

**Celebrating
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 8/9, 2014**

Parish Resource Packet

LIVING THE JOY

There is a reason that one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit is joy. There is a reason that *David came dancing before the LORD with abandon, girt with a linen ephod* (2 Samuel 6:14). Authentic joy is inseparable from our relationship with God. As we grow in our relationship with Christ, our lives more fully express that joy. In essence, we become disciples that imitate the love and generosity of our Savior. We become grateful, joyful Christian stewards of faith-filled prayer, compassionate service and generous sharing. We can't help but *Make a Joyful Noise!*

- All resources are available at www.gbdioc.org/stewardship-weekend.
- Items with the ☐ are part of the resource packet which can be downloaded as the complete packet or as individual pieces.
- Items asterisked ** are downloadable as separate entities.

☐ Table of Contents 1

Background Information

☐ Theme Background Resource 2

** Bishop Ricken's *2012 Letter of Proclamation/Rationale* for Stewardship Sunday

** *Be Not Afraid—How to Follow Christ*, Session 1 of Six Week Small Group Process

** *Stewardship Moments with Bishop Ricken*, four - one minute video clips

Liturgical Resources

☐ Ideas for Liturgy 3

☐ Music Suggestions 4

☐ Homily Helps 5-6

☐ Prayers of the Faithful 7

☐ Lay Witness Talks 8

** Diocesan Stewardship Prayer

Engaging Staff, Councils, Committees, Parishioners

☐ Ideas for Engaging Staffs, Councils, Committees, Parishioners, Children, Youth, and Families 9

☐ Committee Prayers August - September 10-11

☐ Bulletin Blurbs 12-15

☐ Pastor/Pastoral Leader Letter 16

☐ Postcard of Invitation 17

** Logo – *Make a Joyful Noise*

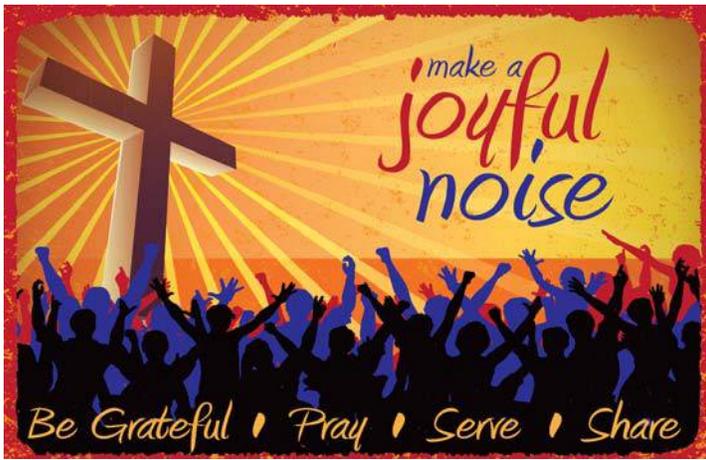
** Definition of Stewardship

Engaging Children, Youth and Families

☐ Ideas for Engaging Schools, Religious Education and Families 18-19

☐ Diocesan Excellent Essay Opportunity and Application 20-21





***Celebrating
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 8/9, 2014***

THEME BACKGROUND

Welcome to the third annual celebration of *Stewardship Weekend* in the Diocese of Green Bay! This year our theme based in Psalm (47:1), *Make a Joyful Noise: Be Grateful, Pray, Serve and Share* challenges us to live our lives out of the joyful truth. Simply put, we are children of a loving, generous, merciful God whose Son redeemed us on the cross and rose to live with us each day and to someday welcome us into eternal life. Wow!!! As believers, there is plenty to make a *joyful noise* about.

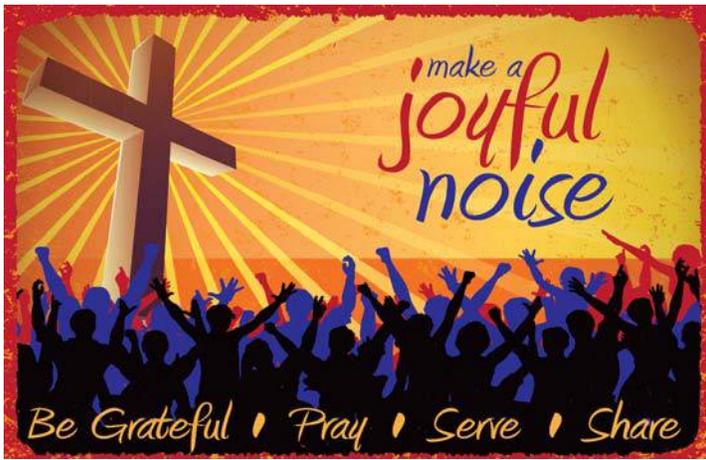
The first consideration for us as disciples of Jesus and Christian stewards is how do we acknowledge the truth not only with our lips, but with our lives? Would others in our parish know we are grateful and joyful by our commitment to generous amounts of faith-filled prayer, compassionate service and generous sharing of our treasure? Would they understand it as being about our relationship with Jesus?

The second consideration is how do those in our larger communities see and understand our parishes' joy? Pope Francis tweeted on December 7, 2013: "We cannot think of a Church without joy. This is the joy of the Church; announcing to all the name of Jesus." Truly, members as well as the parish as a whole who strive to be authentic stewards are a sweet and lively sound to the world that cannot be ignored. Others just might want to know the lyrics and sing along! Christ's Church began and grew in this manner 2000 years ago.

It is important to remember that our road to Christian stewardship is the journey of a lifetime. We have the special human challenge of living in a culture that promotes consumerism, materialism and individualism. To go against the tide and move forward in our stewardship journey requires ongoing looks in the mirror and self-reflection. This is true for individuals as well as parish communities. In essence, this is what the celebration of stewardship weekend is all about.

This year, as parish leaders, we will celebrate with our parishioners the wonder of all that God created and all that was accomplished through Jesus. We will also be challenging ourselves and our brothers and sisters to respond to that extraordinary love in the authentic and joyful manner of a Christian steward. Why? Because we have been chosen and we have been called to light the way to eternal joy. May an incredible joyful noise be heard around the diocese and beyond because of our efforts!





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STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
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Ideas and Resources for Celebrating
Stewardship Sunday
Background Info & Liturgy Ideas

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- Items asterisked ** are downloadable as separate entities.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- ☐ *Make a Joyful Noise* Stewardship Theme Background Resource
- ** *The 2012 Letter of Proclamation from Bishop Ricken* which states the rationale for the Diocesan wide celebration of Stewardship Sunday
- ** Stewardship Basics: *Be Not Afraid*, Session 1 of Six Week Small Group Study on Stewardship
- ** Use “*Stewardship Moments with Bishop Ricken*” four - one minute video clips of Bishop Ricken talking about the various components of stewardship.

