

Kingdom
Stewardship

A Steward's Prayer
and
Reflection Journal

The Gospel of Matthew

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

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GOD'S GIFTS *for* GOD'S PEOPLE
time, talent and treasure





Stewardship

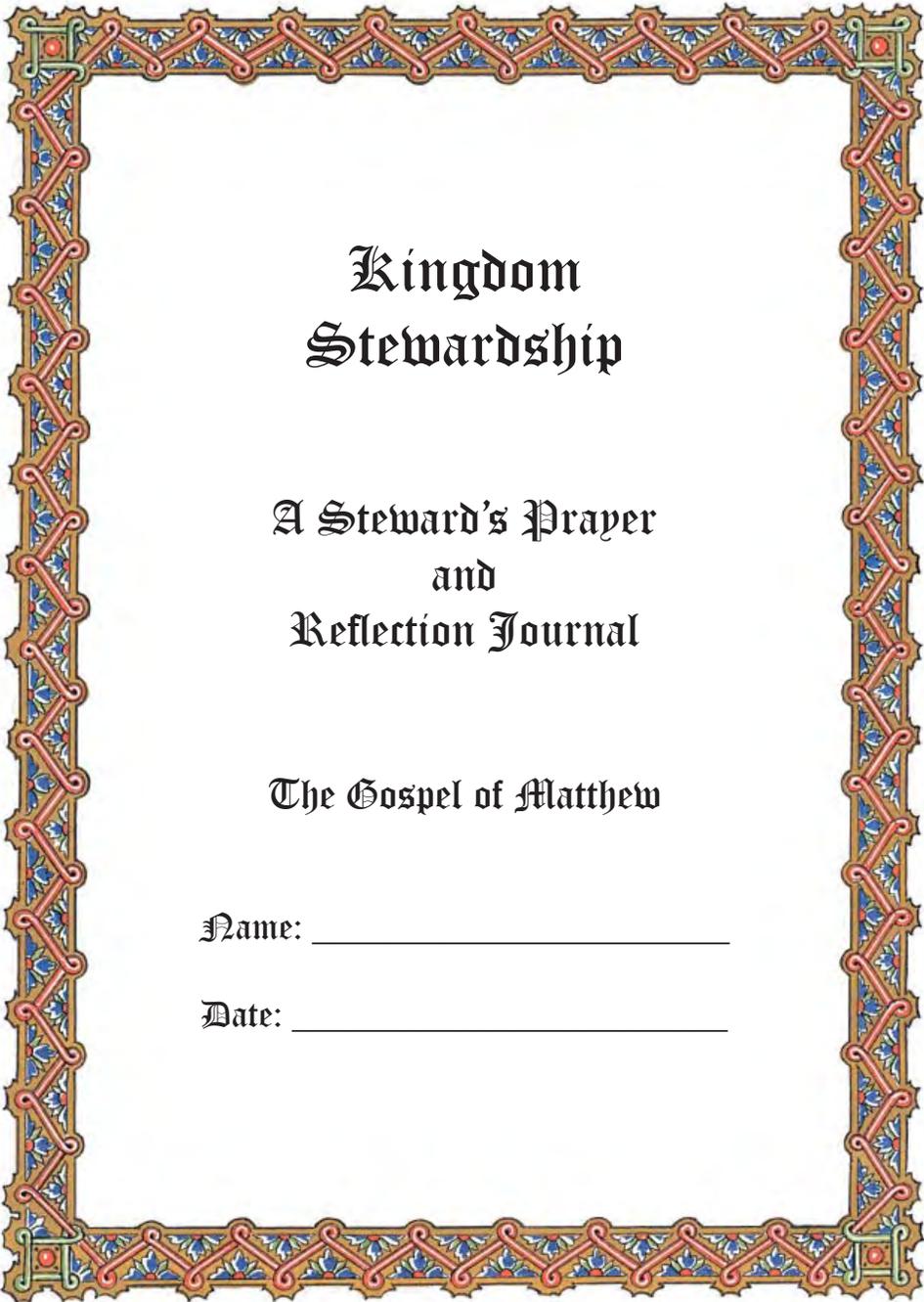
Time

Talent

Treasure

Blessing

Commitment



Kingdom Stewardship

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and
Reflection Journal

The Gospel of Matthew

Name: _____

Date: _____

A Steward's 30 Day Prayer Journal

This prayer journal is a free gift. Your Parish has chosen to distribute this to you either during a Stewardship presentation at your church or through the mail.

This Prayer Journal was created specifically 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! Stewardship is the sincere profound response we make when God touches our lives. It is the response we make 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

Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on all ages will call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him. He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Luke 1:47-55

The Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me;
Body of Christ, save me;
Blood of Christ, inebriate me;
Water from the side of Christ, wash me;
Passion of Christ, strengthen me;
O good Jesus hear me;
Within your wounds hide me;
separated from you, let me never be;
From the evil one protect me;
At the hour of my death, call me;
And close to you bid me;
That with your saints,
I may be praising you forever and ever. Amen.

Anonymous



Prayer For The Gifts Of The Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, Divine Counselor, I adore You as my true God, with God the Father and God the Son. I adore You and unite myself to the adoration You receive from the angels and saints. I give You my heart and I offer my ardent thanksgiving for all the grace which You never cease to bestow on me.

O Giver of all supernatural gifts, who filled the soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with such immense favors, I beg You to visit me with Your grace and Your love and to grant me the gift of holy fear, so that it may act on me as a check to prevent me from falling back into my past sins, for which I beg pardon.

Grant me the gift of piety, so that I may serve You for the future with increased fervor, follow with more promptness Your holy inspirations, and observe your divine precepts with greater fidelity.

Grant me the gift of knowledge, so that I may know the things of God and, enlightened by Your holy teaching, may walk, without deviation, in the path of eternal salvation.

Grant me the gift of fortitude, so that I may overcome courageously all the assaults of the devil, and all the dangers of this world which threaten the salvation of my soul.

Grant me the gift of counsel, so that I may choose what is more conducive to my spiritual advancement and may discover the wiles and snares of the tempter.

