



February 27, 2022

**St. Stanislaus
Kostka
Catholic Church**

*1511 Hwy 90 South
Anderson, TX 77830*

936-873-2291

Established 1866

*Archdiocese of
Galveston-Houston*

Mass Schedule

Wednesday Noon

Friday Noon

Saturday 4:15 pm

Sunday 10:00 am

Office hours

Tuesday - Friday 8:00 to 4:00

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

Thomas Sechelski, Crocket Womack

Chad & Theresa Guidry

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

Pastoral Leadership Team

Jerome Klawinsky, Daniel Otto,

Russell Pasket, Marcus Reaves,

Thomas Sechelski, Gail Sowell

Linda Toler, Dana Wagner

RCIA

Kim Ritchie

RCIC

Dana Wagner

February 27, 2022

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

From the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks.

Sirach writes of revealing the qualities of things: pottery in a furnace, a shaken sieve, the fruit of a tree, and the speech of a person. In the second reading, Paul affirms Jesus' victory over sin and death. In the Gospel, Jesus teaches that a person with a store of goodness in his or her heart produces good, while a store of evil produces evil.



Mass Intentions

Ash Wednesday March 2nd

7:00 am Charlie McDuffie & Michele Brown

6:00 pm John & Mary Lebeck Family

John & Maggie Pasket Family

Friday March 4th noon

Marcella Reaves & Michele Brown

Saturday March 5th 4:15

Sebastian & Julio Nunez

Clementa Gonzalez

Sunday March 6th 10:00

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

*Building
on
our past,
Securing
our
future!*

Father Eli

lopez.eli68@gmail.com

<>>>

www.FORMED.org

Enter Parish code:

MVMZKF to register

<>>>

Ststanskoka.flocknote.com/

or

Text STSTANS to 84576

<>>>

Web: www.saintstans.org

Email:

ststan@embarqmail.com



Liturgical Ministers Schedule



Saturday March 5th 4:15 pm

Delores Posinski & Joan Pushee

Joan Pushee

Lectors:

Rosary:

Altar Servers: Jillian Wisnoski, Zoey Smith, Wyatt Marek

Ushers: Johnny Pasket Jr., Michael Wisnoski, Darrel Wagner, Stephen Pasket

Sunday March 6th 10:00 am

Lectors: Brian Burzynski & Ian Campbell

Rosary: Linda LaSalle

Altar Servers: Ryan Wroblewski, Bodie Wroblewski, Jonathon Ritchie

Ushers: James Busa, Stanley Sechelski, Jerome Klawinsky, Ian Campbell

If you cannot be present, please find a replacement

Welcome to St. Stanislaus Kostka

Please contact the parish office if you wish to become a member register 936-873-2291

Our Holy Father's Prayer Intentions February

For religious sisters and consecrated women

We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women: thanking them for their mission and their courage: may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

Announcements

Stations of the Cross Schedule:

March 4, 11, 18, 25; April 1, 8 @ 12:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Knight of Columbus Council # 4054

Pancake Breakfast and Blood Drive

Sunday March 6th Come by the parish hall for a free pancake breakfast after mass and donor blood if you can. (Blood drive 8:00 to 12:30)

Lenten Fish Fry:

Friday March 11th at St. Mary parish hall Plantersville

Friday March 18th at Knights of Columbus hall Anderson

Friday March 25th at St Joseph parish hall in Stoneham

We will have a workday on Sunday March 6th to remove the Stations of the Cross and pews on the west side of the church. We will need all the help we can get. Please stay and help if you can.

Adoration cancelled for March 7th & 14th

We all know there are times when something "slips out" in our speech. There are times when we perform some questionable action or react more strongly than we intended. The Scriptures today alert us to the relationship of what is in our hearts and minds with what is on our lips. Only goodness can overcome evil and produce goodness – as incorruptibility and immortality overcome that which is corrupt and mortal, and as Jesus Christ overcame the sting of death.



February 27, 2022

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sir 27:4-7 | 1 Cor 15:54-58 | Lk 6:39-45

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Parenthood can be humbling. When our children are young, we celebrate even the tiniest accomplishments: “You put on your socks!” or “Wow, good job putting your dish in the dishwasher!” And rightly so. Then come the teen years, and some of us can err on the side of criticism. “Why did you put off that project until the last minute?” “Turn off the electronics by 10 p.m. or else ...” “What, another energy drink?” (We say, looking up from our own phone with a cup of tea in hand ...) The same can be said of our spiritual lives. We want our children to pray and participate in the sacraments, but we may rush through Grace before meals, skip opportunities for confession, or treat holy Mass as an afterthought. Today’s Gospel reminds us why our admonitions won’t work if we don’t walk our talk: The blind can’t lead the blind. None of us is perfect, and neither are our children or the other people in our lives. But as our second reading reminds us, Jesus has won for us victory over sin. When we ask Jesus to help us remove the “wooden beam” from our own eyes, we can see his will for us more clearly and lift up those around us.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

