

PLEASE SEE THAT THE PERSON WHO DOES YOUR BULLETIN GETS THIS.

The following stewardship inserts may be used in your parish bulletins. To fully live stewardship the message should always be available to our parishioners. If you have any questions please contact Eric Haselhorst at [ehaselhorst@dcdiocese.org](mailto:ehaselhorst@dcdiocese.org)

### 2018/2019 Cycle C

December 2, 2018 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent)

“Be on guard,” Jesus warns in today’s Gospel, “lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence.” Let us heed His warning and follow the advice of St. Paul, conducting ourselves in a way pleasing to God, overflowing with love for one another.

December 9, 2018 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent)

Good stewards believe that God, who has begun this good work in them, will carry it through to completion. In words and deeds, they can sing with the Psalmist, “The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!”

December 16, 2018 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent)

Today’s Gospel provides a blueprint for good stewardship: “Let the man who has two coats give to him who has none. The man who has food should do the same.”

December 23, 2018 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent)

The Gospel today tells of the Virgin Mary, pregnant herself, hurrying off to help her cousin Elizabeth. The model of good stewardship, she who had given herself to bear the Savior gave her time and love to others as well.

December 25, 2018 (Christmas)

Rejoice! The Word became flesh and dwells among us! Oh, come, let us adore Him!

December 30, 2018 (Holy Family)

The first reading today provides a challenging guideline for the good stewardship of our family relationships. How do I measure up?

January 6, 2019 (Epiphany)

The three kings in today’s Gospel traveled a great distance at considerable cost to offer their richest gifts to the Infant Jesus. How far will *I* go and what will *I* offer to do homage to this newborn King and Savior?

January 13, 2019 (Baptism of the Lord)

Jesus, whom God called “my beloved Son,” is also the “servant” of whom Isaiah speaks in the first reading. We who are baptized in Christ must follow His example and use our time and resources in the service of God and neighbor.

January 20, 2019 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)

In today’s second reading, St. Paul tells the Corinthians (and us) that all of our gifts are from God and that they are given, not for ourselves alone, but for the common good. But the generosity of God knows no limits – the miracle at Cana reminds us that whenever we faithfully do as God asks, He can change our gifts of water into wine!

January 27, 2019 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)

The US bishops' pastoral on stewardship reinforces today's reading from I Corinthians: "Because its individual members do collectively make up the Body of Christ, that body's health and well-being are the responsibility of the members – the personal responsibility of each one of us. We all are stewards of the Church."

February 3, 2019 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Jeremiah declares that the Lord knew him before he was born and dedicated and appointed him to his role as prophet even before he drew breath. We, too, are known and sent by the Lord. What deeds of love and service are mine to perform?

February 10, 2019 (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)

In today's readings, both Isaiah and Peter hear the call of God and feel themselves unworthy. But, reassured by the Lord, both answer and follow. Do *I* hear the Lord asking, "Whom shall I send?" Am *I* prepared to answer "Here I am. Send *me!*"

February 17, 2019 (6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)

The first reading says "Blessed is the one who trusts the Lord". Do we as stewards trust the Lord in the year of drought, show no distress and still bear fruit?

February 24, 2019 (7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Today's Gospel has encouraging words for good stewards – "Give and it shall be given to you. For the measure you measure with will be measured back to you." What encouragement to give generously of the resources entrusted to our care!

March 3, 2019 (8<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)

The second reading teaches us to be firm, steadfast, always fully devoted to the work of the Lord. A great lesson for stewards.

March 6th, 2019 (Ash Wednesday)

Ash Wednesday's emphasis on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving is an invitation to take a closer look at our stewardship. It is a time to reassess how we are using the gifts God has entrusted to us and to resolve anew to use our time and resources in the service of His Kingdom.

March 10, 2019 (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent)

Today's first reading describes the offering of first fruits the people of Israel were to present to the Lord in thanksgiving for their deliverance from Egypt and the gift of the promised land. Is my offering at today's Mass an appropriate response to the many blessings the Lord has given me?

March 17, 2019 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent)

Peter, James and John wanted to build a "booth" for Jesus and just stay on the mountain where His transfiguration took place. But the Son of God, the Chosen One, knew that He must instead keep moving toward His Crucifixion. We, too, must rise from worship and do what we can to hasten the coming of the Kingdom.

March 24, 2019 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent)

The parable in today's Gospel clearly warns that we, like the fig tree, will be judged by our fruit. While God mercifully provides us with time and opportunity, let us give witness to our faith with deeds of kindness and generosity!

*or* (if the readings from Cycle A are used)

When Jesus asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water, He opened the door for a life-changing relationship with Him. Scripture says her testimony drew many others to Him as well. We, too, must be ready to respond whenever and wherever the Lord speaks to us and be prepared for it to change our lives!

