

# Kingdom Stewardship



A Steward's Prayer and Reflection Journal

The Gospel of Luke

**Prepared by the Stewardship Office of  
The Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio**

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Prayers in this work are available at  
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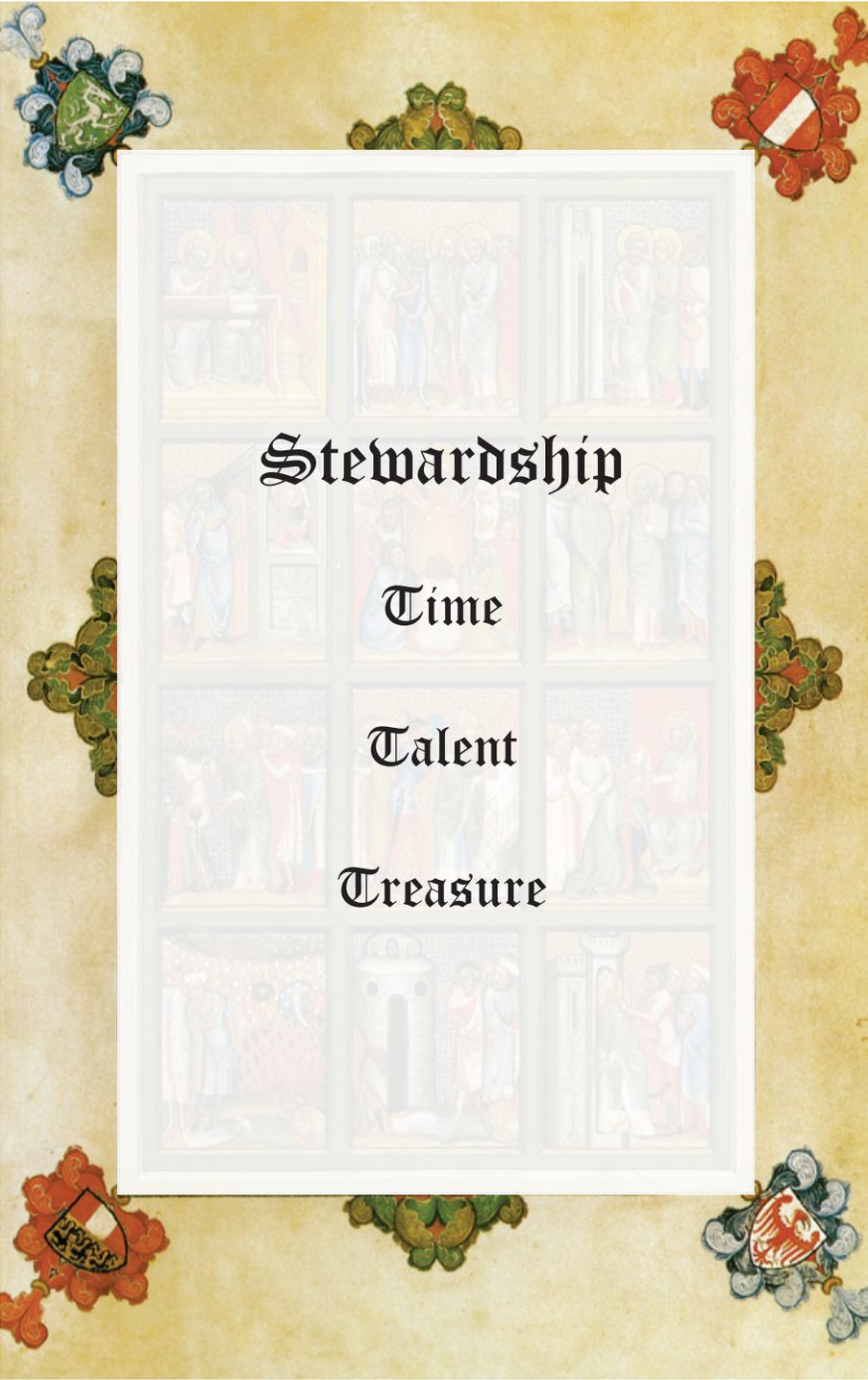
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**GOD'S GIFTS** *for* **GOD'S PEOPLE**  
time, talent and treasure





Stewardship

Time

Talent

Treasure



Kingdom  
Stewardship

A Steward's Prayer  
and  
Reflection Journal

The Gospel of Luke

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## A Steward's 30 Day Prayer Journal

This Prayer Journal was created specifically and prayerfully for you by the Stewardship Office of The Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio. Our hope is that it will assist, inspire, and encourage you as you live out your life of Stewardship. As the U. S. Bishops stated in their letter on stewardship: "A Christian Steward is: One who receives God's gifts gratefully, cultivates them responsibly, shares them lovingly in justice with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord."

Stewardship is a way of life! It is the sincere grateful response we make when God touches our lives and as we imitate Jesus Christ and ponder the Saving Cross and Resurrection. New wonderful spiritual adventures and opportunities are waiting for you. May you receive gratefully and give generously.

