



# The Shepherd

## Our Journey into Discipleship

### The Season of Advent: A Fruitful Time for the Christian Steward

Stewardship Prayer  
December

Heavenly Father,

You give us this blessed season of Advent as a gift of time to prepare for the coming of the Christ Child.

But all too often we turn this gift into a source of frenzy, stress and anxiety; a time when we're apt to prepare for a Christmas celebration looking perfect on the outside, but spiritually exhausting and without true meaning.

Please give us the courage to let go of things that are ultimately unimportant to the true meaning of Christmas.

Help us be good stewards of this Advent season, so that on the Feast of the Nativity, we will be ready with our own sacred space for the arrival of your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we now pray.

Amen.

Probably nothing challenges a Christian steward's use of time as much as the seasons of Advent and Christmas. Each year, we marvel at the irony of it: a time to honor and ponder God's great mystery, the Incarnation, somehow falls prey to a time of stressful shopping, endless "to do" lists, strained checkbooks and guilt over what's still to do.

How does the Christian steward answer this challenge to devote time to reflection and prayer while incorporating the best and most fruitful of our cultural traditions into this festive season?

One suggestion would be to set aside a special time of reflection right at the beginning of what your priorities for an hour and begin by in the Gospel of you know what is the beneficial use of time in season. Ask for help in each day. Don't be your "must do" list if they add stress to what should be a peaceful time.



Advent for determining the season will be. Set aside reading the Christmas story St. Luke. Ask God to help most generous and God's service during the setting aside time for prayer afraid to cross things off

Only you and God can determine the best use of your time. Are Christmas cookie baking a reflective, creative time and a wonderful way to share or a self-imposed burden and a sure-fire way to a messy kitchen and a calorie overload? Is that extra party a time to unwind and gather with friends or a gateway to exhaustion and a temptation to overindulge in food or drink? Ask God which traditions are life-giving for you, and be bold enough to leave the others behind.

"I just don't have time," is the frequent feeling of the holiday season. But the Christian steward is aware that we all have the same amount of time, and to each is given an opportunity of returning the first fruits of that time back to God. The season of Advent offers just such a grace filled opportunity.

Are you part of the Inn crowd,  or are you one of the Stable few?

It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you.

Yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your Brother and offer him your hand.



Let every heart,



prepare Him room

#### Steward Approach to Christmas Giving

The Christmas steward knows that the Christmas need extends past the family. Angel Trees provide a child a gift who may not receive a gift with out our help, nursing homes need carolers, store clerks need smiles, teachers need special thank you notes, the poor needs prayers and the homeless needs blankets, coats, hats and scarfs. You will find rich rewards in these Christmas tasks..."For whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

# ***“Why I share my time and talents at Sacred Heart...”***



“I discovered, several years ago, that the more I share my time and talents with my church and Catholic community, the stronger my faith becomes. I really do get much more back than I give. By getting closer to Christ, I get closer to my brothers and sisters. In teaching, I learn more. In sharing, I am inspired by others faith.” Phil Wetherington



I remember the tour I received when I was considering converting and the moment I walked into the Sanctuary...tears flowed down my face. I knew this was it. Therefore, I feel Blessed and Humbled to be able to share my time and talents, because I feel this is where God has led me.” Audrey Ray

## **“IN SERVING OTHERS WE ENCOUNTER CHRIST.**

Our earliest examples of service to others came from our parents. They served in their communities and churches as nurses, teachers, soldiers, and ministry leaders. They taught us that we are all a part of the Body of Christ and to live our lives serving others.” Jan and Sara Giovingo



## ***December’s Ministry Spot Light Table - Stop by and say “YES”!!***

**2-3 SHS GRACE Scholars** - This program provides a Catholic education for those students who otherwise could not afford tuition, funded by Georgia taxpayers who redirect a portion of their Georgia State income tax to SSOs such as GRACE. Stop by the Stewardship Table to learn more!!

**9-10 Forward in Faith Commitment Weekend** - Please assist and commit in reducing and ultimately retire our building loan debt on our beautiful campus. *“For it is in giving, that we receive.”*

**16-17 Antioch** - An awesome weekend retreat for high school students in January filled with prayer, witness, fellowship and the sacraments. All high school students are welcomed!!



## ***Stewardship Celebrations***

### ***Newcomers - Welcome to Sacred Heart!***

Jack Mulkin	Jayne Tritt
Ann Hopewell	Arlene Minalga
Trent & Jennifer Oswalt and Family	Melba J. Austin and Family
Andrew & Kimberly Hunn and Family	Travis & Laureen James and Family
Phil & Courtney Cummings and Family	Carl & Pauline Magnusson and Family
Richard and Maricel Stanford and Family	Fernando Garcia, Maria Lopez and Family
Hermes Erazo, Ilda Hernandez-Romero and Family	
Inocencio Palafox Olguin, Maria Hernandez and Family	

### ***Weddings - Blessings!***

Christopher Daniel Ely & Katelyn Faith Odo  
Jacob Chance McCullough & Daniela Huerta Hernandez



### ***Baptisms - Congratulations!***

Ryderi Anaelle Vo	Anika Celeste Vo
Jancarlos Eric Garcia	Santiago Cardenas
Gianna Nicole Mione	Tinley Marie Harris
Isabela Mareli Garcia	Allissa Marilyn Stein
Jezabel Sanchez Morales	Arrianna Renea Reed
Janney Barragan Sanchez	Grey Lynn Leatherwood
Marisol Fatima Medina Ceja	Yaretzi Barragan Sanchez

### ***Funerals - Celebration of Life!***

Connie Thrift  
Deborah J. Gaspar  
Charles L. Keating, Jr.  
George Eugene Davies  
Haydee Ortega Casanas

