

**September 8, 2013**  
**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN**  
**ORDINARY TIME**

*Who can comprehend the Lord's ways or conceive what the Lord intends? True wisdom leads us to acknowledge our limitations and our idols of materialism as we seek to follow the Lord without reservation. True discipleship calls us to forgive those who have wronged us. May we gain the wisdom of heart to discern more fully our call to take up the cross of Jesus.*

**WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL LIFE**

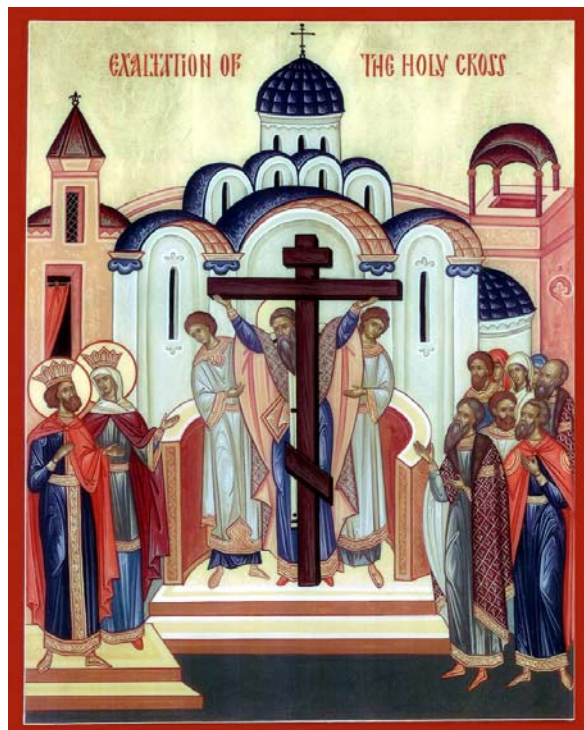
September 9	10:30 AM	
<b>Laura &amp; Bob Almada</b>		<b>SI</b>
September 11	6:00 PM	
<b>Fabiola Maeda</b>		<b>RIP</b>
September 12	10:30 AM	
<b>Lizette Camacho</b>		<b>SI</b>
September 13	10:30 AM	
<b>Nancy Palmieri</b>		<b>RIP</b>
September 14	5:00 PM	
<b>Pro Populo</b>		
September 15	8:30 AM	
<b>Wesley &amp; Helen Brown</b>		<b>RIP</b>
	10:30 AM	
<b>Michelle Nguyen</b>		<b>RIP</b>
	12:30 PM	
<b>Giovanni Salvador Soto</b>		<b>SI</b>

**BAPTISMAL CLASSES**

The next baptismal classes will be on Saturday September 21 & Saturday September 28 at 9:30 to 11:30 AM in the Stafford

**Daily Worship**  
**Week of September 8, 2013**

<b>Monday, September 9</b>	Colossians 1:24-2:3 Psalm 62:6-7, 9 Luke 6:6-11
<b>Tuesday, September 10</b>	Colossians 2:6-15 Psalm 145:1-2, 8-11 Luke 6:12-19
<b>Wednesday, September 11</b>	Colossians 3:1-11 Psalm 145:2-3, 10-13 Luke 6:20-26
<b>Thursday, September 12</b> The Most Holy Name of Mary	Colossians 3:12-17 Psalm 150:1-6 Luke 6:27-38
<b>Friday, September 13</b>	1 Timothy 1:1-2, 12-14 Psalm 16:1-2, 5, 7-8, 11 Luke 6:39-42
<b>Saturday, September 14</b> The Exaltation Of The Holy Cross	Numbers 21:4b-9 Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38 Philippians 2:6-11 John 3:13-17
<b>Sunday, September 15</b> Twenty-fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time	Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14 Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-32



**EVENING PRAYER**  
**and**  
**EXPOSITION OF THE**  
**BLESSED SACRAMENT**



**Tuesday eves.**  
**6:30 -7:30 PM**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continues until Wednesday evening and ends with Benediction at 5:45 PM, and Mass at 6 PM. **We are in need of Adorers at 9:30 AM. If you can help, please call Karen at 671-1544.**

**HEALING PRAYER**  
**MINISTRY**  
**Wednesday after Mass**  
**6:45-8:30 PM**

"Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul. For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in kindness to all who call upon you. Hearken, O Lord, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my pleading. In the day of my distress I will call upon you, for you will answer me." Ps. 86:4-7.

