

What is Stewardship?

Stewardship begins with the recognition that “all things come from God,” (St. Thomas Aquinas). We recognize these gifts, cherish them, and share these gifts with others. It is sharing our spirituality, our time and talent, and our financial resources. It is responsibly using the gifts God has given to us to best care for ourselves, our Church and those in need throughout our community and world. Stewardship is not just tasks we perform, or contributions we make, out of sense of responsibility. *Stewardship is a way of life.*

Practicing Stewardship

The key to stewardship is being grateful for all that we have and the understanding that these are gifts that come from God. The gifts God has given us include our families, jobs, homes, skills and talents. It includes everything from the environment to to things that we own. It includes our time, our talent, and our treasure.



Prayer to St. Joseph

Good St. Joseph,
Patron of our Diocese
You provided for the needs of
the Holy Family entrusted to you.
As he grew to manhood,
even the Son of God relied on
your strong and loving care.

With great confidence, then,
we ask your intercession,
As we seek to meet vital
needs of our parish
and Diocesan family.
Inspire us to imitate together
your generous stewardship,
So that our Parish and Diocese
may go forward
strengthened and renewed,
In loving service of Christ
and our neighbor.

We ask this in Jesus' name,
who shared with you
both heart and home.

Amen



WE BELONG TO CHRIST
Supporting our Parishes and Diocese

We Belong to Christ Campaign

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Stewardship: *A Way of Life*



We Belong to Christ

The Main Tenets of Stewardship

When we pray, we open our hearts and minds to God. Through prayer, we are able to deepen our own spiritual life and, in turn, the spiritual life of our parish. A strong spiritual life is a visible reflection of our faith in God. It strengthens our resolve to serve God and others in our daily lives.



Time

*"Rejoice in hope,
endure in affliction,
persevere in prayer."
Romans 12:12*

In order to do this, we need to constantly recharge our spiritual batteries. Prayer allows us to give of our time lovingly, generously and tirelessly. Whether we are attending daily Mass, praying the Rosary or offering simple prayers of thanksgiving throughout the day, prayer is the fuel that keeps our spiritual life burning bright.



Talent

"Anyone among you who aspired to greatness must serve the rest, and whoever wants to rank first among you must serve the needs of all."

Matthew 20:26

Whether serving at a funeral luncheon, helping out at your parish school or bringing communion to the homebound, you are using your time and talents in the ways God intended that they be used. In God's eyes, no service – large or small – performed out of love and sacrifice is insignificant.



God has given each one of us special talents and abilities. When we use these talents in service to others, we grow closer to God. We also serve as an example of what it means to truly be a part of something greater than ourselves.



When you offer consistent, planned and proportionate gifts as an expression

of your faith, you are demonstrating your commitment to God and the Church. By giving financially, you support not only your parish but also the many people and organizations it – and the Church as a whole – so generously assists.

Treasure

"He said to them, 'Truly, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all her contributors to the treasury; for they all put in out of their surplus, but she out of her poverty, put all she owned, all she had to live on.'"
Mark 12:43-44

No matter how much – or how little – you are able to give, the important thing is that you give out of a sense of sacrifice. Your material gifts should be a priority rather than an afterthought. The most meaningful gifts, therefore, come not out of your surplus but out of your sacrifice.