

Bulletin Stewardship Reflections - January 2014

January 5th – Epiphany of the Lord

The wise men in today's Gospel were seeking to pay homage to a king whose coming had been foretold. They honoured our Lord with their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We too can honour Christ by the way we steward the gifts of our lives, our possessions, and our faith. These gifts are provided, not only for our own benefit, but also for the good of others through sharing, especially with the poor and the marginalized. When we give generously we pay homage to the King of Kings.

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January 12th – Baptism of the Lord

Jesus humbled himself and accepted baptism even though he was without sin. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells St. John that it was proper that He be baptized as a sign of solidarity with humanity. Jesus recognized that His life was not His own - it was not about Him. As disciples of Jesus we are called to model Christ's humility in all that we do. The humble person recognizes that their gifts are not of their own making. Everything comes from and belongs to God. Good Stewardship declares that my gifts are not mine and they are not about me. The Christian steward responds to their baptism by using and sharing their gifts in a manner that gives glory to God.

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January 19th – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

In today's Gospel, St. John the Baptist introduces Jesus to his followers and identifies Him as "*The Lamb of God*". God called St. John to a very definite purpose. Similarly, we too through baptism are called to introduce Christ to others. This type of stewardship gives credibility to the Profession of Faith we recite every Sunday. It is a privilege to be given the gift of new life in baptism. Our grateful response to this gift should be the desire to share our experience of new life by introducing Jesus to those who do not yet know Him.

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January 26th – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

The calling of the first disciples in today's Gospel is profoundly inspiring. We are told that Peter, Andrew, James and John immediately left their businesses, possessions, and even families, to follow Jesus. They had only just met the man! They were ordinary men called to an extraordinary mission. Is there anything you still need to leave behind, or let go of, to be an even better disciple? Stewardship means sharing our gifts, without hesitation, in the service of God and one another. Let go and trust God, for we too are called to be "*fishers of people*".

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