March 31, 2019 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent)

The stewardship message in the parable of the Prodigal Son is that it is never too late to become a good steward. Blessed is the elder brother who had been a good steward all along, but blessed, too, is the prodigal who had to lose all he had in order to understand the value of what he'd been given.

*or* (if the readings from Cycle A are used)

The blind man in today's Gospel was willing to let Jesus minister to him and willingly did all Jesus asked of him. The Pharisees were more resistant to His message, spending their time and energy to disprove the miracle. Which am I more like, the man born blind or the Pharisees?

April 7, 2019 (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent)

In today's second reading, St. Paul says, "For his sake I have forfeited everything; I have accounted all else rubbish so that Christ may be my wealth." Does my stewardship suggest that I could say the same?

*or* (if the readings from Cycle A are used)

When Jesus heard about the illness of His friend, Lazarus, He responded, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Every aspect of our lives – our sufferings as well as our gifts – can, if surrendered to Christ, lead to blessing for ourselves and others.

April 14, 2019 (Passion Sunday)

In the Gospel story of the first Palm Sunday we hear that the owners of the ass had only to be told, "The Master has need of it," to give the animal gladly. Do I give as readily to the Lord's work?

April 21, 2019 (Easter)

In the second reading today, St. Paul reminds the Colossians that they have been raised with Christ, exhorting them to "be intent on the things above rather than on things of earth." We too, have been raised with Christ. Let us rejoice and be glad!

April 28, 2019 (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter)

"Blessed are they who have not seen and have believed," Jesus says in today's Gospel. For those who have not seen to believe, however, we must be good stewards of our faith, living it joyfully and sharing it generously. Then, in our time too, "men and women in great numbers" will be "added to the Lord."

May 5, 2019 (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter)

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells Peter again and again, "If you love Me, feed my sheep." He says the same to each of us, "If you love Me, use the gifts I have given you to serve your brothers and sisters."

May 12, 2019 (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter)

Paul and Barnabas encountered both violent rejection and joyful acceptance of the message that they preached. We, too, may meet with mixed reactions when we use our gifts in the service of God. But, the Gospel assures us, the reward for those who follow faithfully is eternal life.

May 19, 2019 (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter)

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives His disciples – and us – a new commandment: "love on another." Good stewards who spend their time and talents in service to others are well on their way to fulfilling this commandment.

May 26, 2019 (6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter)

Today's reading from Revelation offers a vision of the City of God, the new Jerusalem. "But" the bishops' pastoral on stewardship reminds us, "that 'life to come' is in continuity with this present life through the human goods, the worthy human purposes, which people foster now."

June 2, 2019 (7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter)

The second reading today contains the somber warning that Jesus is coming soon and will bring to each person the reward that his or her conduct deserves. Has my stewardship of the blessings entrusted to me been such that I could respond joyfully, "Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!"?

June 9, 2019 (Pentecost)

One miracle of Pentecost was that, despite their diversity, each listener heard God's word in his or her own language. The meaning for stewardship is that, by sharing the gifts poured out on us by the Holy Spirit, we will be empowered to meet the needs of our brothers and sisters, whatever they may be.

June 16, 2019 (The Most Holy Trinity)

Today's Psalm reminds us that we have been crowned with glory and honor and given rule over the works of God's hands. But we must be good stewards, for the Lord will surely hold us accountable for the use of those gifts!

June 23, 2019 (Body and Blood of Christ)

In today's Gospel, the disciples suggest that Jesus disperse the crowd so that they might *individually* seek food and lodging. The miracle of the feeding of the five thousand is Jesus' powerful reminder that when we *share* our gifts in His name there is always more than enough!

June 30, 2019 (13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)

In today's second reading, St. Paul provides a wonderful one-sentence summary of Christian stewardship: "Out of love, place yourselves at one another's service."

July 7, 2019 (14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)

"The harvest is rich," Jesus tells the seventy-two in today's Gospel, "but the workers are few." The situation is the same today. How can *I* help with God's harvest? Am *I* called into the field? Am *I* one who could provide food or shelter or wages to those who toil in the fields of the Lord?

July 14, 2019 (15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)

The good Samaritan was also a good steward, giving his time and his treasure to meet his neighbor's need. At the end of this familiar story, Jesus urges his hearers – and us – to go and do the same!

July 21, 2019 (16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Today's readings speak of hospitality. Abraham, who cheerfully did for his guests all that desert hospitality required, was rewarded with his heart's desire – a son. Martha also busied herself with all the details of hospitality, but grudgingly and with complaint. Am I a cheerful or a grudging giver?

July 28, 2019 (17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Jesus is describing God's immeasurable generosity when He says in today's Gospel, "Whoever asks, receives; whoever seeks, finds; whoever knocks, is admitted." But it should also be the description of us as Christian stewards – those seeking to follow Christ by using our gifts in service to others.