The Stewardship Office  
Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio



## Illuminations

### Week 4: *The Lamentation Following The Crucifixion*

*The Lamentation Following The Crucifixion* is from the Rohan Hours. The Grand Hours of Rohan; (Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, M.S. commonly known as The Rohan Hours) is an illuminated manuscript Book of Hours, painted by the anonymous artist, the Rohan Master, between 1430 and 1435, in the Gothic style.

This Folio 135 recto shows the Lamentation following the Crucifixion by the Rohan Master. Staring at Jesus' corpse the Virgin is held by the apostle John who turns toward the grieving God the Father.

### Back Cover: *Johannes of Troppau Evangeliary*

*Johannes of Troppau Evangeliary*, 1368/Troppau (now Opava in the Czech Republic) /Folio 55 verso shows twelve miniature scenes from the history of the Church from a masterpiece of 14th century Bohemian-Mooravian manuscript illumination,



## Illuminations

### Week 2: *The Virgin Receiving the Annunciation*

*The Virgin Receiving the Annunciation*, is from the *Hours of Henry VII*, c. 1500 / Tours / 240 x 170 mm.

The Book of Hours was a book for use in private devotions. They were medieval best-sellers and have survived in relatively high quantity. They are nearly always illuminated, in a manner commensurate with the Patron's budget, and often contain a Miniature or set of miniatures for each major textual division. These subjects include scenes from the life of the Virgin, Christ and King David, depictions of the saints and themes relating to death and judgment. The patron was also sometimes portrayed. Decorated letters as well as images can be found in books of hours.

### Week 3: *Christ Dining at the House Of Zacchaeus*

This picture taken from a Gospel Lectionary from the second half of 15th century / The Netherlands shows Christ dining at the house of the publican Zacchaeus. (Luke 19). During the meal Zacchaeus arose and promised to give half his wealth to the poor.

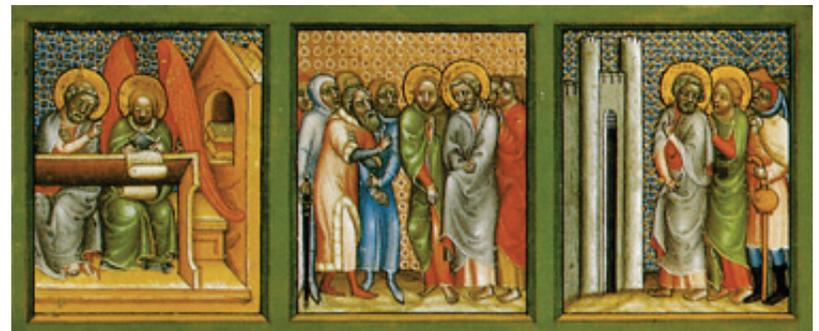


## How to use this Stewardship Journal

This prayer journal was designed for you. Please make it your own. Each day set aside a few minutes to read and reflect on the prayer, scriptures, and questions. The way of stewardship is a life-long journey. Our desire is that this prayer journal will help you along the way.

Throughout this journal we will raise our hearts and minds to God through prayer, reflection, and Scripture selections from Tobit, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Sirach, Luke, and 1 John.

As you pray through this Stewardship Prayer Journal may the Holy Spirit inspire and fill you. May you be blessed with peace, love, good health, gifts, talents, and abundant treasure. May God guard and protect you, your family, and your community. May you always have a sense of the Presence of God and God's Kingdom. May each page bring you closer to God and those you love.



## Week 1 Prayer

The Prayer at the Rising of Your Sun



At the rising of Your sun Lord God, Creator of light,  
at the rising of Your sun each morning, let the greatest of all lights,  
Your love, rise, like the sun, within my heart.

## Illuminations

### Front Cover: Historiated Initial

This historiated initial L is a cutting from a gradual. This historiated initial L (A letter containing an identifiable scene or figures, sometimes relating to the text) with the prophet Isaiah in a landscape, was painted by the illuminator known only as the Master B.F., illustrated the Introit or opening of the second Mass of Christmas which begins with the words, “The light shone today.” The light referred to in this passage is seen here coming from the upper corner.

### Week 1: *God The Creator*

*God The Creator*, is from the Bible Moralisee 1220-1230 / Paris or Champagne, France / 344 x260 mm / Folio 1 verso. God the creator is depicted as an architect, taking measurements with his compass. The yellow sphere (the center round shape) at which the compass points is the inchoate mass which will become Earth surrounded here by heavenly bodies and a horde of clouds.

Bible Moralisee is the most important type of medieval picture Bible. Composed during the thirteenth century, it consists of short biblical passages and related Commentaries with moral or allegorical lessons. The texts were accompanied by extensive illustrations.



## Weekly Prayers

### Week 3: Prayer for Peace of Mind

Fortify me with the grace of Your Holy Spirit and give Your peace to my soul that I may be free from all needless anxiety, solicitude and worry. Help me to desire always that which is pleasing and acceptable to You so that Your will may be my will.

### Week 4: Complete Thy Work

Complete Thy work, O Lord,  
and as Thou hast loved me from the beginning,  
so make me to love Thee unto the end.