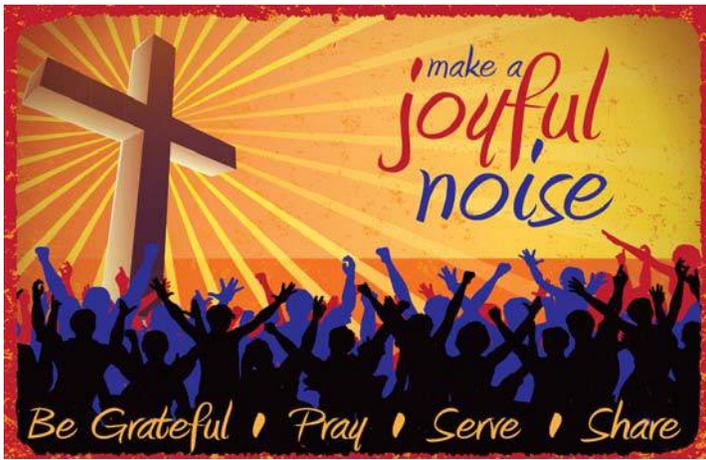
Select Appropriate Ideas for Your Parish

As you peruse ideas for celebrating Stewardship Sunday. Note that the simplest ideas are marked by a †

IDEAS FOR LITURGY

- Create Greeters, Ushers, Liturgical Minister’s nametags with the *Make a Joyful Noise* Design.
- Project the *Make a Joyful Noise* design on a screen in the worship space (if applicable).
- Create a simple PowerPoint slide show with quotations from children, youth and adults that answer the question: What do you do in prayer, service or sharing that *Makes a Joyful Noise*? Put music with it if possible. Show prior to Mass or after the Prayer of Thanksgiving (if applicable).
- Use *Stewardship Moments with Bishop Ricken* prior to Mass.
- † • Select songs from the Music Suggestion List with *Make a Joyful Noise* emphasis.
- Welcome: Invite children to bring bells, etc. to ring at the opening of Mass.
- † • Focus your Homily (helps) on *Make a Joyful Noise* theme.
- Consider additional Prayers of the Faithful.
- Include Lay Witness Talks.
- Pray the *Diocesan Stewardship Prayer*.



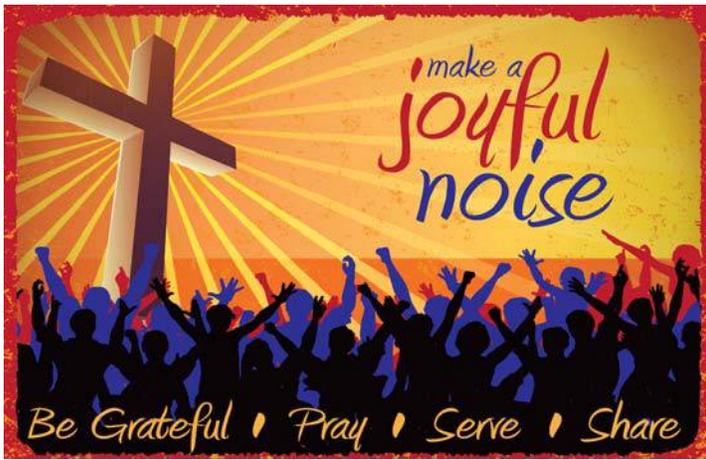


Celebrating
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 8/9, 2014

Songs of Joy

A Hymn of Glory Let us Sing
Alabaré
Alive in Christ Jesus
All People That on Earth Do Dwell
All the Earth, Proclaim God's Glory
All Things New
All Who Hunger
Alleluia, Sing!
Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn
Be Joyful, Mary
Blest Are They
Cantemos al Señor/Let's Sing unto the Lord
Canticle of Mary
Canticle of the Sun
Canticle of the Turning
Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!
Come Away to the Skies
Come, Host of Heaven's High Dwelling Place
Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life
Easter Alleluia
Greet Now the Swiftly Changing Year
Hail, Holy Queen Enthroned Above
Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises
Holy Is Your Name/ Luke 1:46-55
How Good It Is
I Come with Joy to Meet My Lord
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
I Will Sing, I Will Sing
In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful
Jerusalem, My Happy Home
Jesus Christ, Yesterday, Today and Forever
Joyful Is the Dark
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Joyfully Singing
Let All Things Now Living
Let Heaven Your Wonders Proclaim
Lift Up Your Hearts
Lover of Us All
Magnificat/Luke 1:46-55
Make Me a Channel of Your Peace
My Soul Gives Glory to the Lord
Now Thank We All Our God
Now the Feast and Celebration
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
O Queen of Heaven/ Regine Cae
O Taste and See
Rejoice, the Lord is King
Resucitó
Sequence for Easter
Serving You
Shout for Joy
Show Us the Path of Life
Sing a New Song
Sing a New Song to the Lord
Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above
Sing to the Mountains
Sing We of the Blessed Mother
Sing Your Joy, Proclaim God's Glory
Song of the Chosen
Soon and Very Soon
Surrexit Christus
Surrexit Dominus Vere Il
The Spirit of God
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
What Wondrous Love Is This
Whatsoever You Do
When, in Our Music, God is Glorified
World Without End
You Have Anointed Me



Celebrating
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 8/9, 2014

Homily Helps
By Deacon Bob Beehner

Stewardship Weekend Homily Ideas
November 8/9, 2014
Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome

Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12
1Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17
Jn 2:13-22

(Download readings at usccb.org/bible/readings/110914.cfm)

Note: If your parish is doing an annual renewal this weekend, please tailor the questions to fit which components (prayer, service, sharing) you will be highlighting in the renewal.

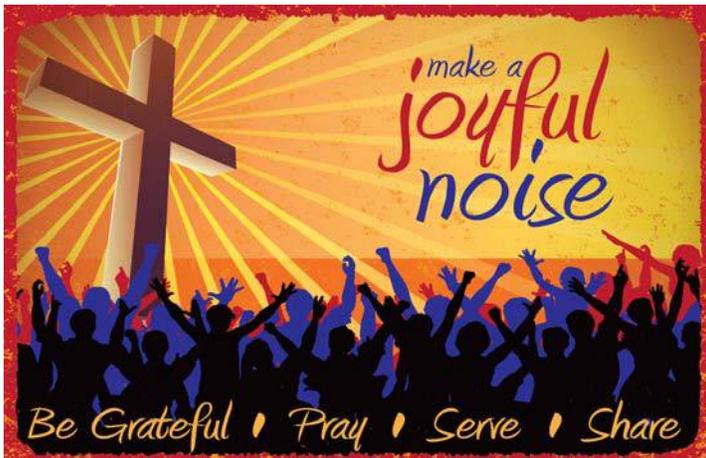
Today we celebrate the Feast of the Dedication of St. John Lateran Basilica in Rome. This building is a sacred space that has been set apart for a personal and a communal encounter with God. By honoring this special feast of the oldest church in Rome, we also celebrate our oneness as a Church.

The parishes in the Diocese of Green Bay are also celebrating Stewardship Weekend. Our theme for the year is *Make a Joyful Noise: Be Grateful, Pray, Serve, Share!* Today, our beautiful readings will help us to understand both our feast day and our stewardship celebration in a deeper way.

Each of the readings today speaks of a temple and infers that we together are the temple of God. As you examine the temple in each case you discover that it is not what is being done there that is the focus but it is the pure presence of God which drives its meaning.

The water coming out of the temple in Ezekiel has a life giving imagery with such positive effects on everything it embraces. The water reminds us of God's great blessings and the restoration of fertility. "Their fruit shall serve for food" (vs. 12). The true source of our abundance is the water from the temple.





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Homily Helps (cont.)

From this abundance, Paul describes our responsibility as: “You are the temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in you.” In essence, we are a holy people and our Church is holy because God lives there. Because of this, we are called to be solid, to be strong and to live lives of integrity remembering that we are holy because God is with us.

A British Franciscan, Fr. Eric Doyle, stated that to be holy is to have integrity. Today, we might want to consider the questions:

- How does God’s nourishing waters flow out of the temple that is my life?
- How engaged am I right now at Mass?
- Am I truly present to the beautiful prayer that this truly is?
- Do I nurture my parish and community with my talents in service?
- Do I support the mission of Christ’s Church and the needs of the poor with a generous portion of the treasure God has put in my care?