We don’t have to be perfect to encourage one another in our faith. Like the “good tree” Jesus describes in the parable and the tree that bears “good fruit” in Sirach, however, we need to nourish our faith before we can share it with others. It can start with something as simple as adding prayer to our morning routine. We can bring our flaws, our doubts, our bad habits to Jesus and ask him to free us from whatever might be holding us back. As we accompany others, whether it is those with whom we live, work, or worship, we can turn to Jesus to help us be a force for good. We will stumble. But as St. Paul reminds us, “Be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”

PRAY Have you prayed The Examen? This Ignatian practice, often at the end of the day, encourages reflection – on God’s presence in our day and the areas where we may have fallen short. We can ask the Lord for forgiveness and the grace to do better tomorrow.

February 27, 2022

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

Sir 27:4-7

1 Cor 15:54-58

Lk 6:39-45

Who Are You? Really!

Like it or not, we often get our sense of who we are from others. Some people either make us feel worthwhile, or they treat us like we have little value. We all want to be accepted, to be part of the crowd, to look like we have made it. This is one reason we fall for so many fads of the day: "Everyone has one. Everyone is doing it." Teenagers aren't the only ones who think like this. It may take a long time before we can move beyond the opinions of others. Many never do.

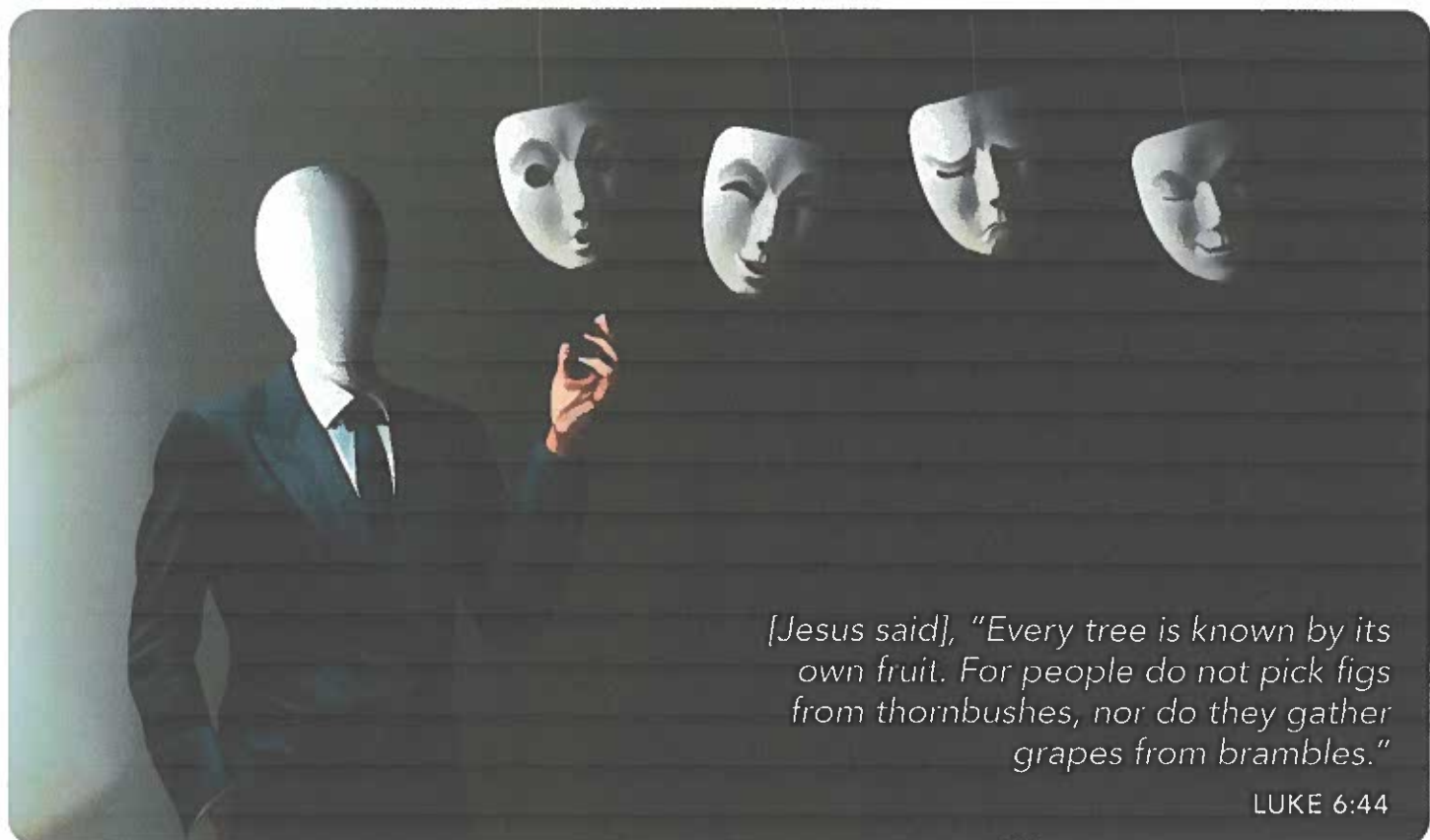
So, who are you? Really! Are you hiding behind something, some pretense? Are you trying to look like someone you're not? Today's readings remind us, as many have said, "Actions speak louder than words," and as Christ said, "By their fruits you will know them" (Matthew 7:16). What is deepest within us eventually shows itself.

