You might call this a spiritual stewardship of love. The love we have received from Christ is meant to grow and go forth in love for others. It is entrusted to us so that we will share it with one another. Jesus is clear that this love is measured by what we actually do: "whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40). Traditionally, this stewardship is expressed through our gifts of time, talent and treasure.

This weekend, all of our parishioners are being provided with a stewardship trifold. You can complete it on paper or online using the QR code on its cover. Completed trifolds can be placed in the weekend collection or brought to the parish office. The website is available only through the QR code printed on the trifold and on the posters in the gathering areas of our churches. The trifold lists the ways you might like to get involved in our parish groups and ministries.

Some of these are simply groups in which you can participate. That Man Is You and She Shall Be Called Woman (men's and women's groups) are already meeting; a book club and a Bible study are on the way. Others ask for your participation in providing for people here and beyond. That might mean serving in one of our liturgical

ministries. It might mean helping to clean the church or assisting at our Catholic schools, or lending a hand at seasonal events like the Holidazzle Parade or our annual parish picnic. And it might reach beyond the walls of this parish, through corporal works of mercy like our local food shelf.

However, there are a few opportunities I would like to spotlight in particular. Beginning Wednesday, November 4, at 10 AM, we will start a book club here at Saint Mary's Catholic Church. Please note the change from last week's bulletin where I indicated the book club would begin in the season of Advent. Together, we will read Life of Christ by Fulton J. Sheen, now Blessed Fulton J. Sheen. With Christmas so quickly on the way, this will only be a 6-week book club, concluding on Wednesday, December 9. Copies of the book are available for purchase at our parish office for $5, and digital editions can be purchased online. After the Christmas season, beginning after the Baptism of the Lord in January, we will start a weekly Bible study. You will be able to participate both in person and online.

The one I am most excited about, though, I will definitely need your help to make it happen. I was hoping we could start a monthly Catholic movie night. During this next year, I would like us to gather

once a month to watch Catholic films, and I would like to see these hosted at individual homes. Maybe we would gather in a large heated garage and set up a TV and some couches, or homes big enough to welcome 20 or 30 or 40 people. On occasion, we might even gather here at church or at Saint Mary's School. Families interested in hosting one of these movie nights should contact me directly. My contact information can be found in our parish bulletin.

This Stewardship Weekend is both an appeal and a reminder of how important it is to give back to God. It is also an invitation to receive the good things God might be wanting you to receive through these spiritual enrichment opportunities here in our parishes and our area Catholic churches.

Thank you, and God bless you.

Mary, Seat of Wisdom, pray for us.

In Christ,

Father Mitchell Bechtold

EDITION - XXIV

FATHER MITCHELL'S PASTORAL BULLETIN

Sunday, October 25, 2026

To the parishioners of Saint Andrew's, Greenwald, Saint John the Baptist's, Meire Grove, Saint Mary's, Melrose & Saint Michael's, Spring Hill, of the One In Faith Area Catholic Community

The Holy Father's prayer intention for October: "Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses."

Greetings.

The theme of Stewardship is already introduced on the first pages of Sacred Scripture. In the Book of Genesis, God settles the man in the garden of Eden "to cultivate and care for it" (Genesis 2:15). From the very beginning, God entrusts to us the care of the land and of all creation (Genesis 1:28). Nothing we have is ours by right. All of it is a gift, and we are its caretakers.

The Gospels carry that stewardship further, from the things of the earth to the things of the heart. At the Last Supper, Jesus tells his disciples:

"I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." (John 13:34)