Grant me the gift of understanding, so that I may apprehend the divine mysteries and by contemplation of heavenly things detach my thoughts and affections from the vain things of this miserable world.

Grant me the gift of wisdom, so that I may rightly direct all my actions, referring them to God as my last end; so that, having loved Him and served Him in this life, I may have the happiness of possessing Him eternally in the next. Amen.

St. Alphonsus Liguori (1696 – 1787 AD)



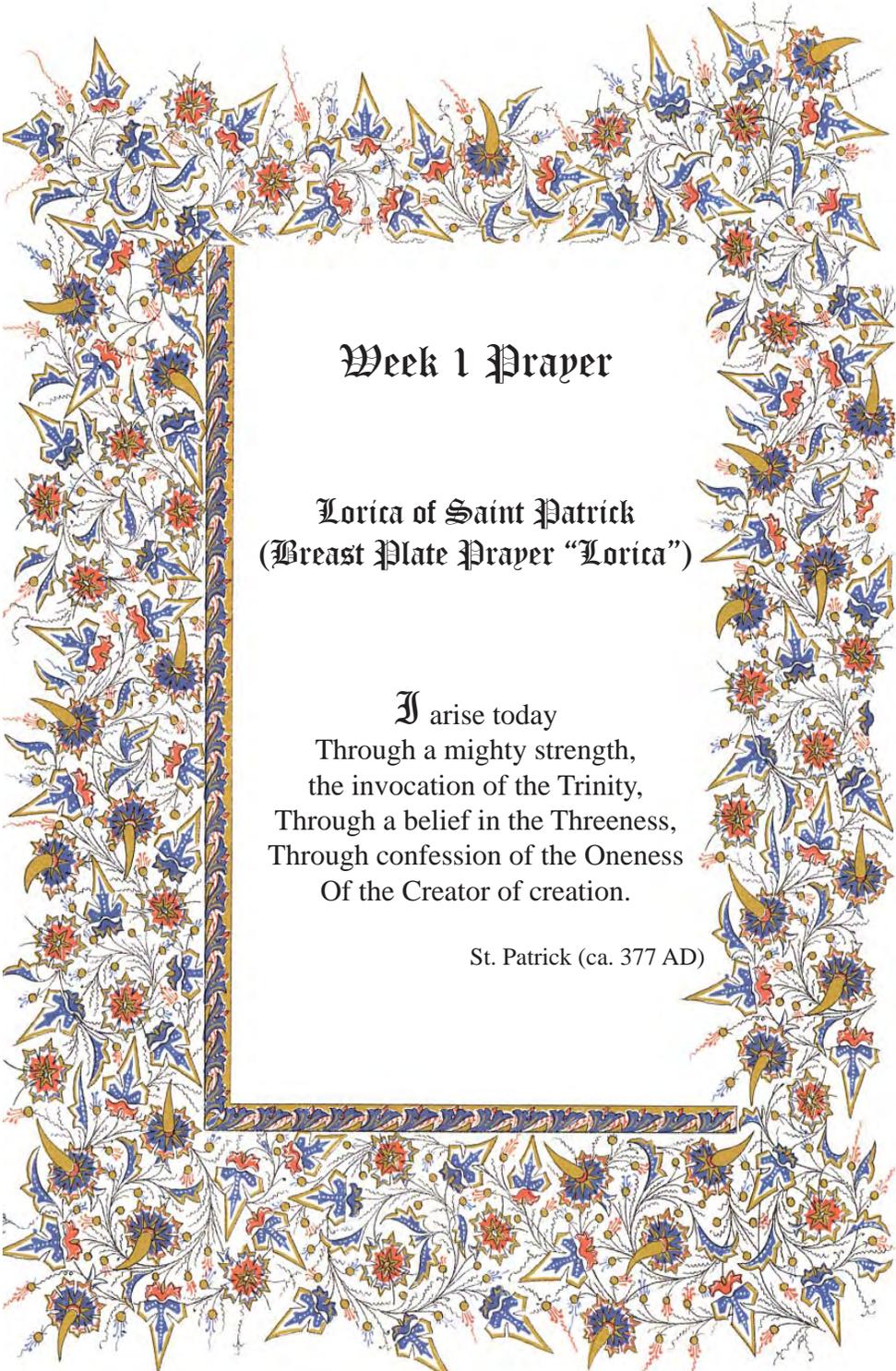
How to use this Stewardship Journal

This prayer journal was designed for you. Please include it as part of your prayer time. Each day set aside a few minutes to read and reflect on the prayers, scriptures and questions. This journal is a small step along the way of stewardship which is a life-long journey of spiritual development and conversion which strives for the perfection of the Children of God.

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 treasures. May God guard and protect you, your family, and your community. May each page bring you closer to God and those you love.

The Kingdom of God is at hand. Reach out, grasp it, and pass it on.





Week 1 Prayer

Lorica of Saint Patrick
(Breast Plate Prayer “Lorica”)

I arise today
Through a mighty strength,
the invocation of the Trinity,
Through a belief in the Threeness,
Through confession of the Oneness
Of the Creator of creation.

St. Patrick (ca. 377 AD)

Lorica of Saint Patrick
(Breast Plate Prayer “Lorica”)
(Continued)

Christ shield me today
Against poison, against burning,
Against drowning, against wounding,
So that reward may come to me in abundance.

Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,
Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of every man who speaks of me,
Christ in the eye that sees me,
Christ in the ear that hears me.

I arise today
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through a belief in the Threeness,
Through a confession of the Oneness
Of the Creator of creation.

St. Patrick (ca. 377 AD)



**Lorica of Saint Patrick
(Breast Plate Prayer “Lorica”)
(Continued)**

I arise today
Through God’s strength to pilot me;
God’s might to uphold me,
God’s wisdom to guide me,
God’s eye to look before me,
God’s ear to hear me,
God’s word to speak for me,
God’s hand to guard me,
God’s way to lie before me,
God’s shield to protect me,
God’s hosts to save me,

From snares of the devil,
From temptations of vices,
From every one who desires me ill,
Afar and anear,
Alone or in a multitude.

