



the soul & let your spirit fly

A bimonthly publication of Good Shepherd Catholic Church ~ steadfast in awakening our true being in God.

## STEWARDSHIP — *Our Grateful Response to God*

“Stewardship is a lifestyle,” Father Michael Vaughan says tying it intricately to the mission of every disciple of Jesus.

He refers to the document of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB), [Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response](#), as the necessary resource for Christian understanding.

“We know that all that we are comes from God,” Father Michael says further explaining how stewardship, at its very heart, is a threefold spirituality of caring for (1) creation, (2) one’s personal vocation, and (3) the mission of Christ’s Church. It is an act of gratitude.

The Christian steward “sees” the necessity of imitating Christ and living a lifestyle of complete and generous response and gratitude to God.

Embracing a mindset of stewardship is life-changing and brings honed purpose to the missionary disciple.



“In the lives of disciples  
...something else must  
come before the practice of  
stewardship. They need a  
flash of insight  
— a certain way of seeing —  
by which they view the  
world and their relationship  
to it in a fresh, new light.

(Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response, p. 39)

(Continue on page 4)

To Hear Jesus  
To Love Jesus

Towards an ever-deepening  
relationship with Christ

THRESHOLDS of

Conversion

**Initial Trust** - A positive association with Jesus Christ, the Church, a Christian believer, or something identifiably Christian. The bridge of trust moves people closer to God.

**Spiritual Curiosity** - A sure intrigue with Jesus, his life and his teachings, with varying intensities from simple awareness to powerful desire.

**Spiritual Openness** - An openness to the possibility of personal and spiritual change.

**Spiritual Seeking** - A pronounced movement from passively seeking God to actively seeking to know God.

**Intentional Discipleship** - A decision to "drop one's nets," committing to follow Jesus in his Church, reordering life accordingly.



**Kurt & Kristen Zanzi:**

## SPIRITUAL CURIOSITY DEEPENED THEIR FAITH

*Kurt Zanzi talks with ease about his deep faith, recalling his journey to Catholicism and his profound gratitude for the spiritual curiosity that led him to commit to participate in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) 20 years ago.*

*"My mind has completely shifted," he says alluding to both a spiritual and intellectual transformation. "I know what the faith has done for us as a family," he adds, 100 percent convinced that "it really has kept us together ... I wouldn't want it any other way."*

Kurt shares that he wasn't Catholic when he married Kristen, a "cradle-Catholic," in 2001 but he did not want her to go to church by herself. He tells of his early outlook that he would go with her and they would "show up as a family." Although baptized Episcopalian, he had not experienced a faith upbringing, so Mass was intriguing.

"The whole thing was just fascinating to me," he reveals enthusiastically pointing to how the structure of the Mass and the ways that parishioners interacted and participated stirred a curiosity within him. He admits, "I was just really curious," if not drawn "in" to the holy happenings before him.

"As I continued to go, I just wanted to be a part of it," Kurt says acknowledging that "it felt like the right thing to do."

"Call it curiosity, or call it the Holy Spirit, I just felt like I wanted to do it," he says

conveying his desire to enroll in RCIA.

"I was so excited," Kristen shares transported back to times while dating when she was sensitive, if not careful, not to be "pushy" with matters of faith. Still, she was Catholic and it was all she ever knew. She could not hide the fact that Kurt's faith inspired her.

"When he found faith so deeply, that's when I thought, wow, I'm missing something," Kristen admits. She watched his morning and lunchtime prayers, and his hunger to learn and discover more. She found it "really attractive" to see the Holy Spirit working in their family.

And the curiosity does not end. While Kurt and Kristen's faith journey exemplifies God's abundant grace, they both recognize an ongoing yearning to know more and to grow more.

"I don't think you ever stop learning,"

Kurt maintains, listing off moments of history and saints and catechism, so worth time and attention. An avid reader, he feels reading should be spent on "something that really matters." They joke about how Kurt brought the catechism on a summer camping trip while Kristen confesses her own choice for author Nicholas Sparks. She quips about her tendency to "google" facts and her preference for movies and visual learning. Daily conversion. Curiosity at work.

Kristen and Kurt gush about their daughter, Sofia, a freshman at Creighton University. They credit Catholic education as instrumental in her faith journey and her own deep spirituality.

And Scout. Their holy hound. Blessed at the annual blessing of the animals commemorating the Feast of St. Francis, it is clear, faith surrounds the Zanzi family. A faith rooted in curiosity and blossoming fully as disciples for Christ.