Sirach offers several examples of this. He claims that sometimes the dark side of our personalities comes out when we least expect it. But then there are times when we surprise even ourselves with our own goodness. Luke offers similar examples from both nature and human experience. Try as we might, we cannot completely hide who we truly are. And why should we? The last phrase of today's Gospel is profound: "From the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks" (Luke 6:45). That is where we find who we are. Really!

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ *How honest are you about who you are?*
- ★ *God accepts you as you really are. Shouldn't that be enough?*



[Jesus said], "Every tree is known by its own fruit. For people do not pick figs from thornbushes, nor do they gather grapes from brambles."

LUKE 6:44

FRAN KIE / SHUTTERSTOCK

Dear Padre,

Who chooses the names for Catholic churches?

The bishop is the appropriate authority to designate the name of a church in his diocese. Each church should have its own title, which cannot be changed after the church has been dedicated, except for grave reasons and with the approval of the Apostolic See (Canon 1218). Examples of designations include the name of the Blessed Trinity, a name for Christ or the Blessed Virgin Mary under a title already accepted in the liturgy, one of the angels, saints, or a blessed who is approved by the Holy See for insertion in a diocesan liturgical calendar.

According to additional norms issued in 1999, "If several parishes are suppressed and a new one is established using one of the churches, its title must be retained, but it may be changed if it is a new building." Moreover, "if several parishes are each suppressed and united into one new parish, it is permitted, for pastoral reasons, to give it a new name different from the previous title of the parish church" (Canon 1218).

The faith community celebrates the titular feast of the church annually with the rank of a solemnity.

The customary practice of depositing a relic of the titular saint—when applicable—under the altar to be dedicated may be "fittingly retained" (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 302). However, the inherent dignity of the church's altar is that it is foremost the table of the Lord.

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR

Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE / JOE POLLINO



A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

Hypocrisy is the worst enemy of this Christian community, of this Christian love: pretending to love each other but only seeking one's own interests....Those who behave in this manner transit in the Church like a tourist. There are many tourists in the Church who are always passing through but never enter the Church.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, AUGUST 21, 2019

Calendar

Monday

FEBRUARY 28

Weekday

1 Pt 1:3-9

Mk 10:17-27

Tuesday

MARCH 1

Weekday

1 Pt 1:10-16

Mk 10:28-31

Wednesday

MARCH 2

Ash Wednesday

Jl 2:12-18

2 Cor 5:20-6:2

Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday

MARCH 3

Thursday after

Ash Wednesday

Dt 30:15-20

Lk 9:22-25

Friday

MARCH 4

Friday after

Ash Wednesday

Is 58:1-9a

Mt 9:14-15

Saturday

MARCH 5

Saturday after

Ash Wednesday

Is 58:9b-14

Lk 5:27-32

Sunday

MARCH 6

First Sunday of Lent

Dt 26:4-10

Rom 10:8-13

Lk 4:1-13

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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



Your gift to the Diocesan Services Fund

allows the Office of Young Adult
and Campus Ministry to serve
students through 5 Newman
Centers at universities
throughout the Archdiocese of
Galveston-Houston



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GIVE BLOOD.ORG

**St. Stanislaus
Catholic Church**
Sunday, March 6
8:00 am - 12:30 pm
Fellowship Hall
Contact Henry Ostermann
(936) 873-2291

Scan QR Code to sign up:
or



THE BEST WAY
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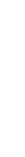
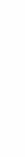
Baseball is back! Be an MVP and save lives.
Receive a Houston baseball themed T-shirt* when you give
blood from **March 1 - April 30, 2022**, as a thank you.

Visit giveblood.org and schedule your appointment today!

