
Stewardship Reflections
for the Sunday Bulletin

****The Parish Life Office is pleased to announce that the Reflections can now be found on our website at <http://www.ajdiocese.org/stewardship>***

DECEMBER 2011 (Cycle B)

2nd Sunday of Advent, (December 4)

It is through repentance that we acknowledge our sins. In their pastoral letter on stewardship, the U. S. bishops proclaim that “the Spirit of wisdom and courage helps people seek pardon and be mindful, in the face of all their forgetting, that the most important work of their lives is to be Jesus’ disciples.” As we prepare to celebrate God’s greatest gift to us in the birth of our Savior, have we reconciled our sins so as to continue along the path to Eternal Life?

3rd Sunday of Advent, (December 11)

How do we respond to St. Paul’s challenge to give thanks to God in all circumstances? With an attitude of gratitude, Christian stewards give their time, talents, and treasure in response to an internal *need to give* in thanks for God’s blessings – not because someone or something has a *need to receive*. Like the pink candle of the Advent Wreath shining on in joy, may we “shine on” as we share our blessings in cheerfulness and gratitude.

4th Sunday of Advent, (December 18)

“After Jesus, it is the Blessed Virgin Mary who by her example most perfectly teaches the meaning of discipleship and stewardship in their fullest sense. All of their essential elements are found in her life: she was called and gifted by God; she responded generously, creatively, and prudently; she understood her divinely assigned role as ‘handmaid’ in terms of service and fidelity.” [Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response, USCCB, 1992.]

Christmas: The Nativity of the Lord, (December 25)

The lives of the lowly shepherds must certainly have been changed after hearing the joyous news from the angels and seeing the Jesus Child lying in the manger. How has the coming of Jesus, the Perfect Steward, changed my life?

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JANUARY 2012 (Cycle B)

Mary, Mother of God, (January 1)

As Mother of God, Mary's stewardship consisted of her maternal service and devotion to Jesus, from infancy to adulthood, up to the agonizing hours of Jesus' death. May each of us, like Mary, recognize that God intends us to play a unique role in carrying out the divine plan.

Epiphany of the Lord, (January 8)

The three magi from the east paid homage to the Infant Jesus with their "first fruits" of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. What gifts from my sustenance – and not my abundance – have I presented to the newborn Savior?

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, (January 15)

Like Samuel in today's first reading, we may not immediately realize that it is God who is calling us. However, when we do realize that God is calling us to do His will, may we respond emphatically, "Here am I, Lord; I come to do Your will!"

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, (January 22)

There is no better time than today to acknowledge the urgency of Jesus' call. The fulfillment of the Kingdom relies on how you use the time entrusted to you by God. What stands in your way?

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, (January 29)

Are you not filled with a sense of wonder whenever Jesus speaks to you? May your astonishment cause Jesus' fame to spread wherever you go.