

---

January 13, 2013 • Baptism of the Lord

---

## Pastor's Column

---

### Christian Stewardship Month—St. Thomas More Parish

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord Jesus the Christ. With his Baptism by John the Baptist in the waters of the Jordan River, he began his mission and ministry.

We are mindful that in and through our Baptism we become Disciples of Jesus and we continue his mission and his ministry for this time and this place.

As we begin this New Year, an unbelievably exciting one, as construction begins for our Permanent Church and Parish Offices, we mark January as “Christian Stewardship Month.”

It is our annual reminder that we have been baptized into Jesus and that we joyfully give of our time, talent, and treasure in order to continue his mission and ministry for this time and this place.

Recently I was asked to make a brief comment about Christian Stewardship which would be included in a new Diocesan brochure. These are my words: “Christian Stewardship is the means by which an ordinary Parish becomes an extraordinary Parish—one that is alive and vibrant. When there is a conscious and deliberate effort to encourage Parishioners to share their time, talent, and treasure within the Parish, a sense of ‘belonging’ and ‘ownership’ becomes palpable in the Parish. It is then that the ministry of Jesus, in the Parish, continues for that time and that place.”

These words were not just wishful thinking, but because of you, the STM Parishioners, these words come forward out of the reality that is our Parish—we are alive and vibrant, celebrating and carrying on the work of Jesus. Your response is so faith-filled!

And so this month, with its various activities, is a time in which we are renewed, refreshed, and re-energized for the work that lies ahead.

Last Sunday, on the Feast of the Epiphany, we gathered together, about 250 strong, to enjoy the Stewardship Appreciation Reception. This weekend, I am directing my homily at all the Masses to the themes of Stewardship. Next weekend, our lay witness talk at all the Masses will be given by Kevin and Kristin McCusker. The following weekend will afford us an opportunity to get an update on construction from Brian Leahey, our Director of Construction, and a Parish Stewardship update from Chris Smith, our Director of Stewardship and Development.

It is an exciting month, and a prelude of many good things to come! Stay tuned!

For all that has been, we say “Thank You.”

To the present day with its many challenges, we say “Yes.”

To a future filled with hope, we confidently say “It will be!”

*F. n. Mike*