**While supplies last. Promotional item may be substituted for item of equal value.*



TELL US HOW YOU COMMIT FOR LIFE



NAVASOTA KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CO.9367



FISH FRY 2022

Friday, MARCH 4th, 5 PM

KC Hall 9306 CR420 (Courtney Rd Off Spur 515)



Catfish, Fries, Hush puppies, and Coleslaw
\$12/Plate - Dine-In or Pick Up Until Sold Out

Altar Society: Meets the first Thursday September to May. The next meeting will be Thursday March 3rd 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. *The first week of February and August, ALL flowers will be removed.*

Choir Practice: Choir practice is on Thursday evenings beginning at 6:15pm in the church. 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 March 6th Fish Fry March 11, 18 & 25** 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

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 classes 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: Next meeting to be announced. For Help call 936-873-5002
Please remember our neighbors in need with your food or cash donation..

12 Hour Adoration: Our church is open every Monday 8 am to 8 pm. September 13th to end of May. Everyone is welcome to join in the worship with the scheduled persons.

THE SEASON OF LENT

A JOURNEY TO HOLINESS

*Go and learn the meaning of the words,
"I desire mercy, not sacrifice."
—Matthew 9:13*

Each year when we start thinking about Lent, we often seem initially drawn to the concepts of sacrifice and self-denial. These issues are significant, but they are neither the starting point nor the end of the season. The goal of Lent, in fact, is quite the opposite. Lent is first and foremost a time, not for diminishment, but for growth and development. We should aspire to expand our hearts, enlarge our souls, and enrich our minds. Perhaps the meaning of the Lord's words is this—God prefers a full heart to an empty stomach.

THE FIRST GOAL OF LENT

*I came so that they might have life
and have it more abundantly. —John 10:10*

The first question we often ask is, "what should I give up for Lent?" Perhaps instead we might begin by asking: "What do I need for Lent?" or "What is missing from my life?" The first goal of Lent is holiness and the meaning of holiness is wholeness. Such holiness is measured, not by the scale of our deprivation, but by the fullness of our life in Christ. Lent is a time to seek the real gifts we lack: patience, joy, trust, and compassion. True blessedness does not arrive by denying our craving for chocolate, but by fulfilling our hunger for righteousness.



THE TOOLS OF LENT

*You are anxious and worried about many things.
There is need of only one thing. —Luke 10:41-42*

Once we determine what we lack, only then do we turn to the question of self-denial. The human heart and soul are much like our computers and garages: they fill up with junk very quickly. The role of self-sacrifice is to discard the superfluous in order to clear a space for life's real treasures. We live in a culture that is often distracted by noise, materialism, and self-absorption. We use the three disciplinary tools of Lent—prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—to open our hearts and minds to others and to make room in our lives for God.



A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO LENT

The Three Basic Lenten Disciplines



PRAYER

Balance your spiritual life by integrating the body, mind, and soul in your prayer life. Increase the quality, not the quantity of your prayer. Enhance meditative prayer by “unplugging” from the modern distractions. Create spaces where God’s voice can be heard. For more active or external prayer, keep a journal, read the psalms aloud, or sing the sacred music from your worship. Let your body express your prayer by trying Yoga, Tai Chi, or dance.



FASTING

Use your fasting, not to impress God with your discomfort, but to feed on the gifts for which you hunger most. Let your fasting serve the lives of others as well as your own. It does

little good to give up dessert, but then to grumble at your children’s need for attention. Fast from some of your private pursuits to become food for your family and friends. Fast from anger, blame, and entitlement; feast on forgiveness, affirmation, and the common good.



ALMSGIVING

Connect your almsgiving to your fasting so that self-denial becomes other-enhancement. If you skip a daily latte, give the money to a local food bank. If you have limited financial means, supplement your alms by giving of your time and talent. Volunteer at a soup kitchen or become a minister of care at your parish. Let your own poverty, whatever it may be, enrich the lives of others. Give generously, not just from the leftovers, but from the “first fruits” of your table.

THE SYMBOLS OF LENT

Color: *Violet* (purple) is the usual color for Lent, symbolizing repentance and prayerful reflection. *Red* on Good Friday relates to Jesus sacrifice, while *white* is the color for Easter.

Ashes placed on the forehead hint at an ancient ritual-covering oneself with ashes in penitence. Receiving the cross-shaped “smudge” reminds us that we are dust and is a public statement of repentance.

The **Forty Days** of Lent parallel the 40 days which Jesus spent in fasting and prayer in the wilderness (among many “40” references in the Bible). Sundays *are not* counted as days of Lent. Good Friday and Easter Vigil, while technically not in Lent, *are* counted as part of the 40 days.

Palm branches in ancient times signified victory and were used in triumphal processions by Romans and Jews.

Stations of the Cross: In the early Church, Christians would make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land to retrace the steps of Jesus on his way to the cross. As the Church grew, such a pilgrimage became unrealistic and a tradition was born to retrace the steps of Jesus by reflecting on pictures that depicted those steps. During Lent, especially on Fridays, Catholics reflect on the crucifixion of Jesus by praying the Stations of the Cross, which has become a time-honored tradition.

