

INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP

November 2025 • e-Bulletin

A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER *for November*

Thank you, Lord
For all the beautiful and wonderful things we
experience in our life;
for the beauty of the earth and its amazing colors;
for crisp autumn mornings and sparkling winter nights;
for mountains and forests, rivers and seashores.

Thank you, Lord
For all the beautiful and wonderful things we
experience in our life;
for the water that cleanses, the clothes that bring
warmth, the food that nourishes and the home that
gives comfort.

Thank you, Lord
For all the beautiful and wonderful things we
experience in our life;
for those who love us and care for us; for those who
value us for who we are;
for those we call family, friends, neighbors.

Thank you, Lord
For all the beautiful and wonderful things we
experience in our life;
for the gift of Christ, your son;
for his life, his gospel, his cross, and his Church;
for his Eucharistic meal
and the promise to be with us always.

Thank you, Lord
For all the beautiful and wonderful things we
experience in our life;
for the time you've allotted us, the life you've offered us,
the opportunities you've afforded us, and the miracles
you've worked for us.

Thank you, Lord
For all the beautiful and wonderful things we
experience in our life;
and for your infinite love that meets our daily needs.
May our love, too, be known for its abundance,
its readiness to bless and heal,
to offer peace and promote justice,
and to serve in Jesus' name.

Amen.

Stewards Keep God in Thanksgiving

Every December, we hear much talk of "keeping Christ in Christmas." But sometimes in the national discussion of Thanksgiving in the United States, we talk about being thankful but leave out God as the source of all. Good stewards never miss an opportunity to thank God. Here are some suggestions for "keeping God in Thanksgiving."



Line up a trip to help at a soup kitchen,
food bank or meal delivery service on
Thanksgiving or sometime near the feast.

- Many parishes see as many people attend Mass on Thanksgiving Day as on holy days of obligation. Make sure you're in the crowd, and bring your kids to Mass to say "thank you" to God on this special day.
- Make grace at your family feast especially memorable. Let people know ahead of time that they will be asked to name a person, a situation, an experience, for which they are grateful to a loving God.
- Food banks and shelters need food all year long, but many launch special drives on Thanksgiving Day. Fill up your trunk with donations, and remain mindful that you are acting out of a spirit of gratitude to God.
- Line up a trip to help at a soup kitchen, food bank or meal delivery service on Thanksgiving or sometime near

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the feast. This can be especially beneficial to children, but everyone who experiences the needs of others appreciates not only what they have, but the fellowship they share with their sisters and brothers who may have less.



Make grace at your family feast especially memorable. Good stewards never miss an opportunity to thank God.

- Make that phrase, “Thank God,” a little more frequent and sincere in your conversation. Don’t be afraid to use the language of a grateful steward.
- Set time aside this month to pray over some experience in your life that was difficult for you. Let God show you his presence in this moment and feel your heart respond with gratitude.
- Set aside another time in which you recall an experience of deep happiness and joy – the birth of a child, a special moment with a loved one, a gift you received that was beyond your expectation. Let God be with you in these moments and express your deep thankfulness.

STEWARDSHIP SAINT *for November*



Saint Catherine of Alexandria

For six centuries, Saint Catherine was one of the most venerated of women saints in Christendom alongside saints Agnes, Barbara and Lucy. Saint Catherine’s was one of the voices Saint Joan of Arc said she heard. She is famous for her extraordinary gifts to evangelize and exercise stewardship of her faith.

Born in the late 3rd century C.E., Catherine was the daughter of a wealthy governor of

Alexandria, Egypt, the renowned Christian center of scholarship, and at the time, second only to Rome in size and wealth. She possessed a great love for learning and became exceptionally well educated in philosophy and science. She also showed a keen interest in religion and while still a teenager became a Christian.

In early 4th century Rome, Christianity was growing but continued to endure persecution. Eager to share the faith she had embraced and lobby for religious freedom, Catherine was granted an audience with the Roman Emperor Maxentius who was not much older than the young scholar.

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Impressed by her boldness and taken by her beauty, the emperor arranged a debate between Catherine and some fifty of Rome’s philosophers and orators who promoted the official state religion. Reportedly, Catherine prevailed and succeeded in converting them all to Christianity. Maxentius ordered his pagan advocates executed, and then tried to make Catherine his mistress. When she rebuffed him, he had her imprisoned.