August 4, 2019 (18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Seeing Jesus transfigured made Peter want to *do* something to mark the event. But the Voice from the cloud said clearly that the first task of those who recognize Jesus as Lord is to *listen* to Jesus – and then act!

August 11, 2019 (19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Am I waiting for the "right" time to become a good steward? Do I plan to share my time and talents "later"? Today's Gospel warns those who are procrastinating about stewardship to be prepared – "at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come."

August 18, 2019 (20<sup>th</sup> in Ordinary Time)

In today's second reading, St. Paul encourages us not to grow weary or lose heart, but to persevere in following Jesus. Our willingness to give of ourselves, even in the face of conflict and division, is one way to measure our discipleship.

August 25, 2019 (21<sup>st</sup> in Ordinary Time)

Today's reading from Isaiah describes the Israelites bringing their offering to the Lord "in clean vessels." The gift of myself – my patient endurance and fidelity to the will of God – is as important as the monetary gift I offer.

September 1, 2019 (22<sup>nd</sup> in Ordinary Time)

In the Gospel today, Jesus warns us not to give in hopes of repayment, but to give open-handedly to the poor and needy. That sort of giving mirrors the bountiful giving of God and Jesus assures us it is blessed indeed!

September 8, 2019 (23<sup>rd</sup> in Ordinary Time)

Jesus tells the crowd that only those who renounce all of their possessions can be His disciples. Is He truly asking us to give up *everything*? Perhaps instead He is trying to help us see that everything we think we own is really a gift from God. Good stewards know that and strive to use those gifts accountably.

September 15, 2019 (24<sup>th</sup> in Ordinary Time)

We can hear God speaking to us today in the words of the father to his elder son: “You are with me always, and everything I have is yours.” What is my response to such remarkable generosity? Do I give joyfully and generously as God gives to me?

September 22, 2019 (25<sup>th</sup> in Ordinary Time)

The dishonest manager in today’s parable knew how to manipulate money to his own advantage. But the Gospel warns that no one can serve both God and money. Which do I serve? Is my stewardship such that anyone can tell?

September 29, 2019 (26<sup>th</sup> in Ordinary Time)

The sin of the rich man in today’s parable was not that he was rich, but that he failed to share his wealth with the beggar at his gate. He knew Lazarus, perhaps walked by him every time he came in or out, but did nothing to relieve his suffering. Is there a Lazarus in my life? What am I doing to help?

October 6, 2019 (27<sup>th</sup> in Ordinary Time)

When will I have given enough – of my income, of my time, of my talents? Today’s Gospel suggests that only total stewardship will do: “When you have done all you have been commanded to do, say ‘We are useless servants. We have done no more than our duty.’”

October 13, 2019 (28<sup>th</sup> in Ordinary Time)

Jesus heals ten lepers in today’s Gospel. Only one (10%) came back to say thank you. I, too, have received many blessings from the Lord – indeed, all I am and all I have is gift! How and how often have I remembered to thank Him?

October 20, 2019 (29<sup>th</sup> in Ordinary Time)

Today’s theme is perseverance – Moses keeping his hands upraised throughout the battle, Paul urging Timothy to stay with the task of preaching and teaching, and the widow appealing for the corrupt judge. To be faithful stewards of God’s gifts, we too must persevere in the roles to which we are called.

*or* (if celebrated as Mission Sunday)

Today’s Gospel calls *all* of us – not just the apostles – to “go . . . and make disciples.” If we cannot actually go to the missions, we can answer Jesus’ call by giving generously of our prayers and financial resources to support those who can and do.

October 27, 2019, (30<sup>th</sup> in Ordinary Time)

Both the first reading and today’s Psalm say clearly that the Lord hears the cry of the poor. Have I been given the gifts – of time or money or abilities – to be the means by which God answers their need?

November 3, 2019 (31<sup>st</sup> in Ordinary Time)

We are called to be good stewards of our personal vocations. St. Paul’s prayer for the Thessalonians is therefore ours, too – “that our God may make (us) worthy of his calling and powerfully bring to fulfillment every good purpose and every effort of faith.”

November 10, 2019 (32<sup>nd</sup> in Ordinary Time)

In today's second reading, St. Paul prays that the Thessalonians may be strengthened "in every good deed and word." May we, too, be strengthened and empowered to use our time and talents for the good of others.

November 17, 2019 (33<sup>rd</sup> in Ordinary Time)

Today's readings paint a somewhat frightening picture of the end of time. But the Gospel ends with the assurance to faithful stewards that those who persevere will be saved.

November 24, 2019 (Christ the King)

Today we celebrate Christ the King and are reminded that all was created through Him and for Him. Does my stewardship of the blessings entrusted to me give evidence that Christ is Lord of *my* life?