

January 9, 2022
Baptism of the Lord
Stewardship
Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11
Ps. 104
Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7
Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22

Response to Overwhelming Love of God the Father

Jesus responds to the overwhelming love of the Father who tells Jesus, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." In fact, both the Son and the Father are responding to each other's love. Obviously, Jesus is responding to the Father's loving call and that is why the Father says He is pleased with the Son.

The Trinity of God is an expression of love for all of creation. Today's psalm (psalm 104) is a song of praise that extols God's wisdom and majesty. It calls us to a deeper awareness of the presence and power of God in all creation. "How manifold are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have wrought them all..." Isaiah the prophet points out, "Like a shepherd he feeds his flock; in his arms he gathers the lambs, carrying them in his bosom, and leading the ewes with care."

Mutual love fuels Stewardship. In love God gives us the great gift of Himself. When we realize the space He makes for us in His life we respond by loving in return. Stewardship is a response to the mutual love. It is a two-fold response to God's gifts.

Stewardship is first of all an expression of gratitude. You and I are uplifted to know God loves us and has given us much. Secondly, Stewardship is taking responsibility for what we have been given. For example, in the Gospel story Jesus responds to the Father's love for Him by totally giving His life to the way the Father wants him to live.

Jesus dedicates Himself to the father's call. Then he proceeds to live a life of service. Jesus spends His life preaching and teaching that we all may gain a deep understanding of the true love of God. Jesus' final act of stewardship is death on a cross. It demonstrates how much God loves us, how far He will go to prove His love. The Father responds by using His power over evil. The greatest evil is death. The Father raises Jesus from the dead!

Brothers and sisters, you and I must have gratitude and take responsibility. We must express our two-fold response of gratitude and responsibility in Stewardship. We must be compelled to give of our time, talent and treasure. This is what "runs" our parish and the larger Church as well.

So many of you use your time and talent well. You serve the ministries of this parish. Many of you are behind the

scenes where no one sees you. You work with great humility. You are responding as a good Steward.

This year the greatest needs are in the areas of Evangelization and Treasure.

Regarding evangelization, have courage. Reach out to someone and invite him or her to celebrate Mass with you. Since the Pandemic many people stayed home to avoid the disease. Rightfully so. Yet, this time away has perhaps led to a malaise. In some cases people might now think, "Why ever go back to Sunday Liturgy? I am getting by without it." Yet, they do not see what the separation is doing to them as they are no longer connected to the people who may show them love and concern in the name of the Lord.

Moreover, the whole separation from social gathering leads to depression. Bring someone with you to Scripture Sharing some Thursday evening. Spread the Good News in conversation with friends. These acts are moments of evangelization. You might save a lost soul through your invitation to join you here.

Tithing is the other important area of need. It is something that we all must renew. For some you might actually need to step up and make an honest tithe for the first time. We all need to help carry the load. Not just a few. Funding has dropped off in this past year. Some of this is due to the absence from the Liturgy. And since this column is read by many at home, heed that we all must support the parish financially. It takes the Time, Talent and Treasure of others just to make this electronic medium available to you. Send in your tithes.

Of course evil lurks. It effects the Church, that is us all, the time. How do we stem the influence of evil?

We must be faithful to the Gospel and Doctrine of the Church. As we have been preaching from the Scriptures we must continue the story of the Lords redemption. This is one theme of Luke's Gospel. We must be disciples with and for each other. We must check ourselves morally and spiritually and walk together in the Kingdom of God. We take responsibility for our own actions and help others do the same! Together in faith our Church may thrive as a place of hospitality where we all will grow in the Lord's love. This is the greatest Stewardship of all.

In all, this parish is the greatest! So many of you reach out to other people in so many ways. People care about those who are sad, unemployed, even with those who are elated with some great happening in life. It is seen and felt around here. This is a response to the Father's love for us. We respond in truly good, loving ways. In these past couple of years, while some have stayed away, other people have actually come to Church for the first time in the longest time! There are cases here of people who have found a spiritual home at Blessed

Sacrament Parish because we have shown acceptance and warmth in God's name.