John Henry Cardinal Newman

*He has made everything appropriate to its time, and has put the timeless into their hearts, without men's ever discovering, from beginning to end, the work which God has done. Whatever God does will endure forever. Ecclesiastes 3:11, 14*

Can you feel it? The everlasting love that breathed you into existence? The timeless God placed within your heart? The desire God felt at that appropriate moment, when you were perfectly measured, formed and created?

This week's medieval folio titled, *The Creator God*, shows God, the Holy Architect, straddle the unknown space beyond our universe. Bent over, willingly confined within this space, God holds the Universe in His hand, measures and forms our earth. Yet, out of this unknown space, in the midst of our ever expanding universe God desired you! Bursting with divine love your Creator breathed you into existence. You belong to God and with God you will endure forever! And what does God desire in return? Only your love. (Hosea 6:6)

This week we will fulfill God's desire, as we reflect on the Stewardship of Love and seek ways to return our love to God.

May your love, Oh Lord rise each day like the sun within my heart



Week 1 Day 1  
It Is Love That I Desire



Who is this that comes forth like the dawn, as beautiful as the moon, as resplendent as the sun? Song of Songs 6:10

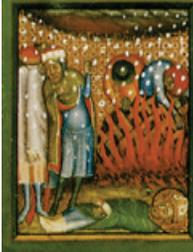
Jesus departed to the mountain to pray, and he spent the night in prayer to God. When day came, he called his disciples to himself... came down with them and stood on a stretch of level ground. A great crowd of his disciples and a large number of the people... came to hear him and to be healed of their diseases... Everyone in the crowd sought to touch him because power came forth from him and healed them all. Luke 6:12-13, 17-19



In what way does the dawn symbolize God's love? Why do you think God loves you? Why did power come forth from Jesus and where did it come from?



What do you think the people hoped for and felt as they saw Jesus come down from the mountain?



Name three ways you use your Time, Talent and Treasure to reflect God's love and beauty.

*Awake, my soul; awake, lyre and harp! I will wake the dawn. For your love towers to the heavens; your faithfulness, to the skies. Psalm 108:3, 5*

## WEEKLY PRAYERS

### Week 1: The Prayer at the Rising of Your Sun

At the rising of Your sun  
Lord God, Creator of light,  
at the rising of Your sun each morning,  
let the greatest of all lights,  
Your love, rise, like the sun, within my heart.

### Week 2: Prayer for Trust

O Christ Jesus, when all is darkness and we feel our weakness and helplessness, give us the sense of Your presence, Your love, and Your strength. Help us to have perfect trust in Your protecting love and strengthening power, so that nothing may frighten or worry us, for living close to You, we shall see Your hand, Your purpose, Your will through all things.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, 1491-1556



# Weekly Prayers and Illuminations

Week 1: Prayer at the Rising of Your Sun

Week 2: Prayer for Trust

Week 3: Prayer for Peace of Mind

Week 4: Complete Thy Work

Front Cover: Historiated initial I

Week 1: God The Creator

Week 2: The Virgin Receiving  
The Annunciation

Week 3: Christ Dining at the  
House Of Zaccheus

Week 4: The Lamentation Following  
The Crucifixion

Back Cover: Johannes of Troppau  
Evangeliary

## Week 1 Day 2 It Is Love That I Desire

My lover speaks; he says to me, "Arise, my beloved, my beautiful one, and come!" Song of Songs 2:10

Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:27

Who calls you Beloved? Who do you call "My Beautiful One?"

What does Jesus desire when He asks you to come after Him? How is Jesus' call to discipleship a call to love?

Name three ways you use your Time, Talent and Treasure that identify you as a Disciple.



*I can enter your house because of your great love. Psalm 5:8*

Week 1 Day 3  
It Is Love That I Desire



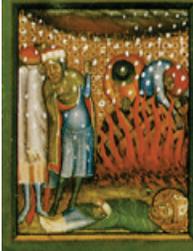
I sought him whom my heart loves - I sought him but I did not find him. I will rise then and go about the city; in the streets and crossings I will seek Him whom my heart loves. I sought him but I did not find him. The watchmen came upon me as they made their rounds of the city. Have you seen him whom my heart loves? I had hardly left them when I found him whom my heart loves. I took hold of him and would not let him go. Song of Songs 3:1-4



There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test Jesus and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" He said in reply, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:25-27



How has God taken hold of you and not let you go?



What do you need to do to inherit eternal life?

How does using your Time, Talent and Treasure help you love God with all your being?

*Bless the Lord, my soul; all my being;  
bless his holy name. Psalm 103:1*

My Time, Talent, and Treasure

**A deepening sense of identity as the "gifted by God",  
leads to an endless "call to be given away."**

Six Themes of Stewardship - Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio

How do you know you are gifted by God? How do you give yourself away?

How can you use your Time, Talent, and Treasure to better give yourself away?

Do you need to change the ways you use your Time, Talent, and Treasure to better serve God?



## My Time, Talent, and Treasure

**Our mission is to return our gifts to God with increase and the most effective means of doing so is by participation in the life of the Church.**

Six Themes of Stewardship - Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio

What does it mean to return our gifts with increase to God?

