

# The GOOD STEWARD

Vol. 10

For the Members of St. Jude Catholic Church

No. 8

## The Practical Side of Good Stewardship

by Fr. Tim Church

The practical side of good stewardship hardly needs an argument. If there is an objection, the electric company will join forces with countless others to lay claim to their piece of the cost of running a parish. This consideration of the importance of good stewardship is common. For some, it is as far as the reflection will go. After all, this is much of what we see and hear about when it comes to this subject.

Buildings cost money and our pockets are expected to be the source for this to be a success. Suppose you are one of those who holds to a "pay as you go" philosophy. You use certain services in the parishes and you expect to pay for them. While the parish won't send you a bill, only a report of your giving, a lot of how we think about stewardship is directed by this idea.

Let's say you have a young, growing family. That means that you will need a number of resources in the parish. You need a building, a staff of educated workers, trained volunteers, printed materials, resource books, air conditioning, occasional transportation - so a bus would be nice, and the list goes on and on. If you are in a different demography of the parish, you use different services and your financial support, based on this of giving, is also different.

We might question how our giving relates to our concept of the Church. We subscribe to the notion that the parish is more like a family. We have different needs in this family, some can contribute more and some cannot. In a natural family, the little children take all sorts of time, use all sorts of resources, and are unable to return much to the family. Yet, there is an enormous sense of responsibility for them and a great commitment to taking care of them. The parish is the same.

The question we must ask is, where we fit into our parish family. Are we able or willing to support the family even though others cannot? Do we think of our belonging as we would a country club, paying dues and receiving in return the services that we are due?

The Catholic way of living sees our life as an opportunity for service. "Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40 In serving one another, we grow in our love of God. We provide for others, making up for their weakness, the same as we would serve Christ.

As we grow in our love for one another, we realize what an important place that stewardship has in our formation process. We cannot become the people that God calls us to be without this element. There are lean times for us all, but it is

the strength that we draw from one another that gives us what we need to continue.

For those who are able to give when other cannot, I offer my prayer of thanks to God for you. Your giving is evidence of the grace that God bestows upon the Church.

### Upcoming Adult & Catechetical Classes

**Sept. 22 & 29 Ecclesiology** (5 hr) *Facilitator: James Spurgin.* Ecclesiology is the study about the Church. This course will lead to and extend your vision with respect to the nature and ministry of the Church.

7 - 9:30pm in the Parish Hall

**October 3 & 10 Ecumenism** (5 hrs) *Facilitator: Father Tim.*

Ecumenism can be described as the understanding of the Catholic faith tradition in relation to other Christian traditions: the religious beliefs, gifts, values, and traditions commonly shared by the different Catholic Churches and other Christian communities. 7 - 9:30pm in the Parish Hall

**October 17 & 24 Roman Missal Changes** *Facilitator: Father Eugene.* Pope John Paul II announced a revised version of the Missale Romanum during the Jubilee Year 2000. The English translation of the Roman Missal will also include updated translations of existing prayers, including some of the well-known responses and acclamations of the people. Come and learn about the changes. 7 - 8:30pm in the Parish Hall

**October 20 & 27, November 10 & 17 The Creed Class** (10 hr) *Facilitator: James Spurgin.* This course will cover the major elements of the Catholic Profession of Faith: the Trinitarian images of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, as well as the Church as the Body of Christ. 7 - 9:30pm in the Parish Hall

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**November 7 & 14 Christology** (5 hrs) *Facilitator: Father Tim.* Who do you say I am? This is a fundamental question not only because it's context in the gospel, but for the very fact that the Church has been answering this question right from the beginning, defending and teaching Jesus' humanity and divinity. You will be presented with the origins and developments of the Theology about Jesus Christ, true God and true Man. 7 - 9:30pm in the Parish Hall

To sign up for the above courses contact Mary Boyle at [mboyle@stjudeparish.com](mailto:mboyle@stjudeparish.com).

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