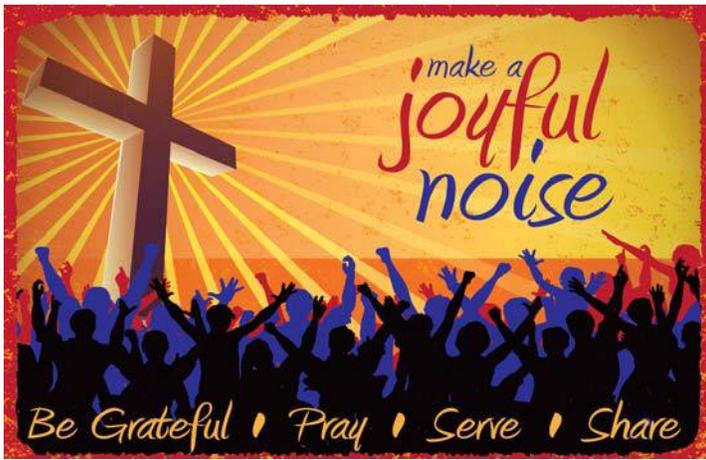
The interesting thing in regard to today’s readings is that if my motives for being here or a part of this parish are purely about myself or if I am wondering “what do I get out of this?”, then I am not here in a “holy” way but rather for my own profit. In essence, we become the “money changers” of our day.

Though difficult to acknowledge, Jesus not only turned over the tables on the money changers two thousand years ago but turns our tables of integrity over right here right now. As an example, I am so tempted to ask the question: “What is the parish doing with ‘my’ money?” It is an easy question, but in my mind I hear Jesus speaking to my attitude, my consumer question and my lack of tithing saying “Take these out of here and stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!”

We know that our parish is a sacred space where God lives. Can we follow Jesus and have zeal for His house and allow its holiness to consume us? Perhaps in faith-filled prayer, compassionate service and generous sharing the water that flows from this temple will nurture the world in such a way that we cannot help but *make a joyful noise* for all that God is doing with and through us.

Deacon Bob Beehner serves as Director of Administrator at St. Francis Assisi Parish, Manitowoc, WI





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Prayers of the Faithful

Samples

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

For our parish, our community and our world, that all may be the recipients of the flowing, nurturing water that is generated by our gratitude and our generosity of time in faith-filled prayer, our talents in compassionate service and our treasure in generous sharing.

We pray

For all of us and our brothers and sisters around the diocese as we celebrate Stewardship Weekend, that we remember true joy and the ability to make a joyful noise cannot be separated from our relationship with Jesus, our Savior.

We pray

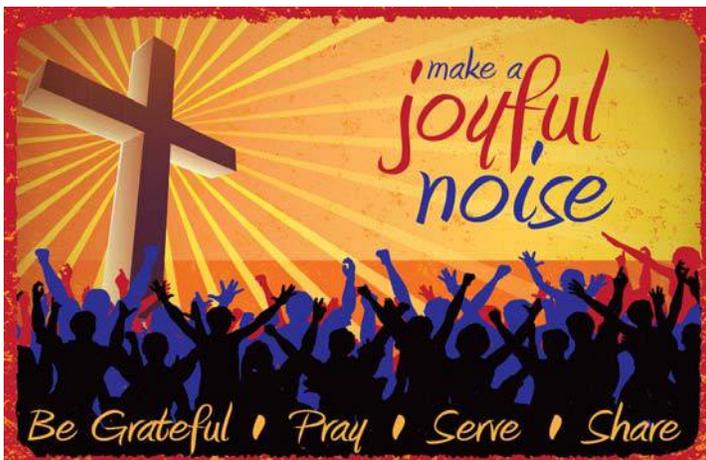
For the Body of Christ at (parish name) that we acknowledge we are God's temple and are able to *Make a Joyful Noise* in our community and world as Christian stewards of prayer, service and sharing.

We pray

For each of us, that we might truly examine our lives in the area of gratitude, prayer, service and sharing and decide if we have become complacent with what we offer God or do we continue to grow as a Christian steward.

We pray





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Lay Witness Talks

Presented after the Prayer of Thanksgiving

Length: Two Minutes

A parishioner speaking to parishioners is one of the most effective ways to share the stewardship message. A person's or couples' faith story can be an incredible testimony to connect in unique ways with parish members.

This year, the question for your lay witness speaker(s) to address is "How has living the life of a Christian steward strengthened their relationship with Jesus and brought more joy into their life? Your speakers should approach the topic from one component of stewardship: faith-filled prayer, compassionate service, or generous sharing. The stewardship committee might want to select the focus.

Sample Outline for Your Consideration

Introduce yourself.

1. Perhaps define stewardship: *Stewardship, for all who profess to believe in Jesus Christ, is a way of life, where giftedness is acknowledged with gratitude, nurtured through faith-filled prayer, and expressed through compassionate service and generous sharing in the Church, the local community and the world.*
2. State which component you will be speaking about (prayer, service, or sharing).
3. Discuss what the tipping point might have been for embracing stewardship as a way of life.
4. How have stewards they've known made a *joyful noise* in their lives.
5. Is there anything from today's readings that spoke to them?
6. Invite others to increase their grateful response to Jesus by becoming more generous stewards of their time in prayer, their talents in service and their treasure in sharing.

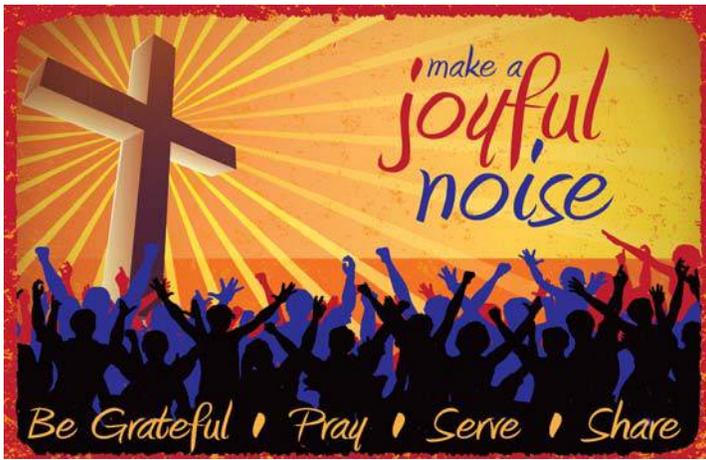
Make it Personal:

Consider using stories, favorite quotations, a favorite saint, etc. Include all areas of life.

Considerations for Selecting Lay Witness Speakers:

- If possible, select different speakers for each Mass selecting someone who fits the demographic of that Mass (young family, retired, etc.).
- Choose someone visible to the community (greeter, choir member, lector, etc.).
- Person does not have to be a well-known public speaker but should feel comfortable reading their talk.
- Be sure to have your lay witness speaker(s) give a "written copy" of their presentation to the Pastor/Parish Director or staff person a week before.
- Allow your speakers to practice in church.
- The celebrant should publically express his gratitude for lay witness speaker(s).





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***Ideas & Resources for
Celebrating Stewardship
Sunday***

ENGAGE STAFF, COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

- Purchase *Make a Joyful Noise* Posters to hang in main meeting areas.
- Make Stewardship Sunday an agenda item from August through September.
- Pray together using Committee Prayers focused on the *Make a Joyful Noise* theme.
- ** Place the *Make a Joyful Noise* design on agendas and communications.
- ** Place the stewardship definition on agenda.
- ** Use *Be Not Afraid* Session 1 (Background Information) for reflection and discussion.

ENGAGE YOUR PARISHIONERS

- Order the Diocese of Green Bay *Make a Joyful Noise* Calendar for households.
- ** Use the *Make a Joyful Noise* design on your communications.
- Use the *Make a Joyful Noise* bulletin blurbs on all communications.
- Offer (Stewardship) *Little Burgundy Books* <http://littlebooks.us/> to households.
- Offer Bishop Morneau's *Embracing a Generous Life* www.23rdpublications.com.
- Use Bishop Morneau's *Growing in Joy* www.newcitypress.com.
- Use letters and postcards of invitation.