Let us keep up the good work of God. Let us continue to show all are welcome in this place. No evil will ultimately get us down. We are the beloved sons and daughters of our God. We respond to the overwhelming love of God the Father.

COMMUNITY

We are in the process of selecting a roofing contractor. It is taking time. The engineering firm hired to design the roof and guide the process had to redesign it. That is because the original design called for materials that cannot be ordered for the next full year! The new design will cost about 50% more.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Joe Alfaro, Jordan Almendral, JoAnn Anderson, Angiolina Armenti, Michael Beard, Karen Becker, Mary Benivegna, Margarita Bogle, Tom Carver, Sean Chin, Robert Clark, Mary Collis, John Cooper, Logan Costante, Gregoria Daen, Sam DeMarco, Ines DeSalle, Roseanne DeSimone, Lisa DeStasio, John Dooney, Nelson Douaihi, Peggy Duff, Susan Fabbri, Lisa Findlay, Megan Forrester, Joshua Freeman, Richard Gossett, Ana Gilajota, Stephen Goch, Keri Greenan, Richard & Cathy Harper, Tyler Harrison, Dil Hatchett, Cindy Hogman, Tiffany Kentosh, Butch Klinger, Judith Kolo, John LaNeve, Tamika Lee, Bernie Liggett, Gail Martin, Sean Martin, Mary McKelvey, Clare McMahon, Frank McNeil, Rylee Mertz, Dan Murphy, Teresita Nazareno, Lauren Nicole, Thomas O'Brien, Barbara Perry, Della Mae Reblin, Lucy Reitano, Coleen Riley, Paul Riley, Dee Ripple, Matilda Rivier, Charles Rousseau, Anthony Ruggiero, Theresa Schluter, Brad Schroder, Ellen Seaman, Roger Sherman, Jim Smullen, Vivian Spasiano, Rick Steffan, M. Stoufer, Richard Taylor, Antoinette Teresi, Constantino Thomas, Margarita Verano, Peggy Weiss, Ed Wisley, Nancy Zakem, Marie & Jeff, Lucas Zaky

STEWARDSHIP	
Attendance last week:	195
Tithes Collected:	\$6,150.20
Online Giving:	\$455.00
Total:	\$6,575.50
Attendance for Solemnity:	105
Tithes collected:	\$1,808.00
Attendance for 12/26/21:	172
Tithes Collected:	\$4,076.00
Online Giving:	\$260.00
Total:	\$4,336.00
Attendance for Christmas:	338
Tithes Collected:	\$10,735.43
Attendance for 4 th Advent:	261
Tithes Collected:	\$4,724.00
Online Giving:	\$865.00
Total:	\$5,589.00
Attendance for 3 rd Advent:	258
Tithes Collected:	\$5,144.00
Online Giving:	\$280.00
Total:	\$5,424.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 8

- 10:45 a.m. † Lorraine & Charles Walgenwitt by Carol Walgenwitt
- † Beverly Ann Lacks by Jose Gonzalez & Bill Caruso

Sunday, January 9

- 9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish
- 10:45 a.m. † Fr. Ken Wolnowski by Parish

Monday, January 10

- 8:00 a.m. NO MASS

Tuesday, January 11

- 8:00 a.m. † Bernard & Eileen Flood by Flood Family

Wednesday, January 12

- 8:00 a.m. Respect Life by Parish

Thursday, January 13

- 8:00 a.m. Colorado Fire Victims

Friday, January 14

- 8:00 a.m. † Souls in Purgatory by Parish

Saturday, January 15

- 4:00 p.m. † Marie Corcorant by Anthony Michel & Family
- † Nicholas Volpetti by John Galinus

Sunday, January 16

- 9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish
- 10:45 a.m. † Valentino Papaleo by Lorraine Zocchi
- † Predo & Candida Martin by Mazzurco

STEWARDSHIP

Next weekend we begin the yearly time of Renewal to Stewardship. People from among us will give witness to their stewardship. Personal witness is the inspiration coming from one of our own.

Gregory and Dianne will give witness this year. Bless them for their willingness to do so.

Please give them your attention and support.