



August 1, 2021

Pastoral Staff

Pastor Rev. Elias Lopez

Permanent Deacons

Grant Holt,

Russell Pasket

Garry Janota

Secretary / Bookkeeper

Carol Serres

Altar Society President

Delores Posinski

Baptism Classes

EJ Maupin

Coordinator of Religious Education

Kirby Borski

Finance Council

David Borski President, Russell Pasket

Susan Wisnoski, Susie Homeyer,

Ben Leman, Larry Sechelski Jr.

Music Coordinator

Leo Hock

St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Church

1511 Hwy 90 South

Anderson, TX 77830

936-873-2291

Archdiocese of

Galveston-Houston

Established 1866

RCIA

Kim Ritchie

RCIC

Dana Wagner

Pastoral Leadership Team

Jerome Klawinsky, Daniel Otto,

Russell Pasket, Marcus Reaves,

Thomas Sechelski, Gail Sowell

Linda Toler, Dana Wagner

Mass Schedule

Wednesday Noon

Friday Noon

Saturday 4:15pm

Sunday 10:00

Office hours are Tuesday-Friday 8:00 to 4:00

August 1, 2021

*"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
remains in me and I in him, says the Lord." John 6:56*

Do not work for food that perishes,
but for the food
that endures for eternal life.



As we listen to the Discourse on the Bread of Life, we are reminded that on the journey of life, no matter its twists and turns, the Lord continues to travel with us and to care for us, nourishing us with heavenly food as he once fed the Israelites in the desert.

Mass Intentions

Wednesday August 4th noon

Verna & Thomas Kitkoski
Kacy Kitkoski

Friday August 6th noon

Living & deceased members of the
Dietrich, Kitkoski, Pasket, Paukert
& Russell family

Saturday August 7th 4:15pm

The Dobyanski family

Sunday August 8th 10:00 am

Kaci Kitkoski
Verna & Thomas Kitkoski

*Building
on
our past,
Securing
our
future!*

Father Eli

lopez.eli68@gmail.com

<><><

www.FORMED.org

Enter Parish code:

MVMZKF to register

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Ststanskoska.flocknote.com/
or

Text STSTANS to 84576

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Web: www.saintstans.org

Email:

ststan@embarqmail.com



Liturgical Ministers Schedule



Saturday August 7th 4:15 pm

Leonard Szymczak & Dana Wagner

Joan Pushee

Jillian Wisnoski, Brant Werner

Michael Wisnoski, Stephen Pasket, Danny Pasket,
Darrell Wagner

Sunday August 8th 10:00 am

Margaret McClosky & Christi Leman

Janet Bienski

Ryan Wroblewski, Body Wroblewski, Jonathon Ritchie

Ben Leman, Marcus Klawinsky, Darrin Pasket, Ed Marek

Lectors:

Rosary:

Altar Servers:

Ushers:

Lectors:

Rosary:

Altar Servers:

Ushers:

If you cannot be present, please find a replacement

Bread of Life

Last week's stories about bread take a very different turn this week. In today's Gospel, Jesus uses the bread theme as a metaphor. Here bread symbolizes the teachings of Jesus that will nourish us, that will satisfy our deepest needs. Jesus employs a method of interpretation favored by the rabbis of his day. He refers to a passage from the religious tradition (the passage that happens to be the first reading for today), and then, step by step, explains its meaning for the people of his day. His "homily" is really a response to the challenge from those who demanded a sign that would give evidence of the authority with which he spoke.

