



*Office of Stewardship and Development
Diocese of Madison
First Quarter 2012*

Annual Catholic Appeal 2012

The dates have been set for the 2012 Annual Catholic Appeal.

- Week of January 23, 2012 – Mailing to parishioners from Bishop Morlino
- March 3-4, 2012 – Announcement Weekend
- March 10-11, 2012 – Commitment Weekend
- March 17-18, 2012 – Follow Up Weekend

Every parish is asked to promote and participate in the ACA as scheduled. In the event your parish must adjust this schedule, please contact the Vicar General's office to request a variance. Thank you!

Combined Collections

Beginning January 2012, the National Collection Schedule will have a new look combining several of the national collections into combined collections.

New envelopes have been designed for parish envelope packets/boxes. When you order your new collection envelopes, please use the new design for the combined collections. Each envelope company has that artwork. The new collection schedule will take effect January 1, 2012.

Holy Land

Good Friday

April 6, 2012

National Combined Collection

Third Weekend in May

May 20, 2012

Respect Life

First Weekend in October

October 7, 2012

International Combined Collection

World Mission Sunday

October 21, 2012

Bless Our Priests

Second Weekend in December

December 9, 2012

Any questions on the new combined collections, contact Jill Driscoll at jill.driscoll@straphael.org or 608-821-3039.

Stewardship Bulletin Reflections

NOTE: *Please copy this page or pull it out for the person who prepares your weekly bulletins.*

January 1, 2012

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

"And Mary kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart." - Luke 2:19

How lightly Mary held Jesus. She did not clutch Him to her but held Him out for the world to know. She knew that He did not belong to her alone. From the moment of His birth she was called upon to share Him with strangers who flocked to see Him. In the same way, we are also called to hold our blessings lightly, being willing to share what God has given to us with those whom God may lead to us. As this New Year begins, let us look to Mary as a grace-filled model of sharing all that God might ask of us.

January 8, 2012

Epiphany of the Lord

"They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh..." - Matthew 2:11

Notice the distinct 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 presume to present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what gifts God might be asking us to share. But when we kneel before Him in prayer we will find the answer.

January 15, 2012

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? It is a question Jesus asks each of us. Are we wasting our time looking for the material pleasures of the world? Or are our hearts really longing for something deeper that can only be found by spending time with God?

January 22, 2012

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." - Mark 1:17

Jesus' call to "Come after me" is a call to all Christians. Jesus asks us all to help Him in His work. By being good stewards, we, too, can help bring others closer to God.

January 29, 2012

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties." - 1 Corinthians 7:32

How many anxieties do we bring upon ourselves by constantly worrying about attaining ever more material possessions? Yet, God tells us that only the hand that is open to give can also be open to receive His peace and joy. A heart or a hand clenched in anxiety and greed can never truly receive anything.

February 5, 2012

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

Through today's Gospel reading we see a perfect example of stewardship. Jesus gives His time to doing all that God wishes - healing the sick and preaching. Yet Jesus also makes time to be alone in prayer. It is only through prayer, through spending time with God, that any of us can find the strength to do all that God wishes us to do. Be sure to find time this week to be with God.

February 12, 2012

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

Are you doing everything possible for the glory of God? Or is there maybe some other way that you could generously share your time, talent or treasure for God's glory? Think about it.

February 19, 2012

7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

"He rose picked up his mat at once and went away in the sight of everyone. They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, 'We have never seen anything like this.'" - Mark 2:12

Have you taken any time lately to think about how truly good God has been to you? He may not have to cure your paralysis if He has already given you the gift of mobility. But do we glorify and thank Him for such simple gifts as sight, and speech, and general health? Do we generously give back to God in proportion to all the many blessings He has given to us?

February 26, 2012

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 4, 2012

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 11, 2012

3rd Sunday of Lent

"You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything..." - Exodus 20:4

Have you created idols for yourself in different shapes? An idol can be in the shape of money, sports, fashion, travel, or anything else we value more than God and His Word to us.

March 18, 2012

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 25, 2012

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 that first we recognize that everything we have and everything we are truly belongs to God. It also means that we are willing to use our gifts and our lives to care for the world just as God cares for us.

Prayers of the Faithful

January 1, 2012

That we may learn to share our blessings as generously and lovingly as Mary shared her son, Jesus, with the world.

January 8, 2012

That, like the Magi, we may bring our gifts before God, trusting that when we give to Our Lord first, He will provide us with all we need.

January 15, 2012

That we may find more time for God in our busy lives this week, spending time to praise Him, thank Him and follow Him wherever He might call us to go.

January 22, 2012

That we may hear Our Lord's personal invitation to "*Come after me...*" and respond by committing ourselves to carry out Christ's mission here on earth.

January 29, 2012

That we may open our hands and our hearts to give more freely, thus also opening ourselves to receive more fully all of God's simple and abundant blessings.

February 5, 2012

That – just as Jesus rose early to pray – we, too, may find time in our day to be with God and to receive strength and nourishment from Him.

February 12, 2012

That we may generously share our time, talent and treasure to make our parishes and our schools ***Alive in Christ***.

February 19, 2012

That we may be ever grateful to God for all the many gifts and un-recognized miracles that He showers upon us every day.

February 26, 2012

That we may surrender our endless wants, trusting that God will give us all we need.

March 4, 2012

That we may answer, "Here I am, Lord," whenever, wherever and however God calls us to serve Him by helping others.

March 11, 2012

That we may learn to turn away from the false idols of our society – including materialism, fame, fortune and power.

March 18, 2012

That we may show our gratitude for Jesus' ultimate sacrifice by generously making sacrifices in our own lives.

March 25, 2012

That, as God's chosen people, we may accept and follow God's plan for us to generously share our time, talent and treasure with others.

With acknowledgment to the Archdiocese of St. Louis