# ADVENT BY CANDLELIGHT

## December 10, 2022

# Returns

# Let's Go

GROW IN FAITH  
& DISCIPLESHIP!



Ruth DeFrates

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the beloved Advent by Candlelight evening event for women returns this year. Planned for Saturday,

December 10, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the Father Philip Wells Parish Hall, sign-ups to attend this free program begin early in November with expectations for more than 200 attendees.

Ruth DeFrates of the Evangelization Outreach Ministry recounts the beginnings of this special and uncommon evening.

“My sister’s parish, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in St. Louis, Missouri, had been doing it,” Ruth explains indicating the event’s prominence east of the Mississippi. Her sister, Mary, sent photos and talked about it across the miles but the clincher occurred when Mary flew out to California and sat down with Ruth and Ministry lead Donna Gutierrez.

“It just took off from there,” Ruth recalls. That was 2012 and by December 2013 Good Shepherd held its first Advent by Candlelight with impressive participation and magnificent response to the program.

The purpose of the evening focuses on setting a Christ-centered tone for the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Ruth

shares how the beautiful evening recognizes how women often influence the atmosphere of the season driving traditions whether secular or Christian.

“There can be a mix,” Ruth concedes while also conveying that Advent by Candlelight reminds women at the onset of the season “that it’s not just Santa and Rudolf.” Instead, turning to prayer, scripture and sacred tradition early in Advent inspires women and their families to hold the birth of Christ in their hearts always, while waiting in joyful hope for the Second Coming.

Beautiful Advent-themed tablescapes create a magical setting with white lights and candlelight throughout the hall. Every table displays the creativity of the table hostesses bringing forth symbols and imagery of the season. A guest speaker offers an Advent message for further reflection and meditation. The evening concludes with a prayerful, communal candle ceremony reminiscent of Bethlehem and the Nativity.

No less important to the aura of “waiting” is another natural and tangential effect. An undeniable element of evangelization occurs as women of many faiths attend and as Catholics and parishioners themselves experience the grace of daily conversion, touched by the Holy Spirit.

This year will mark the eighth Advent by Candlelight program in the parish.



Teresa Tomeo – author, syndicated Catholic talk show host on Ave Maria Radio and EWTN Global Catholic Radio Network, and motivational speaker

## Teresa Tomeo — special guest speaker for Advent by Candlelight

Good Shepherd Parish welcomes [Teresa Tomeo](#) as its speaker for Advent by Candlelight on December 10. Many are familiar with her well-known contributions in the world of media and broadcasting. A popular talk show host and radio commentator, Teresa’s deep faith and popular convictions regarding media awareness and advocacy make her a sought after international speaker. She also speaks regularly at a range of conferences encouraging women, marriage, life and spiritual growth. Her syndicated programs are carried by Ave Maria Radio and EWTN Global Catholic Radio.

*Save these dates and share in the generosity of these ministries.*

### Pancake Breakfasts

Nov. 6 and Dec. 11, 2022

Hosted by:

Knights of Columbus

### Mini Ministry Fair

Alliance of Independent

Organizations & Developing

Ministry - Nov. 19/20, 2022

### Knights of Columbus Craft Fair

Nov. 19/20, 2022

### St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School Family Movie Night

Dec. 7, 2022

# THE SPIRITUALITY OF Stewardship

(Continues from page 1)

## Consider

### “What is God asking me to do?”

“Stewardship asks us to take stock,” Deacon Rommel Declines advises as a 10+ year proponent and parish leader of stewardship initiatives. It requires honest work, “reflection, and pausing your life” to give it due consideration.

“We have to think about all we’ve been given and then give back to God sacrificially,” Deacon Rommel explains describing how “100 percent of our first fruits” should be earmarked for God.

All kinds of obstacles impede stewardship in the modern world and hinder, or limit, a disciple’s grateful response.

Father James Mallon, a pastor in Nova Scotia, Canada and author of *Divine Renovation*, suggests that many Catholics “remain unawakened, passive consumers of “religion lite.”

His powerful 2014 book has swept the world igniting a focus on renewal and rebuilding God’s Church with an intentional focus on mission and values. He assures that while these transformations take time the emphasis on taking the Church “from maintenance to mission” means “changing what we consider to be normative for the Christian life.”

Good Shepherd Parish leadership applauds *Divine Renovation* ideas precisely because the methodologies are grounded in stewardship as a fundamental aspect of discipleship.