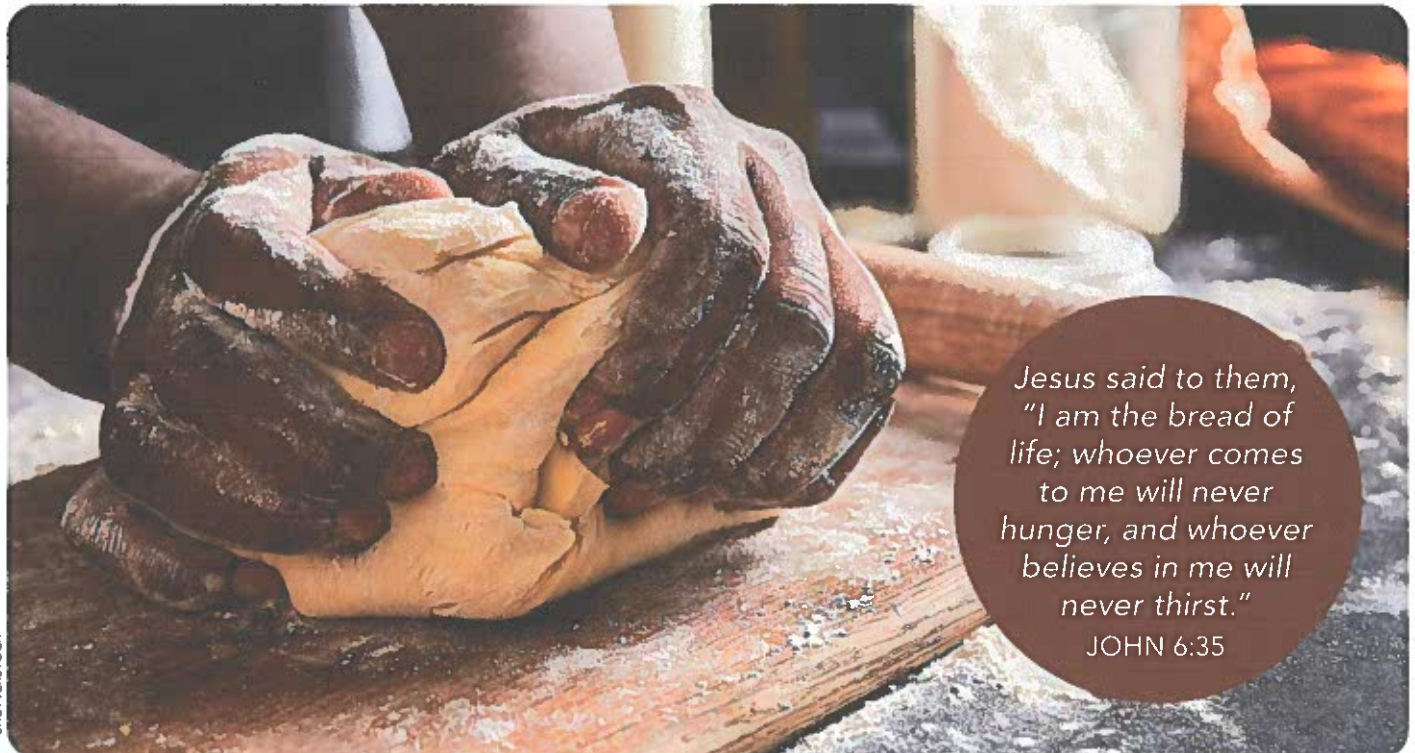
Those who challenged Jesus did so after they had been filled by the bread that he earlier miraculously provided. Jesus knew they weren't looking for signs of the presence of God in their midst. They simply wanted more food.

Jesus pointed out that the people of Moses' time had been called to trust that, day by day, God would provide them with food—as impossible as that might have seemed. Likewise, Jesus' hearers were called to trust his claims about his unique relationship with God, whom he called Father—as impossible as that might have seemed. This really isn't a story just about bread—the edible kind or the eucharistic kind. It is a story about believing in Jesus and accepting his teaching about the bread from heaven that promises eternal life.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ Give thanks for God's day-by-day care for you and your loved ones.
- ★ Pray for a deep and solid trust in God.



Jesus said to them,
"I am the bread of
life; whoever comes
to me will never
hunger, and whoever
believes in me will
never thirst."

JOHN 6:35

Dear Padre,

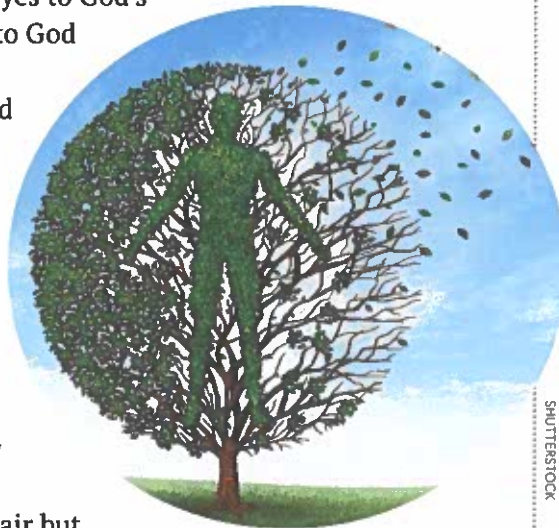
My elderly aunt is suffering from a terminal illness, and says she wants to die. Is this all right?

