

ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

218 N. 6th St., Nebraska City, NE 68410

Telephone: 402-873-3024

Website: stmarysnebraskacity.com

Pastor: Very Rev. Michael G. McCabe

Associate Pastor: Rev. James J. Morin

Sunday Mass - Schedule: Saturday: 6:30 p.m. & Sunday: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.

Weekday Mass Schedule: St. Mary's Hospital Chapel - Monday-Friday - 6:20 a.m.; St. Mary's Church - Monday-Saturday - 8:00 a.m.

Perpetual Adoration - St. Mary's Hospital Chapel: Monday - 6:00 a.m. thru Saturday - 12:00 a.m. - Pam Gress, 402-969-0556

Confessions: Saturday, 4-5 p.m. or by appointment CCD Coordinator - Diane Denniston, 402-209-2498

Parish Office Hours: Monday-Wednesday-Friday - 9:00-11:00 a.m. & 1:30-4:00 p.m., 873-3024 - stmarysnebcity@windstream.net

Prayer Chain: email: Patrice Wulf, 873-6848 (wulfpak@windstream.net) or calling tree: Kathy Duffy, 873-7576

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - SUNDAY, MAY 6, 2018

PRAY FOR THE SICK - Camille Wolken, Don Thomson, Kenneth Russell, Aaron Herold, Cheryl Hauptman, Myron Penning, Everett Tjaden, Ned Cox, Aaron Mayberry, Angie Childers, Shirley Hackett, Trini Lipp, Emmett Christiansen, Sr. Kathleen Kilp, O.S.F., Mike Crunk, Kim Kelly, Lacie & Lexis Bruns-Morris, Kathy Gilbert, Kala Griepenstroh, Albert Burger, Janet McVay, Bill Albert, John Davis, Donna Thoms, Laurence DuBois, Adam Eppert, Pat Bowman and all parishioners who are homebound, hospitalized, in nursing homes and all the intentions listed in our Book of Intentions. Please feel welcome to add names to our prayer list by calling the parish office. Due to the privacy act, the person must grant their permission for their name to be printed in the bulletin. Thank you for your prayers.

PLEASE PRAY for our seminarians James O'Neil, Brian Wirth and Joseph Allen and vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Thank you.

WELCOME to all our visitors and guests. If you have recently moved to Nebraska City and would like to register as a member of St. Mary's Church, we invite you to stop by or call the parish office.

BULLETIN NOTICES: Please submit all bulletin notices by **Monday at 11:00 a.m.** in writing either by e-mail to stmbulletin@windstream.net (preferred) or to the parish office.

THE BISHOP'S CHARITY & STEWARDSHIP APPEAL: This year's theme is "Stewardship: Cultivating Love in Deed and Truth." Our parish goal is \$55,000.00 (at 270 contributing families, this averages \$203.70 per year, \$16.98 per month or \$3.92 per week) of which \$8466.00 will help fund the many ministries of the diocese with the balance returned to St. Mary's Church. Pledge/contribution cards are available in the entrance of the church. Donations can be given by check, thru credit card or direct debit with an email address with several payment options. Each family has a pre-printed card and is asked to complete a card. **PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CARD IS SIGNED & PLEASE DO NOT TAKE THE CARDS HOME.** Thank you to all those that support the Bishop's Charity and Stewardship Appeal. Your support and generosity is greatly appreciated.

HAVE YOU WANTED TO GET MORE INVOLVED IN THE PARISH? MEET NEW PEOPLE? Here's your opportunity. You are invited to be a part of the Stewardship Committee and work with others assisting the many ministries in the parish. The mission of the committee is to promote time for God in prayer, sharing our time and talent for the common good, giving of our treasure and nourishing our faith so that we can share with others. The goal of the committee is to engage our parish by communicating and actively living the stewardship message of hospitality, prayer, formation and service. Gatherings are held monthly from 7-8 pm. The first 30 minutes consists of spiritual growth through reading and reflection and the second half is used to promote stewardship in the parish. The annual pitch party and Theology on Tap, and the ministry fair are hosted by the Stewardship Committee. The next meeting will be **Monday, May 7 at 7:00 p.m.** in the church hall. For more information, please call Julie Parker, 402-297-0677 or the parish office.

