

Stewardship Messages

Christmas Season 2019 through Ordinary Time 2020

December 28/29

Feast of the Holy Family

"Wives, be subordinate to your husbands Husbands, love your wives.... Children, obey your parents in everything. ... Father, do not provoke your children ..." Colossians 3:18-21

Pope Francis speaks quite a bit about families. He talks about how families be examples to others through their lives of prayer and love. Families can be true witnesses of Christian love. Being models of love and generosity to children and also serve as positive influences on others.

January 4/5

Epiphany of the Lord

"Then they opened their treasures and offered Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." Matthew 2:11

When the Magi knelt before the infant Jesus, offering treasures, they set an example for all of us to follow. We are called to generously share our gifts -- all of our gifts. God wants us to be open to sharing everything He has given us. What gifts that God has given you can you share?

January 11/12

Baptism of the Lord

"And a voice came from the heavens, saying, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'" Matthew 3:17

In this passage, we can take away a few different things. One is, that God the Father is so generous that He gave His only son, who is beloved to Him, to us so that we can have eternal life in heaven. Another is, that Jesus was obedient to His Father's will, even to the point of death. This serves as a reminder that our own lives are gifts from God, and that we are meant to live our lives in service to God and others.

January 18/20

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Now the Lord has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb..." Isaiah 49:5

God gives everyone different gifts. Each of us is called to use those gifts in different ways, according to God's plan for us. Since each person has different gifts and plans from God, it is not good to compare oneself to others. What is good is to be grateful for the gifts from God and share those gifts generously with others.

January 25/26

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

"He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed Him." Matthew 4:22

Jesus called His first apostles at the time of his public ministry, and He also calls us today. We are not necessarily called to leave our livelihoods and families behind, but we are called to put God first in everything. In everything from our time in prayer to our support of ministries in our parish and in the diocese, God should be first.

February 1/2

Presentation of the Lord

"... they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord." Luke 2:22

When do you "show others" that you are Catholic? Would people recognize that you are Catholic when you are going about your daily life – when you are at work or school or at a community event? Or is your Catholic "identity" only seen when you are at Sunday Mass or at a parish function? Your identification of being Catholic should be apparent every day, in every place.

February 8/9

Fifth 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

Doing good works and being a good steward of the gifts that you have been given by God can easily be seen by others. Your generosity toward others can influence those around you to act similarly. Lead by example. Encourage others to use the gifts God has given to them.

February 15/16

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

In the time of Jesus, the scribes and Pharisees lived according to the letter of the law, but they often "raised themselves" above other people. Jesus says that just living by the rules of the church are not enough. Love alone puts us on the pathway to heaven.

February 22/23

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

"But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you..." Matthew 5:44

Loving one's enemies is hardly easy. However, prayer can make it easier. When we are in close communication with God, our attention can be turned more towards others rather than ourselves. Praying for our enemies can help change our perspective and even work to change their hearts.