Popular psychological writings on death and dying often list the five different stages that people might go through when they are dying, namely: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. For Christians, the last stage of acceptance is saying yes to God's will. They may have been reconciled to God and others, said the things they have wanted to say, finished any unfinished business, and feel ready to leave this world and return to God.

For the dying person with faith, there may come a time when the desire to be fully united to her loving God takes priority over all other concerns and she actually desires to die. Her eyes turn toward the next life and she is not only ready to go but desires to go. This desire to leave this life is not the result of despair but rather the fruit of Christian hope.

We have a different situation when someone is not dying or is in good physical health, for the desire to die may indicate desperation or depression rather than acceptance and hope. Such persons may need personal and professional help to regain a zest for the life God has given them until the time comes that God calls them to himself.

From *Life, Death, and Catholic Medical Choices*, © 2011 Liguori Publications



Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to share your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Dear brothers and sisters who are ill, your sickness makes you in a particular way one of those "who labor and are burdened," and thus attract the eyes and heart of Jesus. In him, you will find light to brighten your darkest moments and hope to soothe your distress. He urges you: "Come to me."

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, FEBRUARY 11, 2020

Calendar

Monday

AUGUST 2

Weekday

Nm 11:4b–15

Mt 14:13–21

Tuesday

AUGUST 3

Weekday

Nm 12:1–13

Mt 14:22–36 or

Mt 15:1–2, 10–14

Wednesday

AUGUST 4

St. John Vianney,
Priest

Nm 13:1–2, 25–14:1,

26–29a, 34–35

Mt 15:21–28

Thursday

AUGUST 5

Weekday

Nm 20:1–13

Mt 16:13–23

Friday

AUGUST 6

Transfiguration
of the Lord

Dn 7:9–10, 13–14

2 Pt 1:16–19

Mk 9:2–10

Saturday

AUGUST 7

Weekday

Dt 6:4–13

Mt 17:14–20

Sunday

AUGUST 8

Nineteenth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

1 Kgs 19:4–8

Eph 4:30–5:2

Jn 6:41–51

St. Stanislaus Kostka



Sunday October 10th, 2021

2021 John Deere Gator 560E - \$9,250

\$1,000 In memory of Father James Moore

\$500 Serres & Son Plumbing

\$500 David & Jesslyn Borski

Visa Gift Card - \$500 In memory of Eddie Knowles

Visa Gift Card - \$500 In memory of Pete & Gertrude Paskett

Allen Roth Stone Fire Pit - Buckner's Jewelry

Wal-Mart Gift Card - \$500 In memory of David & Pearl Busa, Lee & Hattie Pavlock

Lowe's Gift Card - \$500

Academy Gift Card - \$500

Home Depot Gift Card - \$500 Glenn & Doris Michalak

We are asking for partial or full donations for the prizes, your support is very much appreciated.

We are collecting items the follow booths for this year's bazaar

- Gift Cards to Restaurants (New Booth)
 - Toys for Toy Booth
 - Fishing and hunting items for Outdoor Booth
 - Homemade & handmade items for Babusha's Porch
 - You can drop off items in the office.
-
- a. We are look for a family to run the Toy Booth.
 - b. Next Bazaar meeting September 1st at 6:00 in the parish hall. All are welcome
 - c. Raffle ticket are available for pick. Each family is asked to sell 10 tickets. Extra tickets available in the office. Please return any unsold ticket to the office.