The emperor’s wife, however, was fascinated by Catherine; and while her husband was away on military matters, she went to visit this extraordinary young apostle in her prison cell. The result was that Catherine converted the empress and eventually two hundred of the palace soldiers. News of these recently baptized Christians infuriated the emperor, and he had his wife and soldiers executed as well.

Maxentius tried yet again to win Catherine over by proposing marriage to make her his new queen. When she again refused him, the emperor had her tortured and beheaded. Not long after, he himself would die in an historic battle against Constantine in October 312. It is Constantine, who, upon becoming the new Roman emperor, made Christianity the dominant religion of the Roman Empire.

Saint Catherine is the patroness of Christian philosophers and her Feast day is November 25.

In Everything Stewards Give Thanks



Every November, the United States celebrates a great national holiday: Thanksgiving. Canada celebrates a similar feast in October. Although the origins of the U.S. festivity are somewhat historically murky, it's evident that some of the earliest immigrants to America celebrated this day as an expression of gratitude to God for bringing a healthy harvest which would ensure their colony's survival through the winter. It was the most primal kind of thankfulness: you have spared our lives, O Lord, and we are grateful.

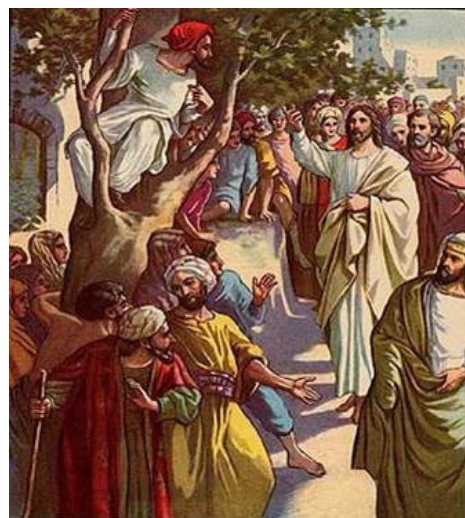
Over the years, Thanksgiving in the U.S. has become a national expression of gratitude, but sometimes it veers into the neighborhood of cliché, and often it strays away from the source of our gifts. Television hosts will remind us we should be thankful for all the "stuff" we have, including some non-tangible items like freedom, but to whom are we grateful? In some circles, it's unfashionable to mention that it is God, the source of life and goodness, to whom we owe our deep, humble sense of appreciation.

The Christian steward is aware of thankfulness to God twelve months of the year, not just in November.

The faith of the Christian steward, on the other hand, proclaims gratitude to God as its wellspring and cornerstone. The Christian steward is aware of thankfulness to God twelve months of the year, not just in November, and the steward knows, as St. Ignatius of Loyola taught us, that we "find God in all things." Therefore, we find reason to thank God in all things – for health of mind and body, for our families, our livelihoods, our successes and the gifts of education, intelligence and freedom that make our lives full and rewarding.

We also thank God for the embarrassing moments of our lives, for the disappointments, the sorrows, even the mistakes, because we know that God was present in each of those moments, ready to teach us and to guide us. The Christian steward can go deep in prayer and thank God for lessons learned in times of trouble as well as times of bounty. Gratitude, for the Christian steward, is not just rendered in times of plenty, but in times of sadness and deprivation. The God of all is present in all situations.

Perhaps the challenge for stewards during November is to be a source of reminder to those around them that thanksgiving is a fundamental lifetime habit, rendered to the God of mercy and plenty.



Zaccheus: Saint Luke's Model of Stewardship

The gospel reading for the first weekend of November reveals Jesus' encounter with a tax collector named Zacchaeus in the town of Jericho (Luke 19:1-10). This incident, found only in the Gospel of Luke, gives us insight into Luke's theology of stewardship of money and wealth.

Zacchaeus risks, not just his reputation, but his financial security and social standing.

This meeting can be regarded as one of the most important in the gospel for it illustrates the gospel's concern that one show substantial generosity toward the poor and the exploited in order to enjoy Jesus' friendship.

Described as a short man, Zacchaeus climbed a tree in order to see Jesus pass by. When Jesus saw him, he addressed him by name, and said he wanted to visit his house. The crowd was shocked that Jesus would condescend to being a tax collector's guest. Tax collectors were often corrupt, despised by other Jews as traitors for working for the Roman Empire. Zacchaeus' position would have carried both importance and wealth.

