



Stewardship Alive!



February 2019

Stewardship: Awe and Wonder

Hello Friend,

Six months ago my wife, Sharon, and I received another one of God's many blessings, the birth of our great-niece, Veda (name from the movie "My Girl"). Sharon baby-sits Veda every day and usually a couple times a week I get to spend some time with her. Seeing Veda reminds me of the time when our three children were infants and we watched them grow, develop and mature into loving, caring adults.

Seeing the expression on Veda's face as she experiences new things is fun to watch and draws me into wanting to watch her experience more new things because her reactions are priceless (see picture). I have a front row seat to a truly child-like response to the awe and wonder of God's creation. But, I'm not the only one. Everyone in the family is drawn in by the love for this little baby and in turn, the love we have for each of our family members.

So here's another one of those paradoxes of our Catholic faith that I am experiencing – as we grow and mature in our faith, we actually become more child-like in our recognition of God's awe and wonder. Things become more clear and simple, not as fuzzy and complex as adults make them out to be. Our grudges give way to forgiveness, our cynicism turns to charity, our pride to humility, our doubts to trust, our fear to hope, our anger to peace and our differences to love. I'm reminded that Matthew's Gospel advises us that we need the faith of a child to enter the kingdom of heaven.



When we let go of looking inward on our own self-centeredness and self-pity, we begin to look outward to see God's active presence and miracles in our daily life. We see the awe and wonder of God and begin to recognize all the gifts that He has given us. This, in turn, leads to gratitude and generosity for God and others.

Do you want to experience the awe and wonder of God? Start paying attention to the people God has put in your life, especially the little ones, we can learn a lot from them.

Our opening prayer is **A Stewardship Prayer by Bishop Carl Kemme of the Diocese of Wichita, KS.**

*Help us Lord, so that we would hold nothing back,
that no sacrifice would be too great, too costly, or too unthinkable.
Send us, Lord, heroes and heroines of stewardship,
saints on the journey whose walk as disciples inspire us to*

*imitate and pattern our own lives after.
Put on our path, Lord, men and women, and children
who will model for us how to live,
how to serve, how to love the Lord with all of our hearts.
Let this be our prayer, let this be our desire and intention.
Amen.*

2018 Annual Parish Stewardship Survey

- Please take five minutes to complete and return the survey to [me](#) by March 4.
- [Click here](#) for the link to the Annual Parish Stewardship Survey.

2019 Stewardship Educational Opportunities

- **Liturgical Publications, Inc. "Everyday Stewardship"** – presented by nationally known Catholic presenter and author, **Tracy Welliver**.
 - 3/19 – **St. Francis Borgia** from 7:00 – 8:30 pm
 - 3/20 – **Cardinal Rigali Center** from 1:30 – 3:30 pm
 - 3/20 – **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton** from 7:30 – 9:00 pm
 - 3/21 – **St. Norbert** from 9:00 – 10:30 am
 - Please contact [Nancy Rankin](#) to reserve your spot. All are invited!
- **Mary, Queen of Peace Children's Stewardship Activity Day** – experience the joy of children's stewardship formation.
 - 4/5 – Mary, Queen of Peace Grade School from 9:00 – 11:15 am
 - Please contact [Dave Baranowski](#) to reserve your spot.
- **Region IX Stewardship Conference "My Life With Jesus"** – stewardship formation with parishes from IA, KS, MO, NE.
 - 4/11 – 4/12 at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita, KS.
 - Featured speakers – **Kevin Cotter** from "**The Amazing Parish**" and **Fr. John Jirak**, pastor, **Church of the Magdalen**, Wichita, KS.
 - Includes multiple stewardship workshops.
 - [Click here](#) to register and for more information.
- [Click here](#) for a list of all 2019 Stewardship Education Opportunities.



Daily Catholic Wisdom

The following is from a daily devotional called "[Daily Catholic Wisdom](#)". This reflection is from **Dr. Brant Pitre** from his book "**Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist**".

"The reason that the Jewish Christians of the first century understood the real presence of the Eucharist is because they knew that the Old Testament and the prophecies of the Old Testament, which were fulfilled in Christ and in the Eucharist. I would also suggest more negatively that one of the reasons many Catholics today and many Christians today do not believe in the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist is because they are not familiar with the prophecies of the Old Testament, and they can't see the fulfillment that Christ brings in the Eucharist."

Tithing Our Time for the Lord

- [Click here](#) to read an article by **Peter Kwasniewski** titled "**What would it look like if we tithed our time for the Lord?**"

Identify Your Strengths

- [Click here](#) to see a tool called "**HIGH5**" that will help you identify your strengths and their connection to spiritual gifts. The initial survey is free with an opportunity to receive your detailed information at a small price.

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Stewardship in Action

- **St. Matthias** – during Lent, encourages parishioners to put one item of clothing or reusable goods in a box or bag each day and at the end of Lent donate it to the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store. Also, the parish holds a Book Fair over the President's Day weekend.