August 1, 2021

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ex 16:2-4, 12-15 | Eph 4:17, 20-24 | Jn 6:24-35

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

In our house, we know we've got a situation when we run out of bread. It's the staff of life, yes, but also the stuff that makes toast, goes with soup or salad, and smells so good when we bake it ourselves. So perhaps some of us can relate to the Israelites in the first reading as they "grumbled against Moses and Aaron," before the Lord promised to "rain down bread from heaven for [them]." On a deeper level, perhaps we also truly understand the importance of what Jesus tells his disciples in today's Gospel: that the bread from heaven which the Father gives will not only satisfy their physical hunger, but give life to the world. Jesus says, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." Just as the disciples heartily responded "give us this bread always," today's readings encourage us to long not only for all good gifts from the Father, but specifically for that one, unique gift of the Son whose nourishment to us in the Eucharist transforms us and "gives life to the world."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Like many Catholics, I attended Mass online for much of 2020 and the first half of 2021. Initially, it seemed like enough, and I was immensely grateful for the opportunity to hear the Word of God, see the Lord in the Eucharist, and to receive him spiritually. However, as we began to return to church this past spring, I truly felt the enormity of what I had been missing: receiving the Eucharist, and doing so within a community. As we hear Christ's words in the bread of life discourse over the next few Sundays, the magnitude of God's gracious gift should become ever more apparent. When we receive the Eucharist at Mass, we partake in the body and blood of Jesus, sharing in the divine banquet that leads us to everlasting life, and drawing closer to Jesus and to one another in the process. Nourished by his presence within us, we can then go out and share the bread of life with others. What that looks like will differ for each of us, but ultimately it is all for the purpose of accomplishing the works of God: believing in the One he sent and giving witness to that belief in all we say and do.

ACTION Paul's Letter to the Ephesians admonishes his listeners to "put on the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth." As we begin each day this week, we can pray for the grace to "put on a new self" and let go of those things that get in the way of our own holiness.

FAMILY DANCE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2021

7-10 PM

**1511 TX-90,
ANDERSON TX
77830**

**HOSTED BY CHRIST OUR
LIGHT AND ST. STANISLAUS**

PIC-COLLAGE

Welcome to St. Stanislaus Kostka

Please contact the parish office if you wish to register or know someone who would like to become a member of our parish.

Our Holy Father's Prayer Intentions August

Intentions for Evangelization:- The Church

Let us pray for the Church, that She may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

Announcement

Next weekends 2nd collection will be Infirm Priests

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For the past year, the Parish has been developing plans for housing our growing CCE Program as well as needed Repairs & Renovations to our Church Building. These plans will be presented to the Parish in a Town Hall Meeting on August 22nd following the 10 AM Mass. The Town Hall Meeting will be held in the Parish Hall. Please make plans to attend.

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Bazaar meeting September 1st at 6:00 in the parish hall

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Together in Holiness Marriage Conference

Saturday, September 25, 2021

St. Theresa in Sugar Land and Sts. Simon and Jude in The Woodlands

Presented by the St. John Paul II Foundation

Registration: \$59/couple and \$35/individual Early Bird discount available until August 2.

Scholarships available upon request; please inquire. On-site childcare (2-12yrs); pre-registration required.

For more information, please visit togetherinholiness.org or email th@forlifeandfamily.org.

<><><>

RCIA class to start in September. Call the office for more information 936-873-2291

As we listen to the Discourse on the Bread of Life, we are reminded that on the journey of life, no matter its twists and turns, the Lord continues to travel with us and to care for us, nourishing us with heavenly food as he once fed the Israelites in the desert.

Altar Society : Meets the first Thursday September to May. The next meeting will be Thursday September 2nd at 6:00 in the rectory. All Catholic ladies are welcome.

Baptism: Classes are necessary for baptism. Please contact the parish office to make needed arrangements.

Birthdays & Anniversaries : On the 1st weekend of every month Fr. Eli will bless anyone with a birthday or wedding anniversary during that month following each Mass.

Cemetery Guidelines: If you have any questions or concerns pertaining to the cemetery, please contact Charles Posinski at 936-873-2113. If work needs to be done you must call Charles Posinski first.

Choir Practice: Choir practice is on Thursday evenings beginning at 6:15pm in the church. You can contact Leo Hock at 713-435-9949 for more information.

Counseling: Gratia Plena is a nonprofit organization that provides mental and spiritual health services for mental illnesses, addictions, and marriage/family problems. All counselors are Catholic and provide services in a way that is faithful to the teachings, values and traditions of the Church. Their closest office is near The Woodlands, but counselors are also available by video session. For more information, see their website at www.gratiaplenacounseling.org or call (832) 532-0129, or email info@gratiaplenacounseling.org

Divine Mercy: Every Friday after the noon Mass . Everyone is welcome to join us.