MASS SCHEDULE FOR THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, a holy day of obligation is Wednesday, May 9 at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday, May 10 at 6:00 and 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. all at the church.

CCD CLASS FOR STUDENTS in grades K-6 will be on Wednesday, May 9, beginning with Mass at 5:30 p.m. at St. Benedict's Church. The last class will be on Wednesday, May 16 at 5:30 p.m. at Lourdes Primary with the traditional ice cream sundae celebration in the school basement. All CCD families are welcome to join us for ice cream and bring one topping.

CARNATIONS FOR MOTHER'S DAY: The Southeast Nebraska Right to Life will offer carnations after each Mass next weekend for a donation of \$2.00 each. Proceeds will go to the Southeast Nebraska Center for Pregnancy Counseling and for the annual pro-life scholarship. For more information, call Noreen Harris, 402-209-1450.

SHARE YOUR MEMORIES WITH FR. MCCABE! As Fr. McCabe has had such a lasting impact on so many of our lives, we would love to have you share those memories! As a keepsake for Fr. McCabe, we would like to make a book full of notes, memories and photos to share with him. As he has shared many Sacraments with the Parish Family at St. Mary's and celebrated so much with our Lourdes Family throughout the years, please send any pictures from those events! Also, please type a note to let Fr. McCabe know the impact he has had on you and your family. Please send your note and pictures by June 1st to fathermccabememories@gmail.com

THANK YOU to everyone that participated in the Husker Catholic Rosary around UNL to make the evening such a blessed and holy event. It was a truly special night for our parish communities to stand together to pray for peace and witness to our faith. If you have not seen the video from the drone footage, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUdosFqIWvw&feature=share>

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT: Jesus calls his disciples his "friends" and commands them to love one other as he has loved them. We are called to be stewards of this friendship; to love one another as Jesus loves us. Do we give serious attention to what this love requires of us? Does this require us to actively seek the welfare of others? What is the price of this friendship with the Lord?

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE - MY RETURN TO THE LORD

Apr. 29: Adult Env.: \$5661.00; Loose: \$462.76; Children's Env.: \$1.50; Online: \$2413.50; Easter: \$35.00; Total: \$8573.76
Needed Weekly: \$13,322.48; Short: \$4748.72; Apr. 29: Needed: \$586,189.14; Received: \$591,509.99; Over: \$5320.85 (\$19.49 per family)
Southern Nebraska Register: **Needed: \$5670.00 - Rec'd \$2392.00; Bal. Needed: \$3278.00; Guardian Angel: \$10.00**
Thank you for your generous support of our parish.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday	7:00 p.m. Stewardship Committee meeting, church hall	Wednesday	8:45 a.m. Legion of Mary, rectory
Tuesday	9:00 a.m. Cup of Grace, church hall		5:30 p.m. CCD - Grades K-6, Lourdes Primary

MASS SCHEDULE/INTENTIONS

	6:20 a.m. (Hospital Chapel)	8:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
Monday	John Fischer+	Mike Vaughn+ (Anniv.)	
Tuesday	Edward & Anna Penning Family+	Mark & Rosetta Wirth+	
Wednesday	Isadore & Cecilia Mayrose+	Bishop James Conley	6:30 p.m. People of the Parish
Thursday	Mary Pudenz+ (Anniv.) (AT CHURCH)	Clarence & Anna Mae Kaiser Family	5:30 p.m. Sean Connelly
Friday	Jan Penning+	Anna, Johnny, Elizabeth Heng	
Saturday		Edmund Klusaw+ (Anniv.)	6:30 p.m. Betty Beckman+
Sunday		Bonnie Zellmer+	10:00 a.m. People of the Parish
	6:30 p.m.	8:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
USHERS/ GREETERS	Bryan Stukenholtz Jason & Kim Esser	Charlene Reese, Jeff Reese Pete & Nancy Lutz	Richard Gibson, Kent & Cindy McGinnis Jeff & Hettie Funke
SERVERS	William, Jackson, Dilan Eppert	Nick & Andrew Bernard Adam Howard	Cade & Beau Lee Paul Shawhan
LECTORS	Lisa Whitten	Barb Stukenholtz	Lee Turner
ACOLYTES	Fred Allen	Adam Howard	Bill Olmer
OFFERTORY	Janelle Krisko Family, Juli Lechner	Charles & Margaret Rumery	Ryan & Janie Ebmeier

