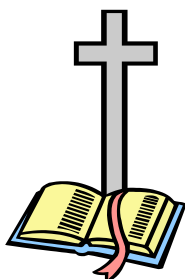


# *Stewardship Expressions*

**March 2010**



March is a great month to reflect stewardship through acts and offerings of prayer, time, talent and treasure. Lent progresses, providing many opportunities to enhance spiritual development through personal commitments and participation in varied activities. The last few days of the month are part of Holy Week, leading to Christ's ultimate sacrifice of love for us. Spring also arrives mid-month, shifting seasons and bringing observable changes. The following can support intentions and efforts throughout March.



- ✚ Review the many signs of God's love in your life. Count them, write them down, and highlight those with special meaning/value to you. Note and list the ways you show love to God in return for the gifts he gives you. *A Christian steward is grateful and returns God's gifts abundantly.*
- ✚ Daylight savings time begins March 14<sup>th</sup>. We fast forward clocks, losing an hour of time. Consider the precious amount of time an hour provides – for life, work, rest, relationships, experiences and opportunities. Dedicate time to serving others in some special way(s) of your choice. *Stewardship is reflected in offerings of time.*
- ✚ Fasts from meat on Fridays are one small way that we offer personal sacrifice during Lent. Evaluate other Lenten offerings you might make in love and Christian service to God and others. *Stewardship is just, charitable and generous.*
- ✚ Is Lent progressing at a fast forward pace such that you're missing opportunities for faith enrichment and growth? Check out Lenten retreats, penance services, and other special activities offered in your parish and diocese. Update your calendar with plans to participate in as many as possible. Note what you learn/feel through each experience. *Stewardship grows through a personal relationship with Christ.*
- ✚ St. Patrick is remembered on March 17<sup>th</sup> for his dedication to faith and leadership abilities. He guided many people to know, love and live as Christ's disciples. Read about St. Patrick. Consider how his example encourages your faith development. *Stewardship is a vocation to discipleship.*
- ✚ The season of spring begins March 20<sup>th</sup>. We observe new birth, beginning life, fresh growth, and blossoming beauty. Reflect on your baptism, relating water to cleaning, nurturing, refreshment and development. Order seeds for flower and vegetable gardens. Plan house and yard spring cleanings and updates. Clean closets/drawers for charitable donations. Evaluate how you support green environment with recycling and a caring attitude. *The steward nurtures God's gifts.*
- ✚ Palm Sunday (March 28<sup>th</sup>) begins Holy Week. Jesus' arrival in town was cheered and celebrated before attitudes changed later in the week. This week let us especially show our constant love of Christ. Reread the Gospel from Ash Wednesday (Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18). Attend Holy Week services. Celebrate the gift of the Eucharist. Fast and abstain with a willing and loving spirit. Be attentive for opportunities to be servant leaders. *Good stewards live in communion with Christ.*