



*Office of Stewardship and Development
Diocese of Madison
Second Quarter 2017*

Mark your Calendars!

The Diocese of Madison will again be hosting a Planned Giving Day, which will cover the basics of planned giving and how your parish can benefit from these kinds of gifts. This event will take place on May 24th from 10-1:30 at Holy Name Heights. Additional info will be sent to all parishes in the coming weeks.

2017 Collection Schedule

The 2017 Collection Schedule is posted on the website under Stewardship, Diocesan and National Collections.

Below is the 2017 schedule:

<i>Holy Land</i>	April 14, 2017
<i>National Combined Collection</i>	May 21, 2017
<i>Respect Life</i>	October 1, 2017
<i>International Combined Collection</i>	October 22, 2017
<i>Bless Our Priests</i>	December 10, 2017

If you have any questions on the collections, contact Kristen Beckett at kristen.beckett@madisondiocese.org or 608-821-4577.

Additions to the Combined Collections

This year, there will be an additional fund in both the National and International Combined Collections that take place in May and October throughout the Diocese. The *Archdiocese for Military Services* fund, which helps support vocations within the military will be added to the National Combined Collection. The *Pastoral Solidarity for the Church in Africa* fund, which allows the USCCB to provide grants to finance pastoral projects that support the maintenance and growth of the church in Africa will be added to the International Combined Collection. A full description of each of these funds will be added to this year's print material. If you have any questions on the these additional funds, please contact Kristen Beckett at Kristen.Beckett@madisondiocese.org or (608)821-4577

Stewardship Bulletin Reflections

NOTE: *Please copy this page or pull it out for the person who prepares your weekly bulletins.*

March 19, 2017 - 3rd 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 for long. When we build our lives around material possessions we always want more. True Joy and Peace only comes when we follow Jesus; when we become more "God-centered" and less "self-centered".

March 26, 2017 - 4th 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, talents and treasure here on earth.

April 2, 2017-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 go to church on Sunday. We volunteer for events at our parish. But when life gets hard, the pressure is on, 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, being thankful for the gifts we have been given, we really do see that God is providing all that we need.

April 9, 2017-Palm Sunday

“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.

April 16, 2017-Easter Sunday

“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” COLOSSIANS 3:2

Do you put God first in all things? Possessions, money, power, ego can easily become gods to many of us. Do a quick check of what is important to you. Is God at the very top of the list? If not, your priorities need to be re-adjusted. Don’t let earthly things become a god before God.

April 23, 2017-2nd Sunday of Easter

“Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’” JOHN 20:19

Are you good at making people feel welcome? When you meet someone new, a new neighbor, a new work colleague, a new parishioner, do you make them feel at home? Many of us can probably do a much better job at this. When we make people feel welcome, we make them feel like they are included instead of being excluded. A simple “hello” and a smile goes a long way.

April 30, 2017-3rd Sunday of Easter

“Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the scriptures?” LUKE 24:32

How often do we take the time to discern what Jesus wants from us? Are our prayers always petitions, asking Jesus to do things for us? If so, that’s a one-sided relationship. Living our faith means developing a personal relationship with Jesus. Just like any friendship, there is give and take, each side listening to each other and helping each other out. Take time in silence to listen to what Jesus is asking of you.

May 7, 2017-4th Sunday of Easter

“And Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ...” ACTS 2:38

The word “repent” means to turn from sin, to change our actions. When it comes to change, do we take responsibility for change or do we think that others have to change instead? Change that is permanent comes from within, we must take control and be disciplined. Remember though that we are not alone, Jesus is there to help lighten the load.

May 14, 2017-5th Sunday of Easter

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

Everyone is given unique gifts. Many people are able to recognize their talents and abilities, but there are many people who are unsure of their gifts. This may make them feel worthless. If you know someone who is struggling for a direction in life, give them a little encouragement. Help them discern how they might use their skills. No gift is too small or insignificant.

May 21, 2017-6th 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 old line says "if you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans." Many of us are diligent in our planning, making sure things are progressing smoothly, then disaster strikes, we don't get the result that was intended. An unforeseen problem arises. Many times we may respond negatively. Why me? I did everything right! Here's the thing – God has a different and better plan in store for you.

May 28, 2017-7th Sunday of Easter

"I am praying for them..." JOHN 17: 9

Prayer is the foundation of our Faith and the foundation of Stewardship. Pray in good times and in bad. Prayer is always the first best option in any situation, not just the last resort. Pray for friends and family and for those that don't treat you very well. Pray to give praise, to thank and to ask God for help. Pray to see what God wants you to do with the gifts He has given you.

June 4, 2017-Pentecost Sunday

"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." 1 CORINTHIANS 12:7

To receive the gift of the Holy Spirit you must open your heart and let Him in! Open your heart and be grateful for all the gifts God has given us. Regardless of your circumstance, God has given us all blessings. What we do with those gifts is our gift back to God. Generously sharing our gifts keeps us more "God-centered" and less "self-centered".

June 11, 2017-Most Holy Trinity

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

Is your love conditional? Is there a price others have to pay to receive your love? Are you generous with your time, money and possessions? If you give someone something, do you expect something in return? Do you give your time freely or do you "fit it in" when it's convenient for you? Pray for a grateful and generous heart.

June 18, 2017-Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

“Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.” 1 CORINTHIANS 10:17

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to lead holy lives and invite others to join us. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, serves a twofold purpose. One, it helps build God’s kingdom here on earth. Two, it is a road map to Heaven. Let’s help each other get there!

June 25, 2017-12th Sunday of Ordinary Times

“Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father.” MATTHEW 10:32

Do you share your Catholic faith with others? Do you defend your Catholic faith or do you remain silent when the situation arises? Do you pray in public before meals? Pray for the strength and courage to be a joyful witness of our Catholic faith when the opportunity presents itself.

Prayers of the Faithful

March 19, 2017

That we may joyfully use the gifts God has given us to help spread the message of the Risen Christ to all those who need to know our Savior's love and grace.

March 26, 2017

That we may have the zeal, dedication and love of the first Christians who shared generously and worked diligently to spread the Gospel message.

April 2, 2017

That we may live a life of gratitude, recognizing that God is providing all that we need.

April 9, 2017

That we learn to put other's needs before our own and help our neighbor "carry his cross".

April 16, 2017

That we put God first in everything and not let earthly possessions become gods to us.

April 23, 2017

That we help our parish create a welcoming environment where people feel included and not excluded.

April 30, 2017

That we take time in silence, every day, to ask God what he wants us to do.

May 7, 2017

That as we struggle to live a faith-filled life, we recognize we are not alone. Jesus is there to help lighten the load.

May 14, 2017

That we encourage those who are struggling to find direction in their life and help them discern how they might use their skills.

May 21, 2017

That we recognize that things don't always go the way we plan and God has a better plan in store for us.

May 28, 2017

That we learn to pray not only in bad times, but also in good times. Pray for family, friends and those that may not treat us well.

June 4, 2017

That through gratitude and generosity, we learn to open our hearts more and let the Holy Spirit give us guidance!

June 11, 2017

That we give our love unconditionally, especially to those who are closest to us.

June 18, 2017

That we answer God's call to build his kingdom on earth and help each other get to Heaven!

June 25, 2017

That we have the strength and courage to be joyful witnesses of our Catholic faith in all circumstances.