A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

Saturday, January 1, 2022

In today’s first reading, God bestows three blessings upon Moses and directs him to extend those blessings to others: The Lord blesses you and keeps you. The Lord lets his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord looks upon you kindly and gives you peace. Good stewards

realize these blessings are showered upon them in a unique and special way each time they receive the Eucharist, and exercising good stewardship of the Lord’s blessings in this sacrament begins by receiving these gifts with profound gratitude. Take time this week to memorize these marvelous blessings and repeat them to yourself frequently. Make them part of your morning prayer each day.

The Epiphany of the Lord

Sunday, January 2, 2022

In today’s second reading we hear Saint Paul teach the community at Ephesus that God’s revelation had come, not just to their community, but to others as well; that a broader community of believers was being allowed to

exercise stewardship over the Good News. Good stewards recognize that it is in our life together as a Eucharistic community that we find ever new vistas and insights into God’s vast universe of love and mercy. If we take time to listen to one another, we discover stories of faith beyond our own. Pause this week to converse with others, listen to their prayers, and observe acts of kindness and generosity. See if you can gain an understanding of God and the world that you have not experienced or known before.

The Baptism of the Lord

Weekend of January 8/9, 2022

In today’s reading from the Gospel of Luke we hear the proclamation of the baptism of Jesus with “all the people.” Indeed, “heaven was opened,” and the Father announced his special favor. Whenever we partake of the body and blood of Christ, heed his call in our daily lives, share his Good News, become instruments of his transforming justice and peace, heaven is opened to us, and through

the Holy Spirit, the Lord announces his special favor on us as well. A good stewardship reflection this week might be this: How, or in what ways, have we personally experienced God’s special favor in our lives?

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend of January 15/16, 2022

In today’s second reading, Saint Paul makes a list of gifts dispensed to members of the Christian community by the Holy Spirit. Each gift bestowed has a specific purpose for the person for whom it is intended: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, mighty deeds, prophecy, discernment, tongues, and interpretation. Good stewards know these gifts are not meant to be kept hidden by the recipient but to be shared with the community and beyond. As we begin a new year, let us reflect on the gift the Holy Spirit has given to each of us. Do we recognize this gift? How was it intended that we use this gift? Are we being good stewards of this gift?

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend of January 22/23, 2022

Today’s reading from the Gospel of Luke offers us the first words of Jesus as he begins his public ministry. The words reflect his understanding of his Spirit-anointed mission. His words are his “Mission Statement.” Good stewards rejoice in being followers of Jesus. They realize that Jesus’ commission is their commission as well. They embrace

it and adopt it as their own. We, too, have “glad tidings” to bring to a suffering world. This year, how will we fulfill Christ’s commission in the world in which he has placed us, using the gifts he has entrusted to us?

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Weekend of January 29/30, 2022

In today’s second reading we find one of the most beautiful and familiar passages in the Bible; a recitation of fifteen characteristics of Christian love typically read at weddings and anniversary celebrations. Of course, this was not what Saint Paul had in mind when he was

chastising the Christian community at Corinth for its lack

of love. He admonished the members of the community to exercise better stewardship of Christian love. The practice of patience, humility, joy, truth, peace, affirmation, and hope are ways good stewards put love into action. Might there be one or two of these attributes we can work on in order to grow in our love for God and others?

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