LENTEN REGULATIONS FOR FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

The Church teaches that Catholics in good health are to observe the following practices during Lent unless for some serious reason they are unable to do so:

Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. In addition, all Catholics 14 years old and older must abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent.

Fasting as explained by the U.S. bishops means partaking of only one full meal and two smaller meals that do not equal the main meal. Abstinence forbids the use of meat, but not of eggs, milk products or condiments made of animal fat.

READINGS FOR LENT 2022

Ash Wednesday	Jl 2:12-18 • 2 Cor 5:20—6:2 • Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
1st Sunday	Dt 26:4-10 • Rom 10:8-13 • Lk 4:1-13
2nd Sunday	Gn 15:5-12, 17-18 • Phil 3:17—4:1 • Lk 9:28b-36
3rd Sunday	Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15 • 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12 • Lk 13:1-9
4th Sunday	Jos 5:9a, 10-12 • 2 Cor 5:17-21 • Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
5th Sunday	Is 43:16-21 • Phil 3:8-14 • Jn 8:1-11
Palm Sunday	Lk 19:28-40 • Is 50:4-7 • Phil 2:6-11 • Lk 22:14—23:56
Holy Thursday	Ex 12:1-8, 11-14 • 1 Cor 11:23-26 • Jn 13:1-15
Good Friday	Is 52:13—53:12 • Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9 • Jn 18:1—19:42
Easter Vigil	Gn 1:1—2:2 • Gn 22:1-18 • Ex 14:15—15:1 • Is 54:5-14 • Is 55:1-11 • Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4 • Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28 • Rom 6:3-11 • Lk 24:1-12



Lent 2022

			WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			2 MARCH	3	4	5
			ASH WEDNESDAY Let us draw closer to God this Lent. <i>Joel 2:12-13</i>	Come, Follow Me Choose to respond generously to Jesus' call. <i>Luke 9:23</i>	Cleanse Me, O God! Confess your sins and seek forgiveness. <i>Psalms 51:3-4</i>	Have Mercy, Lord! Open your heart to God's love today. <i>Psalms 86:3-4</i>
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY				
6 Not By Bread Alone Pray to trust God to help with your needs? <i>Luke 4:4</i>	7 When Did We See You? Help someone in need today. <i>Matthew 25:37-40</i>	8 Our Father Spend extra time in prayer today as Jesus taught us. <i>Matthew 6:9-13</i>	9 A Humble Heart Pray for forgiveness from God and others. <i>Psalms 51:18-19</i>	10 Ask, Seek, Knock! Pray to God for what you need most. <i>Matthew 7:7-8</i>	11 Lord, Hear Me! Pray with confidence that God will answer you. <i>Psalms 130:1-2</i>	12 Love Your Enemies! Who do I most need to reconcile with today? <i>Matthew 5:43-45</i>
13 Listen to Jesus! How can I listen more carefully to Jesus' words? <i>Luke 9:35</i>	14 Be Merciful! How might I care and help someone in need today? <i>Luke 6:36</i>	15 Hear God's Word! Read scripture today to discover God's message for you. <i>Isaiah 1:10</i>	16 Greatness through Service How might I serve someone in need today? <i>Matthew 20:26-27</i>	17 God Knows Our Heart Open my hidden self to God today in prayer. <i>Jeremiah 17:9-10</i>	18 Family Strife How can I lessen any tensions in my family relationships? <i>Psalms 133:1</i>	19 ST. JOSEPH God Is Merciful How might I thank God for all the gifts that I have received? <i>Psalms 103:1-2</i>
20 My Burning Bush What is like the burning bush that most reveals God to me? <i>Exodus 3:2-4</i>	21 The Unwelcome Prophet How might I need to speak out for greater justice today? <i>Luke 4:24</i>	22 Unlimited Forgiveness Who do I most need to forgive or be forgiven by today? <i>Matthew 18:21-23</i>	23 God's Commands Which of the commandments most needs my attention today? <i>Matthew 5:19</i>	24 Listen to My Voice! How might I find more time to read and reflect on Scripture today? <i>Jeremiah 23</i>	25 THE ANNUNCIATION Return to God! Trust that God will forgive and heal me from my sinfulness. <i>Hosea 14:3-4</i>	26 Pray for God's Mercy! Take time to pray humbly for God's forgiveness. <i>Luke 18:13-14</i>
27 Ambassadors for Christ With whom might I share what Jesus means to me? <i>2 Corinthians 5:20</i>	28 A New Creation How can I change my prejudices that make life hard for others? <i>Isaiah 65:17-18</i>	29 Do You Want to Be Well? Ask Jesus to heal what ails you most in body or spirit. <i>John 5:6</i>	30 Doing God's Will How might I better follow Jesus' example and help others? <i>John 5:30</i>	31 Believe My Words! How might I apply Jesus' message of freedom and justice today? <i>John 5:37-40</i>	1 APRIL God Hears Cries for Justice How might I act to make a situation more just today? <i>Psalms 34:18</i>	2 Do Justice, Lord! How might I help to protect the innocent and vulnerable today? <i>Psalms 7:9-10</i>
3 No Condemnation Like Jesus, how might I forgive others instead of condemning them? <i>John 8:11</i>	4 Throwing the First Stone How can I be more understanding before judging others? <i>John 8:7</i>	5 God Is with Me How might I pay more attention to God's presence with me today? <i>John 8:29</i>	6 Blessed Are You! How might I praise and thank God in a special way today? <i>Daniel 3:52</i>	7 They Wanted to Stone Him How might I call on God to be with me in times of trouble? <i>John 8:58-59</i>	8 The Lord Is with Me Rejoice today for God's presence in you and in your life? <i>Jeremiah 20:11</i>	9 One Community How might I invite those outside or marginalized into our community? <i>John 11:52-53</i>
10 PALM SUNDAY He Emptied Himself How can I give myself in greater service to those in need? <i>Philippians 2:6-11</i>	11 Acting for Justice How might I be willing to suffer to create more justice today? <i>Isaiah 42:1-2</i>	12 One Will Betray Me How might I make amends for the ways I have betrayed Jesus? <i>John 13:21</i>	13 30 Pieces of Silver What most tempts me to deny and betray Jesus and his ways? <i>Matthew 26:14-6</i>	14 HOLY THURSDAY I Give You an Example Like Jesus, how can I serve those most in need today? <i>John 13:14-15</i>	15 GOOD FRIDAY Crucify Him! How might I act like Jesus even when difficulties overwhelm me? <i>John 19:6</i>	16 EASTER VIGIL He Has Been Raised! Let us seek the risen Christ now in our everyday lives. <i>Luke 24:5-8</i>