Gabriel Project: Pregnant. Scared. Need to talk! Gabriel Project offer assistance to women experiencing difficult circumstances. Please call Wanda O'Brien 936-597-6328 or St. Mary's Catholic Church 936-894-2223

Knights of Columbus : KC Council #4054 meets at the KC Hall every 2nd Tuesday at 7pm. Please join us. All Catholic men are welcome. **Next blood drive September 19th in the parish hall with a pancake breakfast.** Contact Deen Miller 936-524-1700 for membership information. And James Moran 936-825-7866 for rental information .

Marriage: There is a required preparation process that must be completed prior to one being married in the Catholic Church.

RCIA & RCIC: Anyone seeking the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults / Children or adult confirmation. Please call the church office at 936-873-2291 RCIA class to start in September.

Reconciliation: 30 Minutes before Wednesday & Friday Masses (Please call ahead to let the Priest know) and 3:00 to 4:00 on Saturdays

St. Vincent de Paul: The second Wednesday of the month (**August 11th**) 5:00 p.m. at *St. Stanislaus Kostka parish hall.*

12 Hour Adoration: Our church is open every Monday 8 am to 8 pm. September to May Everyone is welcome to join in the worship with the scheduled persons.

August 2021

July '21						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September '21						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Sunday		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	8am COL Fr. Eli 10am St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli 1pm COL Fr. Eli	2	3	4	5	6	7
				8:30am COL Fr. Eli 12pm St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli	8:30am COL Fr. Eli 6pm COL Fr. Eli	8:30am COL Fr. Eli 12pm St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli	9am COL Fr. Eli 4:15pm St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli 6pm COL Fr. Eli
8	8am COL Fr. Eli 10am St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli 1pm COL Fr. Eli	9	10	11	12	13	14
			NO MASS	NO MASS	8:30am COL Fr. Eli 6pm COL Fr. Eli	8:30am COL Fr. Eli 12pm St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli	8:30am Luther Unit Fr. Eli 4:15pm St. Stanislaus Fr. Paul 6pm COL Fr. Eli
15	8am COL Fr. Eli 10am St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli 1pm COL Fr. Eli	16	17	18	19	20	21
				8:30am COL Fr. Eli 12pm St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli	8:30am COL Fr. Eli 6pm COL Fr. Eli	8:30am COL Fr. Eli 12pm St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli	4:15pm St. Stanislaus Fr. Adam 6pm COL Fr. Adam
22	8am COL Fr. Eli 10am St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli 1pm COL Fr. Eli	23	24	25	26	27	28
				8:30am COL Fr. Eli 12pm St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli	8:30am COL Fr. Eli 6pm COL Fr. Eli	8:30am COL Fr. Eli 12pm St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli	8am Pack Unit Fr. Eli 4:15pm St. Stanislaus Fr. Paul 6pm COL Fr. Eli
29	8am COL Fr. Eli 10am St. Stanislaus Fr. Eli 1pm COL Fr. Eli	30	31	1	2	3	4
					6pm COL Fr. Eli		
5		6		Deacon's Preaching Schedule 8/1-Deacon Russell Pasket 8/15-Deacon Garnt Holt 8/22-Deacon Garry Janotta			

Stewardship

Inspiring a deeper understanding of true giving

August 2021

Although Christ obviously shows preference for the poor of spirit and the little ones of this world, he was not giving anyone the right to sanction hatred, envy or dislike of the rich. It is true that the majority have to work by the sweat of their brow, even as the rich seem to get richer, with far more ease. This at times can cause resentment and anger when we see the disproportion all around us.

Steerage and first class

In the movie *Titanic*, those in steerage and those in first class give us a microcosm of the world divided into classes as we traverse the seas of life. We have to keep in mind that it also is true that many rich people are generous and have contributed great amounts for the common good. Therefore, there should be no generalization of the rich as though they were all no better than Dives was, in Luke 16:19-31.

Rather than envy the rich, Christ gives us the warning: First things first. Share what little or largess you have. Do not hoard your possessions ... whatever they are. When we die, all we have is ourselves, bigger and wealthier spiritually for having shared our gifts, or poorer for having settled for the here and now with nothing but the insatiable fires of greed to live with throughout eternity. *There is no bridging the gulf between steerage and first class once we break the thread here.*

There is always a payback

There is another thing to be considered here, largely overlooked. One might

call it a secret: "you can not really give anything away," or the more familiar perhaps, "cast your bread on the waters, and it always returns." While an immediate return is certainly not our main reason for sharing our material largess, the Lord shares for those who will see.