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Zacchaeus receives Jesus joyfully, opening his heart and his wallet in a heartfelt expression of generosity. Moved by Jesus' public acceptance of him, Zacchaeus promises to give half his wealth to the poor and to pay fourfold in restitution to anyone he may have defrauded.

Zacchaeus risks, not just his reputation, but his financial security and social standing. His vow of giving to the poor and restoration to those defrauded goes far beyond what is contemplated in Mosaic law. But to win Jesus' friendship, he makes a great sacrifice. Jesus does not ask Zacchaeus to leave behind his profession nor to give away the rest of his possessions. Rather, he meets Zacchaeus within his own life circumstances and seeing his newly discovered concern for those who suffer poverty and injustice, announces Zacchaeus' salvation.

Zacchaeus was hungry to know the Lord, and he made the choice to do his part to help carry out Jesus' mission.

For Luke, those who, like Zacchaeus, sincerely desire to know Christ, will open their eyes and their hearts to the suffering in the world. They show genuine concern for the poor, the marginalized and the oppressed, and they make significant sacrifices of their own time and resources in order to address this suffering.

Zacchaeus was hungry to know the Lord, and he made the choice to do his part to help carry out Jesus' mission: to bring good news to the poor (Lk 4:18), and be transformed by the good news himself. Thus, for Saint Luke, Zacchaeus becomes a model of Christian stewardship.



November: A Month to Reflect on Gratitude and Giving

Towards the end of each year, it is easy for us to become distracted with the busyness and planning for the upcoming holidays, starting with Thanksgiving. As Christian stewards, it is an important aspect of our faith to live each day in gratitude and to prayerfully discern and reflect on what we are giving back to God through our parish, diocese and other charitable institutions in the coming year. Now is a good time to reflect on what priority we will give to God in our spending.

Giving generously to their parish, dioceses and institutions of the universal Church is second nature to good stewards.

Christian stewards acknowledge with gratitude that even their financial resources and material wealth ultimately come from God. Exercising good stewardship over the money one makes, manages, spends and offers back to God is a tangible measure of their gratitude to God and their spiritual health.

Giving generously to their parish, dioceses and institutions of the universal Church is second nature to good stewards. They prayerfully reflect on their ability to give and return the "first fruits" of their financial resources back to God (Leviticus 23:10). The good steward's desire is to put God first among his or her spending priorities. They take seriously the psalmist's question: "What return shall I make to the Lord for all the good He has done for me?" (Psalm 116:12).

The best way to respond to God's loving generosity is by reflecting that generosity day by day. What God does in Jesus' human life is a much magnified version of what happens when we take time to pray, offer our time and talents to our parish family or when family budgets and spending habits are reprioritized to conform more devotedly to the Gospel. The stewardship question is not, "Should I do these things?" but rather, "How much should I do?" Take time during this month of November to reflect prayerfully on God's generosity toward you, on the quality of your own life of gratitude and what you are doing and can do to further God's kingdom by your own giving patterns in the coming year.



**SAVE
THE DATE!**

September 20-23, 2026
New Orleans, Louisiana

JOIN Archbishop Shelton J. Fabre, a number of his brother bishops and the ICSC family for the 64th annual stewardship conference of the International Catholic Stewardship Council.

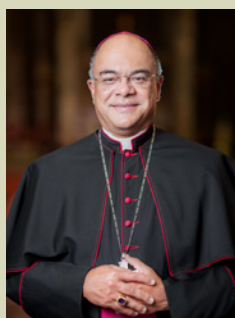
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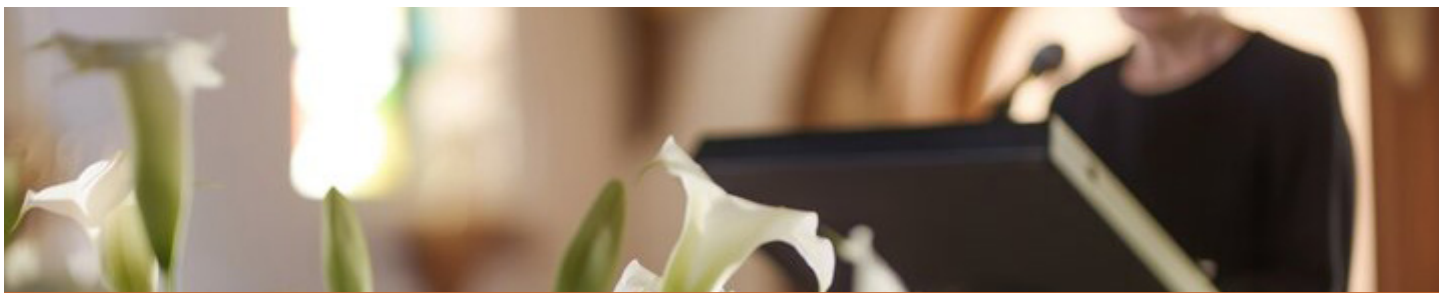
Limited to the first 100 registrants!