“You can be a part” of God’s plan and the lifestyle of stewardship spirituality “no matter where you are,” Deacon Rommel asserts illustrating how stewardship is an expression of discipleship carried out by one’s whole being in the perpetuation of Christ’s mission.

“Focus on the mission and give from that space,” Deacon Rommel offers.

*A flash of insight...A certain way of seeing “that everything we have, and everything we are, is by God’s initiative, by God’s grace and by God’s providence.”* Archbishop Paul J. Etienne, USCCB Stewardship Chairperson

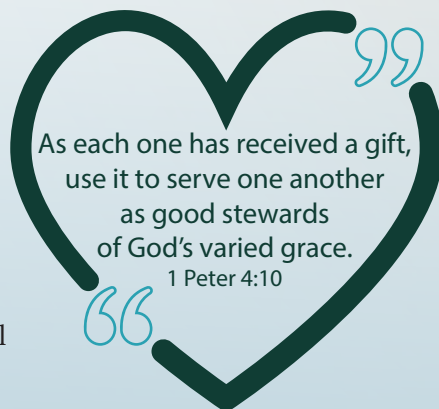
## Allow

### stewardship to be a source of deepening spirituality

Stewardship is a lifelong responsibility and a journey to holiness. It gently forces a “letting go” of secularized values in favor of “a lifestyle that reflects who we are and what we believe” as Catholics. These are the words of Archbishop Thomas Murphy (1932-1997) who chaired the committee that prepared the document *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*. In it, a Christian steward is defined as “**one who receives God’s gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, and returns them with increase to the Lord.**”

#### Well worth a look!

- **Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response, USCCB Pastoral Letter**
- **What do I own and what owns me? A Spirituality of Stewardship,** by Daniel Conway
- **Laudato Si’ - On care for our common home,** Encyclical Letter by Pope Francis
- **Fratelli Tutti - On fraternity and social friendship,** Encyclical Letter by Pope Francis
- **Novo Millennio Ineunte,** Apostolic Letter by Pope Saint John Paul II
- **Forming Generous Hearts,** by Leisa Anslinger & Victoria Shepp



# Engage in acts of gratitude

A grateful response to God is a commitment to share *time, talent and treasure*, and an understanding that giving back to God *can be and is glorious*.

Father James Mallon writes of a stewardship conference experience and a game-changing “tweaking” of his own understanding of the “three Ts.” It changed his perceptions and distinguished the necessary understanding of the purposes of ministries as service-oriented and formation-oriented.

“*Time* was to be understood as a commitment to spiritual growth and discipleship. *Talent* was entirely about serving others. And *Treasure*, of course, was about financial giving.”

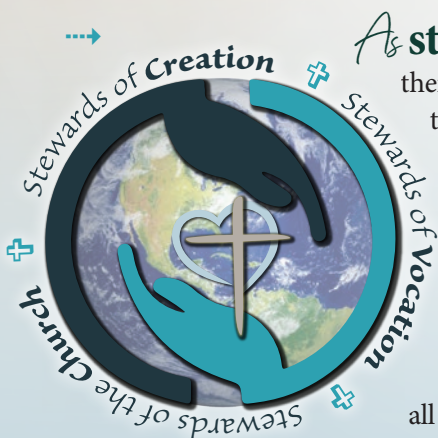
With this understanding, Christian stewards can begin to focus on the act of giving – the *action* of giving. It involves “taking stock” and compels the steward to ask what and why. The disciple-steward answers, “to gratefully respond and glorify God!”

The USCCB’s *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response* offers a beautiful “big picture” overlay to the concepts of time, talent and treasure. The disciple-steward “sees” with great clarity how stewardship giving exists within and among every individual and the larger community, requiring refocused care, purpose and gratitude directed towards God.

→ **As stewards of creation**, disciples work in partnership with God appreciating God’s creation. Care for the earth, environment, human life and dignity, and the development of this world expresses thanksgiving while cultivating the Kingdom of God on earth.

→ **As stewards of vocation**, disciples recognize their personal vocation as a call from God. They identify their special gifts and talents as non-optional offerings to God and community.

→ **As stewards of the Church**, disciples view their essential mission as collaborators in the redemptive work of Christ. Co-responsible and co-accountable, stewards offer a faith response in support of the Church and its work to “go make disciples of all nations.”