ENGAGE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

- Consider using Engaging Schools, Religious Education and Family ideas.
- Consider the Diocesan *Make a Joyful Noise* Excellent Essay Opportunity.

IDEAS FOR CELEBRATION AND FELLOWSHIP

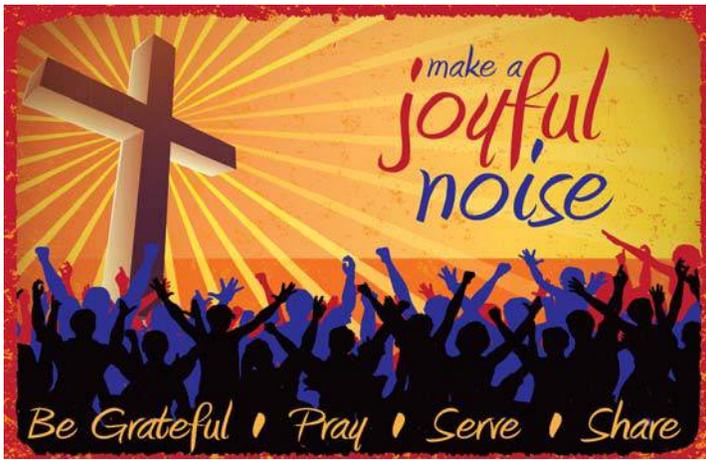
- Encourage your parish bakers to make their best item for fellowship following Masses.
- Offer each family a helium balloon to tie to their mail box in celebration of Stewardship Weekend <http://www.promotionchoice.com> or search for other vendors.
- Create *Make a Joyful Noise* bookmarks/refrigerator magnets to distribute.

ANNUAL RENEWAL

- If your parish is using Stewardship Weekend as a time to ask parishioners to recommit to any or all of the components of stewardship (prayer, service, sharing) please contact Mary Ann Otto at motto@gbdioc.org for more resources.

For assistance in any area of stewardship, please contact Mary Ann Otto at 1-877-500-3580 ext. 8301 or at motto@gbdioc.org.





Committee Meeting Prayer August 2014

“The Gospel, radiant with the glory of Christ’s Cross, constantly invites us to rejoice.” (Pope Francis: *The Joy of the Gospel* #5)

Introduction

Leader: As parish leaders, August is the time we often find our teams/committees gearing up for another year. Our agendas include developing and implementing goals to help our parish live our mission. This year, as we gather for our meetings, our prayer will focus on the theme: *Make a Joyful Noise: Be Grateful, Pray, Serve, Share*. This theme, which is an adaptation from Psalm 47:1, reminds us that as believers in and followers of Jesus Christ, our very lives should be an expression of joy. It is the same for our parish. Our joy is grounded in the Paschal Mystery: *Christ Has Died! Christ is Risen! Christ Will Come Again!* Let us recall this incredible moment as we begin in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Reader: A Reading from the Gospel of Luke (24:1-9)

But at daybreak on the first day of the week they took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them. They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them, “Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners and be crucified, and rise on the third day.” And they remembered his words. Then they returned from the tomb and announced all these things to the eleven and to all the others.
The Word of the Lord.

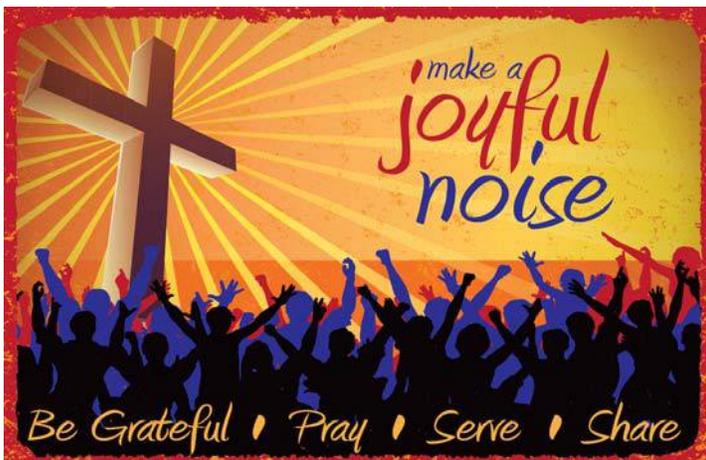
All: Praise to you Lord, Jesus Christ.

Questions for reflection:

- Are there any phrase(s) from the Introduction or Scripture that spoke to you?
- How does our parish express its ongoing joy?
- If visitors came to our Mass, a parish function or read our bulletin, would they know we are rejoicing as a parish community?
- Are there many signs of gratitude, prayer, service or sharing?

Let Us Pray (All): “The Gospel, radiant with the joy of Christ’s Cross, constantly invites us to rejoice.” Lord as we plan for the year ahead as parish leadership, help us to do your will and reflect our gratitude and our joy in all we do. We ask this in the name of our joy and your Son, Jesus. AMEN!





Committee Meeting Prayer September 2014

Mary let herself be guided by the Holy Spirit on a journey of faith towards a destiny of service and fruitfulness.

Pope Francis: *The Joy of the Gospel* #287

Introduction

Leader: Here we are in September. As parish leaders, so many things are gearing up for us after the summer respite. Sometimes so many questions cross our mind as well. *Am I on the right committee? Can I make a difference? Will my time commitment be fruitful?* All of us try to be good stewards of our calendar. Sometimes we judge our efficiency by crossing things off our list and by our accomplishments. Yet, as leaders in Christ's Church we are asked to have patience and to trust. Jesus promises to be with us until the end of time. (Mt 28:20) Pope Francis takes this to the next level in his Apostolic Exhortation *The Joy of the Gospel*. Let us reflect on our Holy Father's words as we begin in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

(All) The Holy Spirit works as he wills, when he wills, and where he wills; we entrust ourselves without pretending to see striking results. Let us learn to rest in the tenderness of the arms of the Father amid our creative and generous commitment. (Pope Francis: *The Joy of the Gospel* #279)

Questions for reflection:

- Are there any phrase(s) from the Introduction or the word of Pope Francis that spoke to you?
- How do we as parish leaders act out of the trust we have in the Holy Spirit?
- How easy is it to put our work in God's hand and not work out of personal motives?
- Are you able to rest in the arms of your Father during your commitment?
- How does trust *Make a Joyful Noise*?

Leader: Let us offer our prayers to our surprising and faithful God.

Please respond: *Lord, as parish leaders, help us to Make a Joyful Noise with our trust and faith in you.*

That we may model good stewardship to our parish community. We pray.

Response: *Lord, as parish leaders, help us to Make a Joyful Noise with our trust and faith in you.*

That our goals and decisions be your will. We pray.

Response: *Lord, as parish leaders, help us to Make a Joyful Noise with our trust and faith in you.*

That we make prayer a priority as we serve you. We pray.

Response: *Lord, as parish leaders, help us to Make a Joyful Noise with our trust and faith in you.*

That we take time as a committee to rest in you. We pray.

Response: *Lord, as parish leaders, help us to Make a Joyful Noise with our trust and faith in you.*

For those intentions we would like to offer today. We pray.

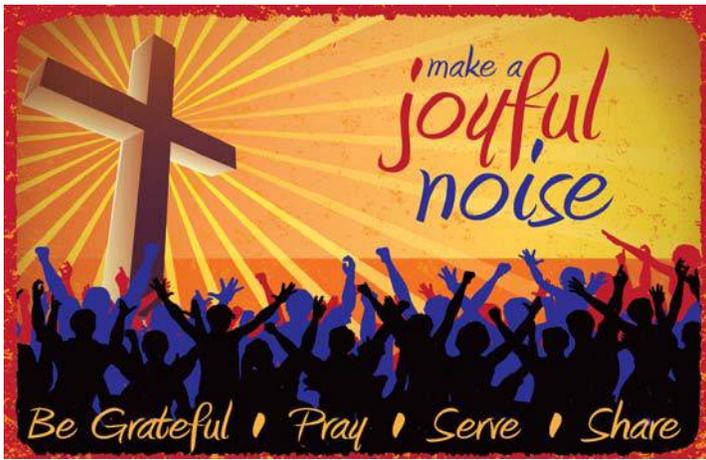
Response: *Lord, as parish leaders, help us to Make a Joyful Noise with our trust and faith in you.*

For all these and those intentions we hold in our hearts. We pray.

