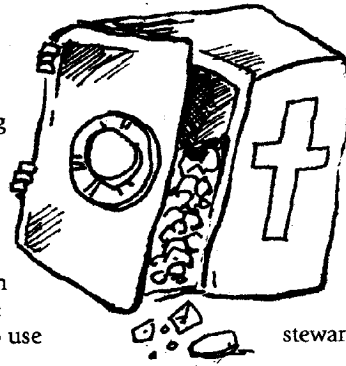


What does stewardship mean?

Remember the parable of the three servants who looked after the master's money while he was gone? The first two servants invested the money wisely, but the third was punished for having done nothing with what was given him. (See Matthew 25:14-30.) He was a poor steward of his master's goods.

A steward is someone trusted to manage an employer's affairs and possessions. We have each been trusted with talents and strengths to use in God's service and to further his mission. He expects us to use



these gifts to help others know him, love him, serve him, and be happy with him in Heaven.

Today, stewardship means committing the best portion of our time, talent, and treasure to the mission of the Church. Generous sharing of resources, including money, is central to caring for God's Church and his people. When you realize that everything you have and everything you do is from God, then you want to give back to God in thanksgiving. That's modern day stewardship in action.

from Scripture

Mk 6:30-34. If God calls you to it, he'll see you through it.

The apostles had just returned from their missionary work and were anxious to give Jesus the details. They were so busy with the demands of the crowds, however, they couldn't even eat.

Jesus knows that God's servants become weary as they work and he took the apostles to a deserted place to rest and rejuvenate. He tenderly met their need for rest. The same is true for us. When Jesus sees us being overwhelmed by the pressures of this



world, he invites us to rest in his company.

Nonetheless, Jesus and his friends were found out and there was a crowd waiting for them when they got off the boat. Jesus was moved with pity for the crowd, probably discerning their hunger for the Good News. Jesus' compassion often led him to action and, in this case, he responded by teaching. Just as the Lord interrupted his vacation to meet the needs of his people, he wants us to put the needs of others ahead of our own. We can be confident he'll take care of us when we get overwhelmed and weary.

Feasts & Celebrations

July 14 - Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha (1680). A smallpox epidemic in her Native American village left Kateri orphaned, disfigured, and half-blind. Introduced to Catholicism by missionaries, she was baptized at the age of 19 and moved to a Christian village where she lived in holiness.

July 15 - St. Bonaventure (1274). Cured of an illness through the prayers of St. Francis of Assisi, St. Bonaventure became a Franciscan. As minister general



of the order, he cultivated a love of the way of St. Francis and the order's ideals.

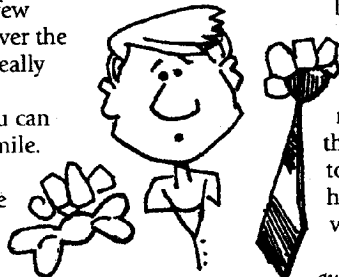
July 25 - St. James (42). When Jesus called St. James and his brother to become apostles, they left their father in a fishing boat on the Sea of Galilee. St. James was one of three apostles to witness Jesus' transfiguration, the raising of Jairus' daughter, and the agony in Gethsemani. St. James was the first of the apostles to be martyred.

Q & A

What is the most appropriate way to dress for Mass?

The best way to dress for Mass is to put on a reverent attitude. You can do this by arriving a few minutes early to go over the readings so you can really absorb their message.

The next thing you can wear to church is a smile. That will give others the feeling that you're happy to be there and happy to see them, too. And of course you'll want to don your best singing voice so you can sing with gusto (regardless of ability) and



really participate in the Mass.

Perhaps you'll want to accessorize by tucking a small

notepad in your purse or pocket. You can use it to jot down prayer requests, intercessions, or thoughts from the homily to review later. That will help you live the Mass all week long.

(Note: If you have a question about the kind of clothing appropriate for your church, ask your pastor. He will know what's right for your parish.)

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