Ann Burke shares

## The work of Good Shepherd’s Stewardship Committee

Long time parishioner Ann Burke accepted the lead role for the parish stewardship committee earlier this year. She describes how the committee of 16 members is working “to discover our ‘why’ and the direction we’re heading.”

“What does it mean to be a steward?” she asks rhetorically. Delving into all the reading resources, Ann believes the committee’s work will focus on helping parishioners “recognize the gifts they have” and then “help them to hone and develop those gifts so we have passionate people participating and engaged.”

**For the near term, Ann lists some important initiatives:**

- Acknowledge and recognize the parish prayer as a call to stewardship; a call to share one’s gifts. Develop a deeper understanding of how our unique talents and gifts, or vocation, serve to bring the Gospel to life through intentional loving and kind actions, and committed participation in the church and in the community.
- Usher understanding that what we do in the secular world should prompt a spiritual mindshift and clarity on whether we are “doing the work of the Lord.” The message of Pope Francis’ encyclical *Laudato Si’* encourages “care for our common home” and urges action. As an example, Ann cites recent requirements to separate organic waste as a perfect spiritual exercise in caring for creation.

A stewardship parish is a healthy and excited parish contributing in each area because “people are being brought to Christ,” and asking themselves “how am I being called to transform the world?”

Father Michael Vaughan



## FRUITFUL DISCIPLESHIP

... blooms year-round  
in Good Shepherd's  
ministries.

Learn more as we feature one of our  
ministry alliances in each issue.

### The [Alliance of Independent Organizations and Developing Ministry](#) is

a practical grouping of diverse ministries striving to mirror the heart of Christ with generosity. Father Michael invites us to take a closer look, turning to Pope Saint John Paul II's Apostolic letter *Novo Millennio Ineunte*.

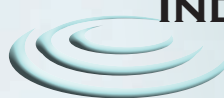
"... a vision of communion is closely linked to the Christian community's ability to make room for all the gifts of the Spirit. The unity of the Church is not uniformity, but an organic blending of legitimate diversities. It is the reality of many members joined in a single body, the one Body of Christ (cf. 1 Cor 12:12)."

(*Novo Millennio Ineunte*, #46).

"This is everything that is inside and outside the parish," he says describing the alliance as an example of "unity in our diversity," and representing "the spirituality of communion."

**MIRROR THE  
HEART OF  
CHRIST**  
*with generosity*

# ALLIANCE OF INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATIONS & DEVELOPING MINISTRY



"The Holy Spirit is the protagonist," Father Michael says, suggesting room for the protagonist to transform in ways yet unknown and prosper all lay vocations as stewards "because of generosity."

Interim alliance chair Maria Serpa explains, "Independent Organizations have separate governance structures," operating separately but collaboratively with church management. These organizations work with the Church mutually sharing facilities and resources.

She notes how these independent organizations have "taken service to our community to a high level" affording opportunities for parishioners to serve, participate and mirror Christ with momentum derived from communion.

Maria defines "Developing Ministry" as committees that are forming a mission or scope anticipated to go beyond a small group or singular objective. Developing ministry exists inside the parish with pastoral oversight, but with an external dynamic that can be fluid and responsive to both the parish and community-at-large, growing and fostering missionary discipleship.

### *Independent Organizations*

**St. Vincent de Paul, Good Shepherd Conference** – The local conference of this national organization works to alleviate poverty in our community, helping hundreds of people every week. Members manage an onsite "food locker" and distribute food boxes on Monday mornings. They also help fund dire situations for families struggling with utility costs. Through home visits and deliveries, the conference reaches out in service to the most vulnerable and poor. Their work is complemented by the generosity of parishioners who donate goods and money towards the conference's mission.

**Knights of Columbus, Laguna Council #11236** – Part of the larger, national organization of 2 million men, Good Shepherd Knights have nearly 200 members who put their faith in action. They serve the pastor, families and parish ministries generously, charitably and faithfully. As respected leaders in the parish, Knights collaborate on a range of events and programs, and offer financial assistance and scholarships. Most recently, their *Into the Breach* study group afforded men an opportunity to meet and discuss leadership, brotherhood, sacramental life, and spiritual warfare. Soon annual pie sales and the craft fair will raise funds for their mission.

**Columbiettes** – This emerging organization brings together the women's auxiliaries of the Knights of Columbus. In service and in distinct fundraising, members lend assistance as needed to the Knights and the parish.