Response: *Lord, as parish leaders, help us to Make a Joyful Noise with our trust and faith in you.*

We ask this in the name of our joy and your Son, Jesus. AMEN!





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**Bulletin Stewardship Corner
With
Pope Francis**

SAMPLE



Stewardship Reflection with Pope Francis

The Gospel, radiant with the glory of Christ's Cross, constantly invites us to rejoice. "

(Pope Francis: *The Joy of the Gospel* #5)

Would others know that I am rejoicing by my life of gratitude, prayer, service and sharing? Would Jesus know?

(Listed in no particular order for use)

What zest life acquires when we allow ourselves to be filled with the love of God! (Pope Francis tweeted 2/7/14)

Do others see that I am filled with the love of God? Do others see my zeal in my service and generous sharing?

It is easy to ask God for things; we all do it. When will we also learn to give him thanks and adore him?

(Pope Francis tweeted 1/25/14)

Do I live my life out of a grateful heart? How is gratitude expressed in the activities of my life?

I cannot imagine a Christian who does not know how to smile. May we joyfully witness to our faith.

(Pope Francis tweeted 1/30/14)

As a Christian, do you live a joyful life? What might be holding you back?

It is not enough to say we are Christians. We must live the faith, not only with our words but with our actions.

(Pope Francis tweeted 1/20/14)

Would others know that I am Christian by the way I pray, serve and share?

If we live our faith in our daily life, then our work too becomes the chance to spread the joy of being a Christian.

(Pope Francis tweeted 1/21/14)

Can I name ways that I joyfully live my faith every day? How can I improve in the future?

Our deepest joy comes from Christ; remaining with him, walking with him, being his disciples. (Pope Francis tweeted 3/7/14)

Where does my deepest joy come from? How do I live out my life as a disciple of Jesus?

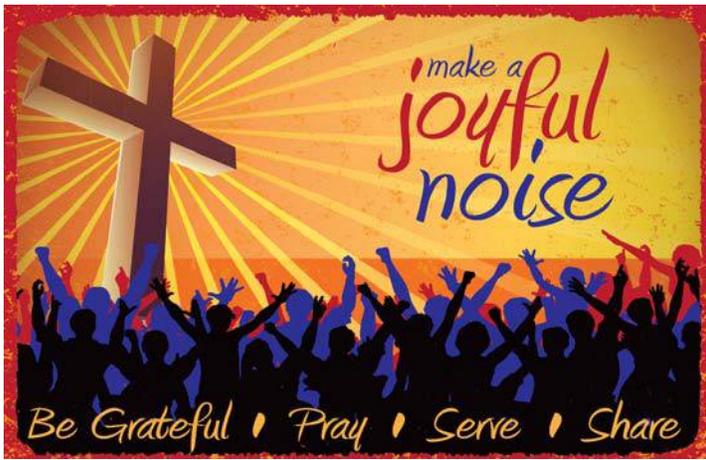
The Eucharist is essential for us: it is Christ who wishes to enter our lives and fill us with grace. (Pope Francis tweeted 2/28/14)

As a steward of my time in prayer, how engaged am I in Mass? Do I gain strength from receiving Jesus to help in living a steward's life?

All of us who are baptized are missionary disciples. We are called to become a living Gospel in the world.

(Pope Francis tweeted 2/25/14)

How am I a living Gospel in the world by the way I share my talents in service in my parish and community?



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***Bulletin Stewardship Corner
With
Pope Francis (cont.)***

Lord Jesus, make us capable as loving as you love. (Pope Francis tweeted 2/20/14)

How will I love as a Christian steward this week? Will I make an effort to do something new?

The world makes us look towards ourselves, our possessions, our desires. The Gospel invites us to be open to others, to share with the poor. (Pope Francis tweeted 2/6/14)

Which way will I look this week: toward myself or toward the Gospel?

Like Mary, may we nurture the light born within us at Christmas. May we carry it everywhere in our daily lives.

(Pope Francis tweeted 1/23/14)

How do we nurture the light of Christ within us in our prayer life? Do we grow closer to Jesus each day, week, year?

Let us contemplate the humility of the Son of God born into poverty. Let us imitate him by sharing with those who are weak.

(Pope Francis tweeted 1/9/14)

How can my humility lead to my generosity this week?

To follow Jesus means putting him first and stripping ourselves of all the things that oppress our hearts.

(Pope Francis tweeted 10/19/13)

What are things that oppress your heart? What are the things that truly lift your heart as a follower of Jesus?

If money and material things become the center of our lives, they seize us and make us slaves. (Pope Francis tweeted 10/29/13)

How do I keep God at the center of my life and remain a good steward of my treasure in sharing?

The throwaway culture produces many bitter fruits from wasting food to isolating many elderly people.

(Pope Francis tweeted 10/25/13)

How can I be a better steward of the environment and other blessings God has placed in my care this week?

We cannot be tepid disciples. The Church needs our courage in order to give witness to the truth.

(Pope Francis tweeted 3/25/14)

How does my grateful life of prayer, service and sharing give witness to the truth about Jesus?

Dear parents, teach your children to pray. Pray with them. (Pope Francis tweeted 4/1/14)

Do I pray every day with my children or grandchildren? Do I talk to them about the importance of prayer?

The mystery of the Cross, a mystery of love, can only be understood in prayer. Pray and weep kneeling before the cross.

(Pope Francis tweeted 10/10/13)

Will I spend more time in prayer this week to more fully understand this great mystery of love?

Do we truly pray? Without an abiding relationship with God, it is difficult to live an authentic and consistent Christian life.

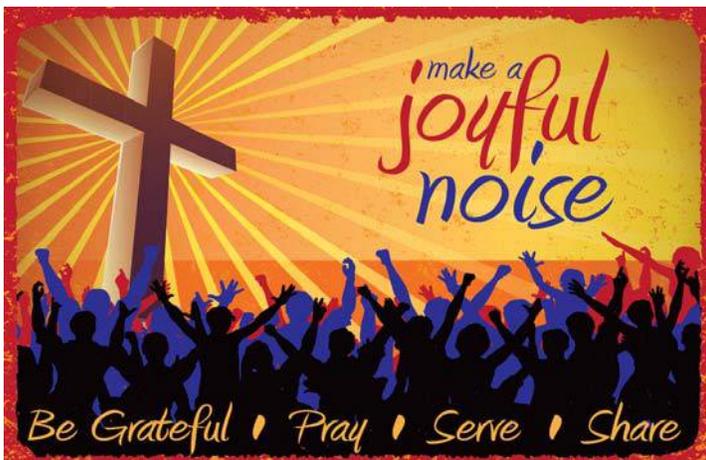
(Pope Francis tweeted 10/1/11)

Do I have an abiding relationship with God? Do I live an authentic and consistent Christian life?

True charity requires courage: let us overcome the fear of getting our hands dirty so as to help others in need.

(Pope Francis tweeted 9/21/13)

Am I fearlessly generous in service? How will I get my hands dirty for others this week?



***Celebrating
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 8/9, 2014***

***Bulletin Stewardship Corner
With
Pope Francis (cont.)***

Prayer cannot be reduced to an hour on Sundays. It is important to have a daily relationship with the Lord.

(Pope Francis tweeted 10/17/13)

Do I just put in my time at Sunday Mass or am I truly engaged? How do I take my relationship with God into my week?

