

# St. John the Baptist Church

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Office Hours:

Monday – **Closed**

Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Rev. Jaroslaw Z. Skrzypek, J.C.L Parish Administrator

September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## Mass Intentions

### Sunday

6:00 am (+) Eligio, Lourdes & Mamerto Machacon, Jeffrey, Eugenio, Natividad & Enrique Cuaresma, Patricio Patague, kalolo Iu

**Birthday** Dan Corrales, Jr.

8:00 am Parish Family of St John the Baptist

10:00 am (+) Joseph Tuiteleapaga (1 yr death anniversary)

12:30 pm (+) Luis Roberto Rueda Galindo

### Monday

**No Service**

### Tuesday

7:15 am

### Wednesday

7:15 am (+) Pacifico Dagulo

### Thursday

7:15 am

### Friday

7:15 am

### Saturday

5:00 pm **Birthday & Thanksgiving** Aaron Pascual Jacinto

## Announcements

1. Today our second collection is for the **Catholic University of America**. Thank you for your stewardship. By giving to the National Collection, you will help support more than 6,000 students who are seeking a faith-filled education at an institution that supports cutting edge research in multiple fields. Your investment will enable the University to continue to support the Church and to advance its work of preparing the next generation of leadership, both religious and lay, of our Church and nation. Thank you for your generosity.
2. Registration for Religious Education is closed but if you need to register you might call the office for more information.
3. The Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place every Thursday immediately following the 7:15 a.m. Mass.
4. **Hispanic Prayer Group** meeting is every *Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.* at the conference room. All are welcome. For more information, please contact the office.
5. Hispanic Prayer Group are meeting every Sunday at 11:30 a.m. at the Church to pray the Rosary. All are welcome to attend.
6. Confessions are every Saturday at 4 p.m. or by appointment.
7. Please note that you can request mass intentions, make donations, learn about pre-baptismal classes and more using our website.

## STEWARDSHIP COLLECTION

Total Weekly Collection (09/04/2022)	\$ 4,469.90
Other Offerings and donations	\$ 608.26
<b>Total Weekly Offering Collection</b>	<b>\$ 5,078.16</b>
<b>Weekly offering Necessary to Cover Parish Operations</b>	<b>\$ 6,653.55</b>
<b>Other Collections</b>	
Second Collections –	\$ NONE
Special Collections - Debt Reduction	\$ 1,469.75
Collections Not Retained by Parish	\$ 166.00
<b>School Debt Reduction Collection</b>	
Debt Reduction Goal for 2021-2022	\$ 117,680.00
Debt Reduction Collected Year to Date	\$ 47,697.89
Balance Left to Reach 2021-2022 Goal	\$ 69,988.11



### Life of Stewardship Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Today's readings focus on the personal, passionate, and merciful love of God which should fill us with unending gratitude to Him. This gratitude is the fuel, if you will, that keeps the stewardship way of life rolling along.

In our First Reading from Exodus, we see the Israelites whom God has just rescued from slavery, behaving like ungrateful brats. The Lord provides them divine rescue from their enslavement, and they turn their backs on Him to create a false idol in the form of a molten calf to worship. What hubris! Yet Moses pleads for God's mercy towards them, and once again, God grants it in abundance.

In our Second Reading, from St. Paul's letter to Timothy, we find a grateful Paul who says of himself, "I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and arrogant, but I have been mercifully treated... Indeed, the grace of the Lord has been abundant along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus." St. Paul is well aware of the sins he has committed. But this does not hold him back from ministry. Rather, it makes him all the more grateful to be God's steward. How encouraging to know that this is true for us as well. Our past sins, and even our present struggles, do not disqualify us from becoming God's grateful stewards.

In fact, the more we have been forgiven and live with the awareness of our continuing need for forgiveness, the deeper our gratitude to God, and thus the more fuel we have in our tanks to live the stewardship way of life.

Jesus Himself gives us several poignant illustrations of His merciful love in today's Gospel reading from Luke. Let us focus on one, in particular — the story of the lost sheep. Jesus begins this parable by asking, "What man among you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it?"

The natural response is no one! It simply does not make sense to spend the time and energy searching for one lost sheep when there are so many others to tend to. But God's logic, God's mercy, defies human logic.

Jesus does go after the lost one and continues to pursue him "until he finds it." And when he finds the lost one, Jesus does not bring him back into the fold begrudgingly, with annoyance and frustration at having had to go after him. No, He brings the lost one back with great joy, carrying him upon His own shoulders. And who is the lost one? It is every one of us when we stray away from God through sin, great or small.

What gratitude we owe to such a personal, passionate, loving God! Just think, even our sins, once forgiven, become a source of fuel for our stewardship way of life as we reflect with deep gratitude on the powerful mercy of our Savior.

How can we demonstrate our gratitude to such a God? By living as His good stewards. We thank Him by offering back to Him the very best of ourselves — the talents He has given us (to use for His glory), the time He has given us (to spend with Him in prayer), the material resources He has given us (to advance His kingdom).

In so doing, we can make the words of St. Paul, a former enemy of Christ, our own stewardship motto: "I am grateful to Him who has strengthened me, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he considered me trustworthy in appointing me to the ministry," We must keep rolling, Christian stewards!

— *Stewardship Reflections by [Catholic Stewardship Consultants](#)*