I summon today all these powers between me and evil,
Against every cruel merciless power that opposes my body and soul,
Against incantations of false prophets,
Against black laws of pagandom,
Against false laws of heretics,
Against craft of idolatry,
Against spells of women and smiths and wizards,
Against every knowledge that corrupts man’s body and soul.

(Continued)



Week 1 Reflection

We are created in the Image of God and were chosen to live here and now in God’s Kingdom. Because we are created in the Image of God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) we are a “Communion of self-giving love.” We are Stewards of this love and God’s Holy Kingdom.

This week we reflect on the goodness of God, in ourselves, in others, and in the world around us. We ponder and recognize God’s great love and our many blessings. We seek ways to generously return the wealth we have received.

Holy Spirit fill me with wisdom. Grant me understanding and courage as I commit my time to prayer and seek ways to nourish and share my talents and many treasures. Help me be a good Steward.



Week 1 Day 1
I am Good

God created man in his image; in the divine image he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them. God looked at everything he had made and He found it very good.

Genesis 1:27, 31

The angel of the Lord appeared in a dream and said to Joseph: “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means “God is with us.”

Matthew 1:20-23

What does it mean to be made in the image of God?

What do you like most about Mary’s and Joseph’s stewardship? How are you like them?

*Emmanuel means “God is with us.”
I will act like I believe God is truly with me.*

Lorica of Saint Patrick
(Breast Plate Prayer “Lorica”)

I arise today
Through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity,
Through a belief in the Threeness,
Through confession of the Oneness
Of the Creator of creation.

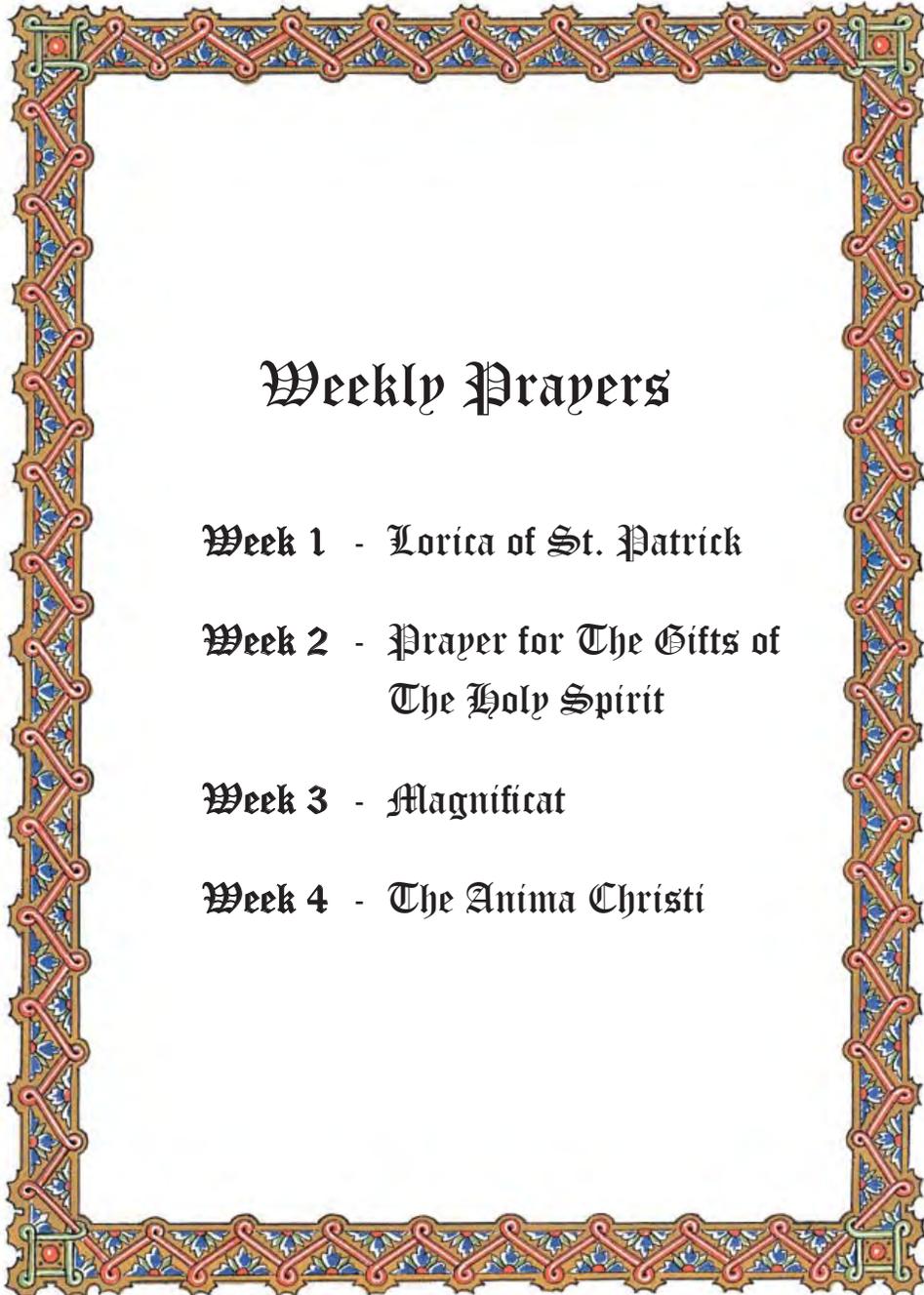
I arise today
Through the strength of Christ’s birth and His baptism,
Through the strength of His crucifixion and His burial,
Through the strength of His resurrection and His ascension,
Through the strength of His descent for the judgment of doom.

I arise today
Through the strength of the love of cherubim,
In obedience of angels,
In service of archangels,
In the hope of resurrection to meet with reward,
In the prayers of patriarchs,
In preachings of the apostles,
In faiths of confessors,
In innocence of virgins,
In deeds of righteous men.