# Unity in our diversity



Swahili Mass participants



Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz Mass

Come & See Ethnic Masses – These groups bring a new

**Ministry leads:** Father Julius Kiogora Kaburu (Swahili Mass), Judith Marshall (St. Vincent de Paul), Maria Serpa (Interim alliance chairperson), Mike Blakey (Knights of Columbus), Becky Fukuda (Columbiettes), Ann Burke (Stewardship Committee). **Not pictured:** Xiomara Balladarez (Columbiettes) Frandee Harville, Ninfa Campomanes & Joyce Joves (Filipino Community Leadership Committee), Juanita Baier (Committee Guadalupano), Bobby Aglubat (Simbang Gabi), Tony & Carmen Cua (Santo Nino) and Deacon Rommel Declines (Ecumenical/Interreligious Affairs)

## Developing Ministry

**Stewardship Committee** – This committee focuses on bringing about a meaningful stewardship lifestyle for parishioners and deepening a communal understanding of sharing one's whole being in gratitude for God's generosity.

**Filipino Community Leadership Committee** – A cultural collaboration of many Filipino groups involved with spiritual devotions and events, this committee's leadership brings vision and celebration of Filipino culture locally and on a wider scale. The recent diocesan Mass and dinner for the Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz, welcoming Bishop Soto (Sacramento), Bishop Buzon (Phillippines) and more than 10 priests offers an example. This committee also plans the Tagalog Mass.

**Ecumenical /Interreligious Affairs Committee** – A longtime commitment of the Catholic Church, this group aims



Voices of Praise Gospel Choir

Pentecost mindset to Catholics near and far, who come and see Mass or Feast days celebrated in several languages and expressions, accentuating unity in our diversity.

**Swahili Mass** - First Sunday, 2:30 p.m. Music, dress and full participation are hallmarks of this Mass which is followed by further celebration in the hall with food lovingly prepared by volunteers.

People have come from as far away as Seattle, and quite often from the Bay Area and throughout Sacramento.

**Tagalog Mass** - Second Sunday at 3:00 p.m. Organizers celebrate Mass in the national language of the Philippines. Additional committees ensure the Advent novena tradition of Simbang Gabi, and the January celebration of the Feast of Santo Nino.

**Gospel Mass** - Third Saturday at 5:00 p.m. Voices of Praise Gospel Choir enlivens the liturgy with Gospel music for this monthly celebration.

**Spanish Mass** - Fourth Sunday at 7:00 p.m. The Spanish language Mass draws upon the rich heritage of Mexico, integrating language and culture. Special expanded activities occur in celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in December.



Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

to open and maintain dialogue with other denominations and non-Christian religions. Recognizing a duty and the call to be peacemakers, this committee vision seeks to foster an attitude of openness and welcome with mutual listening in the spirit of peace and justice.

Come & See



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 Pastor: Rev. Michael Vaughan

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**The Tomeldan family:  
 devoted to stewardship  
 in gratitude to God**

Parishioners at Good Shepherd since 2002, the Tomeldan family has served and volunteered extensively for the parish and the larger community.

Lailane and Modesto (Jun) both have participated in choir. Lailane serves as a lector and volunteers with CFF. Modesto serves as an extraordinary minister of holy Communion and a Mass coordinator.

Their sons, Joseph, 22, and Jonathan, 14, have grown up at Good Shepherd and, likewise, have hearts of service. Joseph now attends school in San Diego but he



played flute for the choir, and served as a CFF catechist and an altar server. Jonathan is a lead altar server and has been very active with the AV/tech ministry contributing to the live streaming of Mass on the parish Youtube channel.

*Awaken* **Practice the faith ...**  
**THE SOUL**

*“We recognize that God’s love and mercy are endless. For us, the only way we can thank Him is by exemplifying love and stewardship in our lives.*

*God calls us to utilize the gifts He gives us. If we become selfless and serve others, we see the face of God in those we support.*

*When I was young, my parents taught me that everything we have matters because God gave it to us. He provides us with everything and we must give Him thanks. We instilled in our sons the importance of never taking things for granted.*

*It is God who bestows upon us these blessings because of His goodness.*

*We offer our feelings and burdens to him so that we can push forward. We know God has the power to allow us to triumph over our darkness into light. C.S. Lewis said, ‘I pray because I can’t help myself. I pray because I feel helpless. It doesn’t change God - it changes me.’*

*As disciples of Christ, we are called to accept His love and continue the saving mission. His unconditional love is given to us every day. If we trust Him, we will walk on the path to salvation.”*

*Lailane Tomeldan*