Time is a gift. How do you return your Time to God?

Talent is a gift. How do you return your Talent to God?

Treasure is a gift. How do you return your Treasure to God?



## Week 1 Day 4 It Is Love That I Desire

Tell me, you whom my heart loves, where you pasture your flock, where you give them rest at midday, lest I be found wandering after the flocks of your companions. Song of Songs 1:7

The Pharisees and scribes began to complain about Jesus, saying, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So to them Jesus addressed this parable. “What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it? And when he does find it, he sets it on his shoulders with great joy and, upon his arrival home, he calls together his friends and neighbors and says to them, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’” Luke 15:2-6

Who do you spend time with and why do you spend time with them? Why do you think people love you and want to be with you?

Why does God rejoice over you and want to be with you?

Describe two ways we can use our Time, Talent and Treasure to create a warmer, more welcoming, just, inclusive community?

*The Lord is God, our maker to whom we belong,  
whose people we are, God’s well-tended flock. Psalm 100:3*



Week 1 Day 5  
It Is Love That I Desire



He brings me into the banquet hall and his emblem over me is love. Songs of Songs 2:4

Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master's return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. Luke 12:35-37

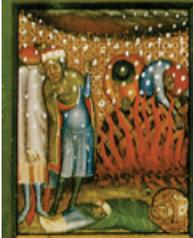


How is God's love an emblem over you?

How does being served by someone you love enrich your life and increase your love?



How do you respond when others care for your home and family in your absence?



How do you use your Time, Talent and Treasure to prepare for the Master's return?

Week 4 Stewardship  
My Identity -- My Calling

**We are called, in equity and justice, to share our gifts with the needy; by this sharing we also fulfill our need to give as those created in the image of God.**

Six Themes of Stewardship - Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio

How does being created in the Image of God affect how you see yourself and the way you love? How does your stewardship help you be who you were created to be?

Do you have a need to give? Why? How did you love others this week? How does loving others change you?

How does your stewardship promote justice? Does it change the way you view and use your possessions and your environment?

Is your love sacrificial? Is it stronger than death?



*You set a table before me...My cup overflows. Psalm 23:5*

Week 4 Day 7  
Love One Another



Everything that you have commanded me father, I will do. Tobit 5:1

Jesus said, “Who among you would say to your servant who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here immediately and take your place at table?’ Would he not rather say to him, ‘Prepare something for me to eat. Put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink. You may eat and drink when I am finished?’ Is he grateful to that servant because he did what was commanded? So should it be with you. When you have done all you have been commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants; we have done what we were obliged to do.’” Luke 17:7-10

What has God commanded you to do? Are you doing it?

Do you think you are a good steward of love? Why? How can your Faith Community help you become a better steward? What can you do for your Faith Community to help it grow in love?

Commit your Time, Talent and Treasure to serve and love God, others and yourself.

*The Lord is with me to the end. Lord, your love endures forever.  
Never forsake the work of your hands! Psalm 138:8*

Week 1 Day 6  
It Is Love That I Desire

As an apple tree among the trees of the woods, so is my lover among men. I delight to rest in his shadow. Song of Songs 2:3

Jesus said, “What is the kingdom of God like? To what can I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that a person took and planted in the garden. When it was fully grown, it became a large bush and ‘the birds of the sky dwelt in its branches.’” Luke 13:18-19

What is the Kingdom of God like?

How has God provided a dwelling place for you? How do you care for it? When and how has God provided rest and shade for you?

How does the planting of the mustard seed exemplify good stewardship?

How does your Faith Community provide opportunities for and encourage you to use your Time, Talent and Treasure to provide a dwelling place for others?

*Show your wonderful love, you who deliver with  
your right arm...Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide  
me in the shadow of your wings. Psalm 17:7-8*



Week 1 Day 7  
It Is Love That I Desire



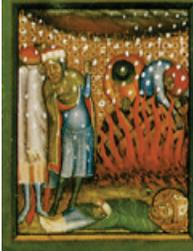
Set me as a seal on your heart, as a seal on your arm; for stern as death is love, relentless as the nether world is devotion; its flames are a blazing fire. Deep waters cannot quench love, nor floods sweep it away. Song of Songs 8:6-7



Jesus said, "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it... Truly I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God." Luke 9:23-24, 27



Whose seal is upon your heart and what is sealed within? Why does God want you to live forever? When does forever begin?



Is love stronger than death? How does God's Love resurrect you each day?

How does using your Time, Talent and Treasure help you take up your cross and follow Jesus?

