

# Stewardship Messages

## November 2019

November 2/3

31<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

*“But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord,  
“Behold half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor  
and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over.”* Luke 19:8

As people of God, we are called to give back to the Lord in proportion to the blessings and gifts we have been given. Everyone is not called to give the same amount, but everyone is called to give equal to his/her means. How is God calling you to be more generous with your financial resources and possessions – as well as with your time and talent?

November 9/10

32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

*“May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father,  
who has loved and given us everlasting encouragement and good hope through his grace,  
encourage your hearts and strengthen them in every good deed and word.”* 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

There are two “takeaways” from this short passage. One is that we are called to be generous with our encouragement and hope. God shows us mercy, so in return we must be merciful to others. The other is that the joy that we get from doing good works can strengthen us and it can also serve as witness to those around us.

November 16/17

33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

*“... Rather, we wanted to present ourselves as a model for you,  
so that you might imitate us.”* 2 Thessalonians 3:9

Typically, those who live generous and grateful lives don’t “make a big deal” about them or call great attention to themselves. But others do notice what they do and say. The way you live, the words you say and the generous works you do may be witness about our faith to others – and you might not even know it.

November 23/24

Feast of Christ the King

*“... giving thanks to the Father, who has made you fit to share in the inheritance  
of the holy ones in light.”* Colossians 1:12

Often problems arise in our lives when we put our own needs first or spend the majority of our time trying to acquire things and physical wealth. Try putting God first in all things. Ask Him how He wants you to use your gifts and look to Him to the direction of a joy-filled and peaceful life.

**November 30/December 1**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent**

*“Therefore, stay awake. For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.”* Matthew 24:42

It is easy to take for granted that we will around tomorrow or next week or next year. Those who have serious health issues, or their loved ones – or people who have experienced the sudden loss of a family member or friend tend to view things differently. They have a greater appreciation for each day. Try to look at each day as a gift. You may begin to see life from a new viewpoint and grow in gratitude for the gifts God has given you.

**December 7/8**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

*“Therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”* Matthew 3:10

What kind of “fruit” do you bear for Christ and His church? How do you spend the time, talent and treasure that God has given you? What we do with these gifts from God are our gifts back to Him. In this upcoming season of gift giving, think about how you give back to God.

**December 14/15**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

*“You too must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand.”* James 5:8

Being patient can be hard. Very often we want things to go according to our timelines and desires. God may have very different plans. Talking to God through prayer can help us to better understand His plan and align ourselves with it.

**December 21/22**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

*“When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.”* Matthew 1:24

Joseph was the model of discipleship. He put his complete trust in the Lord, and followed wherever the Lord told him to go. Pray for that sort of strength and courage to trust the Lord.