

The Spirituality of Stewardship – Dan Conway (A good friend whom I, Fr. Robert, have known for 20 + years.)

The American bishops' pastoral letter, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, describes a Christian steward as "one who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, and returns them with increase to the Lord." Thus, there are four characteristics of a Christian steward.

The first characteristic is gratitude. A Christian steward is "one who receives God's gifts gratefully." Gratitude assumes that we acknowledge God as the true owner of all that we have and all that we are. Gratitude to God, and to those who have shared themselves with us, helps us maintain a true sense of identity as Christ's disciples.

The second characteristic is accountability. A good steward is "one who cherishes and tends God's gifts in a responsible and accountable manner." Accountability reminds us that we are responsible for what we do (or fail to do) with our time, our talent, and our money. As Christ's disciples, we are responsible for building up God's kingdom, and on the Last Day, we will be held accountable.

The third characteristic is generosity. A Christian steward is "one who shares God's gifts with others out of justice and love." Generosity propels us outside of ourselves – often in ways that contradict our own interests. The lives of the saints give us countless examples of individuals whose generosity won them true freedom and joy. Giving is good for us; it is also right and just to share what we have been given with others.

The final characteristic is the willingness to give back to the Lord with increase. God wants us to take his gifts and develop them. A Christian steward is called to be productive, to make a difference in the world. Traditional Christian spirituality teaches us to give back to the Lord by means of the ascetical principles of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. In prayer, we give back to God our time (and our hearts). By fasting, we deny ourselves the good things that we want and need; the more genuine our self-denial is, the more we flourish and grow. Through almsgiving, we share what God has given us with others; if we give from the heart, we gain infinitely more than we have given away. Prayer, self-denial, and sacrificial giving are the essence of what Christian stewardship is all about!



ST. MONICA PARISH

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April 15, 2018
3rd Sunday of Easter

The risen Christ made himself known to his disciples. He encouraged the disciples in Jerusalem to look and to touch his wounds. He reminded them of what Scripture had foretold, just as Peter reminded the community the Good News of Jesus' resurrection.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the first reading, Peter called his listeners to repentance and salvation. In the second reading, John encourages believers to trust Jesus, their Advocate, and show their love for God by keeping his commandments. After having revealed himself in Emmaus in the breaking of the bread, the risen Christ manifested himself again to his disciples.

Today's Readings:

1st: Acts 3.13-15, 17-19

Psalm: 4

2nd: 1 John 2.1-5

Gospel: Luke 24.35-48

PASTOR: **Rev. Robert Wong, SJ**

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday

9:30 am – 1 pm / 1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

MASS SCHEDULES

WEEKDAYS: **9:00 am**

SATURDAYS: **9:30 am & 5:00 pm**

SUNDAYS: **9:00 am & 11:00 am**

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

SATURDAYS: **4:30 pm – 4:55 pm**

CONFESSIONS: 10 MINUTES BEFORE DAILY

MASS OR BY REQUEST AT OTHER TIMES

NOVENA TO

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

WEDNESDAYS: **7:00 pm**

MASS FOLLOWED BY NOVENA

& BENECTION

BAPTISM COURSE

EVERY 2ND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT **6 pm**

BAPTISMS

4th SATURDAY AFTER 9:30 am MASS

HOUSE BLESSINGS

PLEASE CALL THE PARISH OFFICE

PARISH UPDATES

PROJECT ADVANCE 2018 – “Support the Faith - Continue the Legacy” is the theme for this year’s Appeal. The Archdiocese has increased its total goal by \$250,000 to \$3.25 Millions. Our share is \$25,000.00, an increase of \$5,000. We would keep our total goal the same as previous year, \$75,000.00. Please pray with open hearts and minds as good Christian stewards whose desires are to live gratefully and give generously. Thank you for your previous generosity!

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**Parish Pastoral Council Meeting—Tuesday, April 24th, 7:45 pm** is our next meeting. Representatives of our parish groups, please make this meeting a priority.

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Tree of Gratitude – A few new inscriptions of Dove and Leaf plaques have been added to the beautiful sculpture on the wall. Thanks to our generous parishioners and friends. May the Lord bless you with his love and grace!

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### “How Sweet to Be Loved” Dinner Dance Gala

Join us for an evening of Fun, Glamour and Elegance on **Saturday, April 21st at 6:30 pm** at the St. Monica Parish Hall, 12011 Woodhead Rd, Richmond. Attire: Retro.