**CHARISMATIC PRAYER**  
**GROUP**

Monday, Sept.9 in the Stafford Rm.  
 6.30-8.30 PM.

"I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall be ever in my mouth.

Let my soul glory in the Lord, the lowly will hear and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me, let us together extol his name."

Ps. 34:2-3.

## ENGAGED CHURCH—IN MY PARISH MY SPIRITUAL NEEDS ARE MET.



Catechism of the Catholic Church 2414 It is a sin against the dignity of persons and their fundamental rights to reduce them by violence to their productive value or to a source of profit.

**Are you a baptized Christian who wants to learn more about the Catholic faith?  
Or are you a Catholic adult who has never been Confirmed?  
Or maybe you've never been baptized and would like to understand more about the Catholic faith?**

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then please join us on Thursday, Sept. 5, from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the School Library for our opening session of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). This process is available to all adults seeking a deepening knowledge of the faith and a strengthening conversion of heart to follow Jesus Christ as The Way, The Truth, and The Life. Please contact Gina DePalma at [ginad@assumption.org](mailto:ginad@assumption.org) or 733-1380 x22 with any questions. Thank you!

### ANNOUNCING A PARISH CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Starting in the fall the parish will be having a children's choir for grades 2-8. The students will be under the direction of Mrs. Roland and Miss Carrier. The students will be providing the Music for the September 21st 4 PM Mass, Christmas 4 PM Eve Mass, Easter 8:30 AM Sunday Mass, and Memorial Day Weekend 10:30 AM Mass. If you are interested, the practice will be on 8/28, 9/4, 9/18 to sing for the Mass of September 21; 11/27, 12/4, 12/18 to sing for Christmas Eve Mass; 3/26, 4/9, 4/16 to sing for Easter Mass; 4/30, 5/7, 5/21 to sing for Memorial Weekend Mass. All practices are from 6:45-7:45 PM. Please email [roland@school.assumption.org](mailto:roland@school.assumption.org) if you are interested in joining this choir. All students will be required to wear white button down shirts and dark navy blue or black pants or skirts. You may choose to participate in any or all of the masses.

Thank you, Monica Des Jarlais, Principal



### DISTORTED IMAGES OF GOD

This is a 9-week adult Bible study, which begins Tuesday, September 24. Sessions will be held in the Stafford Room at 1 p.m., repeated at 7 p.m. Choose the time best for you. Cost is \$10. To pre-register, and for further information, call Christine at 671-9712.

### SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR RALLY!

Mark your calendars for our Capital Campaign Rally on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm in the Gym. Come and learn about the future of our parish!

### NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING

For information and instruction, contact Kathy St.Hilaire, certified teacher of Natural Family Planning, 671-4836.

### LIFE TEEN AND EDGE KICK OFF

Yet another school year has just begun! High School and Middle School youth group are also getting into gear. Sept 29th at 5 pm, will be our first Youth Mass followed by our Life Teen kick off bbq. High school students and parents are encouraged to come! The first middle school youth group will be Sept 30th from 7-8:30pm, parents are encouraged to attend and start the year off in prayer with their youth and the whole community. Reunite with old friends and be prepared to make new ones. We look forward to seeing you all!

### EL COMIENZO DE LIFE TEEN Y EDGE YA VA A EMPEZAR

¡Sin embargo, otro año escolar acaba de comenzar! También el grupo juvenil para (secundaria y preparatoria) se está preparando para comenzar. El 29 de septiembre a las 5 de la tarde será nuestra primera Misa Juvenil. Después comenzaremos con, Life Teen, nuestro grupo Juvenil para (preparatoria/high school) va a empezar con una barbacoa. Animamos a que los estudiantes y sus padres asistan al primer grupo de Life Teen y Edge. El grupo juvenil para (secundaria/ middle school) empezará el 30 de septiembre de 7-8:30 de la tarde. Reúnase con amigos y prepárese a conocer nuevos. ¡Hasta pronto!

**FAITH  
FORMATION,  
SCHOOL,  
PARISH  
EVENTS**

**ATTENTION  
SCRIP  
SUPPORTERS**

Please note: Scrip will be sold on the **first & third** Sunday of the month after the 8:30 AM Mass and before the 10:30 AM mass.

Empezando el 15 de Septiembre tendremos Scrip en venta después de la misa en Español. Gracias por su apoyo.