*Give thanks to the Lord, who is good,  
whose love endures forever. Psalm 118:1*

Week 4 Day 6  
Love One Another

*When you come to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for trials. Be sincere of heart and steadfast, undisturbed in time of adversity. Cling to him, forsake him not; thus will your future be great. Accept whatever befalls you, in crushing misfortune be patient; for in fire gold is tested, and worthy men in the crucible of humiliation. Trust God and he will help you; make straight your ways and hope in him. Sirach 2:1-6*

At daybreak on the first day of the week they took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them. They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them, "Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was still in Galilee that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners and be crucified, and rise on the third day." And they remembered his words. Luke 24:1-8

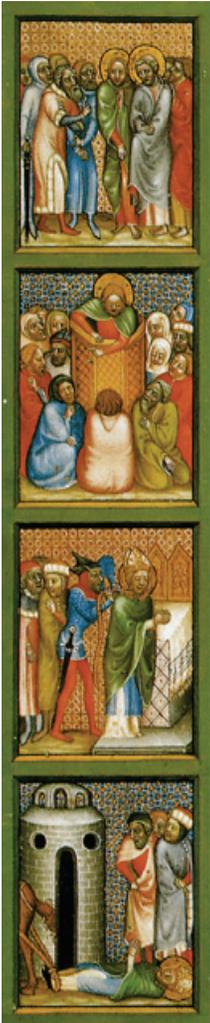
How did Jesus prepare the disciples for his death and resurrection? How was this preparation a sign of good stewardship and love?

How do you use your Time, Talent and Treasure to prepare for the future?

*Hear my voice, Lord, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me. "Come," says my heart, "seek God's face"; your face, Lord, do I seek! Psalm 27:7-8*



Week 4 Day 5  
Love One Another



Seek counsel from every wise man, and do not think lightly of any advice that can be useful. Tobit 4:18

Jesus said: “Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.” Then Peter said, “Lord, is this parable meant for us or for everyone?” And the Lord replied, “Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward whom the master will put in charge of his servants to distribute (the) food allowance at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master on arrival finds doing so. Truly, I say to you, he will put him in charge of all his property.” Luke 12:39-44

How is good counsel a sign of God’s providence?

How does fidelity and prudence influence love?

Ask God to reveal a problem that you need to face, to provide good counsel and to show you how you can use your Time, Talent and Treasure to resolve it.

Week 1 Stewardship  
My Identity -- My Calling

**Created in the image of God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
we are a “Communion of self-giving love”.**

Six Themes of Stewardship - Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio

How did you love God this week? Why do you think God desires your love?

Why does God create and why did God create you? How do you know you are created in the Image and Likeness of God? What are the tell tale signs?

What are you willing to sacrifice to keep those you love happy, healthy and safe? Do you want them to live forever? Why?

How does good stewardship increase our ability to recognize and demonstrate God’s love?

What does a “Communion of self-giving love” look and feel like in your faith community?



## Week 2 Prayer

### Prayer for Trust



© Christ Jesus, when all is darkness and we feel our weakness and helplessness, give us the sense of Your presence, Your love, and Your strength. Help us to have perfect trust in Your protecting love and strengthening power, so that nothing may frighten or worry us, for, living close to You, we shall see Your hand, Your purpose, Your will through all things.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, 1491-1556

## Week 4 Day 4

### Love One Another

Reject not the tradition of old men which they have learned from their fathers; from it you will obtain the knowledge how to answer in time of need. Sirach 8:9

The Father of the Prodigal Son said to his eldest son, “You are here with me always: everything I have is yours.” Luke 15:31

Describe your inheritance. How do you honor your parent’s or grandparent’s traditions? How has God used your generation to bless others?

How do/did your parents and grandparents use their Time, Talent and Treasure to teach you to love and serve God?

Use your Time, Talent and Treasure today to pass on your faith.



*The earth, Lord, is filled with your love;  
teach me your laws. Psalm 119:64*

Week 4 Day 3  
Love One Another



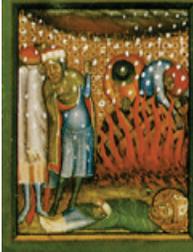
Give alms from your possessions. Give to the hungry some of your bread, and to the naked some of your clothing. Whatever you have left over, give away as alms; and do not begrudge the alms you give. Tobit 4:7, 16



Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be. Luke 12:33-34



How does poverty affect you, your community and the world?



What do you think God does and feels when the poor are not cared for? How can almsgiving store up goodly treasures for you in the day of adversity?

List three ways you can use your Time, Talent and Treasure this week to encourage the oppressed and care for the needy.

*The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed,  
a stronghold in times of troubles. Psalm 9:10*

Week 2 Reflection

Joseph went up from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:4-7

The journey of stewardship is an intimate journey into life with God. It includes joy, transformation and suffering. At times you may feel alone and discouraged. You may face many fears and challenges; but, if you are steadfast you will grow in love and holiness.

This second week, we see Mary, pictured in *The Annunciation*, from *The Book of Hours of Henry VII*. Mary faced many fears and joys as she and Joseph journeyed to Bethlehem, Egypt, Nazareth and Jerusalem. They trusted that God would provide for them, deliver them from trials, and bring them safely home.

This week, like Mary, we will trust that God will provide for us. We will rely on God's Grace and Abiding Love as we respond to and reflect on God's call to love. We will examine how the Saints responded to this call and how as Good Stewards they faced their fears.

Stay at my right hand, Oh Lord. Each morning remind me of your love, for your love, Oh Lord, is precious. At night open my ears that I may hear your words. Remember me. Remind me that I am created in your Image and have nothing to fear and everything to gain.