WEEKDAY SERVERS: - May 7-12 – Nick Fedoris, Oscar Krog, Gage Schmitz; **6:20 a.m. Mass at Hospital** – Server: Pat Gress; Reader: Joan Beccard

ASCENSION - SERVERS: **May 9 – 6:30 p.m.** – Rylan Esser, Andrew Bakula, Trevor Bennett; **May 10 – 5:30 p.m.** – James & Joseph Kearney, Bobby Moser; **LECTORS:** **May 9 – 6:30 p.m.** – Frank Volkmer; **8:00 a.m.** – Jerry Martin; **May 10 – 5:30 p.m.** – Ron Schmitz

READINGS: May 7, Acts 16:11-15/Jn 15:26-16:4a; May 8, Acts 16:22-34/Jn 16:5-11; May 9, Acts 17:15, 22-18:1/Jn 16:12-15; May 10, Acts 1:1-11/ Eph 1:17-23/Mk 16:15-20; May 11, Acts 18:9-18/Jn 16:20-23; May 12, Acts 18:23-28/Jn 16:23b-28; May 13, Acts 1:15-17, 20a, 20c-26/1 Jn 4:11-16/ Jn 17:11b-19.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Adorers needed on **Tuesdays from 2-3 p.m.** Eucharistic Adoration is held beginning on Monday following the 6:20 a.m. Mass and ends at 12:00 a.m. Saturday morning at CHI Health–St. Mary's Hospital Chapel. Everyone is always welcome to make a visit. If you are not a regular scheduled adoror and would like to be or would like more information, please call Pam Gress, 402-969-0556. Thank you to all of our scheduled adorers.

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS – MARK YOUR CALENDAR: June 6 – CDA Salad Luncheon – 11-1:30 p.m.; July 15-20 – Totus Tuus; Ministry Fair – October 20-21.

ATTENTION STUDENTS - TOTUS TUUS (TOTALLY YOURS) – July 15-20 – REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE: Save the date for another fun, faith-filled summer catechetical youth program for students entering grades 1-12 held at Lourdes School. Don't miss it, so save the date. Registration forms are available in the entrance of the church.

BISHOP CONLEY'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF EPISCOPAL ORDINATION: Bishop Conley was ordained a Bishop on May 30, 2008, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Denver, Colorado. In thanksgiving to God for the 10 years of Episcopal leadership, we will present to Bishop Conley a spiritual bouquet at his anniversary celebration. A sign-up sheet is available in the entrance of the church for your offering.

PRAY THE ROSARY - THE MONTH OF MAY is the "month which the piety of the faithful has especially dedicated to Our Blessed Lady," and it is the occasion for a "moving tribute of faith and love which Catholics in every part of the world pay to the Queen of Heaven. During this month Christians, both in church and in the privacy of the home, offer up to Mary from their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration. In this month, too, the benefits of God's mercy comes down to us from her throne in greater abundance" (Paul VI: Encyclical on the *Month of May*, no. 1). You are encouraged to pray the rosary daily, especially in the month of May. The rosary is recited each day at 7:30 a.m. here at St. Mary's Church and you are invited to come and join other parishioners. Mary, Queen of the Holy Angels – Pray for Us.

