

STEWARDSHIP BULLETIN REFLECTIONS

July 2025 – September 2025

July 6, 2025

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"He said to them, 'The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few...'" LUKE 10:2

As Catholics we are all called to serve. Each of us has been given "charisms" otherwise known as gifts from the Holy Spirit to help build God's Church. Our charisms can only be used for good. We know that we are using them in the right ministry when we are filled with joy and we want to share stories about our charitable works. Discern how God is calling you to use your charisms. Say "yes" to what God is calling you to do and then do it! Share your joy and invite others to do the same.

July 13, 2025

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'" LUKE 10:37

This was Jesus' command at the end of the Good Samaritan story. Did you know that the Samaritans and Jews despised each other? The moral of the story is to love our neighbor. That means loving someone you may not know, or someone that looks different than you, or someone that has different beliefs than you, or someone that you don't like. All without expecting anything in return.

July 20, 2025

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"...I am a minister in accordance with God's stewardship given to me to bring to completion for you the word of God." COLOSSIANS 1:25

We are all called to evangelize – to convert individuals and society by the divine power of the Gospel. Our faith is more attractive to others by our actions than by our words alone. We may not be called to evangelize like St. Paul, but we should look for opportunities to share our faith through our actions and words, especially with those closest to us, like our family, friends, and neighbors. Pray for the courage to joyfully express your faith the next time the opportunity arises.

July 27, 2025

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." LUKE 11:9

Jesus assures us that if we ask, God will take care of what we need. The problem is that our culture often confuses what we really need with what we simply want. The truth is that many of us need very little. However, we usually want so much more! Stewardship is simply being grateful for all that we are and all that we have been given, and generously sharing all of our God-given gifts with others. Gratitude and generosity are gifts that opens doors to new relationships with others and with God.

August 3, 2025

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions." LUKE 12:15

The Gospel message is contrary to modern culture that continually tries to convince us that our joy comes from the material things we possess. That the more we acquire, the happier we will be. Jesus shows us that our true joy comes from our “invisible” gifts like love, mercy, and forgiveness. True joy comes from “emptying” ourselves, giving of ourselves rather than always taking. We are called not to hoard but to share. True joy comes from living a grateful and generous lifestyle; become more “God-centered” and less “self-centered.”

August 10, 2025

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.” LUKE 12:34

Jesus encourages us to build up our treasure in heaven. The world encourages us to build up our treasure in real estate, investments, and material goods. How much time are you investing in building up a worldly treasure? How much time are you investing in building up a heavenly treasure? To invest more in the things of heaven, you must let go of some of the things of this world.

August 17, 2025

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Do you think I have come to give you peace on Earth? No, I tell you, but rather division.” LUKE 12:51

Many of us like to play it safe, not cause waves with our family and friends, especially when it comes to politics and religion. We don’t want to cause any turmoil. However, many times this is at the expense of the truth. The truth being Jesus Christ. Too many people are misguided because they rely on their own limited human ability to reason and are not allowing faith in God to guide them. Form your conscience; take a stance for life, marriage, and religious liberty.

August 24, 2025

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

“For behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last.” LUKE 13:30

Our cultural standards are different from God’s standards. We often rank people by what they have, how powerful they are, or how successful they are. Jesus reminds us that God will not judge us by the same earthly standards. When God asks you, “What have you done with the gifts I have given you?” How will you respond?

August 31, 2025

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you.” LUKE 14:13-14

One of the main principles of living a stewardship lifestyle is to give without expecting anything in return. This is difficult for some to comprehend in our “consumerist” culture that we live in. This is even difficult for many parish communities that have become heavily dependent on parish fundraising events to support the mission and ministry of their local parish. Generally speaking, at a parish fundraiser, you pay money and receive something in return, it’s just a financial transaction. This is opposed to our parish offertory at Holy Mass, where you unite your sacrifice with Jesus’, renewing our covenant relationship with Him.

September 7, 2025

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Everyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." LUKE 14:33

When we first hear this statement, it seems that Jesus is making an unrealistic demand upon us. How can we renounce all of our possessions? We need them to live. However, what we must renounce is the belief that they belong to us. Everything that we have belongs to God alone. All of our resources are entrusted to us not only for our own use, but also so that we can help others. Once we renounce the idea that we possess or are entitled to anything, it is much easier to share the many gifts that God has given us. Then we truly are His Disciples.

September 14, 2025

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son." JOHN 3:16

God created us to be in relationship with Him. Sin broke that relationship. Jesus came to earth so that we may reconcile our relationship with God. Following Jesus' example, we can be blessed with a joy-filled life on earth and eternal life in Heaven. These four points are known as the "kerygma" – the first proclamation of the Gospel. This core message is the basis of our Catholic faith. How do you live this out in your daily life?

September 21, 2025

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"No servant can serve two masters. He will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (wealth)." LUKE 16:13

Jesus knows that for many of us, God and money run "neck and neck" as top priority. Is money a "god" that you put before God? Giving money to support the Church and other charity is a pillar of our faith, just like attending Mass every Sunday and participating in parish ministry. Giving money frees us from becoming a slave to money. It increases our dependence on God and our trust that God will provide all that we need.

September 28, 2025 (Stewardship Awareness Sunday in the Archdiocese of St. Louis)

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented. Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established..." LUKE 16:25-26

When God created the world He declared that it was good and He gave it to all mankind for us to enjoy. However, over the years we have created a chasm between those who have great gifts and those who do not. In today's Gospel we see that with our own generosity we must bridge that gap between those who have much and those who have little, or we may find ourselves on the wrong side of the chasm in the next life.