Week 2 Day 1  
Do Not Be Afraid



The Angel said to Zechariah, “Do not be afraid Zechariah, because your prayer has been heard.”  
Luke 1:13

You, child, will be called prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God by which the daybreak from on high will visit us to shine on those who sit in darkness and death’s shadow, to guide our feet into the path of peace. Luke 1:76-79

Who was Zechariah? Why was Zechariah afraid? How was he a good steward?

Why do you think God hears your prayers? When you believe your prayers are heard how does it affect your faith and actions?

What advice would you give to a child about the importance of prayer and the use of Time, Talent and Treasure?

*I love the Lord, who listened to my voice in supplication, who turned an ear to me on the day I called. Psalm 116:1-2*

Week 4 Day 2  
Love One Another



To a poor man...be generous; keep him not waiting for your alms...help the needy, and in their want, do not send them away empty-handed. Spend your money for your brother and friend, and hide it not under a stone to perish; dispose of your treasure as the Most High commands, for that will profit you more than the gold. Store up almsgiving in your treasure house, and it will save you from every evil; better than a stout shield and a sturdy spear it will fight for you against the foe. Sirach 29:8-13

Jesus said. “Give to everyone who asks of you...Do to others as you would have them do to you...lend expecting nothing back...Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.” Luke 6:30-31, 35-36

How, when, why and what do you give to the poor? What is in your treasure house?

Why does helping the poor please God?

Use your Time, Talent and Treasure to serve the poor this week. Encourage others to do the same.

*You listen, Lord, to the needs of the poor; you encourage them and hear their prayers. You win justice for the orphaned and oppressed. Psalm 10:17-18*

Week 4 Day 1  
Love One Another



Refrain not from speaking at the proper time, and hide not away your wisdom; for it is through speech that wisdom becomes known. Sirach 4:23-24

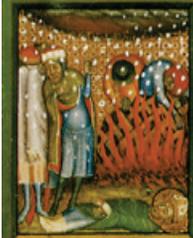
No one who lights a lamp conceals it with a vessel or sets it under a bed; rather, he places it on a lamp stand so that those who enter may see the light. Luke 8:16



When is it proper to speak about God? How does your speech reveal your love and promote the Gospel message?



How often do you tell others about God? About Jesus?



Tell someone how your Time, Talent and Treasure have allowed you to let your life shine for God?

Week 2 Day 2  
Do Not Be Afraid

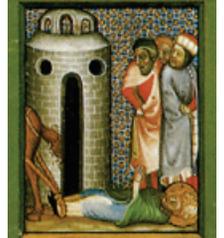
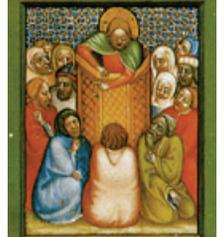
The Angel Gabriel, said to Mary, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.” Luke 1:30

Elizabeth, said to Mary, “Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.” Luke 1:45

How was Mary favored by God? Does being favored by God mean life will be easy?

What fears do you think Mary faced? What do you think Jesus learned from watching His Mother face her fears? How did Jesus respond when He was afraid?

Describe a time when you used your Time, Talent and Treasure to bless others, help them believe and calm their fears?



*I will keep your teachings always, for all time and forever.  
I will speak openly of your decrees. Psalm 119:44, 46*

*You, Lord, bless the just; you surround them  
with favor like a shield. Psalm 5:13*

**Week 2 Day 3**  
**Do Not Be Afraid**



The angel of the Lord said to the shepherds, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” Luke 2:10

When the angels went away from them to heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” Luke 2:15

What is the good news of great joy? Do you think the Shepherds slept that night? How did the Shepherds overcome their fear? Why did they journey to Bethlehem?

How does fear/joy/love affect your sleep, work, peace and health?

Name three ways you use your Time, Talent and Treasure to spread the Good News and serve all the people?

*The earth is the Lord's and all it holds,  
the world and those who live there. Psalm 24:1*

**Week 4 Reflection**

*Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love. In this way the love of God was revealed to us: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might have life through him. In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. 1 John 4:7-11*

In this week's beautiful 15th century folio, *The Lamentation Following the Crucifixion*, we see Mary, John and God the Father grieve over their Beloved Jesus. Jesus, who placed Himself in His Father's hands, who loved with His whole being, who surrendered His Will, lay dead at the foot of His Cross.

Like Mary and John, when we follow Jesus, we are exposed to suffering and profound love. We are called to be good stewards of this passionate love and to be transformed by it. We are called to move forward, to participate in life, to love in the midst of fear, to surrender all we have and are and to move compassionately throughout this world as we build up the Kingdom of God.

This final week let your love show! Love with your whole being. Let your soul rejoice with the Psalmist, “I shall not die but live and declare the deeds of the Lord.” (Psalm 118:17) This week declare the deeds of the Lord by loving others.