INSPIRATIONAL CATHOLIC CDS AND BOOKS: Want to enrich and strengthen your relationship with Jesus Christ and your understanding of the Catholic faith? Stop in the entrance of the church today to see what is new from Lighthouse Catholic Media. CDS only \$3 and books are \$6. Your generous donations help continue our ministry and we are able to purchase additional CDs, books and booklets.

MASS INTENTIONS: There are a number of openings on the calendar to schedule a Mass for an intention of thanksgiving, for a living or deceased friend or family member for their birthday, wedding anniversary or anniversary of their death or other occasion. If you would like to schedule a Mass intention, please call the parish. Suggested donation per Mass is \$10.

DIOCESAN YOUTH ACTIVITIES

TEC (TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST) is a weekend experience for high school juniors and seniors on a Catholic journey of faith, which emphasizes the relationship of Jesus in your life. The final TEC of the school year will be June 9-11 at David City Aquinas. To register, go to <http://www.lincolndiocese.org/retreats/tec>.

THE DIOCESAN ANNUAL YOUTH PILGRIMAGE, Steubenville Mid-America Youth Conference, will be held July 13-15 at Missouri State University in Springfield, MO. For more information or to register today at www.lincolndiocese.org/pilgrimages/steubenville-youth-conference.

THE DIOCESAN CANOE TRIPS ARE COMING UP! This three-day outdoor adventure for sophomores through graduating seniors, includes daily Mass, confessions, talks, private reflection time, and other opportunities for youth to grow in their relationship with Christ. A Campfire, skits and rosary fill the evening hours. Dates are July 8-10 and July 10-12, cost is \$100. To register, go to <http://www.lincolndiocese.org/camps/diocesan-canoe-trip>.

SOUTHERN NEBRASKA REGISTER – NO EXPIRATION: Thank you to all those/ who continue to make \$15 payments for their Southern Nebraska Register. Because the parish is billed monthly for each family to receive a Register, there is no deadline for contributions. If you have not made a contribution for our diocesan newspaper, please consider one. Our annual subscription bill is \$5670.00 and we have received contributions totaling \$2392.00 leaving a balance of \$3278.00.

LOURDES BACCALAUREATE MASS & GRADUATION: Everyone is invited to attend the Baccalaureate Mass at St. Mary's Church on Tuesday, May 15 at 8:00 a.m. and Lourdes graduation on Sunday, May 20 at 4:30 p.m. in the gym. Come and join in the celebration of the accomplishments of the Class of 2018. Congratulations to all of our graduates.

FORMED – THE CATHOLIC FAITH ON DEMAND: STUDY...WATCH...LISTEN...READ... The best Catholic content all in one place. Register today on Formed.org or if you haven't visited the website for awhile, take a look today and be inspired! Parish code: BHRREJ.

DIOCESAN ROSARY CRUSADE: The Diocese of Lincoln is encouraging families to pray the rosary or a daily decade of Scripture Rosary. A powerful prayer like the rosary being said by a family can make families stronger and deepen their love for Mary and the rosary. Each individual or family is asked to complete a pledge card and offered as a spiritual tithing for the parish and the diocese. If you have not completed a card and would like to be a part of the Rosary Crusade, please drop your card in the collection basket. Cards are available in the entrance of the church.

ONLINE GIVING: The convenient way to return a portion of your gifts back to our Lord. It's easy to set up, safe, secure and you can check as often as you like to see what you have given to the church and special collections throughout the year. Go to our website at www.stmarysnebraskacity.com. If you have any questions, please call the parish office. Thank you to all those that are already using online giving.
PLEASE NOTE: If you bank at **Premier Bank**, and are still using Farmers Bank checks, please make sure that you use this routing number 104000870.