I arise today
Through the strength of heaven;
Light of the sun,
Splendor of fire,
Speed of lightning,
Swiftness of the wind,
Depth of the sea,
Stability of the earth,
Firmness of the rock.

(Continued)





Weekly Prayers

Week 1 - Lorica of St. Patrick

Week 2 - Prayer for The Gifts of
The Holy Spirit

Week 3 - Magnificat

Week 4 - The Anima Christi

Week 1 Day 2 I am Blessed

Jesus said, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

Matthew 25:34

Jesus said, "Concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not the God of the dead but of the living."

Matthew 22:31-32

Do you believe you will inherit the Kingdom? What will you do with your inheritance?

How were you blessed today?

Why do you think Jesus called God the God of the Living?

I will smile because I am blessed!



Week 1 Day 3
I Love

The earth is the Lord's and all it holds, the world and those who live there. Who may go up the mountain of the Lord? Who can stand in his holy place? The clean of hand and pure of heart... They will receive blessings from the Lord, and justice from their saving God. Such are the people that love the Lord, that seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Psalm 24:1,3,4-6

Jesus said: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

Matthew 22:37-40

How do people know you love them? How do you show your love?

What one word best describes you as a lover?

How well do you love yourself? What can you do to treat yourself better?

I will show others I love them.

My Time, Talent, and Treasure

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

What gifts do you have that help you "give yourself away?" What gifts do others have that inspire you to "give your self away?"

What is your favorite talent? Why do you think God gave you this talent? How does using your talents help others "give themselves away?"

Do your treasures give you a sense of being "gifted by God?" Why? Why not?

Do you need to change the ways you use your time, talent, and treasure to better serve God? Do you have someone who can help you do this? If so, who?



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”

Time is a gift. How do you use your time for God? How do you participate in the life of your Church?

Talents are gifts. List three of your talents. How do you return your talents to God and the Church?

Treasures are gifts. List three of your greatest treasures. How could you more effectively return your treasures with increase to God?



Week 1 Day 4 I Ponder

Give thanks to the Lord who is good, whose love endures forever! They rejoiced that the sea grew calm, that God brought them to the harbor they longed for. God blessed them... Whoever is wise will take note of these things, will ponder the merciful deeds of the Lord.

Psalm 107: 1, 30, 38, 43

Jesus got into a boat and his disciples followed him. Suddenly a violent storm came up on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by waves; but he was asleep. They came and woke him, saying, “Lord, save us we are perishing!” He said to them, “Why are you terrified, O you of little faith?” Then he got up, rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was great calm. The men were amazed and said, “What sort of man is this, whom even the winds and the sea obey?”

Matthew 8:23-27

How often do you think about God? Write down one word that best describes God.

Have you ever felt “tossed about” by life. Has God ever rescued you? How?

*I will seek the face of God.
I will think about God's goodness.*



Week 1 Day 5
I am Wealthy

It is the Lord's blessing that brings wealth, and no effort can substitute for it.

Proverbs 10:22

The centurion said to Jesus, "Lord, I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof; only say the word and my servant will be healed."

Matthew 8:8

How does God provide for you?

Does faith bring wealth? How? Why? Why not?

Do you think having wealth increases or decreases one's faith in God? Why? Why not?

I will fast for my faith community's financial needs.

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."

Who are the "needy" in your life? How can you help them? Have you ever been in need? Who helped you?

How have you used your gifts to strengthen your faith or the faith of others?

Good stewards share their treasures to help alleviate their own suffering and the suffering of others. Why do you think this is important?

Week 4 Day 7
I am Committed

Behold, I am coming soon. I bring with me the recompense I will give to each according to his deeds. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. Blessed are they who wash their robes so as to have the right to the tree of life and enter the city through its gates.

Revelation 22:12-15

Jesus said to his Disciples, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

How do you help others enter the Eternal Gates?
What resources are available in your faith community to assist you?

Jesus committed His Divinity, His Humanity, His Heart, His Spirit, and His Body to establish an eternal Covenant with you. Today, what commitment will you make in return?

I will imitate Jesus.

Week 1 Day 6
I am Chosen

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens, as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him.

Ephesians 1:3-5

This is how you are to pray: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and do not subject us to the final test, but deliver us from the evil one. If you forgive others their transgressions, your heavenly Father will forgive you. But if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your transgressions.

Matthew 6:9-15

How has God acted as a Father in your life?

What does it feel like to be chosen? Forgiven? To forgive?

I will pray the “Our Father.”



Week 1 Day 7
I am Generous

The just are generous in giving. For those blessed by the Lord will possess the land.

Psalm 37:21-22

Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you.

Matthew 6:1-4

Are you generous? What do you like to give away?

Have you ever helped someone in need and forgot that you helped them? What does that say about you?

I will give something away.

Week 4 Day 6
I am Human

Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Matthew 5:4

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Matthew 27:46

Who has comforted you during your times of mourning? Why do you think we need to be comforted? How do you feel when you need to be consoled and are not?

Have you ever felt forsaken? What did you do?

Why do you think God blesses those who mourn? How do you use your gifts to bless those who mourn?

I will pray for those who feel forsaken.

Week 4 Day 5
I am Saved

Christ ransomed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who hangs on a tree,” that the blessing of Abraham might be extended to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Galatians 3:13-14

The chief priests with the scribes and elders mocked him and said, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. So he is the king of Israel! Let him come down from the cross now, and we will believe in him.”

Matthew 27:41-42

Have you experienced a time when someone did not believe in you? What happened to them?

What gifts do you have that help others believe in Jesus? Do you care whether or not others believe in Jesus?

I will sacrifice something for someone in my community that needs to be saved.

Week 1 Stewardship
My Identity – My Calling

“We are a communion of self giving love.”