As a kind of built-in necessary out-



come of our sharing, we will find that we will receive here and now, in one way or another, a return. We are not speaking of that snugly warm and cozy "what a great boy am I" of a Tom Thumb, or that insistent voice within us that keeps shouting "nice going," for those things we are only

Who owns our talents and how are we to use them until Christ returns to hold us accountable? You may have a talent sitting inside your heart that you can use to serve your church. Discover what the Holy Spirit is calling you to do with that ability!



(Continued on page 4)




Using Your Potential

The story is told of two men who were caught stealing sheep. Their punishment was to be branded on the forehead, "ST" (sheep thief). One of the branded men unable to deal with his brand immediately moved to another area to live.

The one who stayed in the locality decided that he would show his townsfolk that he could change. As the story is told, many years later a newcomer in town, seeing the branded man, asked another person, "What does the ST mean?" "I don't know," he replied, "but knowing the man I think it stands for 'saint'."

**We are called not to be afraid of small beginnings,
but also not to fail to begin.**


What we have done, or what we have let ourselves become is of little concern to the Lord. What we decide to do with our God-given potential is the only concern. We have the potential, however small we may perceive it to be, to call to life the power of God's Holy Spirit within our lives, that his light and life may shine through our words and actions. 

Take the Time!

I could have walked right by him ... I was leaving church and had several things to do. But there he was just sitting with his head down. I've noticed recently he has the look of someone with a heavy heart.

"Feel like talking?" I asked as I sat in the pew in front of him. He talked about his marriage while I sat there listening. When he finished, I didn't lecture him in Biblical truth, nor did I tell him what he should do. I showed he

mattered by just giving him some time. All the 'important' things I was rushing out to do suddenly seemed less urgent. I remembered a Men's Retreat coming up in a few weeks and invited him to come along. I gently told him he's not alone.

Too often, we get so caught up in the busyness of life that we miss the opportunities God has right in front of us. Ask God to use you in the life of someone else today. Just a little of our time can make a huge difference in the life of a hurting soul. Quite often, they're seated in the pew right next to us. 

The work of the church can never be complete without your help as a member of the "team." Everyone must work together to form a beautiful picture of what God can do through the ministry of your church. Each steward can find and fill his or her place.

Mirrors and Windows

Mirrors and windows are both found in most homes and both made of glass, but differ in one very important way. Mirrors tell us about ourselves, while windows tell us about others.

Look into a mirror for even one minute, and you're almost guaranteed to see something you don't like. (I know I do!) It may be a crooked hair part (easily fixable with a comb) or a need to lose weight (not so easy, even with a gym membership), but our appearances are so important to us that we're likely to at least want to improve what we can.

Windows are different. Through a

window, we see the world around us. If we look long enough, we may well see something or someone that needs help. It may be the lawn of a shut-in that needs mowing. It may be a new neighbor we could invite to church. Maybe it's only a can lying in the gutter, which we could drop in our recycling bin. The question is, do we actually do any of these things?

If we all spent more time looking through windows instead of at mirrors, we could make the world a much better place. ☩

Steward of the Month

Is It Ever Enough?

Submitted by: Maynard Beatrice NE

As I entered the church, I saw a mother and her two children waiting for someone. I visited briefly with them. I knew why they were there. The food pantry was open for "business" for those in need. But, we didn't talk about that even though they seemed a bit nervous in just visiting.

I was there to donate to the food pantry to help pay for the needed food. When I saw the anxious looks in the mother's eyes, and more so in the eyes of her two children, and the smiles they greeted me with, I felt uncomfortable ... like a "meltdown" suddenly had hit me.

As I walked to the church office, I tore up the check I had written and re-wrote it for a larger amount. As I did that, I wondered if it would be enough, not only for the family I just visited with. What about the others that would be going through the same thing that day? Is it ever enough? The "moment of decision," I believe, was the urgency that God laid before me that day, and I am thankful for that faith experience. God did not allow me to say to myself, "I'll give more next time!"