FOR MEN & WOMEN SEEKING HEALING FROM DIVORCE: The **Catholic's Divorce Survival Guide** was created to bring hope and healing to divorced and separated Catholics. This 12 week program will be leader facilitated & features 30-minute DVD segments that cover topics of shock, denial, anger, grief, guilt, forgiveness, money, kids, annulment, and much more. The next session will begin **June 4** and is held at John XXIII Diocesan Center, Lincoln, NE from 7-9pm. Classes are kept small. Cost is \$50. Register by calling the Family Life Office at, 402-473-0620, or catholicflo@cdolinc.net

PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA AND LOURDES: Is Christ calling you to be a pilgrim? Fathers Dan Rayer and Craig Doty of the Diocese of Lincoln will be leading a pilgrimage to the Marian Shrines of Fatima, Portugal, and Lourdes, France, from September 12-23, 2018. The cost is \$3,995 per person with double occupancy with air travel out of Omaha. In addition to Lourdes and Fatima, there will be several stops in Spain in Salamanca, Avila, Segovia, Zaragoza, Montserrat, and will conclude in Barcelona. If you have any questions about the pilgrimage or traveling to the Marian Shrines, feel free to contact Fr. Rayer at 402-488-0921 or fr.dan-rayer@lincolndiocese.org or Tekton Ministries, the Catholic organization that is planning the journey, at 317-574-4191. To register for the pilgrimage or see a brochure go to <https://www.tektonministries.org/home/upcoming-pilgrimages/>.

ENCOUNTER SCHOOL OF HEALING: Encounter Ministries is offering a conference on Jesus' gift and power of healing on June 1-2. The goal of this conference is to teach and activate Catholics to be effective ministers of Jesus' healing in the world. The event will be led by Fr. Mathias Thelen of Encounter Ministries and pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Brighton, MI. For more information and to register please visit <https://encounterministries.us/>. This event is being sponsored by the Office of Evangelization and the Lincoln Equipping Team for Prayer and Healing.

19TH ANNUAL MIDWEST CATHOLIC FAMILY CONFERENCE: Join radio and television host Dr. Ray Guarendi at the Midwest Catholic Family Conference on August 3-5 while he talks about how laughter can help your family overcome trials. Save up to \$30 with early Bird Registration by July 6. Register online at catholicfamilyconference.org or call 316-618-9787. Email questions to info@catholicfamilyconference.org See bulletin board for more information and registration form.

PILGRIMAGE TO SPAIN, LOURDES & FATIMA: Come along November 5-15, 2018, to some of the most sacred places in all of Europe! We'll visit both of the great Shrines to Mary, Lourdes in southern France and Fatima in Portugal, and many great places in Spain. Mass each day in great Churches and Cathedrals along the way. Cost is \$3,249 with departure from Omaha. For a brochure and more information, contact Fr. Dan Guenther, St. Mary's Parish, 311 - 4th St. N., Humboldt, Iowa 50548 or call 515-332-2856 or email frdanguenther@gmail.com

PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR PARISH RECORDS UP-TO-DATE - CHANGED ADDRESSES, PLANNING TO MOVE? DROPPED YOUR LAND LINE, ADDED A CELL, CHANGED PHONE NUMBERS OR EMAIL ADDRESS? Please call the parish office with your new information. If you are planning to move out of our community, please also, let us know. Thank you.

IRA REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION AT 70 1/2: Did you know that you could save money on your taxes by donating your annual required minimum distribution directly to St. Mary's Church? You can make up to \$100,000.00 or \$200,000.00 if your spouse is also 70 1/2 in donations to a charitable organization. Direct-from-your-IRA donations are called qualified charitable distributions, or QCDs. They are tax-free and no deductions are allowed for them, so QCDs don't directly affect your tax bill. However, they count as withdrawals for purposes of meeting the required minimum distribution (RMD) rules that apply to your traditional IRAs after age 70 1/2.

STEWARDSHIP OF TALENT – DINNER FOR FR. MCCABE & FR. MORIN: May 7: Cheryl Wirth, May 9: Emily Wolken, May 12: Teresa Albers, May 14: Bobbi Aultz, May 16: Heather Bakula, May 19: Chris Bando, May 21: Brenda Baumann, May 23: Katie Bebout, May 26: Kelly Bequette, May 30: Beth Box. The time to bring dinner for your designated day is between 5:30-6:00 p.m. If you do not use disposable dishes, please put your name on the dishes and pick them up in the church hall. It is preferred that meals be taken to the back door of the rectory, and if the priests are not home, please put the meals in the refrigerator. Questions or to volunteer, please call Maureen Chance, 874-9411. Thank you.