Monthly Stewardship Webinars

- The **March** webinar is "**The Impact of Church Offertory**" by **Joanie Lewis** (Our Sunday Visitor) on Tuesday, **March 12**. [Click here](#) to register for the 1:00 pm session.
- The **April** webinar is "**The Spirituality of Grief**" by **Jeannie Ewing** (author and speaker) on Tuesday, **April 9**. [Click here](#) to register for the 1:00 pm session.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** The Registration site for Stewardship seminars has changed. A password is now required when registering. The password is: **Stewardship**

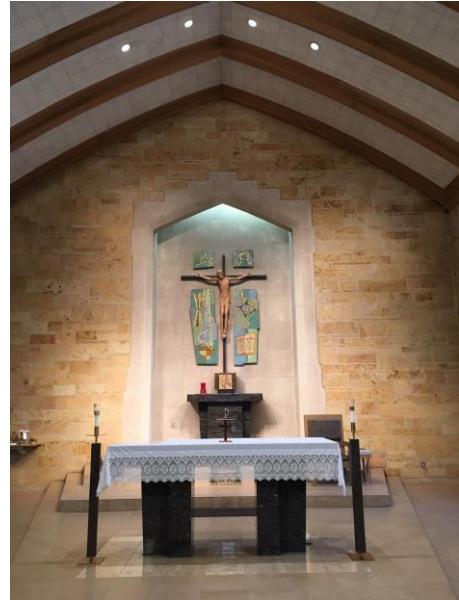
Stewardship Thoughts

- Talents are gifts that God gives us to enjoy, but we enjoy them more once they are shared. Gifts are not just meant for ourselves, but to be passed along to others.
Carrie Gress
- It is through service and sacrifice that we are very often led to the beautiful plan God has for our lives. **Matthew Kelly**

- Hope is not merely a wish that something good might happen – it is the firm confidence and desire that the promise of God will be fulfilled. **Sr. Miriam James Heidland**
- Regarding Mary Magdalen – You have a real woman, in a real time, who took an incredible risk to follow Jesus without really knowing if He's the Way, the Truth and the Life. Faith is a risk and Mary Magdalen is an example for us to take that risk.

Fr. Jack Siefert

- What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us. **Ralph Waldo Emerson**
- The truth is that the Church was actually the first thing that ever tried to combine reason and religion. There had never been any such union of priests and philosophers. **G.K. Chesterton**



Thank You

- **Fr. Larry Huber**, associate pastor **St. Gerard Majella**, for the invitation to the 1/3 meeting of the Community of Transcendent Men's Leadership Team.
- **Fr. Vince Nyman**, pastor **Our Lady of the Holy Cross**, for the 1/9 stewardship meeting..
- **Fr. Paul Niemann**, pastor **St. Pius V**, for the invitation to the 1/9 parish council meeting.
- **Msgr. Gregory Mikesch**, vice rector of formation **Kenrick-Glennon Seminary**, for the invitation to the 1/16 stewardship workshop.
- **Principal Mike Nieman** and **Vice-Principal Caroline McCabe**, **Mary, Queen of Peace** grade school, for the invitation to the 1/18 Children's Stewardship Activity Day.
- **Msgr. John Shamleffer**, pastor **St. Gabriel the Archangel**, for the invitation to the 1/19 Parish Leader Meeting.
- **Jane Guenther**, Director **Catholic Renewal Center**, for the invitation to the 1/24 Prayer meeting.
- **Fr. John Kamwendo**, pastor **St. Michael the Archangel** (**Indianapolis, IN**), for the invitation to speak at all Masses on 1/26 and 1/27.
- **Fr. John Vien**, pastor **Mary, Queen of Peace**, for the 1/28 stewardship meeting.

Inspiration Gallery

This month's pictures are from **St. Michael the Archangel** in **Indianapolis, IN**. The parish was founded in 1948. **Msgr. John Kamwendo** is the pastor.



Odds and Ends

- [Click here](#) for **The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network**.
- Listen to **Catholic Radio** on **AM 1080 or 1460 and FM 96.7**.
- [Click here](#) to check out the **St. Louis Review** for all your Catholic news.
- Stewardship is on Twitter! My address is [@dbaranowskiSTL](#).

Jokes

- Two turkeys were getting ready to fight. The big turkey said to the little turkey, "I'm going to knock the stuffing out of you."
- A woman was trying very hard to get ketchup out of the bottle. During her struggle, the phone rang and her 4 year-old daughter answered it saying, "Mommy can't come to the phone right now, she is hitting the bottle."
- A little girl was watching her parents dress for a party. When she saw her dad wearing a tuxedo, she cried out, "Daddy, you shouldn't wear that suit. It always gives you a headache the next morning."
- A little girl just finished her first week of school. When she got home she told her mom, "I'm just wasting my time. I can't read. I can't write, and they won't let me talk."

The closing prayer is for **Pope Francis'** prayer intention for February – for a generous welcome of the victims of human trafficking, enforced prostitution and violence. The prayer is from **St. John Paul II's Evangelium Vitae**.

*Grant that all who believe in Your Son may proclaim the Gospel of life
with honesty and love to the people of our time.*

Help us to stand up, like Jesus, for the weak and oppressed.

Pray that we may receive the Gospel with joy and gratitude throughout our lives.

*May Your Son give us the courage to bear witness to him resolutely,
in order to build together all people of good will,
the civilization of truth and love, to the praise and glory of God,
the Creator and lover of life. Amen.*

Peace,

Dave

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