It was an "attitude adjustment" moment for me and made me realize that God allowed me to be in that specific situation at that particular time and moment, and what a difference it made! ☩

As part of their total Stewardship, Christians are concerned about the dedication of their talents. They regard personal abilities to work and to lead as another evidence of God's loving care.

In a spirit of consecration, they desire to have those talents utilized in business, in the home, in church, in such a manner that they will make a contribution to the Kingdom of God on earth. These priorities are important to them, including during the summer months.




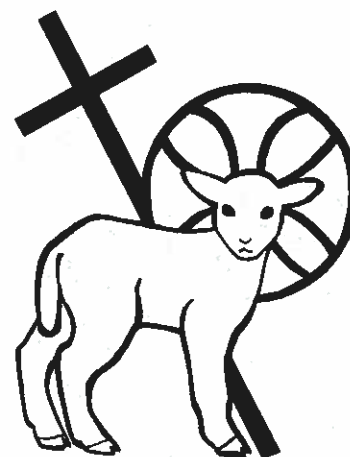
***Through a window, we see the world around us.
If we look long enough, we may see something or
someone that needs help.***

Continued from page 1...

Although Christ...

expected to do as Christians, giving and seeking no rewards. The return may not come in the financial area, although we all may have experienced this at times. Indeed it may be in things so unassuming as a surprise thank you from someone, or a smile, or an unexpected release from one of our problems.

More important by far, it will be an awareness that we are truly doing for others what Christ has done and continues to do for us. There is always a payback, although we might not seek it. And all that is required is an openness to God's presence and a humble thank you to the Lord for giving us the opportunity and means to share and so identify with him. Seeking only God, we receive all. Isn't this reward in itself without waiting for later? It most certainly is! 



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Graceful Generosity

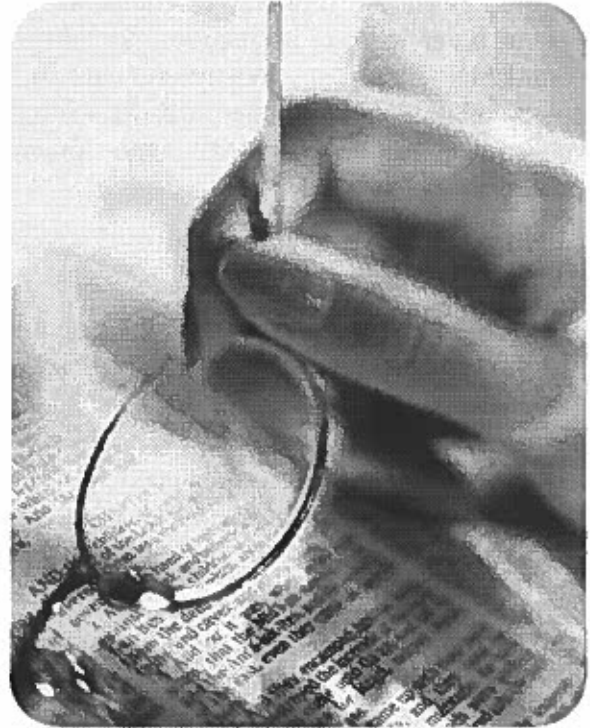
Published to help you grow as a steward of God's grace.

Living a Disciplined Lifestyle

The intimate relationship that Jesus establishes with us and through which we are enabled to grow is nurtured by a disciplined lifestyle that incorporates spiritual disciplines. Examples of spiritual disciplines are praying, worshiping, fasting, serving, and giving. Richard Foster, in his book *Celebration of Discipline*, writes "God has ordained the disciplines of the spiritual life as the means by which we place ourselves where he can bless us." The spiritual disciplines that we develop will put us where Jesus can work within us to transform us and use us. By grace, God works through these disciplines to mold us and change us into stewards who can bless others as we've been blessed.

Another benefit to spiritual disciplines is that they help us to acknowledge our dependence upon God. God is our power source, so we need to stay connected to him. Spiritual disciplines train us to stay connected. In his Word, God promises never to forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). Although he promises never to leave us, we can sever that connection with him at any time. However, without that connection with him, we are no longer able to live as his children and as his stewards. Because spiritual disciplines remind us continually of God's sovereignty and our need for him, we should incorporate spiritual disciplines into our lives.