YOUR CHURCH NEEDS YOU!!! CHURCH CLEANING – JUST A REMINDER TO ALL FAMILIES OF THE PARISH: All families of the parish are asked to help with the cleaning of our church. Sometimes there are a number of volunteers that come to work together to clean our church. Sometimes there are two or three or sometimes just one. **Please be considerate** of those that you are scheduled to serve with to clean the church. If you are not able to come, **please find a substitute** from the list below or call Kathy Duffy for assistance. All families are only asked to help clean the church two or three times each year. Be kind, do your part as a member of our parish. If you forget, please come the next week. Please also sign the notebook in the entrance of the church so that we know that you have come to serve your parish. If you have traded or substituted for someone, please also, notate that. Thank you to all those that faithfully clean our Lord's home.

STEWARDSHIP OF TIME – CHURCH CLEANERS (following the Saturday 8:00 a.m. Mass {8:30 a.m}): **May 12:** Elizabeth Slagle, Shannon Slater, Jackie Smith, Jolene Spevak, William & Teresa Stanberry, Bruce Stanley, Carol Stehlik, Jena Stoll, Duane & Shelli Stuhr, Bryan & Shawn Stukenholtz. **May 19:** Ed & Barb Stukenholtz, Steve Stukenholtz, Cathy Thomas, Gerald & Donna Thoms, Judy Thorne, Phillip & Mary Timothy, Brent & Darci Travis, Mark & Melissa Travis, Tim & Jill Travis, Lee & Joyce Turner. **May 26:** Brad & Jo Vasa, Karen Vaughn, Frank & Julie Volkmer, Adam Walters, Derek Walters, Herman & Myla Weber, Robert & Jody Weddle, Christopher & Allison Weddle, Erin Weldon, Monica Welsh. **If you are unable to clean the week assigned, families or individuals are responsible for finding a replacement or contacting and paying a substitute \$15.00. Substitutes:** Kathy Duffy, 873-7576, Linda Smith, 873-7576, Sharon Crunk, 873-4568, Julia Russell, 402-209-2340, Mary Mills, 873-6247, Sharon Heng, 873-5105.



INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP

May 2018 • e-Bulletin

A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER for May

Heavenly Father,

Your Son ascended in great triumph
to sit at your right hand.
You sent your Spirit
to watch over us, guide us
and teach us to be better stewards
of your abundant gifts.

May this Spirit of wisdom
make us better stewards of our planet.
May your Spirit increase
our awareness
of the dignity of every human life,
and show us the way to be better
stewards of our neighbor.

And through your Spirit,
may we be inspired every day
to live in accordance with the Gospel,
and to give witness to our risen Lord.

We ask this through Jesus Christ,
Your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and
the Holy Spirit,
one God forever and ever.

Amen.



Pentecost and Missionary Discipleship



This year, the Church celebrates the great feast of Pentecost on May 20.

As recounted in the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, Pentecost occurred when the followers of Jesus were clustered together in a room and were suddenly surprised – overtaken is not too strong

a word – by the dynamic presence of the Holy Spirit in their midst. Strong wind and flame seemed to sweep the room, and the Apostles were so filled with the gifts of the Spirit that they emerged to speak in multiple languages to the throngs who had come to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish festival.

In our secular culture, Pentecost goes largely unobserved. “Pentecost” cards don’t pop up on store shelves weeks in advance, and there’s no merchandising that remotely compares to Easter and Christmas.

The Holy Spirit brought courage to replace fear, understanding to replace confusion, faith to replace doubt.

Yet make no mistake. To Christians, Pentecost is a great celebration, sometimes called the birthday of the Church. The word Pentecost has its roots in the Greek word for “fifty;” Pentecost comes fifty days after the Resurrection on the seventh Sunday after Easter.

