



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

## ***Combined Collections***

The 2017 Collection Schedule is now posted on the website under the Stewardship tab.

**Here is the remaining 2017 schedule:**

<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 combined collections, contact Kristen Beckett at [Kristen.Beckett@straphael.org](mailto:Kristen.Beckett@straphael.org) or 608-821-4577.

## ***Time, Talent, and Treasure Program***

This fall, please consider running your annual Time, Talent, and Treasure Renewal Program. If you have any questions about introducing this in your parish or would like more information on the Diocesan sponsored program, please contact Jill Driscoll at 608-821-3039 or [Jill.Driscoll@straphael.org](mailto:Jill.Driscoll@straphael.org)

## ***Planned Giving***

As Catholics, we know that it is our responsibility to pass on the faith from generation to generation. The Office of Stewardship and Development strives to serve people by educating them about potential gift options that are available to them. Many people do not know just how many opportunities there are to leave behind a legacy. If you or any of your parishioners are interested in learning more about a planned gift, please contact Jill Driscoll at 608-821-3039 or [Jill.Driscoll@straphael.org](mailto:Jill.Driscoll@straphael.org)

# ***Stewardship Bulletin Reflections***

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

## **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 - 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

**July 2, 2017 - 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*“... whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me.” - MATTHEW 10:38*

Pope Benedict XVI said “The world offers you comfort. But you were not made for comfort, you were made for greatness”. “Comfort” puts me first. “Picking up your cross and following Jesus” puts God and others first. Why settle for comfort when you can achieve greatness! Pick up your cross, ask Jesus for guidance on using your gifts and live the life God intended for you!

**July 9, 2017 - 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*“For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.” - MATTHEW 11:30*

When we think of being good stewards, we may think that God is asking too much of us when He calls us to generously share our time, talent and treasure. However, we must remember that we are not “owners” of anything, we are merely “stewards” of the gifts God has given us. All He is asking is that we give back a small portion of what He has already given to us.

**July 16, 2017 - 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*“The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word but then the cares of the world and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit.” - MATTHEW 13:22*

Does the lure of riches and material goods choke God out of your life? Are you so caught up in worldly activities that you have no time for God? Stewardship is a lifestyle to be lived every day. It effects all the decisions we make. What we receive at Mass every Sunday should be shared with others all the other days of the week.

**July 23, 2017 - 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*“The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field... He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom.” - MATTHEW 13:24, 37-38*

As children of God, we are all “good seeds,” blessed by God with the potential to accomplish much good in the world. We fulfill God’s plan when we share our talents and our financial gifts to help build God’s kingdom on earth. Through our stewardship we sow “good seeds” on earth to ultimately help each other get to Heaven!

**July 30, 2017 - 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*"We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." - ROMANS 8:28*

Do you really trust God? Do you believe that all things work for good? Faith is a challenge for everyone at times. Putting our trust in God, in everything we do, means that God's plan for our lives may be different than our plan. When one door closes, another one opens. Trust in God, His plan is always better.

**August 6, 2017 - The Transfiguration of the Lord**

*"And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light." - MATTHEW 17:2*

Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, we should reflect Christ's light to the world. When we receive the Eucharist, the body and blood of Jesus, we are called to be supernatural to reflect His love, mercy and forgiveness to others. When we are grateful for all that God has given us, generosity flows through us because we are made in God's image.

**August 13, 2017 - 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*"He said, "Come". Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus." - MATTHEW 14:29*

When you hear Jesus calling, do you responded immediately and trust that He knows what He's doing? If so, you are walking on water! When we say "yes" to Jesus, we feel the power of his presence in our lives. We can feel the freedom it gives us! Listen how Jesus is calling you to live the extraordinary life He has in mind for you.

**August 20, 2017 - 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*"For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable." - ROMANS 11:29*

God has a special mission in mind for each of us. He has given us the gifts we need to accomplish that mission. We are called to be good stewards by using those gifts to do the work that He has planned for each of us. If we deny our gifts or fail to use them as God calls us to use them, then some part of His work will be left undone.

### **August 27, 2017 - 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*“Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid?” - ROMANS 11:35*

St. Paul reminds us of a central fact of stewardship. We cannot **give** the Lord anything, because God already owns it all. God made everything. All that we can do is **return** a portion of God’s many gifts back to Him. Sincere gratitude for our gifts opens our hearts to joyful generosity!

### **September 3, 2017 - 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*“What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?” - MATTHEW 16:26*

St. Francis of Assisi once said, *“Remember, you are what you are in the eyes of God, and nothing else.”* We often forget this stewardship wisdom when we spend all of our time, talent and treasure to gain more of the world’s riches. We need to set our priorities based on God’s values and not the values of the material world.

### **September 10, 2017 - 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*“You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel.” - EZEKIEL 33:7*

Many of us are generous with our gifts. However, how often is our generosity at the minimum level required? We do just enough or give just enough. Remember, the Lord calls us to be generous with all the gifts He has given us, to grow them and return them with increase.

### **September 17, 2017 - 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*“For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s” - ROMANS 14:8*

This is the essence of stewardship – everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. We aren’t “owners” of anything, we are merely “stewards” of the gifts that God has given us, especially our very own lives. Pray to God, daily, and ask Him how He wants you to use the gifts He has given you.

### **September 24, 2017 - 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*“So the last will be first and the first last” - MATTHEW 20:16*

You’ve heard the saying “it’s not where you start, but how you finish.” This certainly applies to this Bible passage. We have a responsibility not only for our own lives, but for the lives of others as well. We are called to generously share our gifts with others, not hoard them for our own use. Our gratitude and generosity helps us live “God-centered” lives and not “self-centered” lives.

# ***Prayers of the Faithful***

## **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.

## **July 2, 2017**

That we pick up our cross and live the life God intended for each of us!

## **July 9, 2017**

That, in gratitude for all that God has given us, we joyfully return a portion of His gifts to help build His kingdom of earth.

## **July 16, 2017**

That the seeds God sows in our lives may take root and lead to greater prayer, participation and generosity.

## **July 23, 2017**

That we may allow stewardship to blossom in our hearts and joyfully share our gifts.

## **July 30, 2017**

That we learn to put our trust in God in everything we do.

## **August 6, 2017**

That our lives reflect the love, mercy and forgiveness that Jesus has shown us.

## **August 13, 2017**

That we respond obediently to God's call and have the confidence to walk on water.

## **August 20, 2017**

That we may show our gratitude for God's great gifts through our active participation in the ministry of God's Church.

**August 27, 2017**

That in gratitude for our gifts, we may grow them and give back with increase.

**September 3, 2017**

That each of us may have the strength and courage to put Jesus first above worldly ways and material gains.

**September 10, 2017**

That we go beyond the minimum required and give generously in proportion to what God has given each of us.

**September 17, 2017**

That we recognize everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God, including our very own lives.

**September 24, 2017**

That we realize we are not only responsible for our lives, but for the lives of others.