**PRAY FOR OUR  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
MILITARY**

*Floyd Carpenter  
Chris Formichella  
Don Veltum  
Capt. Mark Bieda  
Capt. Trevor Corrigan  
Adam Honda  
Jason Woolsey  
Steve Ploog  
Corey McDaniel  
Patrick Kelley  
Patrick L. Blake  
Paul Cleary  
Michael Condit  
Gabriel Feely  
John Hutson  
Gabriel Rodriguez  
Steven Faecke  
Maj. Gregory DeMarco  
Keanu Franco  
Michael Dahl  
Matt Edge  
Kyle Frisbie  
Kurt DeVries  
Garrett A. Burnham*

## **K-12 FAITH FORMATION IMPORTANT DATES:**

There will be a **mandatory** session for Confirmation during the LifeTeen Kickoff on Sunday, Sept. 29, at 6 p.m. All Year One and Year Two Candidates and their parents need to attend this evening to learn the specifics of Confirmation and receive the necessary forms.

The first day of classes for K-5 students will be on Sunday, Sept. 29, from 11:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m. in the School. LifeTeen, our high school youth program, also begins Sunday, Sept. 29, following the resumption of the 5:00 p.m.

Mass with a barbecue in the Gym.

EDGE, our middle school youth program, kicks off on Monday, Sept. 30, at 7:00 p.m. in the Gym for an evening of food, fellowship, and fun!

The first Confirmation class will be on Monday, Oct. 7, from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the School Library.

The First Reconciliation class for all Year Two students receiving the sacrament and their parents will be on Saturday, Oct. 12, from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. in the Church. If you missed the Sept. 7 10:00 AM meeting for parents, please call Kathy or Adriana for registration information.

In addition to these programs, the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults—the process for those seeking to become a fully-initiated Catholic, meets on Thursdays from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the School Library.

If you are a baptized Christian adult interested in learning more about the Catholic faith or a baptized Catholic adult seeking Confirmation then our RCIA process is also the right place for you.

If you have a child 7 or older who has not been baptized our Rite of Christian Initiation for Children process begins on Sunday, Sept. 29. Please contact the Parish Office for details.

You can learn more about our programs through our website. Please contact either Gina DePalma or Adriana Estrada in the Parish office with any questions. Thank you!

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## **FECHAS IMPORTANTES PARA EL PROGRAMA DE FORMACIÓN DE FE DEL K – 12:**

Habrá una sesión obligatoria para la Confirmación durante el arranque de LifeTeen el domingo 29 de septiembre a las 6:00 Todos los candidatos del Año Uno y Año Dos y sus padres necesitan asistir a esta noche para conocer los detalles específicos de la confirmación y recibir los formularios necesarios .

El primer día de clases para los estudiantes de K-5 será el domingo, 29 de septiembre, de 11:30 de la mañana - 12:20 del mediodía en la escuela.

LifeTeen, nuestro programa de jóvenes de escuelas preparatorias, también comienza el domingo, 29 de septiembre después de la reanudación de la Misa de 5:00 de la tarde con una barbacoa en el gimnasio.

EDGE, nuestro programa de jóvenes de secundaria, se inicia el lunes 30 de septiembre, a las 7:00 tarde en el gimnasio de una noche de comida, compañerismo y diversión!

La primera clase de Confirmación será el lunes 7 de octubre, de 7:00-8:30 en la Biblioteca Escolar.

La primera clase de la Primera Reconciliación para todos los estudiantes que están en el Año Dos que van a recibir el sacramento y sus padres será el sábado, 12 de octubre de 10:00 - 11:30 de la mañana en la Iglesia. Si usted no vino a la junta de padres el 7 de septiembre a las 10:00 de la mañana favor de llamar a Kathy o Adriana por la información de registración.

Además de estos programas, tendremos el Rito de Iniciación Cristiana para Adultos, el proceso para aquellos que buscan convertirse en un católico completamente iniciado, se reúne los jueves de 7:00-9:00 de la tarde en la biblioteca de la escuela.

Si usted es un adulto bautizado interesado en aprender más sobre la fe católica o es un adulto católico bautizado buscando confirmación entonces nuestro proceso de RICA es también el lugar adecuado para usted.

Si usted tiene un niño de 7 años o más que no ha sido bautizado el Rito de Iniciación Cristiana para Niños comienza el Domingo, 29 de septiembre Por favor, póngase en contacto con la Oficina Parroquial para más detalles.

