

NOTE: This material is meant to be reviewed by each Parish Ministry Leader at their individual parish ministry meetings. The objective is to help spread the stewardship message to all parishioners. Also, consider making copies to hand-out to your ministry members. Feel free to revise to meet your needs.

Stewardship: An Attitude of Gratitude

Most people are aware of the concept of Stewardship – recognizing everything we have is a gift from God, being grateful, developing our gifts and generously sharing with others. But how do we practice this in everyday life?

Invest in your prayer life – give TIME to God

- Pray to God frequently throughout the day, every day. Designate specific times and keep your appointment with God.
- Talk and listen to God.
- Jesus taught us to pray - “Our Father who art in heaven...” (Matthew 6:9-10)

Become willing to help others – share your TALENT

- Participate in parish activities, ministries and organizations.
- Accept responsibility for helping others.
- “For we are God’s co-workers.” (1 Corinthians 3:9)

Be generous with your financial gifts – offer your TREASURE

- Generously return a portion of the money you have earned.
- Give cheerfully, without expecting anything in return.
- “He who sows bountifully will reap bountifully...for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Corinthians 9:6-7)

Stewardship isn’t some exclusive club. Everyone is a steward. But living a stewardship lifestyle isn’t easy. It requires a change that opens our hearts. It is a true conversion that means we:

- Make room for the Holy Spirit in our hearts.
- Recognize other “gods” in our lives (job, money, power, ego) and put God first.
- Stop complaining about what we don’t have and be grateful for the gifts you have been given.
- Decrease dependence on “me” (the belief that I have to make things happen) and increase trust in God.

- Admit things don't always go according to our schedule and that God's plan is always better.
- Detach ourselves from material goods and money.

Stewardship isn't a program to entice people to give more money – it's a lifestyle of generously sharing our gifts. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to be stewards of the gifts we have been given. It is that simple, bold, but simple!

The cornerstone of Stewardship is prayer. Without prayer, we may be good volunteers or donors, but we are not good stewards!

But, Stewardship requires action. Past generations built the Church. It is our responsibility to develop and nurture our gifts for future generations. As St. Francis of Assisi said, "Preach the Gospel at all times. Use words when necessary."

Stewardship isn't easy, but it has tremendous rewards - Love, Peace and Joy on earth and eternal life in heaven!

Question: When you stand before God and He asks what you have done with the gifts He has given you, how will you respond?

I'd like to personally invite you to share in the Joy of our Faith. Please consider how you may be able to share your Time, Talent and Treasure to help advance the mission of our parish.

Also, please share these thoughts with just one other person and invite them to attend Mass, join one of the many parish organizations or give generously to our parish.

Here are Mass times and a calendar of upcoming parish events...

[MASS TIMES AND CALENDAR OF STEWARDSHIP EVENTS](#) (list events below)