

## STEWARDSHIP BULLETIN REFLECTIONS

January 2026 – March 2026

**January 1, 2026**

### **Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

*“And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.” LUKE 2:19*

After Jesus, we look to Mary as an ideal steward. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God’s call. She heard God’s message and immediately said “yes.” Mary teaches us to live with joy and gratitude for the many blessings God has given us. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we are called to reflect Christ’s light to the world. We do this through lives of gratitude and generosity.

**January 4, 2026**

### **Epiphany of the Lord**

*“Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.” MATTHEW 2:11*

The image of the Magi kneeling before the infant Jesus and opening their treasure chests for Him is an image that we should all try to follow each day. In gratitude for all that we have been given, we are called to generously share all our gifts, not just the ones we pick and choose. God wants us to be generous with everything, but especially that one thing that means the most to you.

**January 11, 2026**

### **The Baptism of Our Lord**

*“John tried to prevent him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, yet you are coming to me?”” MATTHEW 3:14*

The Catholic Catechism states that *“Jesus’ immersion in the water is a sign for all human beings of the need to die to themselves to do God’s will.”* In other words, as baptized Catholics there is only one gift that we need to give to Jesus – the gift of ourselves. Surrender yourself to God, place your trust in Him and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you for the greater glory of God.

**January 18, 2026**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*“Now the Lord has spoken who formed me as his servant from the womb...” ISAIAH 49:5*

God have given each of us different gifts. In order for God’s plan to work, you have to do what God is calling you to do, and I have to do what God is calling me to do. And guess what? God has given each of us a different plan! So, stop comparing yourself to others. Don’t let envy and jealousy enter your life. Be thankful for the gifts God has given you and become the saint that God is calling you to be.

**January 25, 2026**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*"He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed Him." MATTHEW 4:22*

Just as Jesus called the first apostles, He calls each of us to follow Him, too. Not everyone is called to leave their business or family behind, but we are expected to put God first in everything. In gratitude to God, we should give our first and best of everything to Him: our time in daily prayer, our talent in participating in one of our parish ministries and our treasure to support the financial needs of our parish mission.

**February 1, 2026**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." MATTHEW 5:3*

The phrase "poor in spirit" can be confusing. Think of it in this sense – poor in spirit means depending on God's providence and not depending on our own self-reliance. Being detached from earthly things (power, money, and comfort) and being attached to heavenly things (charity, sacrifice, and mercy). Denying ourselves from satisfying our desires and helping others obtain their basic needs.

**February 8, 2026**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." MATTHEW 5:16*

The generosity of being a good steward of your gifts has a positive effect on people, and it is contagious! Good works encourages more good works. Generosity is a by-product of a grateful lifestyle. The more we recognize God's gifts, the more we want to share them. Good stewards recognize that God is working through them, and they don't put themselves above the people they have been called to help.

**February 15, 2026**

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*"For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven." MATTHEW 5:20*

The Pharisees lived according to the letter of the law, and they used this to elevate themselves above the other people. Jesus is clear – it's the love that you have in your heart, for God and others, that will get you to heaven. Simply following church rules to the letter and not out of love, does not necessarily put you on the path to heaven. Attending Sunday Mass and then gossiping about a fellow parishioner on the parking lot is an example of being a modern-day Pharisee.

**February 22, 2026**

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

*"It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.'" MATTHEW 4:10*

Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from worldly power and riches and put God at the center of our lives. Lent is our time to prune ourselves of earthly things and develop and nurture heavenly things. Lent is time to repent and let go of the other "gods" we have put before God.

**March 1, 2026**

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

*"Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you." GENESIS 12:1*

God calls all of us to leave behind our old ways and to follow Him, placing our complete trust in Him. Some of the old ways that we struggle to leave behind might be materialism, selfishness and greed. Yet, God promises to show us a new land and a better way to live. Remember what St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "God does not call us to be successful, God calls us to be faithful."

**March 8, 2026**

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

*"Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again." JOHN 4:13*

Jesus reminds us that material things, even something as basic as water, can never satisfy us over the long run. When we build our lives around material possessions we will always want more, and no amount will ever satisfy our desire. True joy and peace only come when we follow Jesus - when we become more "God-centered" and less "self-centered."

**March 15, 2026**

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

*"Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance, but the Lord looks into the heart." 1 Samuel 16:7*

How often do we invest our time, talent and treasure in creating an appearance that does not matter at all to God? We strive to impress with our clothing, home, career, possessions, car and other marks of distinction. But none of these illusions of greatness will impress God. Instead, He will look into our hearts to see how much we loved Him, how much we loved others and how we showed that love by the way we used our time, talent and treasure here on earth.

**March 22, 2026**

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**

*"Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?'" JOHN 11:40*

Many of us say that we believe in God. We attend Sunday Mass and participate in parish events. But when life gets hard and the pressure is on, when things aren't going our way, do we really believe? Do we really put our trust in the Lord? When we live a life of gratitude, recognizing all that we have been given, we really do see that God is providing for our needs. Living a grateful and generous life allows us to see God's active presence in our daily lives and we become "partakers of the divine nature."

**March 29, 2026**

**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**

*"As they were marching out, they came upon a man of Cyrene, Simon by name; this man they pressed into service to carry his cross." MATTHEW 27:32*

The Lord calls us to love God and to love our neighbor. Every day we are presented with opportunities to love our neighbor and help him "carry his cross." These opportunities aren't usually big events, they are usually ordinary occurrences like helping someone carry their groceries or holding the door open for them. The key is putting the other person's needs before our own and not expecting anything in return.