Usted puede aprender más acerca de nuestros programas a través de nuestra página web. Por favor, póngase en contacto con Gina DePalma o Adriana Estrada en la oficina parroquial con cualquier pregunta. ¡Gracias!

**ENGAGED CHURCH—IN MY PARISH I HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO WHAT I DO BEST.**

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & LIFE, JUSTICE & PEACE MINISTRY**

**PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Bill Attebery  
Jim Gibson  
Jerilou Jones  
Carlos Muñoz  
Jose Ordoñez  
Denise Plaisier  
Sam Raines  
Belen Saturay  
Jean Wilford  
Richard Wilson  
Tashie Zang

**COMMISSION & COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Faith Formation Commission  
John Getchell  
Parish Life & Social  
Mary & Bill Chambers  
Spiritual Life & Worship  
Ronald Delbecq  
School Commission  
Christopher DePalma  
Life, Justice & Peace  
Michael DiSpigno  
Pastoral Care  
Carol Frazey  
Building & Grounds  
Eric Schueler  
Stewardship/Engaged Church  
Patti & James Wright  
Finance Council  
Bill Zang  
Pastoral Council  
Jim Gibson  
Bill Attebery  
Belen Saturay

**MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**

Today's Gospel reading may sound a bit harsh at first, but it is meant to wake us up to the fact that God must be first place in our lives if we are to be a disciple of Christ. God must be first in our lives and first in our marriage. God needs to be the foundation that we build our life and marriage upon. Find out how to live out God's design for your marriage; sign up today to attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend: in Gig Harbor, Sept 13-15 (www.mrwwme.org or call Joe & Kathy St.Hilaire, 671-4836, or John & Martha Ryland at 253-859-9174 ); Bellevue – Oct 4-6 (www.SeattleWWME.org or call Dawn & Rory Myers at 206-772-2344 ).

**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

Fridays 1:30-3:30 PM in the Stafford Room.  
We are starting a new group next Friday, Sept. 13th. We use Dr. Wolfelt's book, "Understanding Your Grief", for finding hope and healing. It is a time of prayer, sharing and supporting each other as we enter this new place in our lives. Cost \$10 for book.

**PRO-LIFE PRAYER VIGIL**

Come and pray with us once a month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday for one hour from 2 - 3pm at Whatcom County's abortion clinic: Mt. Baker Planned Parenthood (1530 Ellis St.). Our monthly vigil will be Sunday, September 15, rain or shine. Let us pray for an end to all abortions and healing for all women suffering from post-abortion syndrome. For more information call Kathy St.Hilaire @ 671-4836.

**THANK YOU TO PHOTOGRAPHY HELPERS**

Thank you to the many people who helped us put together the parish directory photography sessions. To the schedulers and the check-in people, you were all wonderful to volunteer so much of your time. We couldn't have done it without you!



Most of you know our beautiful shed has been a blessing to us in keeping donations and supplies organized and readily available for distribution. Much of the work in this area has been done by a couple we call our "Shed Pixies", who have had to leave us due to health issues. I am asking for volunteers for this area of Hope House. What is involved is sorting donations from our bin, and keeping food bags made and hygiene items sorted and stocked inside of Hope House. This is not necessarily done while Hope House is open—hours are flexible. This position also involves some carrying of bags and boxes up the stairs in Hope House, so someone able to do that would be perfect. Please email me at [cheriw@ccsww.org](mailto:cheriw@ccsww.org) to volunteer or ask more questions.

Thanks you,  
Cheri Woolsey  
[www.bellinghamhopehouse.com](http://www.bellinghamhopehouse.com)

**MINISTERS NEEDED FOR THE SUNDAY 5:00 PM MASS**

Our Sunday 5:00 PM Mass will resume on September 29. We are in need of Eucharist Ministers, Lectors, and Hospitality Ministers. There is a sign up sheet over at the Gathering space for those who are interested in serving during this mass. There will be a training class provided on October 19 from 10:00-12:00 PM in the Church.

**ST. TERESA OF AVILA STUDY GROUP**

This year the St. Teresa of Avila study group will meet the 2nd Wed. of the month, starting Sept. 11, 2nd floor of the pastoral center, after the 6pm mass. We will be using 2 books: The Collected Letters of St. Teresa vol. 1 & The Collected Works of St. Teresa vol. 1 (Book of her Life, spiritual testimonies and soliloquies) Anyone interested in the study group please contact either: Christine Gubbins 671-7646 or Hope Lawrenson 733-2727 To order the books. Cost approx. \$20 per person covers both books.



