



Stewardship Bulletin Reflections

Advent 2012

December 2nd – 1st Sunday in Advent

Advent comes from the Latin *adventus* meaning ‘coming’. In today’s 1st reading the prophet Jeremiah reminds us that ‘*The days are surely coming*’. Christmas day is surely coming and Advent is a time of expectant waiting and **preparation** for the day. However, all the glittery holiday advertising can blind us to our stewardship values. The season of Advent (a gift from the Church), provides an opportunity for us to balance our time and steward our financial resources so that we are well prepared to celebrate Christ’s birth.

Stewardship Office, The Archdiocese of Winnipeg, www.archwinnipeg.ca

December 9th – 2nd Sunday in Advent

The familiar cry of John the Baptist, ‘*Prepare the way of the Lord*’, reminds us that Advent is a time of preparation. We are called to be good stewards of the days and weeks leading up to Christmas. Amidst all the hustle and bustle of getting ready for joyful family gatherings and Christmas parties, we as good stewards of our time will do well to be sure that we are also making spiritual preparations. By spending more time in prayer, at daily Mass, or at a retreat, we can be good stewards and prepare the way to Christmas.

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December 16th – 3rd Sunday in Advent

Today is known as Gaudete Sunday. The term Gaudete refers to the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, ‘**Rejoice**’. Rose vestments are worn to emphasize our joy that Christmas is near. We also light the rose candle on our Advent wreath. Indeed we have much to rejoice about during this time of year, the most important being “the reason for the season” - Christ Jesus. Yet, there are immense secular pressures to overdo it in the shopping malls. We can just pay for it later... right? In the face of all the excessive secular celebrating we rejoice in the gift of a stewardship way of life because it provides us with balance and discipline.

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December 23rd – 4th Sunday in Advent

God has gifted you with many blessings – your time, every hour of each day; your individual abilities; and the money that you are able to earn as a result of these blessings. When we share our blessings, a graced joy sweeps through our lives! However, when we cling to our blessings through fear of not having enough, we are weighed down and life becomes burdensome, if not actually depressing. In the coming year, let us learn to be more grateful; to let go of our need to possess; and to generously share the gifts God has given us. Only then will we walk lightly and freely in the way of the Lord. Gratitude turns what you have into enough, indeed more than enough. Merry Christmas from the Stewardship Office!

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