

Welcome to this issue of the Messenger. The St. John XXIII Stewardship Commission works to highlight some of the many ways people are actively living out Christ's message of love and service in our faith community.

This month we are pleased to publish an article on Discipleship.

Stewardship Commission

Introduction to Sermon on the Mount – Matthew 5, 6, and 7

Discipleship is the most basic call of the Gospel. Jesus chooses *us* to follow Him and walk in His footprints. If we understand what this basic calling is all about and, if we can answer the call in the way that Jesus wants us to, we can change the world. Jesus said so. The challenge is: can we answer that call? You see, discipleship isn't about who *I* want to be. No, discipleship is about who *Jesus* wants me to be. So how do we know who Jesus wants us to be? Jesus himself tells us:

Not everyone who calls Me Lord, Lord, will get into the kingdom of heaven, only he who does what My Father in heaven wants. (Matthew 7:21)

In other words, Jesus wants us to do God's will so that we will be a part of His Kingdom. How do we know the will of the Father? The Sermon on the Mount tells us:

Anyone who listens and acts on what I say is like a man who had the sense to build his house on a rock. The rain poured down, the torrents came, the winds blew, and they dashed against that house. But it didn't go down, because its foundation was on the rock (Matthew 7:24 – 25)

Jesus states that everyone who LISTENS and ACTS on what He has just said in the previous three chapters (i.e., the Sermon on the Mount) is fully grounded in the life of a disciple. The Sermon on the Mount gives us the path to live out this calling:

- ❖ When we live by the Sermon, our struggle in responding to difficulties and challenges becomes easier because the Sermon guides us.
- ❖ Approaching important life decisions becomes easier because the Sermon guides us.
- ❖ When caught in the tension between our culture and our faith, the Sermon guides us.

This upcoming year, we continue our discipleship journey by delving deeper into what it means to walk like Jesus, talk like Jesus, and act like Jesus by exploring Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. We hope you will join us on this journey.

Thank you to all who gave so generously of your time, talent and treasure

We would like to thank our volunteers who have served as ushers, greeters, sacristans and ministers at our sites. Your warm and friendly presence enhances our worship experience with your gift of time and caring. Thank you to all who helped move and prepare the school for our students for this fall. We are blessed to have our students together in safer spaces. Let's give a special blessing to everyone who will be teaching our children this fall not only in school, but in Catholic Formation as well. Thank you to all who have given their time, talent and treasure to our A Place to Be Spirituality Center. The Center will be able to expand outreach opportunities in our whole community. To our families who will be relocating during the cold weather months, safe travels and we look forward to seeing you again soon.

Upcoming events

Saturday, September 14 and Sunday, September 15, SVDP Sponsored Bundle Sunday, at all churches
Sunday, September 29 – 11:30 am Grand Opening Celebration in SP Building

Please see the bulletin or Parish website at www.stjohn23rd.org for more information on this event and to see a full listing of events.