Graceful Generosity

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

Money Changers in the Temple

This phrase, taken from the act of our Lord recorded in Matthew 21:12, is usually taken to describe something deplorable, the sordid, the profaning of religion by commercialism. But in the highest sense, each Christian can be a "money changer." When a person brings money to be used in furthering the purposes of Christ, money becomes changed into life. Money can be changed into health and life in a hospital down the street or across the sea; it can be changed into a college where a young person finds what is needed for real living. It is changed into food as the church meets physical need in all parts of the earth. By its right use, money is the alchemy by which human life and energy are transported from one place to another.

By our money, we can talk in many languages to proclaim the Gospel; by our money, we can heal the sick, give sight to the blind, care for the fatherless, teach the ignorant and feed the hungry. Hence it becomes the "open sesame" to a glorious ministry.

You ... yes, you ... can be a money changer in the temple!

G. W. Mattace



Serve Where You Are

A policeman in Birmingham, England on becoming a Christian was so greatly troubled by the sights and sounds of sin among which he worked that for a long time he prayed, "Lord, take me out of the police service. Give me some other work."

No answer came and no other work was opened to him. At last he said to his wife: "I think we have been making a great mistake. We have been praying that I may be taken out of the force, and I begin to think that he

has put me there to work. Now I am going to pray that he will help me to serve where I am."

That was the beginning of a life of marvelous usefulness. His influence over the men was so great that he was promoted to be the head of the detectives. He was instrumental in the salvation of many criminals. The place where God has put you is the place where you do the best service for him.

M. Lunn

Thoughts to Ponder:

"If you think health care is expensive now, wait until you see what it costs when it's free."

P. J. O'Rourke

"No man's life, liberty, or property is safe while the legislature is in session."

Mark Twain

"I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle."

Winston Churchill

Carrying Our Own Loads

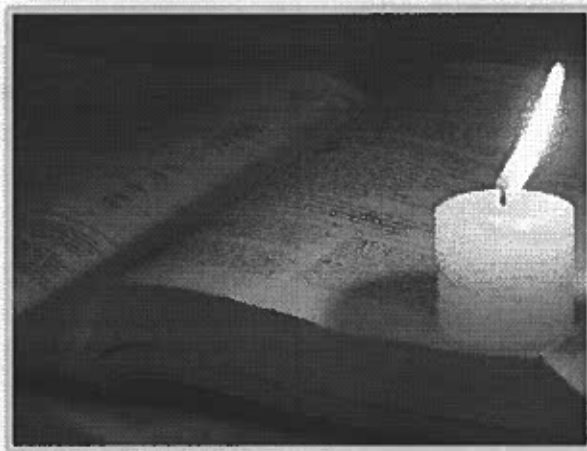
We all start at the same place: *"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God"* (Romans 3:23), and we are all rescued from this position in the same way: *"But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8). God sees us all the same – sinners saved by his grace. Since we are all equal in his sight, there is no need to measure ourselves by our neighbors. The Apostle Paul, in our text above, declares this a fruitless exercise.

