

***January 1<sup>st</sup> – The Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God***

Jesus is the supreme example and teacher of stewardship. After Jesus, it is the Blessed Virgin Mary who, by her example, most perfectly shows us the meaning of discipleship and stewardship. All of the essential elements are found in her life: she was called and gifted by God; she responded joyfully and generously; she was patient and persistent in her maternal role from the manger to the cross. The question in all of this is what about us? Do we also wish to be disciples and stewards?

Stewardship Office, The Archdiocese of Winnipeg, [www.archwinnipeg.ca](http://www.archwinnipeg.ca)

***January 8<sup>th</sup> – Epiphany of the Lord***

The word *epiphany* is defined as, ‘a sudden intuitive perception or insight into the reality or essential meaning of something’. In looking at all of life through the prism of stewardship we gain an insight into the reality that everything in life is a gift from God. This is true of everything we have: all worldly possessions; spiritual gifts like faith, hope and love; relationships with our spouse, family and friends; the very world itself. It’s all gift! Another epiphany that stewardship invites us to is the realization that one day God will require an accounting of the use each of us has made of the particular gifts He entrusted to us.

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***January 15<sup>th</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time***

***God is calling... is He getting a busy signal?***

In today’s readings, God calls Samuel and Christ calls His first disciples. Through our baptism each of us, not just some of us, are called to discipleship. There are two flanks of discipleship ó stewardship & evangelization. Are these two a part of your response to God’s call? Without them your discipleship would be incomplete.

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***January 22<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time***

There exists in our parish community a diversity of unique gifts. God has provided these gifts in order to advance His Kingdom. Our sisters and brothers in other Christian denominations have also been blessed with unique gifts that are being used for the same purpose. This Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> the *Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* comes to a close. We pray that all Christians be good stewards of their relationships with one another, seeking to listen to and to understand each other, being always patient and humble, so that the Body of Christ may be truly united.

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***January 29<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time***

Here we are! Nearly one month already gone in 2012! What did you resolve to change this year? Stewardship calls for a change to the way we think about who we are, and what we possess. What changes might God be calling you to? Stewardship calls us to be emptied of pride, envy, jealousy, anger, selfishness, and greed. Only then can we be filled with humility, charity, faith, hope, patience, peace, joy, surrender, and gratitude!

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