Why was Pentecost such a watershed event in the life of the Church? As Christian stewards, we know we are called to be missionary disciples. This calling has its roots in the momentous events of Pentecost. Up until that time, the followers of Jesus were still a somewhat disorganized band of believers, still in shock over the events of the crucifixion, still confused about the meaning of the sightings of the Risen Lord.

Pentecost abruptly and forever changed that. Suddenly, missionary disciples were born, followers both called and sent forth. Like us, they were called together, in community. They became aware that their great mission was to reach, not just their Jewish brothers and sisters in Palestine, but the disparate crowds who visited Jerusalem and beyond. Like us, they were called to bring Jesus to the world.

The Holy Spirit brought courage to replace fear, understanding to replace confusion, faith to replace doubt. The same Holy Spirit moves in our own lives, perhaps not always with the drama of that first Pentecost, but with the same grace. The Spirit calls us within our Church community to share Jesus with others, just as the disciples were called.

Let’s celebrate Pentecost this year as heirs to this great moment in the life of our Church, as stewards inspired to be missionary disciples for the life of the world.

STEWARDSHIP SAINT *for May*



Saint Bernard of Montjoux is the patron saint of hikers, backpackers, mountain climbers and alpine skiers. The accounts of his charity, hospitality, and courage on behalf of travelers in the Pennine Alps between Switzerland and Italy are renowned.

Although little is known of his early life, Bernard was thought to be born in Italy around 923. He studied for the priesthood and was ordained for the Diocese of Aosta which was in northwestern Italy at the foot of the Alps.

In time, Bernard was appointed Vicar General of Aosta, and spent more than four decades building churches and schools, evangelizing and exercising pastoral care over those who lived in the nearby mountains. He is especially remembered for the alpine monastery and hospices he built to aid travelers in the mountain passes leading to Aosta.

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Since the most ancient times there has been a path across the Pennine Alps used by French and German pilgrims on their way to Rome. The traditional route of this pass is covered with perpetual snow and drifts sometimes accumulate to the height of forty feet. The pass could be dangerous, especially in the springtime when avalanches occurred. For the safety of the pilgrims Saint Bernard founded a monastery and established travelers' hospices; one at the highest point of the pass, 8,000 feet above sea-level, in the year 962.

Bernard also established a religious community of men who rescued travelers, ministered to those who had fallen victim to mountain hazards, and cleared the passes of bandits. At all seasons of the year, but especially during heavy snow storms, these heroic monks, accompanied by their well-trained herding dogs, went out in search of stranded travelers. They provided them with food, clothing, and shelter.

Even through the 20th century Bernard's hospices were well known for the generous hospitality extended to all travelers over the Great and Little St. Bernard alpine passes, named in his honor.

Bernard was canonized in 1681, and then paid a unique tribute in the late 1800s when European dog breeders renamed their alpine herding and rescue dogs, the St. Bernard. His feast day is May 28.

Stewardship: A Life-Giving Spirituality

By Rev. Joseph D. Creedon,
pastor emeritus, Christ the King Parish,
Providence, Rhode Island



This article is the first in a series based on his forthcoming book.

During my forty-seven years of priestly ministry, I have had a variety of experiences and met some truly wonderful people. Early on, I taught religion in a Catholic high school, next I was a college campus minister. Finally, I became the pastor of a university parish. In these different settings one thing was constant, the people with whom I ministered had a shared hunger for a deeper relationship with God.

What most people lacked, however, was a spirituality that would allow them to have a deeper relationship with God. Most people did not think they had or needed a spirituality. Indeed the meaning of the word "spirituality" was an obstacle for many. The definition of spirituality that I use is "the lens through which we encounter and respond to God's presence in our lives." Stewardship is a spirituality that will enrich the lives of all Christians.