If we are to know the Lord, we must go to him. Listen to him in silence before the tabernacle and approach him in the Sacraments.

(Pope Francis tweeted 10/21/13)

When was the last time I was a good steward of my time in prayer and approached Jesus before the tabernacle or in the Sacraments?

The Lord is knocking at the door of our hearts. Have we put a sign on our door saying: "Do not disturb"?

(Pope Francis tweeted 1/13/14)

When Jesus knocks on the door of my heart, to pray, serve or share, do I say, "I will get back to you at my convenience?"

Take care of God's creation. But above all take care of people in need. (Pope Francis tweeted 11/14/13)

How seriously do I take stewardship of creation? If Jesus asked me how important it was for me to use my blessing to care for the poor, what would I say?

Our lives must be centered on what is essential, on Jesus Christ. Everything else is secondary.

(Pope Francis tweeted 11/10/14)

How does my life suggest that I am centered on Jesus? Would you be able to tell it on my calendar or in my checkbook?

Today's economic mechanisms promote inordinate consumption, yet it is evident that unbridled consumerism combined with inequality proves doubly damaging to the social fabric. (Pope Francis: *The Joy of the Gospel* #60)

Am I aware of how my consumption helps or harms others? How might I become a better steward by making choices that reflect the Gospel?

One important challenge is to show that the solution will never be found in fleeing from a personal and committed relationship with God which at the same time commits us to serving others. (Pope Francis: *The Joy of the Gospel* #91)

Joy is inseparable from our relationship with God. If I were to rate myself on a scale of 1-10, where would I place myself?

When a community receives the message of salvation, the Holy Spirit enriches its culture with the transforming power of the Gospel. (Pope Francis: *The Joy of the Gospel* #116)

How have I joyfully contributed in prayer, service or sharing to my parish because of the message of my salvation?

Sometimes we prove hard of heart and mind; we are forgetful, distracted and carried away by the limitless possibilities for consumption and distraction offered by contemporary society. (Pope Francis: *The Joy of the Gospel* #196)

Am I aware of these moments in my life? How can I turn them into limitless possibilities for love and generosity?

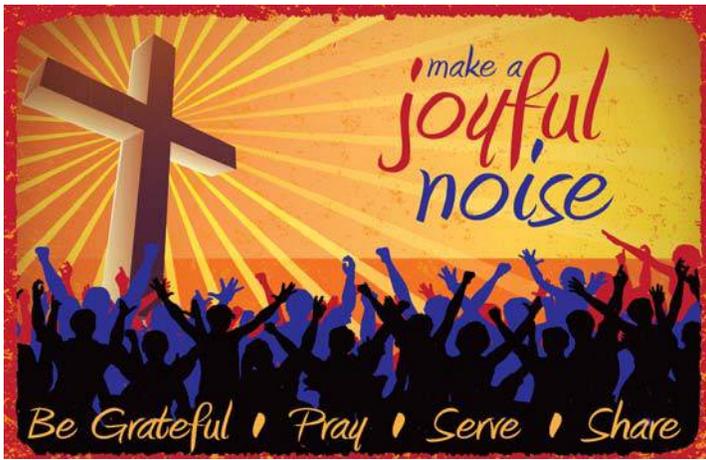
If we do not feel an intense desire to share Jesus' love, we need to pray insistently that he will once again touch our lives. We need to implore his grace daily, asking him to open our cold hearts and shake up our lukewarm and superficial existence.

(Pope Francis: *The Joy of the Gospel* #264)

Are these words for me? How can I take my life as a Christian steward from lukewarm to joyfully steaming hot?

Jesus' whole life, his way of dealing with the poor, his actions, his integrity, his simple daily acts of generosity, and finally his complete self-giving, is precious and reveals the mystery of his divine life. (Pope Francis: *The Joy of the Gospel* #265)

Do I have the integrity of Jesus? Am I even close? Is it reflected my life as a Christian steward?



Celebrating
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 8/9, 2014

Bulletin Stewardship Corner
With
Pope Francis (cont.)

In union with Jesus, we seek what he seeks and we love what he loves. (Pope Francis: *The Joy of the Gospel* #267)
Jesus is the perfect model of stewardship. How does my life mirror His?

If we are to share our lives with others and generously give of ourselves, we also have to realize that every person is worthy of our giving. (Pope Francis: *The Joy of the Gospel* #274)

Was Jesus picky or judgmental with whom he chose to serve or assist? Am I a judgmental steward?

The Holy Spirit works as he wills, when he wills, and where he wills; we entrust ourselves without pretending to see striking results. Let us learn to rest in the tenderness of the arms of the father amid our creative and generous commitment.

(Pope Francis: *The Joy of the Gospel* #279)

As a Christian steward, do I put faith in my God so I can live in a truly committed way?

When evangelizers rise from prayer, their hearts are more open; freed of self-absorption, they are desirous of doing good and sharing their lives with others. (Pope Francis: *The Joy of the Gospel* #282)

How can I live my life from a foundation of prayer? Am I desirous of doing good and sharing my life with others?

Mary let herself be guided by the Holy Spirit on a journey of faith towards a destiny of service and fruitfulness.

(Pope Francis: *The Joy of the Gospel* #287)

What guides my daily life? As Jesus' disciple, do I live a fruitful life? Do I respond to my blessings in joyful service?

I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord." (Pope Francis: *The Joy of the Gospel*)

Am I a good steward of my time in prayer? Am I open to or aware of daily personal encounters with Jesus?

Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction. (Pope Benedict XVI quoted by Pope Francis: *The Joy of the Gospel* #7)

Do I live my life in a way that reflects that I have encountered the Risen Lord? Does my generosity in prayer, service and sharing reflect that encounter?

The Gospel, radiant with the glory of Christ's Cross, constantly invites us to rejoice." (Pope Francis: *The Joy of the Gospel* #5)

Would others know that I am rejoicing by my life of gratitude, prayer, service and sharing? Would Jesus know?

I can say that the most beautiful and natural expressions of joy which I have seen in my life were in poor people who had little to hold on to. I also think of the real joy shown to others who, even in the midst of pressing professional obligations, were able to preserve in detachment and simplicity, a heart full of faith. (Pope Francis: *The Joy of the Gospel* #7)

A follower of Jesus, am I able find my true joy in Him and become a simpler and more generous steward?

Works of love directed to one's neighbor are the most perfect external manifestation of the interior grace of the Spirit.

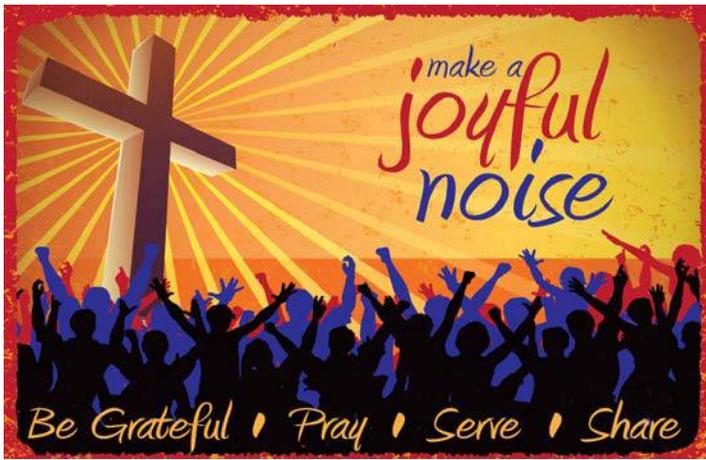
(Pope Francis: *The Joy of the Gospel* #37)

How do I allow the grace of the Spirit to flow from my life of committed service? Am I generous with my talents?

