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## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time January 17, 2016

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*Jesus did this as the beginning  
of his signs at Cana in Galilee.*

*—John 2:1-11*



### Pastor's Column

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#### **Empowered by God's Grace and Mercy**

All that we are and all that we have is pure gift! Once we surrender to that reality, we experience a freedom that allows us to live joyfully as sons and daughters of God. We look at the world and our lives with a very different set of eyes.

Jesus challenges His disciples, "Unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat. If it dies, it produces much fruit." (John 12:24) Once we die to ourselves, to our need for control, making the world in our own image and likeness, and surrender to the God who creates and sustains us, we begin to live!

Our Faith Life is no longer an obligation, but it becomes a "Thank You," a faith response, to our Loving Creator for all that is given.

In order to respond ever more faithfully and gratefully, we desire to walk more closely with the Lord Jesus, God's Word of Love, given to all us.

So that we can grow in the image and likeness of Jesus, it is important that we are mindful of the gifts of time, talent, and treasure given to us. The natural question that we ask of ourselves is "How can I best use my time, talent, and treasure to make a faithful response to the God who has given all to me?"

When we ask this question, we begin the faith walk that is Christian Stewardship.

This weekend we begin Christian Stewardship Month here at St. Thomas More Parish. Our theme is "Empowered by God's Grace and Mercy."

In our surrender to God, we are mindful that we are strengthened by God's grace that comes to us in the celebration and reception of the Sacraments, and that it is God's mercy that allows us to look beyond our frailties and become the people that God calls us to be.

During the next few weeks, let us drink deeply of God's grace and mercy, and become ever-faithful stewards of the gift of life and creation that has been given to us for this time and this place!

*F. Mike*