My first experience with stewardship was before the American bishops wrote their 1992 pastoral letter, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*. Before that pastoral letter,

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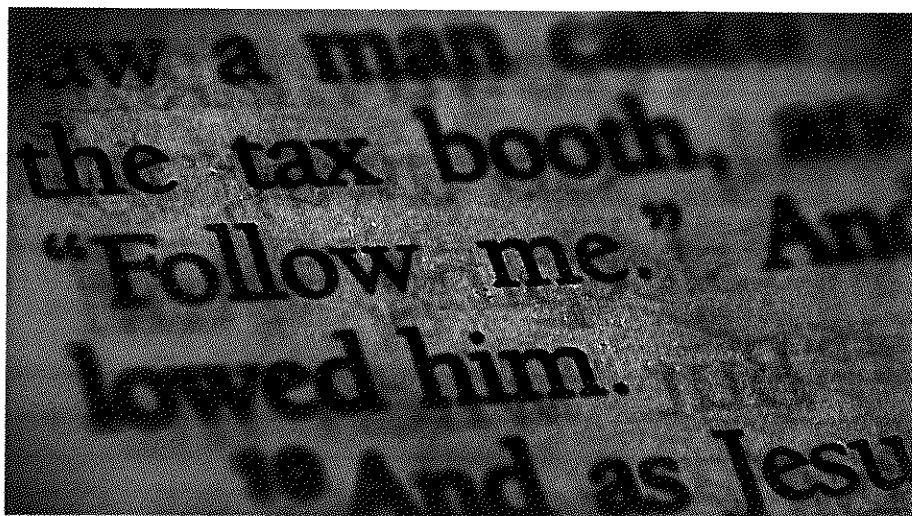
stewardship was for many a code word for money. Stewardship was always about "Time, Talent and Treasure." Nevertheless before the bishops' pastoral letter, the approach was grab their money and their time and talent will follow. After their pastoral letter, people were invited to share their time and talent and their treasure would follow. Today there are still people who use stewardship as a code word for money but fortunately their number is dwindling and hopefully they will soon be extinct. Growing are the people who



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believe what the bishops said at the beginning of *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, "The Christian vocation is essentially a call to be a disciple of Jesus. Stewardship is part of that. Even more to the point, however, Christians are called to be good stewards of the personal vocations they receive. Each of us must discern, accept, and live out joyfully and generously the commitments, responsibilities, and roles to which God calls him or her."

I embraced the spirituality of stewardship more than twenty-five years ago. My life has never been the same. Over the years, I have witnessed the profound transformation in people's lives when they embraced the spirituality of stewardship. I encourage you to enter more deeply into the spirituality called Stewardship.



The Urgent Call of Jesus Christ

by Leisa Anslinger, author and co-founder of Catholic Strengths and Engagement Community (CSEC)

I have often been struck by one paragraph of the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*: "Jesus' call is urgent. He does not tell people to follow him at some time in the future but here and now — at this moment, in these circumstances. There can be no delay" (p. 14). For me, this is a powerful statement that speaks to the practical implications of the call and challenge of discipleship and stewardship.

It is easy to tell ourselves that we will get around to living and growing as a follower of Jesus at some future point in our lives — when we are more settled, our children are older, our jobs are more secure, and so on. In doing so, we delay our response to the Lord's continual offer of salvation, mercy, forgiveness, and love. We minimize the impact of faith, falling deaf to God's voice and blind to the needs of others.

To accept the urgent call of Christ is to hear the voice of the Lord, and to respond in the way in which we live now, not in some distant future. Not only this. Christ does not call us in an abstract way, but instead within the particular circumstances of our lives. This is not about some vague and ideal future. It is about making decisions, discerning activities, and carrying out our lives as Christ's people at home, in our workplace or school, in our parish, our cities and towns, and the in the world.

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In this Easter season, we celebrate Christ's victory over death. We are called again to draw others to the new life that is offered in Jesus Christ. When we hear and respond to Christ's urgent call, we witness to the profound impact of faith in our lives and we evangelize, drawing others to a deep encounter with our Lord. We do this by stewarding our lives, gifts and blessings, and resources, here and now, in this moment, in the very real circumstances of our lives.