

PRAY - SERVE - SHARE - CONNECT

by: Cecilia Carlton, St. Paul Director of Stewardship

Cecilia participated in the Stewardship Conference in Atlanta, Georgia to gain a better understanding of living a life of stewardship. Here is the wisdom she brought back to share.

Stewardship is a way of life! — What does that mean?

I think there is a misunderstanding of the word “**stewardship**.” Usually when we hear that word, we sit on our wallets or hug our purses a little tighter. The word **stewardship** is actually best understood if interchanged with the word “discipleship.” It is an invitation to those who want to live out their baptismal call.

But, what does that look like? **Stewardship** is an invitation to put our life totally in God’s hands – not some of it — all of it. No longer can our faith be simply our Sunday Mass obligation.

Stewardship is a conversion of the heart that leads a person to live a conscious, committed life to Christ. A life of **stewardship/discipleship** envelops all areas of our spirituality primarily through:

1) prayer 2) serving others 3) sharing our gifts 4) connecting with our community

We put all areas of our life under God’s authority and totally surrender to God’s way. Through **stewardship** living, we can find purpose, direction and contentment in our life.

A life of **stewardship** requires the realization that everything we have; our life, our family, our jobs, and our abilities are all gifts from God. We own nothing! Everything, even the Earth, is on loan to us from God. We are simply **stewards** or caretakers of His creation which includes our fellow brothers and sisters.

The first step in becoming a good **steward** is prayer. Prayer is the place where we encounter God listening to Him and speaking to Him about His purpose for us. We learn to give thanks to God in prayer. We cultivate an attitude of gratitude! The idea that we earn or accomplish goals or achievements completely on our own is foolish.

In today’s Gospel, Matthew 25:14-30, the master was going on a long journey and entrusted all his possessions to his servants/**stewards**. All of the **stewards** were responsible for the talents they received and were expected to return them to the master with increase. One did not. The unfaithful servant was fearful of his master and buried his talent. Being thankful for all our Master has done for us is the key to **stewardship**.



If you have not made a firm commitment to personal prayer, then today is a great day to do so!

Keep watch for more on the other aspects of **Stewardship Life!**

— Cecilia



November 19, 2017

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Intentions — November 20th~26th

Monday @ 7:30 am — Santa Crout (RIP)
Tuesday @ 7:30 am — Nolen Hughes (RIP)
Wednesday @ 6:00 pm — U.S. Armed Forces (Sp Int)
*Thursday @ 9:00 am — Thanksgiving Day Mass
Friday @ 7:30 am — Patty Davis (RIP)
Saturday @ 5:30 pm — Carl Rainey (RIP)
Sunday @ 8:00 am — Cash Medders (RIP)
Sunday @ 10:30 am — Wanda Zebrowski (RIP)

Prayer Requests (full prayer list on our website)

Special Intentions:

Jim Peacock Joseph LeBreton
Ed Hayes Dot Autrey
Nathan Cooper, grandson of Amy Kaiser

Rest of the Soul:

Bill Tapscott, brother of Scotty Tapscott
Devin Berlin, friend of Carly Marie Harkins

Altar Flowers this week

In Memory of: Nolen Hughes
Donated by: Marilyn Baker

Blessed Mother Flowers this week

In Memory of: The deceased members of the
Zebrowski, Reiss and Alexander families.
Donated by: Alison & John Lewis

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Monday — Tuesday, 8 am to 12 noon, in the Chapel (No Adoration Wed-Fri)
Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday, 4:30 pm to 5:00 pm in the room next to the Chapel, or by appointment

website: www.saintpaulcatholicchurch.com

office phone: 601-992-9547

Reminders & New Notes !!

- **No Religious Ed & Youth Group** Nov 19-26 due to Thanksgiving Holiday
- **No Adoration & Parish Office Closed** Nov 22-24 due to Thanksgiving Holiday
- **Thanksgiving Day Mass** on Nov 23 @ 9:00am (no 7:30am Mass)

Sign up today for:

- **Young Adults Social** Dec 2nd; 7:00-9:00pm; RSVP lexiegosselin@yahoo.com; details below
- **Blood Drive** Dec 3rd; 7:30am - 1:00pm
- **Ski Trip** to Wintergreen Resort in Virginia Jan 13-16, 2018; \$250 for students / \$350 for adults; \$100 Deposit due by Dec 13; grades 7-12; contact Cory @ 601-292-6084
- **Youth Conference** to be held in Vicksburg February 2-4; contact Renee Borne @ 601-292-6096

DECEMBER

Dec 1st — First Friday Healing Mass: 10:00am; followed by Brunch; all are welcome

Dec 2nd — Armed Forces Support Ministry Rosary: 4:45pm in the Chapel; all are welcome
— **Young Adults Social:** 7:00-9:00 pm in the Family Life Center; food, fun, fellowship; dinner, drinks & childcare provided; RSVP to lexiegosselin@yahoo.com

Dec 3rd — First Sunday of Advent
— **Blood Drive:** 7:30am - 1:00pm; free breakfast for all blood donors
— **Baptism Preparation Class:** 2:00pm; required to have child baptized within the next 3 months

Dec 9th — Big Deal Outdoor Movie Night: Meet for 5:30 Mass, movie after Mass in back parking lot; 7th-12th grades

Dec 9th/10th — Second Collection: Retired Religious

Dec 18th — Advent Reconciliation Service: 6:00pm; we will have several priests present to hear confessions

Dec 20th - Jan 7 — No Religious Ed Classes & No Youth Group: Christmas & New Years Holiday

Dec 24th — No 8:00 Mass: 4th Sunday of Advent falls on Christmas Eve so we will only have 10:30 Mass that morning

Christmas Mass Schedule: 5:30pm Vigil; Midnight Mass (11:30pm choral prelude); 10:30am Christmas Day Mass