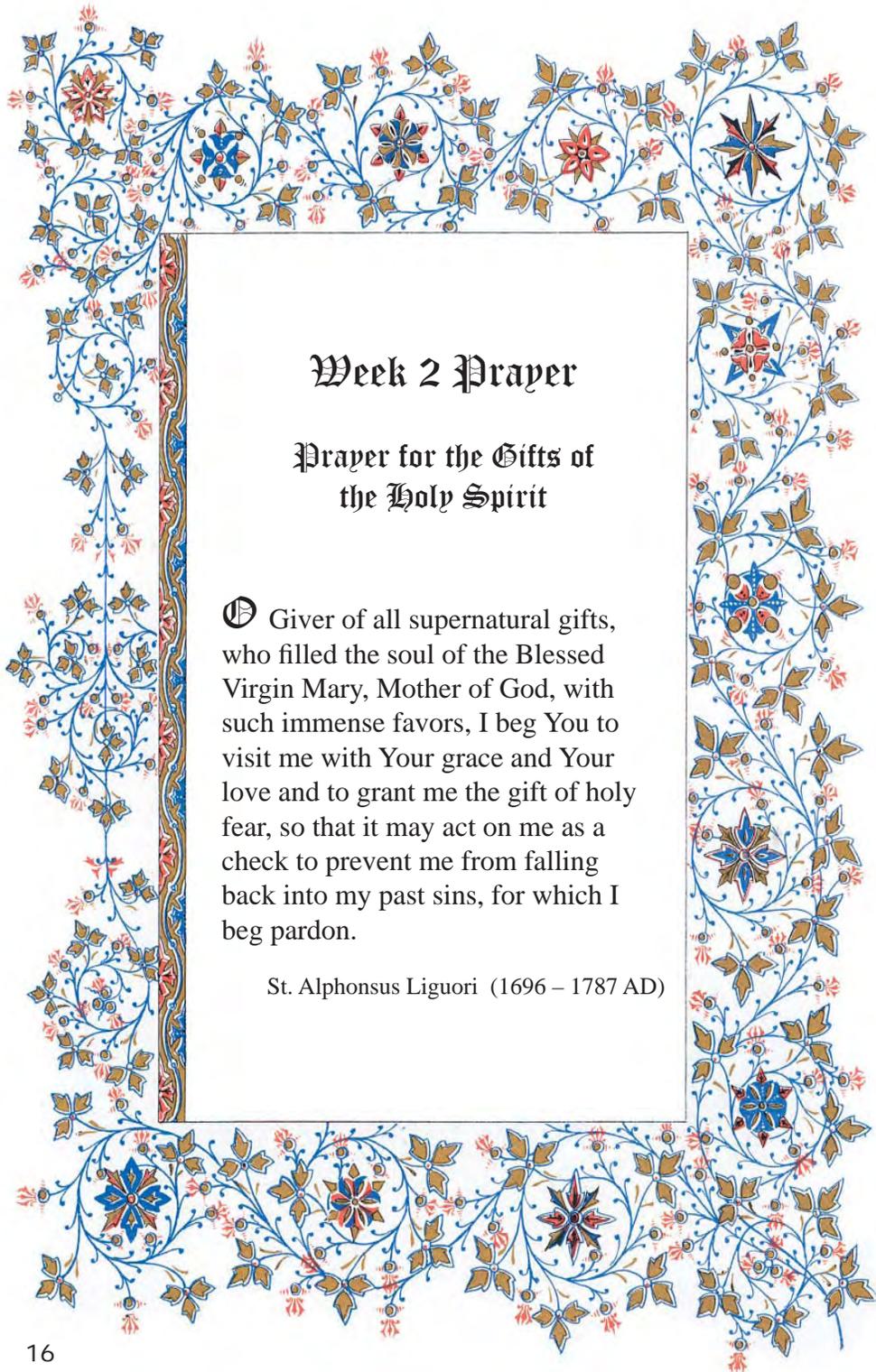
What do you and God have in common? How are you like God?

Stewardship is a response to God’s generous love. How do you respond to those who love you? Would you like to change the way you respond? If so, how and why?

How would you define a “Good Steward?”

Describe one moment this past week when you sensed that you were created in God’s image.





Week 2 Prayer

Prayer for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

☉ Giver of all supernatural gifts, who filled the soul of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with such immense favors, I beg You to visit me with Your grace and Your love and to grant me the gift of holy fear, so that it may act on me as a check to prevent me from falling back into my past sins, for which I beg pardon.

St. Alphonsus Liguori (1696 – 1787 AD)

Week 4 Day 4 I am Compassionate

Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Matthew 5:11-12

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how many times I yearned to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her young under her wings, but you were unwilling!

Matthew 23:37-38

Are there prophets in your home or faith community?
Who are they? What do they say?

Does your family or faith community take shelter
under Jesus? Is there someone left out that you need
to include? Who is responsible for reaching out to
them?

I will rejoice and let God gather me under His wings.





Week 4 Day 3
I Sing

The Lord is my strength and my shield, in whom my heart trusted and found help. So my heart rejoices; with my song I praise my God. Lord, you are the strength of your people, the saving refuge of your anointed king. Save your people, bless your inheritance; feed and sustain them forever!

Psalm 28:7-9

Jesus took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, from now on I shall not drink this fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it with you new in the kingdom of my Father." Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Matthew 26:27-30

Does music bless your life? How? What makes you sing? Who do you like to sing with?

Jesus and the Disciples sang before they went out to the Garden. Is there someone who is facing trying times that you would like to pray or sing with?

I will sing my favorite song!

Week 2 Reflection

Jesus Christ is our best model of stewardship and is God's greatest Gift to us. Created in the Image of God, we are created to be the Body of Christ in the world. As the Body of Christ, we are a communion of the Gifted! We are a storehouse of God's gifts and our calling is to cultivate the life and gifts of each other.

This week we reflect on how well we imitate Jesus. We will gratefully, generously, and unselfishly share with one another our gifts, our talents, our treasures, and our very selves.

Blessed with humility, perseverance, courage, and wisdom we seek ways to respond with love! We seek ways to care for one another, ourselves, and the world. This week we will let our lights shine!

