

## Stewardship Messages December 2022

December 4, 2022

Second Sunday of Advent

***“Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” -- Matthew 3:10***

What are the fruits that you bear? Are they good fruits? As you prepare for the Christmas season, take a good look at your fruits. Do you spend more time with mindless activities or with “screen time” than you do in prayer? Do you use your time to help others or are you consumed with your own “things?” Do you share your treasure with the Church and other ministries that help others or do you spend just for yourself? All that we have are gifts from God. What we do with our gifts is our gift back to Him.

December 11, 2022

Third Sunday of Advent

***“You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.” -- James 5:8***

Having patience can be a struggle. Often we want immediate responses and resolutions. We want things to go the way we plan and on our schedule. We often don't want to see that God may have a different plan. It is important to listen to God's plan for us through prayer and awareness that He will reveal His plans for us in His timeframe.

December 18, 2022

Fourth Sunday of Advent

***“When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.” -- Matthew 1:24***

It is hard to even imagine the emotions that Joseph experienced. Mary was found to be pregnant, but he didn't want her to be the subject of being talked about and shamed. He thought he was doing the right thing, but then an angel appeared to him. He must have been confused and anxious among other emotions, yet he did what the Lord commanded. He put his total trust in God. This can be very difficult to do. Pray for the courage and strength to do as God tells you – even when your emotions might tell you differently.

December 25, 2022

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, Christmas

***“And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us...” -- John 1:14***

It is easy to get caught up in the gifts that we receive and those that we give today and all through the Christmas season, But, we already have the ultimate gift – the gift of love that God gave all of us – His Son Jesus. That is the best gift we will ever receive.