

Stewardship (Time, Talent and Treasure)

STEWARDSHIP DEFINITION: THE CARE, HANDLING, AND MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES

The Christian steward is one who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord.

Stewardship involves all of life

While pastors and others usually only speak of stewardship in terms of Time, Talent and Treasure, **the truth is that stewardship involves all of life – body, mind and spirit, our material possessions, friendships, etc.** All we are and have is a gift from our Creator for us to use wisely to build up God's kingdom here on earth. The misconception of just giving of one category (Time, Talent, Treasure) is just that, a misconception.

Time

Time is a very precious gift. Most of us feel we don't have enough time for all the things we want to do. Everyone is given the same amount of time: 24 hours each day, 168 hours each week. The question is: ***How do we choose to use our time?*** Henry David Thoreau once said:

***"It is not enough to be busy, so are ants.
The question is what are we busy about?"***

Your Spiritual Life

- Attend Mass every Sunday/Holy Day
- Pray Daily
- Pray the Rosary
- Pray together regularly with family
- Pray at meal time
- Read scripture weekly
- Participate regularly in Eucharistic Adoration
- Make a retreat

Your Family

- Spend "Quality" time with your family
- Care for or visit the elderly, homebound or sick

Your Neighborhood and Community

- Help in youth activities
 - Help in schools
- Help in Civic organizations
- Help in local organizations
- Provide food and assistance to those in need

Talent

All of us have been blessed with various talents, whether we are aware of it or not, or whether we have developed our talents or not. Of course, it is usually not possible to develop *all* of our talents. But, ideally, we can and should develop some of them and use them wisely to bless the communities we belong to.

Faith Formation

- Adult Faith Formation
- Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)
- First Communion/First

Reconciliation

- High School Confirmation
- Sunday School
- Vacation Bible Camp
- Youth Faith Formation Liturgy
- Altar Server

- Choir/Musician
- Eucharistic Minister
- Lector
- Sacristan
- Usher

Hospitality

- Coffee and Donuts
- Funeral Receptions
- Parish Life & Socials

Outreach

- Dream Center
- Prayer Chain
- INTERFAITH

Other Ministries

- Art & Environment
- Church Growth and Evangelization

Treasure

There are over 2,300 verses in the Bible about money, possessions and the right use of them. Why is this? Perhaps because God knows our propensity to misuse money or allow it to distract us from keeping our eyes on him.

Tithing. When it comes to financial support of our church family, the biblical ideal is a tithe—or 10%—of one's income. Most Catholics who tithe reach this ideal *gradually*. In this area of stewardship, one of the most important steps to consider is to become an 'intentional giver'—as opposed to a 'loose change giver.' An intentional giver is one who has the willing diligence to 'do the math,' that is, to look at his/her annual income and then prayerfully and intentionally decide what *percentage* should be set aside for the support of the church and for charity.

Five reasons to be serious and generous with our financial resources

- ✚ *God expects us to be generous* even if our financial resources are not much. Remember how Jesus praised the poor widow for her generosity to the Temple (Mark 12:41-44).
- ✚ *We could have been born in a slum, begging for food every day.* Reflection on this accident of our birth should motivate us to be generous with our material blessings.
- ✚ *Consistent financial giving is the best medicine for our greedy tendencies.*
- ✚ *Generous financial giving helps to make us a little more like our good and generous God.*
- ✚ *It feels good to experience the joy of giving.*

***You are invited to donate to our Stewardship of Treasure campaign
by contribution through our Online Giving program.***

Stewardship Prayer

*Generous and loving God,
You call us to be disciples of your Son Jesus
and good stewards of your many gifts.
Open our minds and hearts to a greater awareness
and deeper appreciation of your countless blessings.
Transform us through the power of your Spirit
to nurture a stewardship way of life
marked by faith-filled prayer,
service to our neighbor, and generous sharing.
Teach us to be faithful servants of your gifts.
**With Mary's help, may we return ten-fold
the gifts entrusted to us.**
We pray thorough Christ our Lord. Amen.*