

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This week we begin our two week annual stewardship campaign. In past years this has happened during October, but due to the busy schedule in the parish we decided to move it to coincide with the New Year (when people make fresh commitments) and the season of Epiphany—in which we meditate on the gifts the Magi brought to the Christ child.

Remember that the wise men left their comfort zone to travel to Bethlehem. A stewardship campaign is one of those “leave the comfort zone” moments in church life. As church leaders we don’t find fund raising to be much fun. We have to leave our comfort zone to embark on the stewardship campaign and ask people to give.

As parishioners you too need to leave your comfort zone and do some lateral thinking. “Lateral thinking” is thinking sideways - thinking about the money you will give, not the money you will spend, the money you will invest, or the money you will save. However, with a little bit of lateral thought you will see that giving to the Lord’s work is a way of spending, investing and saving. You are spending money to maintain the facilities and ministry of the parish. In doing so you are investing in the future of the faith, and you are investing in your own spiritual future, and you are saving by putting your money in a “safe place” - thus storing up treasure in heaven.

If you are a registered member of OLR, and you have not done so already, you will receive a mailing explaining this year’s stewardship campaign, and with it will be a pledge card for you to record the level of your weekly gift and how much you may be able to give towards a special campaign later in the year to fund the modular classrooms for the school.

If you are not a registered member, we ask you also to participate. Pick up the brochure and pledge card in the narthex as you leave Mass this week. Please remember to plan your giving: how much can you give each week? Please give sacrificially: think how much you can give then add a bit more. If you already give regularly try to do a bit more. We will collect the pledge cards at the Masses next weekend. The new pledges will kick in the beginning of February. This gives us time to go to the parish website and set up or amend our online giving.

Thank you for stepping outside your comfort zone with us and may God Bless you and your family in this New Year!

Your Pastor,  
Fr. Longenecker