The Pope loves everyone, rich and poor alike, but he is obliged in the name of Christ to remind all that the rich must help, respect and promote the poor. I exhort you to a generous solidarity and a return of economics and finance to an ethical approach that favors human beings. (Pope Francis: *The Joy of the Gospel* #58)

How does my use of my material blessings in charitable giving reflect my answer to Jesus' call to love the poor?

If He were to visit my home, would I happily share those numbers?



***Celebrating
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 8/9, 2014***

***Pastor/Parish Leader
Sample Letter of Invitation***

Dear Friends in Christ,

Pope Francis wrote in *The Joy of the Gospel*: “The Gospel radiant with the Glory of Christ’s Cross, constantly invites us to rejoice.” (#5) Do you consider yourself a person of deep joy? How do you live out that joy? Do we have a parish that can’t help but rejoice? Would onlookers know how grateful and joyful we are?

Important questions no doubt, especially for those of us who choose to be authentic imitators and disciples of Jesus. In Psalms (47:1) we hear: “All you peoples, clap your hands; shout to God with joyful cries”. They were celebrating a wondrous God and they did not know about the “glory of Christ’s cross.” Today, we are called to clap and shout with our very lives. We are called to pray, to serve and to generously share. It is a way of life that confirms our joy in the Lord.

Our parish, in conjunction with all parishes in the Diocese of Green Bay, is going to have the opportunity to reflect upon these questions as we celebrate the third annual Diocesan Stewardship Weekend on November 8/9, 2014. Our theme will be *Make a Joyful Noise: Be Grateful, Pray, Serve, Share*. We will recall and celebrate how each of us are grateful stewards of faith-filled prayer, compassionate service and generous sharing. We will have the opportunity to make a joyful noise by challenging ourselves to continue growing in these areas as we journey to become a mature disciple. We are never too young or too old to be on our stewardship journey!

I ask that each of you join in on this wonderful celebration of Stewardship Weekend. Our parish staff, pastoral council and stewardship committee members have recommended that we celebrate *Make a Joyful Noise: Be Grateful, Pray, Serve, Share* in the following manner:

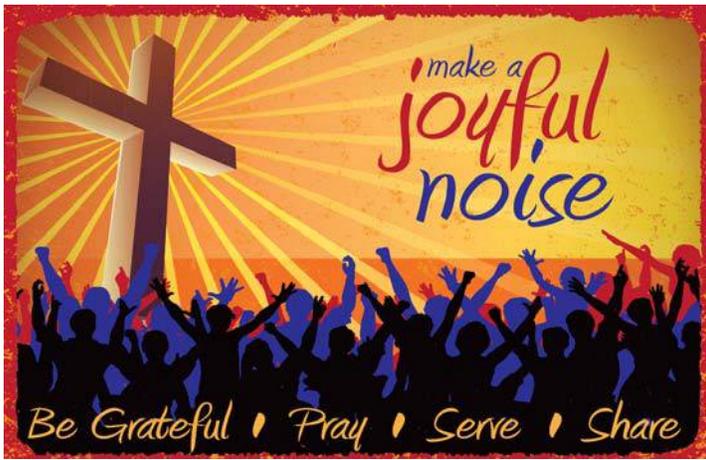
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Please join us for all the activities as we celebrate God’s unending love for us. If you would like to help in any way with these wonderful activities, please call _____

Thank you for all you are and for all you do that *Makes a Joyful Noise!*

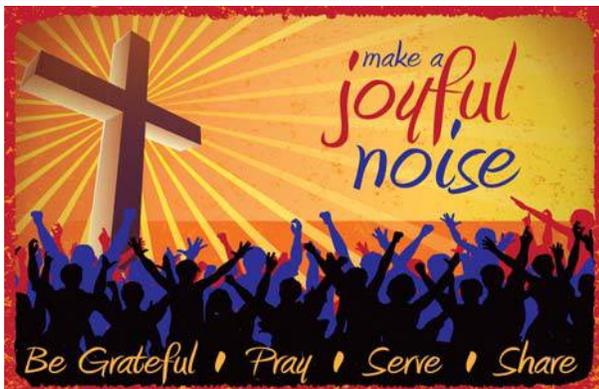
Joyfully in Christ’s Name,





Celebrating
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 8/9, 2014

Sample Postcard
Invitation



COME JOIN THE
CELEBRATION!

**“All you peoples, clap your hands;
shout to God with joyful cries.”**

(Psalm 47:1)

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are inviting all members of _____ parish to join in the Diocesan Celebration of Stewardship Weekend November 8/9th. It is our hope that through this celebration we will be willing to grow in our relationship with Christ and each other. Our parish has scheduled the following activities:

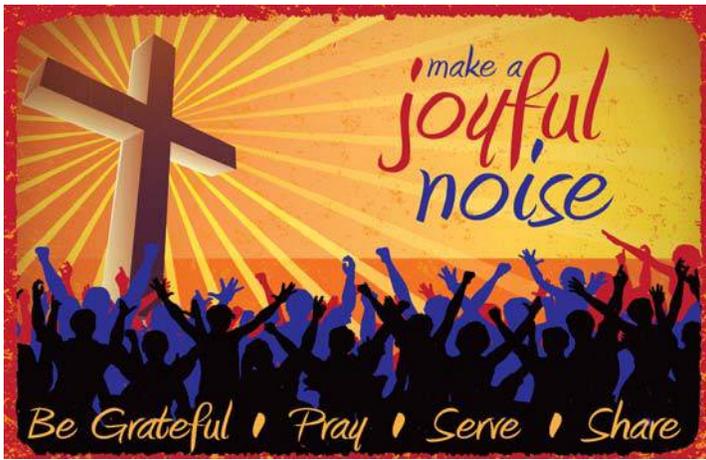
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Please mark your calendars!

Blessings,

Pastor/Pastoral Leader
Pastoral Council
Stewardship Committee





**Celebrating
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 8/9, 2014**

**Engaging Religious Education,
Schools and Families**

- All resources are available at www.gbdioc.org/stewardshipweekend.
- Items with the ☐ are part of the resource packet which can be downloaded as the complete packet or as individual pieces.
- Items asterisked ** are downloadable as separate entities.

Catechist Preparation:

Make stewardship weekend an agenda item at a staff/team meeting using some of the prior items for resources:

- ☐ Make *a Joyful Noise* Stewardship Theme Background Resource.
- ** Use the 2012 Letter of Proclamation from Bishop Ricken which states the rationale for the Diocesan wide celebration of Stewardship Sunday.
- ** Stewardship Basics: *Be Not Afraid*, Session 1 of Six Week Small Group Study on Stewardship.
- ** “Stewardship Moments with Bishop Ricken” - four - one minute video clips of Bishop Ricken.
- ☐ Use Committee Prayers (Catechist Gatherings): August-September

Preparing Children-Youth

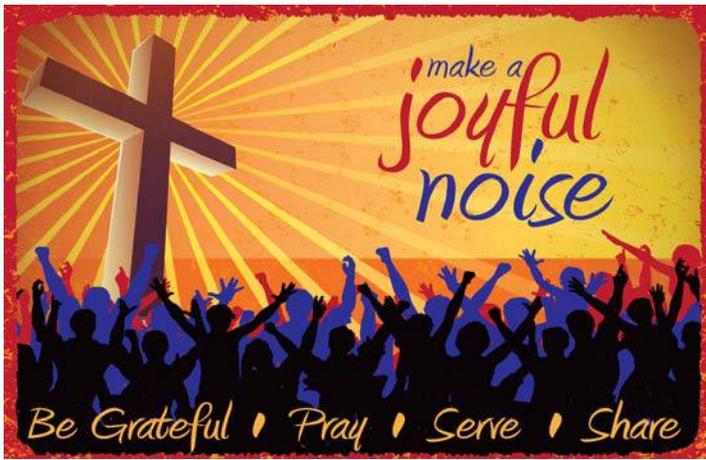
- Be sure children have an age-appropriate understanding of stewardship and the theme for this year’s celebration of Stewardship Weekend.
- Display the theme: *Make a Joyful Noise: Be Grateful, Pray, Serve, Share* and scripture verse “All you peoples, clap your hands; shout to God with joyful cries.” (Ps 47:1) in a visible place.
- Begin each class or session by reciting the verse out loud using bells or noisemakers (especially for younger children). Ask participants to name ways that they made *a joyful noise* through gratitude, prayer service or sharing since your last meeting. Have someone write the responses on a board, etc.
- Create a parish/school bulletin board.
- ☐ Check out the Diocesan Excellent Essay Opportunity for children, youth and families.

