

December 30th – Holy Family

All the baptized are called to be holy. *“You must be perfect – just as your Father in heaven is perfect”* (Matthew 5:48). We can only be holy through the grace of God. Even so, there is no holiness without some effort on our part. In striving to reach perfection we need to embrace the values of stewardship as part of the journey. Using and sharing our gifts for the glory of God and the service of our neighbour, serves us well in seeking to be holy.

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

January 6th – The Epiphany

Christ is a gift to all nations. What do you suppose the wise men did with their discovery when they returned to their homeland? We are not told, however it is hard to imagine that they did not share news of the experience with the people from their region. For some people, coming to know Jesus may occur through a simple yet striking event - an *epiphany*. For the majority of us, faith in our Lord grows gradually, nurtured by our families and in community. What do you do when you meet someone who does not yet know Christ? This is both an evangelization and a stewardship question. How do you share the gift of your faith in Christ?

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January 13th – Baptism of Our Lord

If you were baptized as an infant, you will not remember the occasion. We do well to remember always though the significance of this Sacrament. To be baptized is to be plunged into relationship with Jesus Christ. This relationship calls us to discipleship. When we are anointed in baptism, we share in the priestly, prophetic, and kingly mission of Christ. Sharing our gifts joyfully and generously is one way in which we can respond to our baptismal call to serve the people of God; speak the truth by spreading the good news; and, lead others to Christ. Stewardship is nothing new; it is a part of who we are as baptized Catholics.

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January 20th – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mary tells the servants at the wedding in Cana, *“Do whatever he tells you”*. In other words...trust him. One of the virtues of the Christian disciple and steward is trust. When we put our trust in at-risk things like jobs, bank accounts, and what we think are our own abilities, we are extremely vulnerable to anxiety and fear. When we put our trust in God, who is the only source of all that we are able to accomplish or accumulate, we enjoy freedom from useless worry. Good stewards trust God explicitly and that enables them to give generously and freely.

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January 27th – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

We are the body of Christ. Christ's body, the church, is made up of a diverse group of people with an equally diverse set of gifts. All of the gifts serve a purpose, none is more important than the other. Is the heart more important than the veins? In our physical bodies all the parts are essential for optimum health. It is the same with the body of Christ. It is essential that we all work together, sharing our gifts to build up the Church and transform our world.

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