What is helpful, though, is to test our own actions. Am I using the gifts and talents God has given me in a way that brings him honor and that benefits the Body of Christ? Am I spending time in reading his Word and in prayer to him? Am I joining in Christian fellowship as the Word of God is preached and the Sacraments are administered? Am I encouraging others to do good deeds? Am I giving sacrificially and humbly? How am I building up my pastor(s) so he can effectively preach the Word and care for the flock in his care?

As we examine our actions, we must also examine our motives. Do I do "good things" because I'm a prominent member of the congregation and it's expected of me? Do I labor in the church so I'll be noticed and commended? Do I serve others and give of my time in order to earn God's favor? God forbid that those should be our motives! Rather, we say with Paul, *"Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again"* (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

Finding the Good Life

Most people believe that money brings happiness, so they always want more of it. But money does not bring happiness. Money and the things that money can buy do not produce the good life. The good life is taking *"hold of the life that is truly life"* (1 Timothy 6:19) and in using what God has given us to build his kingdom. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we will hold the things of this world loosely and focus on things that are eternal.



Blessings on Your Stewardship Journey!

Stewardship

In the Gospel reading from Matthew wherein Jesus was preaching to 5,000 people and dusk was starting to set in, supper was long overdue, stomachs were starting to growl, and all there was to eat were two fish and five loaves of bread. The disciples were aware of the predicament. They said to Jesus, in effect, "This is a sticky situation, and we can't do anything about it anyway. Let's take what we have gathered and go away and eat!"

By nature there is some of that mentality in all of us. Whenever God places us in a situation that challenges us to use our time and talent, and to invest some of ourselves in finding a solution to someone's problem or need, our first response is to remove ourselves from the problem.

Matthew, the one who wrote the account of the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand, was an eyewitness to the event. Can you imagine the joyful satisfaction ... the uplift in faith Matthew

... they trusted God and had the joy and satisfaction that comes with being a partner with Jesus? A partner in his ministry of love and service.


experienced when he was able to write, "But everyone ate, and there was more than enough. They gathered twelve baskets full of leftovers!"

Do you think there could be any symbolic significance to the fact that there were twelve baskets full? One for each disciple? Enough to satisfy their needs for days to come? And all because they

trusted God and had the joy and satisfaction that comes with being a partner with Jesus? A partner in his ministry of love and service.

For that matter, some of the most tired,



worn out at times, almost burnt out disciples at every church have become that way because they have a difficult time saying "no" when our Lord calls them to join hands with him in using their time and talent to serve their church. Tired? Yes! Weary? Yes! But then, you should be let in on a little secret: You should see their "baskets"! 

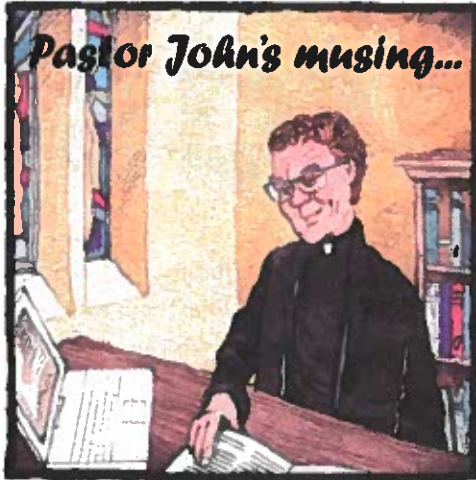


Invite others to work with you. A text from the Letter to the Hebrews is always relevant: "Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, ... but encouraging one another."

Hebrews 10:24



Pastor John's musing...



"You shall open your hands wide to your brother, and to your needy in the land." (Deut. 15:11) In addition to faith, add brotherly kindness, love, self-control, knowledge and goodness to create a recipe for stewardship.

There are many cases listed in the Bible where giving is discussed. We need to be able to talk spiritually about giving. Jesus watched at the treasury to see how people gave. He wasn't checking amounts; he was studying people.

A woman broke an alabaster box of ointment and poured it on Christ. Christ commended the deed to others present. He said this gift would be forever a memorial to her (Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9).

When Cain and Abel brought of-

ferings, their gifts were approved, disapproved, and recorded for us (Genesis 4:1-5).

When Israelites gave for the tabernacle, their gifts were noted (Exodus 35:4-29).

Exactly what the woman gave to Elijah is recounted for us (1 Kings 17:8-16).

Scripture mentions approvingly Asa's gifts to the house of the Lord (1 Kings 15:14-15).

Giving was public under David (1 Chronicles 22, 28, 29).


They set Joash's chest outside the gate of the house of the Lord. People dropped money into it there. Nothing secret about that (2 Chronicles 24:8-10)!

