

## Stewardship Bulletin Reflections December 1<sup>st</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> 2013

### December 1 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

Advent is a time to prepare, to make ready for the coming of Christ. Today, many are unaware of Christ's presence in their lives. A flurry of busyness and noise prevents them from hearing the voice of God in their day-to-day living. In this Sunday's second reading, St. Paul tells us we can be ready by 'Putting on' Christ. This requires us to live a life that is congruent with that of Jesus. It means being His disciple. The call to discipleship is manifested through Stewardship. How are you responding to this call? Do you steward your gifts in ways that reflect St. Paul's advice to "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ"?

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### December 8 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

St. John the Baptist was chosen to be 'the prophet of the Most High God'. (Luke 1:76) As baptized Catholics we too are called to be prophets. The Second Vatican Council confirms this, "...they (the laity) are in their own way made sharers in the priestly, prophetic and kingly functions of Christ" Lumen Gentium (31). What has this got to do with stewardship? If we are to be prophetic, then we must be good stewards of the Gospel message by sharing it with others. We do this by the example of our lives and the witness of our spoken word. Thus, like St. John, we too can prepare the way of the Lord.

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### December 15 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent

This Sunday, we light the pink candle in the Advent wreath. Its colour is a symbol of "JOY". A life of discipleship and stewardship is itself infused with perpetual joy. We discover that a Christ centered life, not a self-centered life, is both joyful and rewarding. The joy radiates from giving. Thus, joy shared is joy multiplied. The rewards are found in a balanced lifestyle that is free from the excessive consumerism and materialism plaguing our society.

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### December 22 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent

In today's Gospel, Joseph was awoken by an Angel and immediately acceded to God's request. Even though we live in a culture that loves complexity and busyness, we need time to be still so that we can be awake to the voice of God. In order to be good stewards of time, it is vital to set aside a few moments every day to listen to God. Daily prayer provides an opportunity to discover God's plan for you, and to discern how to use your God given gifts wisely.

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### December 29 – Holy Family

Good stewardship demands more trust in God's powers, and less in our own talents. The Holy Family's amazing trust in God's plan for them is a model for all families. Will you trust God's plan for your family? Pray for the ability to trust that God is always at work, in the lives of each family member, especially those who have fallen away from their faith.

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