### STEWARDSHIP BULLETIN REFLECTIONS

# April 2025 – June 2025

April 6, 2025

# **5th Sunday of Lent**

April 13, 2025

#### Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

"...I tell you, Peter, before the cock crows this day, you will deny three times that you know me." (Luke 22:34)

How many times have you heard someone make a disparaging comment about God or our Catholic faith? How did you react? Do you remain quiet so not to cause a disturbance? Or, because you don't want people to think negatively about you? Or, because you don't think you know enough about the Catholic faith? Pray for the courage to speak up and enter into a respectful conversation when the opportunity to talk about our faith arises. Joyfully share your faith with others.

### April 20, 2025

# Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

"...He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him." (AcTs 10:38)

We can't give what we don't have. Open your heart to receive God's love, mercy and forgiveness. Then, show the same to others. As God's adopted sons and daughters, we are made in His image and likeness. As Pope Benedict XVI says, "we are made for greatness." Let our lives reflect His light to others. Pray to live a grateful and generous life. Strive for greatness! We are made for more! We are made for God!

## April 27, 2025

#### **Sunday of Divine Mercy**

"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."" (JOHN 20:21)

Peace – the first gift of the risen Lord. Just as Jesus sent the apostles out into the world, so too, He sends us. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to be compassionate and merciful; and not with just those who

are our friends, but also with our "enemies." Think of someone in your life who you need to reconcile with. Call them right now or better yet, go visit them.

### May 4, 2025

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

"...Peter was distressed that Jesus had said to him a third time, 'Do you love me?' and he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep.'" (JOHN 21:17)

How often do you actually say the words "I love you" to Jesus, to family members, or to friends? We are made to be in relationship with God and each other. Sincerely telling someone that you love them is the best gift you can give them because it comes from your heart. You are giving them the gift of yourself. We all were made by love and for love. Tell someone you love them every day.

#### May 11, 2025

# 4th Sunday of Easter

"The disciples were filled with joy and the Holy Spirit." (Acts 13:52)

The disciples heard Our Lord's call and were able to spread the Gospel message with strength and vitality. We, too, can experience that same joy if we make room for the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts. When we use our gifts in the way that God intends, He fills us with supernatural joy. A joy that others notice and are attracted to!

## May 18, 2025

## 5th Sunday of Easter

"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." (John 13:34)

"As I have loved you," this is the hard part – Jesus's love is unconditional; our love usually comes with strings attached. It is easy to love someone when they love you back. But it takes mercy and compassion to love someone when you feel unappreciated, feel used or feel like your opinion doesn't matter. It takes courage and the grace of God to "love my neighbor" when they may be someone you don't like, someone you don't know, or someone that doesn't look like you.

### May 25, 2025

# 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

"...Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid." (Joнn 14:27)

Our limited human understanding cannot begin to understand the immense power of God. Instead of trusting in God, we often think we can control every outcome. Do you want to make God laugh? Tell

Him your plans. The next time worry, anxiety or fear creeps in, thank God for all He has given you and trust that He has a better plan for you. Make God your first choice and not your last resort.

#### June 1, 2025

#### The Ascension of the Lord

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." (REVELATIONS 22:13)

This is a reminder of how we should live our lives 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – putting God first in all that we do. Not only when I am at Mass and parish activities, but when I am in the world, at work, or at school. Living gratefully and generously is an intentional lifestyle. Every decision you make either moves you closer to God or farther away. Choose wisely!

#### June 8, 2025

#### Pentecost Sunday

"The Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you." (JOHN 14:26)

The materialism of our society lures us to concentrate more on what we want than on what God wants for us. The relativism of our world tells us that we should be tolerant of all things, that there is no absolute truth. Pray to the Holy Spirit to transform our lives and to guide our thoughts, words and actions. What you put in your mind, heart, and soul affects your actions. Put good things in and good things will come out.

#### June 15, 2025

### **The Most Holy Trinity**

"But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will quide you to all truth..." (Јонл 16:13)

It has been said that the best gift we can give someone is to teach them how to pray. If you don't talk and more importantly, listen to God every day, how else will you know what He is calling you to do? Just as you talk to family and friends every day, get in the habit of talking with God every day. Develop a daily prayer routine. Keep your prayers simple and sincere. This is best done in silence, when you can hear God's response.

### June 22, 2025

#### The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

"They all ate and were satisfied. And when the leftover fragments were picked up, they filled twelve wicker baskets." (Luke 9:17)

The story of the Loaves and Fishes shows us that when you share what you have, even if it doesn't seem like that much, miracles can happen! Do not think that your gift is too small or insignificant! Each of us has a role in God's plan; you just need to place your trust in the Lord. Nothing is impossible with God. You just may be the answer to someone else's prayer.

### June 29, 2025

### Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

"I have competed well; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith." (2 тімотну 4:7)

How many of us can say this? St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "God doesn't call us to be successful, he calls us to be faithful." How many times have we been blinded by the success of the world at the expense of our faith? Matthew Kelly says, "Take one minute each day to remind yourself that you are just passing through this life and will die one day; you will live more intentionally with a passion and purpose."