The early Christians "brought ... and laid ... at the apostles' feet" (Acts 4:34-35). Nothing private about that either. Ananias and Sapphira were struck dead for hypocrisy, not for giving in public (Acts 4:34 - 5:11).

Paul certainly wasn't secretive about his collection for the saints at Jerusalem (2 Corinthians 8, 9; 1 Corinthians 16:1, 21). Nor did he keep still about what the Philippians gave to him (Philippians 4).

We believe the matter boils down to motive in giving. Is it for show or for witness?

Our giving needs to reflect that God keeps on giving to us. "Give as you have been given." Our love for the Lord should make our giving joyful. God is never outdone in generosity.

Our stewardship is tested by our sharing the blessing God gives us. 



"That isn't the kind of pledge I'm interested in, Mr. Fleming, and you know it!"

The Good Steward

A family counselor's favorite bit of advice is, "Love is a four letter word spelled T-I-M-E." She maintains that the best way to prove your love for anyone is to spend time with them ... and for them.


The greatest of all commandments is this: "Love the Lord your God." That too involves our time.

God loved us first, the Bible records. It is good for us to remember that God proved his love by giving us his time ... time to share our sorrows, time to teach, time to pay the supreme sacrifice, time for everything we needed. As always, God gave in generous measure.

How sad then, for us to give so little time in return. We, of course, are the

losers! Someone has quipped: "We are now stuck with a sixty minute God."

It would be another matter if we didn't much need God's company, or if this world of ours didn't require more loving acts of Christian service. Everywhere empty hearts and broken lives beg silently for some help. The sixty minute God can hardly begin to deal with all these problems, but the real God can do it.

Spend some time where it counts. Spend some time in God's presence to have your own empty heart filled, and spend some time in God's service filling the needs of people. 



Steward of the Month

The Good Neighbor

Submitted by: Jennifer, Palm Desert, CA

We had just moved into our new home in California after living in Maine all of our lives. My husband has an amazing new job here, and the schools are excellent for our three children. Although the desert creates breathtaking, picturesque sunsets, and the weather is always beautiful, our new house wasn't really "home" to me yet. My husband Peter suggested that I join a women's group through our new church. I wasn't really interested because at worship, I seemed to be the youngest person there by many years. I found myself wondering how I would ever make friends again.

One afternoon I noticed my neighbor, Henrietta, picking the oranges off of the tree in my front yard. I went outside to introduce myself. After a few minutes Henrietta and I went into her house for some coffee. She sat with me and listened to me explain how homesick I was for Maine.

Very gently she put it in her own words that I'm like a kid in a new school; all I needed was to make one good friend, and everything else would fall into place. I went with Henrietta to worship on Saturday, it was a contemporary service with guitars, and drums, and singers, nothing like I had ever seen before. I looked around,

Continued on page 4...

"Steward of the Month" is an exciting way to recognize exemplary stewards. If you are aware of someone who has exemplified Christian stewardship, please tell us about it at stewardofthemonth.com. Once a month, one submission will be chosen to be published in *Stewardship*. In addition, if your story is chosen, \$100 will be given to the church or organization of your choice.

"Charge them to do good, to be rich in good works and generous, sharing what they have."

1 Timothy 6:18

May Timothy's letter move us to better see how we are using all that the Lord has entrusted to us; our income, our talents. This sense of stewardship will help us grow in faith and concern one for another.

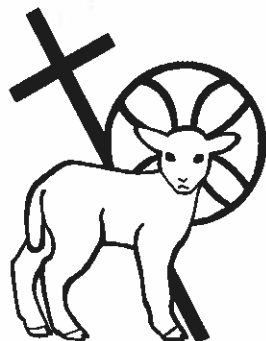


"After a few minutes Henrietta and I went into her house for some coffee. She sat with me and listened to me explain how homesick I was for Maine..."

Continued from page 3...

Steward of the Month

and it was all families our age. The kids made lots of friends during the fellowship hour; the pastor introduced himself when he saw Peter and me with Henrietta. "More sheep for the flock?" he said to Henrietta "You are a one woman welcoming committee! It turns out our neighbor seeks out the new families in our congregation and introduces them to people in our church community ... she is a recruiter for God! ☩



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March 13th

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Lukas Diorio, Don Fontaine, Travis Hayes,
Cody Klawinsky, Travis Klawinsky, Stash Allen Kurten,
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Shelby Seale, Phillip Walkoviak, Travis Watson

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

Sam Bova, Margaret Fann, John Faust, Marilyn Frenzel, Dolores Holler,
Thomas Nobles, Henry Ostermann, Adam Pasket, Charlie Pasket,
Tina Pasket, Laura Pursley, Avery Russell,
Charles Russell, LaNell Szymczak, Tom Upton,
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