PARTICIPANT

Young Apprentices

A RESOURCE FOR THE OCIA

CATECHUMENATE SESSION: STEWARDSHIP

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A • November 15, 2026

**Generous God,
you have given us many gifts.**

**We thank you
for the gifts of life,
love,
family,
and community.**

**We thank you, too,
for our talents.**

**Help us to use them
to love and serve you
and others.**

Amen.



Sunday Word

Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31

Psalm 128:1-2,3,4-5

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Matthew 25:14-30 or 25:14-15,19-21

The above readings are available at usccb.org/bible/readings.

To Help You Remember

1. God blesses us with many gifts.

2. We are called to share our gifts with others.

3. When Jesus comes again, we will be asked to tell how we have used our gifts to build up the Reign of God.

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Key Teachings



Generosity

God has been generous to us. We are called to be generous to others.

Loving God and Loving Others

Jesus commands us to love God and to love others. One way we can show love and mercy to others is to do the Corporal Works of Mercy (see Faith Words below).

Responsible to God

We are servants in the household of God. One day God will ask us to tell how we have cared for his household and served his kingdom while here on Earth.

Faith Words



Corporal Works of Mercy

These Works of Mercy are ways we care for the physical, or bodily, needs of others.

Stewardship

Stewardship is using our gifts and talents wisely and generously to care for creation, and to serve God and others.

My Work of Mercy

With My Family



We Listen

In the Second Reading Saint Paul tells us, "You are children of the light and children of the day." Light a candle and gather around it. Or, light a candle and place it on the table during mealtime. Ask each member of the family to think about what it means to be children of the light and children of the day. Ask each person to give a concrete example of how they can be "light" for others. Then ask, "How is our family a light for others?"

We Believe

God has given us many gifts and God has also given us great responsibility. We are to be stewards of God's creation. As Christians we have the responsibility to care for other people and for all creation, including the earth God has given us.

We Live as Disciples

In today's Gospel, two of the three servants are good stewards of the talents that the master gives them. You can be a good steward of the gifts God has given you by practicing the Corporal Works of Mercy. See the **With My Family: The Corporal Works of Mercy** page for suggestions.

We Pray

Call to mind someone who is hungry, in need, in prison, homeless, sick, or grieving. Light a candle and pray for that person as well as for all those who are in need.

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With My Family: The Corporal Works of Mercy



Here are some ways that your family can practice the Corporal Works of Mercy. Review the list and discuss which ones your family could do. Circle your top three choices. Make a promise to do at least one Work of Mercy this week and at least one next week. Invite your sponsors to work with you.

Feed people who are hungry

- Call the parish office and ask whether your family could take a meal to a homebound parishioner.
- Go grocery shopping for canned goods and take them to your local food pantry.
- Visit your local farmers' market and ask one of the vendors what they do with their food that is "left over."
- Call your local soup kitchen and ask whether your family could
  - o Help serve
  - o Make sandwiches or desserts for a meal
  - o Help set up or clean up
  - o Donate milk or fresh produce for a meal
  - o Make place mats for the patrons

Clothe people who need clothes

- Volunteer at your local clothes closet.
- Donate your clothes and shoes to your local clothes closet.
- Schools often need clothes and shoes for emergency situations. Contact a local school nurse or health assistant and offer to donate what is needed.

Give drink to the thirsty

- Set up a free lemonade stand in your neighborhood. Give away lemonade, smiles, and the love of Jesus!
- Take a cup of coffee or lemonade to your pastor, coach, youth minister, crossing guard, or someone else who may be thirsty.
- Take a bottle (or a case) of juice, protein drink, or another healthy drink to your local food pantry.

Visit people who are in prison

- Call the parish office and find out whether there is a prison ministry in your parish. Ask whether you could make a greeting card for a person in prison or for the person's family.
- Contact your local juvenile detention center and ask whether you could donate books, games, toiletries, or other items.
- Pray for an end to the death penalty.

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Shelter those who are homeless

- Donate new sheets, blankets, or pillows to a local shelter.
- Support Habitat for Humanity, a Christian housing ministry. Visit their website, habitat.org, to find out the needs and the opportunities in your area.

Visit people who are sick

- Call the parish office and ask whether you could send a greeting card to someone in the parish who is sick or homebound.
- Call a local senior citizen center or nursing home to ask whether you could visit with residents who might be lonely. You could visit in the community room and play a game of cards.
- Make a prayer blanket for someone who is sick. Or, donate the prayer blanket to a hospital.

Bury people who have died

- Find out whether your parish hosts funeral luncheons. Ask whether you can donate a food item.
- Visit the cemetery to pray for someone you know or for a stranger. Bring a flower to leave at the grave.
- Send a card to a widow or widower. Better yet, ask whether you can visit.

Our Family's Ideas



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