Complete your work, in me, Oh Lord. May my stewardship declare Your Goodness. When I arise and come Home to You may I hear You shout with joy, “Who is this that comes forth like the dawn! Arise my beloved, my beautiful one, and come!” On that day I will rise and come to You!



## Week 4 Prayer

Complete Thy Work



Complete Thy work, O Lord, and as Thou hast loved me from the beginning, so make me to love Thee unto the end.

John Henry Cardinal Newman

## Week 2 Day 4 Do Not Be Afraid

Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” Luke 5:10

When the disciples brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him. Luke 5:11

How did Jesus’ choice of disciples provide good leadership and role models for us today? How is this an example of good stewardship?

How do you think the disciples overcame their fears? Why did they follow Jesus? Where did their courage come from?

Have you ever been afraid of something that turned out to be good for you? What happened?

Describe a time when, in spite of your fears, you used your Time, Talent and Treasure to encourage good leadership and set goals?



*Your love is before my eyes; I walk guided  
by your faithfulness. Psalm 26:3*

Week 2 Day 5  
Do Not Be Afraid



Jesus said to Jairus, an official of the synagogue, regarding his sick daughter, “Do not be afraid; just have faith and she will be saved.” Luke 8:50

Jesus took Jairus’ daughter by the hand and called to her, “Child, arise!” Her breath returned and she immediately arose. Luke 8:54-55



How did Jairus’ love for his daughter affect his stewardship?



Have you known someone who has been close to death and then was revived? Did this experience change how they face fear or how they love?



What fearful circumstance increased your trust in God? How does love/fear influence your stewardship?

How do you use your Time, Talent and Treasure to help others trust in Jesus?

*God is present as my helper;  
the Lord sustains my life. Psalm 54:6*

Week 3 Stewardship  
My Identity -- My Calling

**As gifted by God, gratitude is our fundamental response; for the grateful and generous, Eucharist (Thanksgiving) is the most perfect prayer.**

Six Themes of Stewardship - Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio

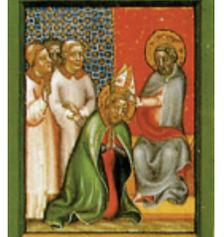
What has God surrendered for you? What is the result of your “Yes!” to God?

How have you placed your Stewardship and your Time, Talent and Treasure in God’s Hands?

How is the Eucharist the most perfect prayer and God’s “Yes” to you?

How do you help others use their Time, Talent and Treasure to respond gratefully for all God has created and provided?

How does your stewardship offer, create and provide opportunities for others to respond gratefully and generously to God?



Week 3 Day 7  
Yes



Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.  
Luke 23:46

Jesus said, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.” Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, “Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.”  
Luke 4:18-21

What was the result of Jesus’ “Yes?” How did Jesus fulfill the scriptures and place Himself in His Father’s Hands?

Place your life in God’s Hands. Ask God to bless your Time, Talent and Treasure.

Week 2 Day 6  
Do Not Be Afraid

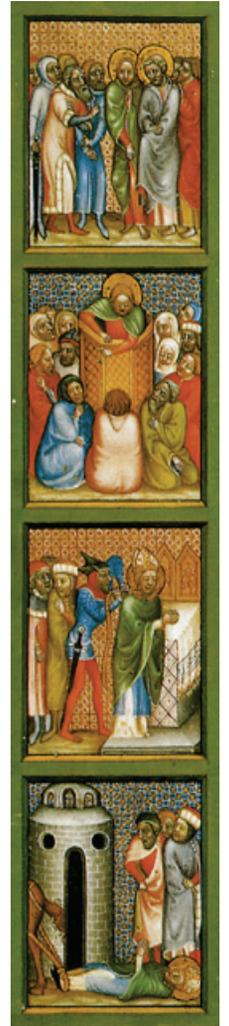
Jesus said, “Are not five sparrows sold for two small coins? Yet not one of them has escaped the notice of God. Even the hairs of your head have all been counted. Do not be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.” Luke 12:6-7

Do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not worry anymore. All the nations of the world seek for these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these other things will be given you besides.  
Luke 12:29-31

What is God’s love worth? What are you worth?

How does worry affect your ability to love or cause you to lose sight of God’s Kingdom?

When or how has fear diminished your ability to use your Time, Talent and Treasure?



*Into your hands I commend my spirit;  
you will redeem me Lord, faithful God. Psalm 31:6*

*You have made my destiny secure. My heart is glad,  
my soul rejoices; my body also dwells secure. Psalm 16:5, 9*

Week 2 Day 7  
Do Not Be Afraid



Jesus said, “Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom.” Luke 12:32



Jesus said, “It is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And (behold) I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” Luke 24:46-49



Why is God pleased to give you the Kingdom?

Have you ever felt “clothed in power?” Why would God want us “clothed in power?” What is power and when can it be good or bad?



Describe how you feel when you gratefully and deliberately use your Time, Talent and Treasure to further God’s Kingdom. How is your Stewardship a witness of God’s Love?

