

# Celebrating Stewardship Sunday

## November 11/12, 2017

### Homily Helps

Stewardship Weekend Homily Ideas  
November 11/12, 2017  
Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

WIS 6:12-16

PS 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8

1 THES 4:13-18

MT 21:5-19

(Download readings at [uscgb.org/111316.cfm](http://uscgb.org/111316.cfm))

Note: if your parish is doing an annual recommitment/renewal this weekend, please tailor your comments to fit the components (gratitude, prayer, service, sharing) you will be highlighting.

As we encounter Stewardship Weekend each year, the readings are apocalyptic in nature. The scriptures for the Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time encourage us to truly understand the beauty of our gift of dying and rising in Christ and our need to “Stay Awake!” We are challenged to give up our lukewarm nature and to be passionate and intentional disciples in our everyday lives.

This year, we are celebrating Stewardship Weekend with the theme: *In Jesus’ Name: Be Bold, Be Grateful, Pray, Serve, Share*. Paul’s comforting message in the passage from Thessalonians is a beautiful reminder of why our lives need to be shaped and formed to follow and honor Jesus. We have been redeemed through the cross and resurrection of Jesus and it is only because of Him that we have the promise of eternal life. For those of us who have been present at the passing of a loved one and watched them physically reach out and perhaps say the name of a loved one, we may understand in some small way of the beauty what our future holds. It is only because of Jesus.

As we hear *Parable of the Ten Virgins* proclaimed once again, do you ever wonder what the five virgins who missed the Bridegroom were actually so busy doing that they didn’t have time to purchase the oil for their lamps? Do you wonder where their passions and energies lied that preparing for this event was not a priority? Perhaps the question could be asked, did they know who the Bridegroom was? Why exactly did they miss the bus?

If the call to *stay awake, put our ducks in order, or keep our priorities straight* is the message of this Gospel, then our generation has an even bigger challenge. We have so many distractions it is very easy for us to forget to fill up the oil can. If in fact, God, Family, Work is the correct order of our priorities, then we should know, love and serve Jesus as well as we do are family members and our jobs. Yet, we are called to: *But seek ye first the Kingdom [of God] and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you besides.* (Mt 6:33 ) We need to be bold seekers!

Today our lives are so busy and often times with life sustaining activities and relationships which are blessings from God. No doubt, the Ten Virgins who missed the Bridegroom could have said the same thing. Perhaps in celebration of Stewardship Weekend we might reflect upon where in our faith-life of gratitude, prayer service and sharing we might be “lukewarm” and take a step up so we too one day will be ready to boldly welcome the Bridegroom with enthusiasm and joy. He is Coming!!!