Note: The following are suggestions that can be adapted in any way or any grade level.

Kindergarten –Grade 5

- *Make a Joyful Noise: Activity Calendar:* Using input from the children, have each grade level create a monthly calendar of activities for their class. Each month, choose a way they will make a joyful noise through an activity of gratitude, prayer, service or sharing.
- Read bible stories about Jesus. Ask the children to tell you how they hear Jesus be grateful, pray, serve or share.
- Ask children to bring books that have a stewardship focus to share. Read and have children share how it fits into the theme.
- Have older children create skits about the theme and perform for younger children.
- Talk about saints and how they made *a joyful noise* with their lives.





***Celebrating
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 8/9, 2014***

***Engaging Schools, Religious
Education and Families (cont.)***

Grades 6-8

- All grades could create and perform a skit or shadow skit that would illustrate the theme. Have a performance night with fellowship for the parents.
- **Grade 6:** *Make a Joyful Noise Prayer Service:* Youth create and lead a prayer service for others. Be creative using music and technology, if possible.
- **Grade 7:** *Make a Joyful Noise Service Project:* Youth create and invite younger children to participate in a local service project.
- **Grade 8:** *Make a Joyful Noise for Sharing:* Ask youth to create and lead others in an opportunity to share with those in need i.e. hike for hunger, diaper, food, “undies,” etc. Explore opportunities and create announcements and promotions.

High School-Youth

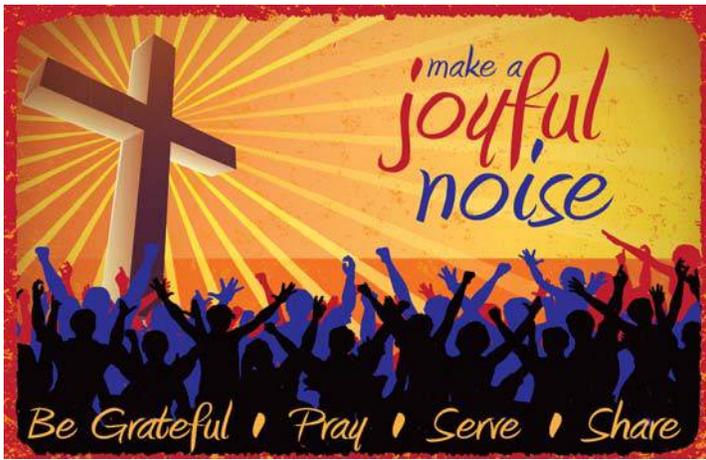
- Ask groups of teens to create an oversized storybook to read to others based in the *Make a Joyful Noise*. They need to create the story and do the illustrations.
- *Make a Joyful Noise Resumes:* Ask youth to work in small groups to write a resume that describes someone who lives gratitude, prayer, service and/or sharing.
- Have teens write/present brief talks of someone they know who lives this year’s theme.
- Ask youth to be creative in putting together a list of ten ways youth can “step up” their time in prayer, the use of their talents in service, and the generous sharing of their treasure. Print the list on website, in newsletter and bulletin.

Families

- Gather families for a *Make a Joyful Noise Service Day*. They select the service that suits the age of their family. You meet prior to everyone going out for fellowship and prayer and again when you return to share stories and a meal.
- Families create a collage of memories that demonstrate how they have made *Make a Joyful Noise* through prayer, service and sharing
- Families keep a simple *Make a Joyful Noise* journal to document their experiences.
- Families make a plan to “step up” their gratitude, prayer, service or sharing in some way.

For assistance in any area of stewardship, please contact Mary Ann Otto at (920) 272-8301 or 1-877-500-3580 ext. 8301 or at motto@gbdioc.org





***Celebrating
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 8/9, 2014***

Excellent Essay Opportunity

WHAT: The Department of Stewardship and Pastoral Services is sponsoring an *Excellent Essay Opportunity* for children, youth and families across the Diocese of Green Bay in celebration of Stewardship Sunday November 8/9, 2014.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: Participants whose entries are selected will have their essay printed in a special edition of the Compass to be distributed with the November 7, 2014 edition. There will be three children, three youth and three family essays selected.

HOW: Have each participant fill out the brief application found below and staple their entry to it. This will help us identify the parish and also make sure we have parental permission to print the essay if it is selected. If Parishes/Schools have multiple entries, the DRE /Principal should select the top three entries from their group to send to the diocese. All entries need to be received at the diocese by October 10, 2014 for consideration.

ESSAY QUESTIONS FOR PARTICIPANTS

Note: Please consider using examples of gratitude, prayer, service and/or sharing in your response.

Grades 4-6 (100-200 words) (choose one)

- When I think of Jesus I am joyful because?
- I *Make a Joyful Noise* with my actions by....?
- Going to Mass is an important way to *Make a Joyful Noise* because...?

Grades 7-12 (250 words) (choose one)

- I think Pope Francis tells us to be joyful because...?
- People can be joyful even when they have very little because...?
- Joy can come from sharing with others because....?

Family Essay (250 words) (choose one)

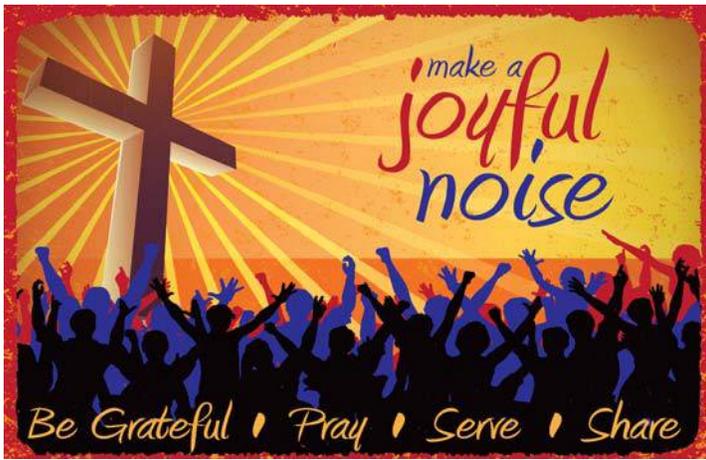
- Taking time to serve others as a family makes us joyful because...?
- The difference between happiness and joy for our family is...?
- Our most joyful way to pray as a family is....?

DEADLINE: All entries must be received at the diocese no later than October 10, 2014 to be considered.

SEND: Please send to Mary Ann Otto, Stewardship and Special Project Director, Diocese of Green Bay, PO Box 23825, Green Bay, WI 54305-3825

Questions: Please contact Mary Ann Otto at (920) 272-8301 or 1-877-500-3580 ext. 8301 or motto@gbdioc.org





***Celebrating
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 8/9, 2014***

***Excellent Essay
Opportunity Application***

Attach to Entry

(Please enter info for all family members if writing a family essay)

Name (child or youth or family members)

Parish _____

School _____ **Grade** _____

Family Phone _____

Email _____

The question being responded to is:

If selected, I give permission for this entry to be printed in the Compass on November 7, 2014 with the name and parish/school of my child/family.

Parent or Guardian Signature