Holy Spirit, bless me as I pray. Inspire me as I seek ways to respond to you with gratitude. Open my eyes that I may recognize my gifts and treasures! Help me value my wealth and share it wisely.

Week 2 Day 1
I Persevere

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:3

Many false prophets will arise and deceive many; and because of the increase of evildoing, the love of many will grow cold.

Matthew 24:11-13

Have you ever known anyone whose love has grown cold? How did that happen? How has that affected their life?

What advice would you give to someone who is struggling through life and wants to quit?

I will encourage others.

Week 4 Day 2
I am Righteous

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.

Matthew 5:6

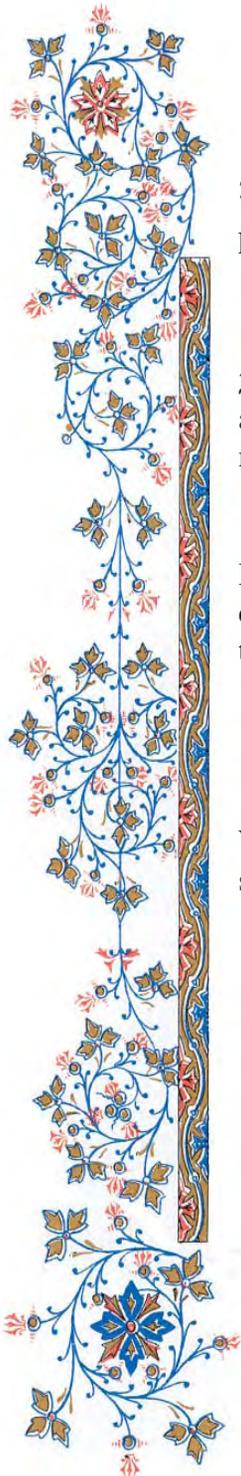
While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, "Take and eat; this is my body."

Matthew 26:26

What does it mean to be righteous? Do you think you are righteous?

What does Jesus offer you or your faith community that you need to "take?" What gifts do you offer others that need to be "taken?"

I will do what I need to do to be free from guilt and sin.



Week 4 Day 1
I am Vigilant

Ground that has absorbed the rain falling upon it repeatedly and brings forth crops useful to those for whom it is cultivated receives a blessing from God.

Hebrews 6:7

Jesus said: “Who, then, is the faithful and prudent servant, whom the master has put in charge of his household to distribute to them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master on his arrival finds doing so. Amen, I say to you, he will put him in charge of all his property.”

Matthew 24:45-47

Is there an area in your life that requires vigilance, cultivation, or prudence? How can you positively affect this area.

List two ways you can more wisely and generously use your finances.

*I will donate my time, talent, or
treasure to a good cause.*

Week 2 Day 2
I am Humble

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Matthew 5:9

The disciples approached Jesus and said, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said, “Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me.”

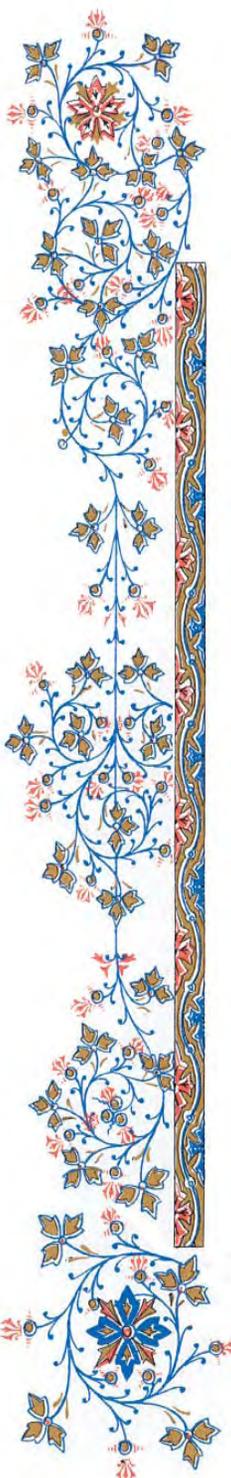
Matthew 18:1-5

Who is or was your favorite child? Why? What does it feel like to be loved by a child? How is being humble childlike?

How does being like a child bring peace?

I will seek peace in all I do.





Week 2 Day 3
I Shine

As your reward for heeding these decrees and observing them carefully, the Lord, your God, will keep with you the merciful covenant which he promised on oath to your fathers... You will be blessed above all peoples.

Deuteronomy 7:12, 15

You are the light of the world. A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lamp stand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

Matthew 5: 14-16

Have you ever made a covenant with anyone? Did you keep it? How do covenants symbolize life in the Kingdom?

How do you let your light shine?

I will no longer avoid someone or something that I have been avoiding. I will offer it up for the glory of God.

