

**Stewardship Messages**  
**March 2021**

**March 6/7, 2021**

**Third Sunday of Lent**

***“You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything  
in the sky above or on the earth below  
or in the waters beneath the earth.” - Exodus 20:4***

Often we have the tendency to put other “idols” – like wealth, possessions, status, appearance, athleticism and talents – before God. It is important to remember that all of those things that we sometimes idolize are gifts from God. God gives us those gifts to use for the good of all.

**March 13/14, 2021**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

***“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son...” - John 3:16***

This is one of the most well-known and widely quoted lines of scripture. Reference to it even can be seen in the stands at sporting events. Theologians have long studied this passage and some believe that the Gospel author was emphasizing the *degree* to which God loved the world, as well as the *manner* in which God chose to express that love – by sending his only son. What an unfathomable gift! How can we ever say “thank you” to God for this gift? We can do so by being grateful for the gifts that God has given to each of us individually and “give them back” in support and for the benefit of others.

**March 20/21, 2021**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

***“I will be their God and they shall be my people.”- Jeremiah 31:33***

Do I think of myself as “God’s person?” Do I recognize that I am not really an “owner” for my gifts and talents? That is at the heart of stewardship. I am a steward of the gifts that God has given to me and I am called to use my gifts for the care and benefit of others – those who I know and those whom I do not know.

**March 27/28, 2021**

**Palm Sunday**

*“Pilate again said to them in reply, ‘Then what shall I do with the man you call the King of the Jews?’ They shouted again, ‘Crucify him.’” – Mark 15:12-13*

There is a lot going on in this scene. The chief priests have stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas, a criminal, instead of Jesus. People are being influenced by crowd mentality. Pilate may be not standing up for his own convictions in exchange for a desire to have peace among the crowd. How do I react when it comes to defending my faith and Jesus in public? How do I react when I am with people who do not share my faith or beliefs? Pray for the strength to defend Jesus in all situations.