Archbishop Shelton Fabre

was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1989. In 2007 he was ordained an Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of New Orleans. As Auxiliary Bishop, he worked to help rebuild the Archdiocese of

New Orleans after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. In 2013, he was installed as Bishop of the Diocese of Houma-Thibodaux, Louisiana. His leadership in Houma-Thibodaux leaves a legacy where he will be remembered for his listening and availability, as well as pastoral planning and efforts for priestly renewal. In 2022 Archbishop Fabre became the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Louisville. He serves as Episcopal Moderator of the International Catholic Stewardship Council.



A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls Day)

Weekend of November 1/2, 2025

In today's selected Gospel we envision a crowd following Jesus, seeking him. He invites them to embrace faith in himself and his Father in heaven and share in their eternal life. He comes right out and says that no one who comes will be rejected, reminding us that even those who feel estranged from God or the Church are welcomed. Good stewards know that everyone can be raised up if they accept the Father's will, and in turn, use the gifts God has given them to further Christ's work. This promise gives us hope. The stewardship question is: Are we true seekers of the Lord? Do we genuinely desire a relationship with Christ? Are we willing to follow him?

Feast of the Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome **Weekend of November 8/9, 2025**

In today's reading from Saint Paul's letter to the Christian community at Corinth, he suggests that we are all called to be "wise master builders" in the building up of God's temple, the local Church. Each one of us has been given gifts to offer this building enterprise, and we are called to be good stewards of this project, to build this church together, in communion with one another, according to God's plan, not ours. Jesus Christ is the solid foundation upon whom we are to build. Saint Paul further suggests that God will judge us according to the quality of our stewardship. Can we see ourselves as "master builders" of God's church? What gifts are we using to construct this holy place that God will call home?

Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time **Weekend of November 15/16, 2025**

In today's Gospel Jesus suggests that his disciples must be prepared to suffer ridicule, persecution and perhaps even death if they are to follow him. Sometimes we may wonder if enduring ridicule and scorn are what we really signed up

for when we received the sacraments of initiation. Would we not rather sneak through life as painlessly as possible? Good stewards take their faith seriously and find comfort in the closing words of today's Gospel: "You will be hated by all because of my name but not a hair on your head will be destroyed. By your perseverance you will secure your lives." Let us make it part of our daily prayer routine to ask the Holy Spirit for the courage to act in Jesus' name no matter the consequences.

Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe **Weekend of November 22/23, 2025**

In today's Gospel we hear of the rulers who sneered at Jesus, the soldiers who jeered at him, the criminal who reviled him, and the people who just stood by. At our own parish church the cross stands high. Yet, every Sunday there are those who sit in front of it and are not moved by it. There are people who walk right by the cross, unmoved by it. Perhaps they've walked by it so many times they no longer give it a second thought. Could it be they are unmoved because the heart of this unbelieving thief is in them? Good stewards walk by the cross, notice it and ask themselves: "All this you did for me, what have I done for you?"

First Sunday of Advent **Weekend of November 29/30, 2025**

On this first Sunday of Advent Jesus urges his disciples to stay awake and prepare themselves for the Lord's coming. Good stewards prepare themselves and await Christ's judgment in joyous expectation. This attitude requires genuine spiritual maturity, of course; the kind that is cultivated by prayer, participation in the sacraments, loving attention to family and one's communion of faith, and love for one's neighbor. Are we prepared for the Lord's second coming? Are we ready to receive Christ? Are we ready to look joyously for Christ's judgment?