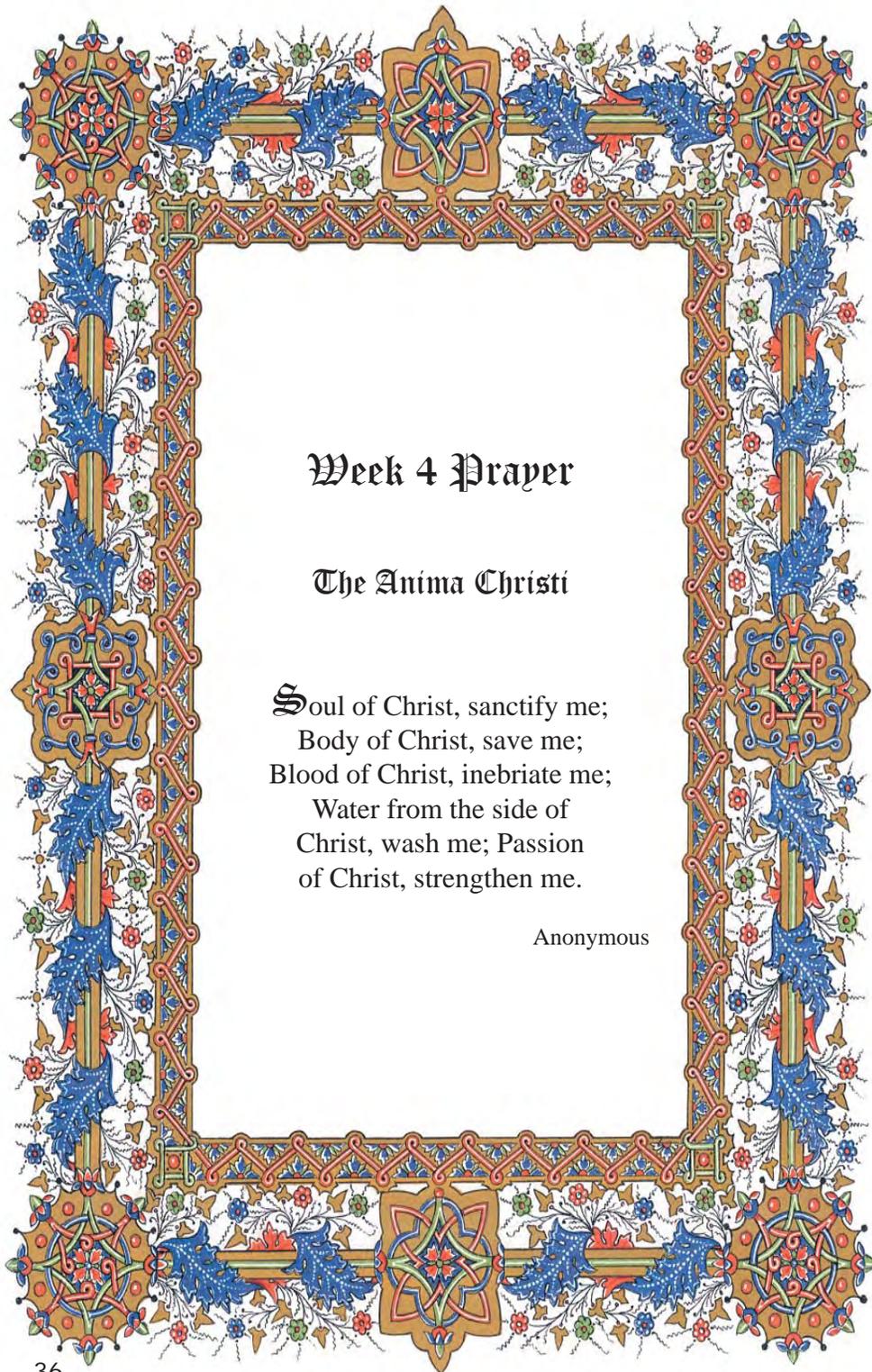
Week 4 Reflection

The Kingdom Steward is above all human! To be human is to be in relationship with God and others. This relationship calls us in “equity and justice,” to share our gifts with the needy. Through this sharing we also fulfill our need to give as those created in the Image of God.

This week we reflect on the cost of Stewardship. As Good Stewards we rejoice in the Goodness of God and are righteous, vigilant, committed, and compassionate. We steadfastly support, protect, share, and promote our faith. In the midst of our humanness and brokenness our lives continue to proclaim the Good News! We work for justice and peace, because without justice and peace chaos would reign. We the Body of Christ live always for the Reign of God.

Holy Spirit heal my broken heart and my life. Grant me courage and strength. Help me consume rightly and joyfully all that God gives me. May God grant me mercy and peace. Jesus, help me and show me how to live out your Gospel message.





Week 4 Prayer

The Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me;
Body of Christ, save me;
Blood of Christ, inebriate me;
Water from the side of
Christ, wash me; Passion
of Christ, strengthen me.

Anonymous

Week 2 Day 4 I am Courageous

Blessed is the man who perseveres in temptation, for when he has been proved he will receive the crown of life that he promised to those who love him.

James 1:12

Jesus advanced a little and fell prostrate in prayer, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet, not as I will, but as you will."

Matthew 26:39

Did you ever ask God to remove a temptation that was not removed? How did that test your faith?

How do you resist temptation? How do you help others resist temptations? How do you summon up courage when you need it?

I will skip a meal and offer it up for strength against temptations.



Week 2 Day 5
I Pray

Do not return evil for evil, or insult for insult; but, on the contrary, a blessing, because to this you were called, that you might inherit a blessing.

1 Peter 3:9

Jesus explained: “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father, for he makes his sun rise on the bad and the good, and causes rain to fall on the just and the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brothers only, what is unusual about that? Do not the pagans do the same? So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Matthew 5:43-48

Why do you think Jesus asks us to love our enemies and to pray for them? How does that affect our community? How does this promote the Kingdom?

I will be perfect. I will pray for an enemy.

Week 3 Stewardship
My Identity – My Calling

“ If we are the children of God (identity) it is of our nature, it is part of our purpose to give ourselves away.”

How did you give yourself away this week? What was the cost?

Why do you think we so easily “give ourselves away” when we are in love?

How do you think God expresses gratitude?

Why do you think gratitude is a characteristic of a Good Steward?



Week 3 Day 7
I Serve

May those who love you prosper! May peace be within your ramparts, prosperity within your towers. For family and friends I say, "May peace be yours. For the house of the Lord, our God, I pray, May blessings be yours."

Psalm 122: 6-9

Jesus said to the Disciples: "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and the great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you shall be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave. Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:25-28

How do you best serve your family and faith community? Who serves you?

You are called to use your gifts and serve your faith community. What do you think will happen if you don't answer the call?

I will serve someone today.

Week 2 Day 6
I Care

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house, and try me in this, says the Lord of hosts: Shall I not open for you the floodgates of heaven, to pour down blessing upon you without measure? For your sake I will forbid the locust to destroy your crops; and the vine in the field will not be barren, says the Lord of hosts. Then all nations will call you blessed, for you will be a delightful land, says the Lord of hosts.

Malachi 3:10-12

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.

Matthew 6:19-21

What is your most important treasure? Do you store or share it? How do you care for your treasures?

Do you understand why God asks us to bring our tithes into the storehouse? How can this help build up the Kingdom?