**CWL Fundraiser** to benefit St. Monica Parish Project for the Poor: The Door Is Open and Development and Peace’s program for poor women from Global South. For Tickets (\$30), contact Rose Capitulo at (604) 618-0036 or rosecapitulo@hotmail.com

Music for Voice and Organ – Holy Rosary Cathedral’s lead soprano Sarah McGrath and organist Denis Bedard in concert. Works by Bach, Pergolesi (from Stabat Mater), Mozart (Laudate Dominum and Alleluia), Saint-Saens (Ave Maria), Bedard and others. **Friday, April 27 at 8 p.m. at Holy Rosary Cathedral.** To register, visit <http://rcav.org/event/music-for-voice-and-organ>

**Marriage Encounter Weekend** at the John Paul II Pastoral Centre on Saturday and Sunday, **April 28 - 29, 2018.** This enrichment is for all married couples and for couples civilly married for more than 5 years, now preparing for marriage in the Church. Registration is online on RCAF website: <http://rcav.org/worldwide-marriage-encounter->

### Project Advance Stewardship Prayer

*O God, the Father of every gift,  
all that we are and have comes from your hand.  
In Jesus Christ, your Son,  
you have given us the greatest of all gifts.  
Fill our hearts with his love,  
so that we may be parish communities  
of faithful, caring people.  
Grant us the grace to be good stewards  
who, in the name and spirit of Jesus,  
Share our gifts of time, talent and treasure  
for the building up of your Kingdom  
in our Archdiocese and throughout the world.  
May we see Project Advance as our way  
to live gratefully and give generously  
for your honour and glory.  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Celebrate your Milestone Anniversary with us!** Join us for a special Mass celebrated by Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, honouring couples celebrating their milestone anniversaries: 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th, 45th, 50th, 55th & 60th+ years of marriage. Mass will be on **Sunday, May 13 at 2 p.m. at St. Matthew Parish, Surrey.** Reception to follow in the parish gym with exhibitors present in Jubilee Hall. Register your milestone anniversary here: <http://rcav.org/marriage-anniversary/> All are welcome to witness and celebrate the milestone anniversaries of others this Mother’s Day!

## ARCHDIOCESAN EVENTS

### Estate & Memorial Planning Workshop

These presentations by the Archdiocese of Vancouver Catholic Cemeteries deal with matters you may not have thought about before but will help you gather your thoughts before you write your first will or prepare to update your will. Learn about the beauty and dignity of the funeral rite and how to formulate pre-need arrangements. Receive FREE guides and loads of practical advice. Also by attending the workshop you will receive 10% off your burial arrangements. These workshops will present facts and information. No investment services or insurance will be promoted or sold. **Tuesday, April 17, at 7 p.m. at St. Joseph's Parish, Langley.** For more info, please contact Catholic Cemeteries by email at [info@gethsemani.bc.ca](mailto:info@gethsemani.bc.ca) or call 604-531-2141. You can also register online at [www.rccav.org/events](http://www.rccav.org/events)

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Men's Discernment Night

Do you have questions about discerning God’s call for your life? Vocations in Progress for single men, aged 17 and up, is an opportunity to meet priests, ask questions, and learn about their life and spirituality. The informal event will include prayer, dinner, and discussion at **St. Patrick's, Vancouver, on Wednesday, April 25, at 7 - 10 p.m.**

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### One Million Rosaries for Unborn Babies

The 2018 One Million Rosaries for Unborn Babies global pro-life prayer event is scheduled for **May 4, 5 and 6.** Persons participating will pray at least one Rosary for the protection of unborn babies. For details and to register go to: <http://www.saintmichaelthearchangelorganization.org/>

*Jesus’ resurrection points beyond history but has left a footprint within history.—Pope Benedict XVI*

## Stewardship Reflection

### 3rd Sunday of Easter

The disciples in today’s Gospel came to know Jesus in the breaking of the bread. When we share what we have with those who are in need, we, too, will discover Jesus in our midst.

*Stewardship by the book – Sharon Hueckel*

## Mass Intentions

### April 15-21, 2018

|              |                                                              |
|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mon, Apr 16— | Stephen Law (RIP)                                            |
| Tue, Apr 17— | Fred Dias (RIP)                                              |
| Wed, Apr 18— | 9am, Lourdes Varona (RIP)<br>7pm, Maria Hortencia Dias (RIP) |
| Thu, Apr 19— | Anselmo Lo                                                   |
| Fri, Apr 20— | Jose Martinez (RIP)                                          |
| Sat, Apr 21— | 9:30am, Daniel Reyes (RIP)<br>5pm, M Quitzon                 |

**Our new website, [stmonicaparish.ca](http://stmonicaparish.ca) is now live. Also, visit and like us on Facebook: ‘Smon Monica’.**