December 21, 2014

4th Sunday of Advent

“Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!” – LUKE 1:28

Faith is a gift from God. During this Christmas season take time in silence and pray to God. Thank Him for all the gifts He has given you. Try to set aside any anger or resentment you have and really open your heart to receive the gift of God’s grace.

December 28, 2014

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

“...as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive.” - COLOSSIANS 3:13

Forgiveness – one of the hardest things for people to do. It’s amazing how long we can hold a grudge or be angry with someone. As we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family, take this opportunity to give the gift of forgiveness to someone - maybe someone in your family, maybe a friend, maybe a co-worker or neighbor or, maybe yourself. Pick up the phone or text someone right now.

January 4, 2015

Epiphany of the Lord

“...they fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh...” - MATTHEW 2:11

Notice the order of events in the Magi’s visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!

January 11, 2015

Baptism of the Lord

“After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.” – MARK 1:7

We are put on this earth to love God, love our neighbor and make disciples. How many times does our own pride and ego get in the way on fulfilling God’s plan for us? Humbling ourselves before God and putting Him first in all things should be our top priority.
January 18, 2015

**2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

“Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, ’What are you looking for?’” - JOHN 1:38

What are you looking for? Are you wasting your time looking for the material comforts of the world? Or, is your heart longing for something deeper that can only be found by spending time with God? Take time, each day, in silence and ask the Lord what it is that He wants you to do.

January 25, 2015

**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

“Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” - MARK 1:17

Jesus’ call to “Follow me” is a call to all Christians! Jesus asks us to help Him build His church on earth by generously sharing all our gifts of prayer, talent and treasure. Remember, Jesus calls us to generously develop and share all our gifts, not just the ones we pick and choose.

February 1, 2015

**4th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

“Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties.” - 1 CORINTHIANS 7:32

How much anxiety do we bring upon ourselves by constantly worrying about not having enough or attaining more things? God won’t necessarily give you everything you want, but He will provide everything you need. Try this – use the word “pray” instead of the word “worry” in the future.

February 8, 2015

**5th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

“Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed...He told them, ‘Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come.’”

- MARK 1:35, 38

In today’s Gospel reading we see a perfect example of stewardship. Jesus gives His time to do all that God wishes - healing the sick and preaching. Yet, Jesus also makes time to be alone in prayer. It is through prayer, spending time with God, that we find the strength to do what God wishes us to do. Be sure to find time every day to be with God.
February 15, 2015

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Brothers and sisters, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.” - 1 CORINTHIANS 10:31

Do a quick check of your priorities. Where does God rank in that list? If He’s not first, you have some work to do. Putting God first in everything helps develop the attitude of “I am grateful for the gifts God gave me” instead of “I want more”. For most people gratitude leads to generosity.

February 22, 2015

1st Sunday of Lent

“After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God...” - MARK 1:14

Do you ever think about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to come into Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that Jesus was proclaiming. It must have taken great love and trust for Jesus to do what the Father had sent Him here on earth to do. In the same way, following a life of stewardship takes great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that God will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.

March 1, 2015

2nd Sunday of Lent

“‘Here I am!’ he answered.” - GENESIS 22:11

It is easy to say, “Here I am, Lord,” when we are kneeling in church. Can we just as easily answer, “Here I am, Lord,” when we go home, when a neighbor needs our help, when a fellow parishioner asks us to join a committee, or when a letter asks for our financial help? These are often exactly the places where Jesus calls us to be.

March 8, 2015

3rd Sunday of Lent

“You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything...” - EXODUS 20:4

How many “gods” do you put before God? “Idols” do not always take the shape of physical things, things we can touch and feel. Those are easy to recognize. Many times they take the form of things we cannot touch and are much harder to spot - pride, power, ego, comfort or health.
March 15, 2015

4th Sunday of Lent

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son...” - John 3:16

Of all the wonderful gifts that God has given to us, the gift of His own Son is truly the greatest. How can we ever thank God for a gift like that? God does not ask us to sacrifice our own precious firstborn, but He does ask that we be generous in making some sacrifices for Him.

March 22, 2015

5th Sunday of Lent

“I will be their God and they shall be my people.” - Jeremiah 31:33

What does it mean to be God’s people? It means we recognize that everything we have and everything we are belongs to God. We aren’t “owners” of anything, we are merely “stewards” of the gifts God has given us. It means we are willing to use our gifts and our lives to care for our neighbors and the world, just as God cares for us.

March 29, 2015

Palm Sunday

“Pilate again said to them, ‘Then what shall I do with the man whom you call the King of the Jews?’ And they cried out again, ‘Crucify him.’” – Mark 15:12-13

Jesus told us “whatever you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me.” Every day we are presented opportunities to help someone. Every day we have the opportunity to see the face of Jesus in others and be the face of Jesus to others. Pray for the courage to stand up for those in need of our help.

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“Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to the one who has nothing. Nor is it small to God if we have given what we could”

.... St. Gregory Nazianzen