**7:00 PM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2013 STAFFORD ROOM**

Sin - for Christians, this three letter word is weighted with heavy connotations, for to sin could also mean placing one's own salvation in jeopardy. But what is a sin - is it simply a selfish act or something much bigger such as an act against God? In this episode, we explore the meaning of sin, the penance as well as the mystery surrounding original sin and baptism.

<b>W</b>	<u><b>Monday, September 9th</b></u>		
	10:30 AM	Mass	Church
	6:00 PM	Charismatic Prayer Group	Stafford
<b>E</b>	6:30 PM	One King Light Weigh	PCLR
	<u><b>Tuesday, September 10th</b></u>		
	6:30 PM	Adoration	Church
<b>E</b>	6:45 PM	Girl Scout Troop 50222	Room 1
	7:00 PM	Boy Scout Troop 16 Meeting	Gym
	7:00 PM	Knights of Columbus Mtg.	St. Cecilia

<b>K</b>	<u><b>Wednesday, September 11th</b></u>		
	12:00 AM	Adoration	Church
	11:00 AM	Deanery Meeting	Off-site
<b>A</b>	3:00 PM	Cub Scout Den 5	Room 1
	5:45 PM	Benediction	Church
	6:00 PM	Mass	Church
<b>T</b>	6:30 PM	School Curriculum Night	Gym
	6:45 PM	Children's Choir Rehearsal	Church
	7:00 PM	Spiritual Life & Worship Commission	PCLR
<b>A</b>	7:00 PM	Mysteries of the Church	Stafford
	7:00 PM	School Curriculum Night	School Classrooms
	7:00 PM	Prayer Ministry	Church
<b>G</b>	7:00 PM	St. Teresa of Avila	PC 2nd floor

<b>L</b>	<u><b>Thursday, September 12th</b></u>		
	10:30 AM	Mass	Church
	11:00 AM	Mothers & Children	Stafford
<b>A</b>	11:15 AM	Rosary Prayer Group	Church
	1:00 PM	Purple Readers Group	Stafford
	6:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Church
<b>N</b>	7:00 PM	Pastoral Council	PC LR
	7:00 PM	RCIA Catechumenate	LMC

<b>C</b>	<u><b>Friday, September 13th</b></u>		
	10:30 AM	Mass	Church
	1:30 PM	Grief Support	Stafford
	6:00 PM	Rosary Makers	Stafford
	7:00 PM	Grupo de 'Compartir el Evangelio'	LMC

<u><b>Saturday, September 14th</b></u>		
<u><b>Build Hope Collection</b></u>		
11:00 AM	Spanish Choir Rehearsal	Church
11:30 AM	Rosary Prayer Group	Church
3:30 PM	Reconciliation	Church
4:00 PM	Cantor Rehearsal	St. Cecilia
5:00 PM	Mass	Church
6:00 PM	Newcomers Gathering	Gym

<u><b>Sunday, September 15th</b></u>		
<u><b>Build Hope Collection</b></u>		
7:45 AM	English Choir Rehearsal	Church
8:30 AM	Mass	Church
9:30 AM	English Choir Rehearsal	Church
10:00 AM	Grupo de Oración	Room 1
10:30 AM	Mass	Church
11:00 AM	Ensayo de Coro	St. Cecilia
11:30 AM	Faith Formation	LMC
12:30 PM	Misa	Iglesia
5:00 PM	Capital Campaign Orientation Rally	Gym

**ONE HOUR EARLIER—SEPT 21**  
 On September 21, our 5:00 pm Mass and 3:30 pm Reconciliation will be moved back an hour. Archbishop Sartain will be celebrating the Mass at 4:00 pm. Reconciliation will be at 2:30 pm. This will make it more convenient for those who would like to attend the School's Gala dinner that evening.

**CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS** will be hosting the ACCW meeting at Sacred Heart Hall on Tuesday, Sept. 10th at 9:30 am. Refreshments will be served at check-in. At 12:30, lunch will be served for a \$5.00 fee. All ladies of the parish are invited. For more information and to RSVP by Sept. 3rd, please call Bartley 715-1565 or Lorrie 671-1672.

