their focus on outward ritual rather than inner love and justice. Jesus clearly says that just following “the rules” but not showing and living out love for God and others is not the path to salvation.

**February 22, 2026**

**First Sunday of Lent**

***“... It is written: ‘The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.’”*** Matthew 4:10

Like the devil tempted Jesus with promises of riches and material things, we too are tempted today with worldly possessions and promises of material greatness. To follow Jesus and as God wants us to do, we must turn away from the lure of worldly power and material possessions and center our lives around God. Use this season of Lent examine – and act – on how your life can be more “God-focused” and less “earthly things focused.”

**March 1, 2026**

**Second Sunday of Lent**

***“Go forth from the land of you kinsfolk and from your father’s house to a land that I will show you.”*** Genesis 12:1

While our call to follow God very likely will not be as drastic as that of Abram to leave his homeland, God does call us to leave our old ways and follow Him. But just as Abram had to trust God to lead him, so must we place our trust in God to guide us into the life that He wants for us.