A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

**Easter Sunday,** *April 1, 2018*

Jesus Christ has risen today! For those good stewards of their faith who die with Jesus, they rise with Christ their savior every day. They are an Easter people. Our Savior is active, alive, and transforming us and our communities of faith, even the world, at this very moment. Easter is

a time of joy, a time of celebration. To have faith in the risen Lord is also to believe that we are disciples who bear witness to Christ in a broken and troubled world. To be good stewards of this faith obliges us to be living witnesses to Christ’s peace at home and in public. Jesus cannot be found buried in some long forgotten time, in

some far away land. He is risen. He lives within each one of us. Alleluia!

**Second Sunday of Easter,** *Weekend of April 7/8, 2018* When the risen Christ encounters his disciples in the locked room he adds a new Beatitude to the ones we’ve heard proclaimed before: “Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.” Stewards of the mysteries of God’s love do not need proof of the risen Christ. They know it because their lives have been transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit who has breathed new life into them and through the Sacrament of the Eucharist which strengthens and sustains them. As stewards of this great

gift it is appropriate to reflect on how we in turn add new life into our parish communities.

**Third Sunday of Easter,** *Weekend of April 14/15, 2018* An underlying lesson from all three readings this weekend is that the Risen Christ has wiped away our sins, not only

for individuals, but throughout the world and its history. The terrible power of sin has now been reversed and our coming to perfection through the love of God is part of the Easter experience. As stewards of God’s love we are called to participate in Christ’s redemptive activity. The stewardship questions for us are many: How do we resist injustice at home or in the workplace? How do we

confront violence in our language and attitudes? How do we bring Christ to others?

**Fourth Sunday of Easter,** *Weekend of April 21/22, 2018* In today’s Gospel reading we hear Jesus referring to himself as “the good shepherd.” His sheep know him, trust him, listen to him and follow him; having faith that no harm will come to them as long as they stay close to him. We reaffirmed our faith in Christ when we renewed our baptismal promises at Easter. As stewards of our relationship with Jesus Christ, are we, like the sheep, willing to listen to Jesus, trust him, follow him no matter the cost to our comfort?

**Fifth Sunday of Easter,** *Weekend of April 28/29, 2018* Jesus offers a quintessential stewardship statement in today’s Gospel reading: “Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.” Jesus Christ offers us the fullness of eternal life. Do our lives reveal that this is what we want? Do we believe that by hearing the Word of the Lord and responding we not only produce “good fruit,” but abide in the very life of God?

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