**ATTENTION ALL MOTHERS!**  
 You are invited to join the Assumption Catholic Mother's and Children's group! We will kick off the new season Thursday, September 12th. Please join us at 11:00 in the Stafford Room. Bring your children, a snack or lunch, and join a group of mothers as we share the joys of raising Catholic children. For more information please contact Bev Williams at bevjohnson\_13@hotmail.com or 920-7592. Looking forward to a great year of growing in our vocation as mothers!

Please consider supporting the vendors listed on the back of the bulletin. Their advertising allows us to have the cover page of the bulletin printed for free.

**PARISH STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE**

	Wk(09/01/2013)	Month	YTD
Contributions needed:	\$17,404	\$17,404	\$156,636
Contributions received:	\$16,008	\$16,008	\$146,536
Over/under for wk/mo/yr	<b>-\$ 784</b>	<b>-\$ 784</b>	<b>-\$ 10,100</b>

*Thank you for sharing God's blessings with our parish community.*

<b>Debt Reduction</b>	Wk(09/01/2013)	Month	YTD
Contributions needed:	\$1,058	\$1,058	\$ 9,522
Contributions received:	\$ 881	\$ 881	\$ 7,071
Over/Under for wk/mo/yr	<b>-\$ 177</b>	<b>-\$ 177</b>	<b>-\$2,451</b>

**GIFTS FROM THE OTHER HALF OF OUR STEWARDSHIP GIVING**

Hope House \$ 84  
*Thank you for sharing God's blessings with the larger community.*

**FAITHFUL STEWARDS OF THE WEEK**

For the sharing of their time and talent with Assumption Parish, we acknowledge:

The Funeral Reception Committee

Special thanks to our Funeral Reception Committee for stepping outside their normal purview and providing the Back to School Breakfast on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. They prepared and served breakfast to the returning school children and their parents early in the morning and then cheerfully cleaned up afterwards. What a wonderful gift from this parish committee to the school community. Thank you for graciously starting this centennial year in such a special way!

**HOUSEWARMING FOR NEW ASSUMPTION HOUSE FAMILY**

A new family will be moving into Assumption House this month. Assumption House is a ministry of our parish to provide safe, affordable housing to a parish family so that they can develop a credit history and become financially stable. The new family has very little, so we are asking for housewarming gifts to help them get started.

Can you spare some dishes, silverware, glasses, towels, blankets, chairs, etc? The family especially needs 1 twin bed with sheets and pillows for their young boys, queen size sheets, a desk, and an iron & ironing board. Please bring your housewarming gifts to the parish office. We have been blessed with an abundance of mugs, so no more mugs are necessary! Thank you.

**PARISH DIRECTORY LISTING:** If you **do not** want your name, address and phone number listed in the back of the parish directory, please call the Parish Office to opt out. Leave your name and address so that we can make sure we remove the correct entry.

**A Stewardship Moment**

Jesus tells the crowd that only those who renounce all of their possessions can be His disciples. Is He truly asking us to give up everything? Perhaps instead He is trying to help us see that everything we think we own is really a gift from God. Good stewards know that and strive to use those gifts accountably.

**Un Momento De Corresponsabilidad**

Jesús le dice a la muchedumbre que solo aquellos que renuncian a todas sus posesiones pueden ser Sus discípulos. ¿Esta Él verdaderamente pidiéndonos que lo entreguemos todo? Tal vez esta tratando de ayudarnos a ver que todo lo que pensamos que poseemos es realmente un regalo de Dios. Los buenos administradores de los bienes de Dios lo saben y se esfuerzan en utilizar esos regalos responsablemente.



Lord Jesus, you have challenged us with your holy words in sacred scripture: That the one who "seeks to save his life will lose it;" That the one who "loses his life for your sake will save it for all eternity;" That the "greatest among us is the one who serves the rest;" That it is "harder for a rich man to enter heaven than for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle;" That our "true treasure is in heaven."

Lord, you have given us your generous promises: That you treasure greatly the sacrificial spirit of the widow's mite; That you will reward with hundredfold harvest those who sow in the rich soil of faith; That you will not be outdone in generosity; That you will not give us burdens that we cannot bear. We thank you, above all, for the joy-filled gift of faith and the inspirational witness of generous saints of ages past.

Lord, give us the strength and the faith to respond to your challenging words. We ask you to help us to be responsible stewards of your gifts. We ask you to bless us with the courage, generosity, and selflessness to help us multiply your gifts among us for the glory of your name. Amen