In addition, spiritual disciplines help us evaluate our spiritual condition. If we aren't practicing spiritual disciplines, we need to question why we aren't. Without spiritual disciplines in our lives, we are depriving ourselves of an intimate relationship with Jesus, and we will not be able to practice a pleasing stewardship lifestyle.



Stewardship of Self

Failure to allow God to rule our lives or to become self-sufficient is sin. Augustine wrote, "Thou has made us for Thyself." Paul reminds us, "[We] are not [our] own; [we] were bought at a price" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). When we fail to acknowledge our dependence upon God and follow our wills, we are rebelling against him. Our will supersedes what God desires for us. Dr. Lynn Hough wrote, "The will is the last citadel of the personality. Stewardship which does not include the surrender of the will to God misses the very central application of our being God's possession."

Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we become people eager to live in a relationship with Jesus rather than in isolated independence. Christ initiated this relationship with us, and, in response, we give ourselves to him and his work. We walk daily with Christ. An example of how an intimate relationship makes things

work is that of a happy marriage. When there is a loving and giving relationship between husband and wife, there will be a happy and successful marriage. If the marriage is based only on rules and contracts, the marriage won't last. In the same way that spouses thrive when a loving relationship exists between them, we, as stewards, need an intimate relationship with Jesus in order to live productive and fulfilling stewardship lifestyles. When we have an intimate relationship with the Lord, we willingly live each day as stewards who practice stewardship lifestyles.

The giving of self is illustrated by Paul in 2 Corinthians 8:3-5.

"For I testify that [the Macedonians] gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will."

In spite of their economic hardships, the Macedonians responded generously and sacrificially to the plight of the people in Jerusalem. They were able to give beyond their ability because they had first given themselves to the Lord. The Macedonians found it a privilege and a joy to give what they had to people in need. Because of their love relationship with Jesus, they delighted in giving. Mature stewards do the right things for the right reasons.

God's Word and Sacraments are his means of grace through which he empowers us to give of ourselves. As the Holy Spirit works through Word and Sacraments, God teaches us to

become givers rather than takers and transforms us into people who use our lives, gifts, and resources in service to the Lord as Christian stewards. When we become self-giving people, God is pleased because God wants us, not our gifts. *"What I want is not your possessions but you."* (2 Corinthians 12:14). When God has all of us, our deeds of stewardship grow into a lifestyle of stewardship.



We Reap what We Sow

The story is told of a miller who asked an apple grower:

"How is it when I measured the five barrels of apples you sold me last week I was almost a barrel short?"

"That's a fair question," the apple grower replied.

"All I did was to send them to you in five of your own flour barrels." G. Ray

Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!

Upcoming 2nd Collections:

8-8 *Infirm Priests*

8-15 *DSF*

Weekly Collections:

July 24th & 25th

\$3,875.01



Please pray for those in active military duty:

Andrew Anderson, Austin Barnes, Andrew Burzynski, Lukas Diorio, Don Fontaine, Travis Hayes, Cody Klawinsky, Travis Klawinsky, Stash Allen Kurten, Joe A. Lopez, Matthew Macejewski, John McKnight, Phillip Walkowiak, Travis Watson

Please pray for our parish family who are ill and/or homebound:

Dody Abbott, Mandi Alford, Dana Briers, Timothy Busa, Valerie Busa, Pat Dave, Donna Emmette, Margaret Fann, John Faust, Briley Gladney, Dolores Holler, Helen Kurtin, Florence Lara, Elizabeth Kavis, Andy McCleney, Desire Oliver, Matt Oliver, Henry Ostermann, Charlie Pasket, Tina Pasket, Laura Pursley, Marcus Reaves, Veronica Sewell, Sherrie Shiflett, Josephine Schwenke, Chris Szymczak, LaNell Szymczak, Philip Vezorak, Anna Mae Vezurk, Dennis Wehmeyer, Fr. Louis Sikorski

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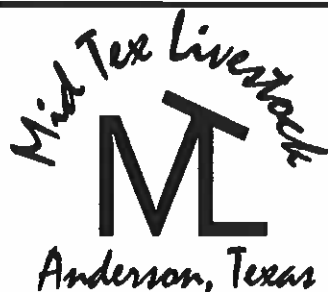
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