

**The Office of Parish Stewardship
Wishes you a Happy and Peaceful Advent
and a very
Merry Christmas!**



Called to Evangelize

Written in collaboration with our friend Bobbie Ann Taylor, from the Archdiocese of Newark!

We are finally in the month of December!

Unfortunately, for some people the Christmas season is not a season of joy. The loss of a loved one or a traumatic memory may make this season difficult for some people. Through no fault of their own they are unable to see the joy that the Christmas season brings. Advent (the appropriate name for what most people in the secular world may call the Christmas season or Christmas shopping season) is a time when we wait for the Lord. While we wait for Him, we should practice our stewardship mission by being the hands of Christ on Earth.

Perhaps, we may know of a friend or family member who is struggling during this time of year. Let us bring the Light of Christ to them with simple phone calls, lunch dates and especially prayer. Let us, too, see all the bright colored lights that adorn Christmas trees and outdoor displays as a myriad of vivid Advent reminders that the Christ Child calls us to bring His Light to the world.

In His Name and in honor of His Birth, let us practice our stewardship mission by sharing the material gifts He has given us. Let us provide to the least of His brothers and sisters the gift of warm clothing or a warm meal during this cold season. And let us pray for their spiritual needs, as well, even as we do our small part to meet their physical ones.

In gratitude for the Birth of Jesus' saving mission, what better Christmas gift can we give Him than taking more seriously the mission He has entrusted to us, following Him and leading others to follow Him more closely during Advent-and always!

Also, if you would like to receive our monthly stewardship newsletter, email tzalud@drvc.org

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As we look forward to celebrating Christmas with our families - how wonderful to be able to share with them how the true joy of Christmas is found in the greatest gift ever given - the gift of Jesus Christ to the whole world.

***The Mystery of Christmas* by Fr. Larry Richards**
With humor, compassion, and clarity, Fr. Larry gets to the heart of the true meaning of Christmas and helps us to better appreciate the immensity of God's love for us as His children.



