

A Letter From Father Francis



My Dear Friends in Christ,

Celebrating the Stewardship of Others
In today's readings we learn the importance of having the right attitude and disposition in our approach towards stewardship. A steward is called to live in humility.

We are not the owners of our gifts but are simply the humble caretakers of them and it is our job to give them back to God with increase.

St. James in the second reading says, "Where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind." As stewards, we will often face the temptation to compare our gifts with those of others. It is a human reaction to seek recognition for our good works and want to be rewarded. However, the goal of stewardship is not our own glory, but rather the glory of Christ and the Church. One way to combat envy and ambition is to intentionally celebrate the talents of others. Since we are all one Body of Christ, the gifts of our brothers and sisters are the gifts of the whole Church.

Relatedly, in the Gospel today Jesus instructs His apostles saying, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." True stewards seek to serve others before themselves. We should ask ourselves, am I assisting at the parish to serve my own ego or to serve my neighbour? Let us constantly try to reorient our priorities so that we can serve Christ first through serving our brothers and sisters.

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See you at Mass!
Fr. Francis



Specific Mass intentions for each scheduled Mass listed regularly in this bulletin are made by individual request. The 2025 Mass Intention Book will be available starting Monday, September 16 for you to have a Mass intention next year for a loved one. Please contact the **Parish Office at 317.255.4534 or cjohnson@spxparish.org** to request your intention.

The recommended Stipend for a Mass intention is \$10, but we would never want anyone to not have a Mass offered because of lack of funds.

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

On the Byzantine calendar, September 23 is the feast of the Conception of John the Baptist. The Roman and Byzantine calendars have in common the other equinox- or solstice-derived dates of solemnities: December 25, March 25, and June 24. Scholars see strong evidence in the writings of the early Church Fathers for the fixing of these dates from the imagined "anniversary" of Gabriel's appearance to Zechariah at Yom Kippur, which was thought to have coincided with the equinox as a day of "at-one-ment" between light and darkness. The spiritual writer Origen held to this date.

The annunciation to Zechariah then set the date six months later for Mary's conception of Jesus (March 25), and then, of course, for the dates of the births of John (June 24) and Jesus (December 25). Is this "liturgical trivia?" Perhaps. But it's also the best explanation we have for the dating of some of the most important festivals on our calendar. So even though the Roman Church doesn't observe the Conception of John the Baptist, yesterday's equinox can remind us of how our salvation history is closely attuned to God's creation.