I will do what I need to do to be healthy. I will take care of myself and enjoy the world around me.



Week 2 Day 7
I am Wise

May you be blessed by the Lord, who made heaven and earth. The heavens belong to the Lord, but the earth is given to us.

Psalm 115:15-16

Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come; share your master's joy.

Matthew 25: 21

The Lord gave you the earth. How can you thank God for this great gift? How wisely do you use this earth?

The sun is a small part of the universe yet it affects all our lives. How does it affect your life today?

How do you respond when God entrusts you with responsibilities great or small?

I will pray for wisdom.

Week 3 Day 6
I Belong

Know that the Lord is God, our maker to whom we belong, whose people we are, God's well-tended flock. Enter the temple gates with praise, its courts with thanksgiving. Give thanks to God, bless his name; good indeed is the Lord, whose love endures forever, whose faithfulness lasts through every age.

Psalm 100:3-5

Jesus explained, "The kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. When it is full they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets."

Matthew 13:47-48

What does it feel like to belong to God's flock? What does it feel like to belong to your family, group of friends, or faith community? What are the "signs" that you "belong"?

As Stewards of the Kingdom how are we to tend God's flock? What is the greatest need you see in your "flock" today?

I will act like I belong to the Body of Christ!

Week 3 Day 5
I am Meek

Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land.

Matthew 5:5

Jesus said, “All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him. ‘Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your selves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.’”

Matthew 11:27-30

What have you inherited? (financial, property, beliefs, characteristics, etc.) How do you care for your inheritance?

Who in your life gives you rest and makes your burdens light? Does being meek make it easier or harder to receive help? Why? Why not?

How do others lift your burdens?

I will lend someone a helping hand.

Week 2 Stewardship
My Identity – My Calling

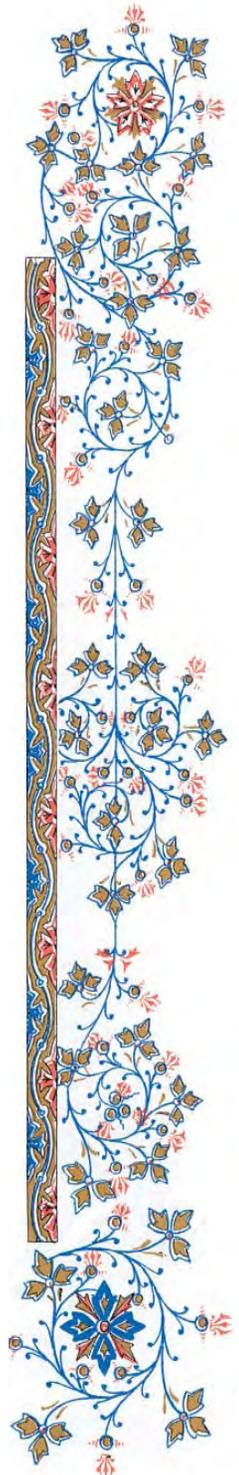
“As the Body of Christ, we are a communion of the Gifted and a storehouse of God’s gifts. Our calling is to cultivate the life and gifts of each member.”

What gifts did you use this week that brought you joy?

How can your faith community help you cultivate your gifts?

What would you say to those who say they don’t have any gifts? Have you ever known a person who truly doesn’t have any gifts?

What gifts do you have and use that others are grateful for? Why do they think your gifts are important?





Week 3 Prayer

Magnificat

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on all ages will call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him. He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.

Luke 1:47-55

Week 3 Day 4 I am Innocent

Blessed are the clean of heart for they will see God.

Matthew 5:8

Jesus said: "I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to the childlike."

Matthew 11:25

Do you think innocence is a gift or a hindrance in today's world? Why? Why not?

How do you guard your faith and pass it on?

I will pray for a child whose innocence is lost.





Week 3 Day 3
I am Merciful

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

Matthew 5:7

Jesus, saw a man named Matthew sitting at the customs post. He said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him. While he was at table in his house, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat with Jesus and his disciples. The Pharisees saw this and said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" He heard this and said, "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. Go and learn the meaning of the words, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' I did not come to call the righteous but sinners."

Matthew 9:9-13

Jesus calls each of us. What do you think Jesus wants you to do? How do you "sense" Jesus's call?

How does mercy promote the Kingdom? Who needs your mercy?

I will be merciful with myself.

Week 3 Reflection



Like Mary, the first and greatest Steward of the Word, our Spirits rejoice in God our Savior! In humility and innocence we accept and recognize that we belong to the Body of Christ. As the Body of Christ our mission is to return our gifts to God with increase. The most effective means of returning our gifts to God is through participation in the life of the Church. As we participate in the life of the Church it is important to understand that Stewardship is a life-long journey of spiritual development and conversion as we strive for perfection as Sons and Daughters of God.

This week we reflect on gratitude and the mercy of God. We seek ways to serve and to return to God what God has given to us.

Holy Spirit reveal my gifts. Show me ways to encourage and promote the use of my gifts. Help me discover and nourish the gifts present in myself and in others. Fill me with a passion for the Gospel message! Help me always proclaim the Gospel message not in word only but with my life.

Week 3 Day 1
I am Grateful

You visit the earth and water it, make it abundantly fertile. God's stream is filled with water; with it you supply the world with grain. Thus do you prepare the earth and drench plowed furrows and level their ridges! With showers you keep the ground soft, blessing its young sprouts.

Psalm 65:10-11

The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the "birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches."

Matthew 13:31-32

How has God supplied your needs? How do you show your gratitude?

How does the mustard seed symbolize stewardship?

I will find out where the nearest Homeless Shelter is.

Week 3 Day 2
I Rejoice

Blessed be the Lord day by day, God, our salvation, who carries us. Our God is a God who saves; escape from death is in the Lord God's hands.

Psalm 68:20-21

The disciples asked Jesus: "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible."

Matthew 19: 25-26

What has God done in your life that causes you to rejoice?

Why do you think God wants to share eternity with you?

I will encourage someone to believe in my God who does the impossible.

