

Stewardship Messages

Palm Sunday through Pentecost

April 5, 2020

Palm Sunday

“Now as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. Him they compelled to bear His cross.” -- Matthew 27:32

Every day, there are opportunities to love God and love our neighbor. The things are certainly not as large as Simon’s service, but they are ways that we can help someone else “carry his/her cross.” This is what the Lord calls us to do.

In this unusual time in our history, a whole new array of ways to help others is emerging. Almost everyone has “crosses” today that were non-existent only a couple of weeks ago. The key with helping to “carry a cross” is to not expect anything in return.

April 12, 2020

Easter Sunday

“Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.” -- Colossians 3:2

It is always important to have the first Commandment top of mind: “I am the Lord your God, you shall not have strange gods before me.”

However, it can become easy to have other things become “gods.” These can be things like homes, cars, money, education – and the list goes on. It is important to make sure that God is on top of your list of what is important to you. If He is not, this Easter season is the time to adjust your list.

April 19, 2020

Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

“... when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ ” -- (John 20:19)

Do you make efforts to make people feel welcome? Our own churches – and parish activities – can seem quite unwelcoming to newcomers or visitors. The same can happen when a new neighbor moves onto your street or when a new colleague starts at your workplace. We are made for relationships – with God and each other. Ask yourself if you need to work a little on being welcoming.

April 26, 2020

Third Sunday of Easter

“And they said to one another, ‘Did not our hearts burn within us while He walked to us on the road, and while He opened up the Scriptures to us?’ ” -- Luke 24:32

How often do we really recognize Jesus? How often do we really listen to what He has to say? Do we take time to listen to what He is asking us to do? Are we always asking for something and not willing to give something in return? A relationship with Jesus is like any friendship. There is give and take. Friends help one another.

Examine your relationship with Jesus and take time to listen to how He is asking you to help Him.

May 3, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Easter

“The Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins ...’ ” -- Acts 2:38

The word that Peter uses – repent – is a pretty big order. It means to change our actions. It means to turn from sin. Such change can be difficult. It requires work. It requires discipline. It requires prayer. The good news is that Jesus can help us with such change. Ask Him to help. Listen for His answers.

May 10, 2020

Fifth Sunday of Easter

“The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.” -- 1 Peter 2:7

Every person has “cornerstones” – important qualities or features. These are gifts from the Holy Spirit. All of these gifts are important to build God’s kingdom on earth. While some people can easily recognize their qualities and talents, and use them well; others can struggle. Encourage those who are not quick to recognize their gifts to nurture them and use them for the glory of God.

May 17, 2020

Sixth Sunday of Easter

***"For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that be God's will,
than for doing evil." -- 1 Peter 3:17***

The events of the past several weeks have made us acutely aware that our lives can change significantly – without our input or planning. Many of us are very particular about “mapping things out,” but when things happen not according to our plans, we can respond negatively. However, hardship and misfortune can bring out our worst, or it can bring out our best. We are humbled and reminded of our dependence on God. We are not self-reliant.

May 24, 2020

Seventh Sunday of Easter (The Ascension of the Lord)

***"I pray for them; I pray not for the world, but for them ..."* -- John 17:9**

Prayer is the foundation of our Faith. In the past weeks and months, we have been reminded of the need for prayer in bad situations. But, we must remember that prayer is not always a plea. We must pray for those who we love and those who we may not. We also must pray to praise and thank God. We also should pray that God helps us to recognize the gifts He has given to us and how we can best use them for His glory.

May 31, 2020

Pentecost Sunday

***"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one
for the profit of all ..."* (1 Corinthians 12:7)**

The Holy Spirit does not just “come” to us. We have to open our hearts and allow the Holy Spirit to guide our words, thoughts and deeds. God has given each of us gifts and talents. How we use those blessings is our gift back to God.