*You are clothed with majesty and glory, robed in light as with a cloak.  
May the glory of the Lord endure forever. Psalm 104:1-2, 31*

Week 3 Day 6  
Des

Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.  
Luke 23:46

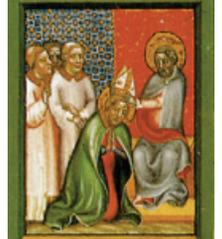
Jesus came to Jericho... a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house.” And he came down quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, “He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner.” But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over.” Luke 19:1-8

How and why was Zacchaeus a good steward? Why did he change his behavior?

How much of your Treasure are you willing to commit to God?

Place your Treasure in God’s Hands and ask God to show you how you can use it to build up the Body of Christ.

*How great is your goodness, Lord... You display it for those who trust you, in the sight of all the people. Psalm 31:20*



Week 3 Day 5  
Des



Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.  
Luke 23:46

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and when he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples.” He said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread and forgive us our sins for we ourselves forgive everyone in debt to us, and do not subject us to the final test.” Luke 11:1-4

What is prayer?

Why do you think the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray?

Place your Treasure in God’s Hands and pray.

Week 2 Stewardship  
My Identity -- My Calling

**As the Body of Christ, we are a communion of the gifted and a store house of God’s gifts. Our calling is to cultivate the life and gifts of each member.**

Six Themes of Stewardship - Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio

How does your spirituality strengthen you during difficult times? How do your gifts and other’s gifts help you face your fears?

Who has taught you how to grow in faith during times of fear?

What is the difference between communities that are faith-based and those that are fear-based? Describe the fears present in your community. Are some of the fears justified? What is your community doing to address them?

How are gifts being cultivated and encouraged in each member in your faith community and how does that help stabilize or enliven your community?



**Week 3 Prayer**  
Prayer for Peace of Mind

**Week 3 Day 4**  
**Yes**



Fortify me with the grace of Your Holy Spirit and give Your peace to my soul that I may be free from all needless anxiety, solicitude and worry. Help me to desire always that which is pleasing and acceptable to You so that Your will may be my will.

Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.  
Luke 23:46

A centurion in Capernaum... had a slave who was ill and about to die, and he was valuable to him. When he heard about Jesus, he sent elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and save the life of his slave. They approached Jesus and strongly urged him to come, saying, "He deserves to have you do this for him, for he loves our nation and he built the synagogue for us." And Jesus went with them, but when he was only a short distance from the house, the centurion sent friends to tell him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof. Therefore, I did not consider myself worthy to come to you; but say the word and let my servant be healed. For I too am a person subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come here,' and he comes; and to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him and, turning, said to the crowd following him, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." Luke 7:2-9

What was the result of Jesus' "Yes?" How did the centurion and Jesus use their Time, Talent and Treasure to serve the community?

Surrender your favorite Talent to God. Ask God to show you how you can use it to care for others and promote justice.

*I trust in you, Lord; I say, "You are my God." Psalm 31:15*



Week 3 Day 3  
Des



Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.  
Luke 23:46

The word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert. He went throughout (the) whole region of the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" Luke 3:2-6

What was the result of John's "Yes?" How did John place his life in God's Hands? How did he use his Time, Talent and Treasure to serve God and God's People?

How is salvation a work of love and stewardship?  
What does salvation mean to you?

Does love ever become hard work? When? Why?

Surrender your Talent to God. Ask God to use your talent to prepare the way of the Lord.

*I will rejoice and be glad in your love. Psalm 31:8*

Week 3 Reflection

*Kneeling, Jesus prayed, "Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done." (And to strengthen him an angel from heaven appeared to him. He was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground). Luke 22:41-44*

Our Stewardship began when we were baptized into the life and death of Christ. United with Christ, we are called to be prudent stewards of all that we have and are. We are called to imitate Jesus and to respond generously and always with love.

In this 15th century Lectionary painting we see Zacchaeus surrender his will and place himself in God's Hands. This week, like Zacchaeus we will surrender our will and say "Yes!" to God. Our intention is to desire only what is pleasing and acceptable to God.

I give you thanks, O Lord. When I grow weary and struggle I will recall your wondrous deeds, your signs, and your promises. May I always rejoice in your love and mercy. Blessed be the Lord, our God, from everlasting to everlasting.

"Into your hands I commend my spirit." Luke 23:46



Week 3 Day 1  
Yes



Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.  
Luke 23:46

The angel Gabriel said to Mary, “Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” Luke 1:31-33, 38

What was the result of Mary’s “Yes?” How did Mary place her life in God’s Hands and use her Time, Talent and Treasure to serve God and live out God’s Will?

Why is surrendering one’s will an act of love? How does it affect relationships?

Each day this week surrender 15 minutes of your Time to God.

Week 3 Day 2  
Yes



Father, into your hands I commend my spirit.  
Luke 23:46

There was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout... It had been revealed to him by the holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: “Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.” Luke 2:25-32

How did Simeon place himself in God’s Hands? What was the result of Simeon’s “Yes?” What do you think Mary and Joseph talked about on the way home that day?

Have you ever gone out of your way to seek God? What happened? Does Jesus want you to hold Him?

Commend your spirit to God and reflect on the times God’s Presence has been revealed to you through the use of your Time, Talent, and Treasure.