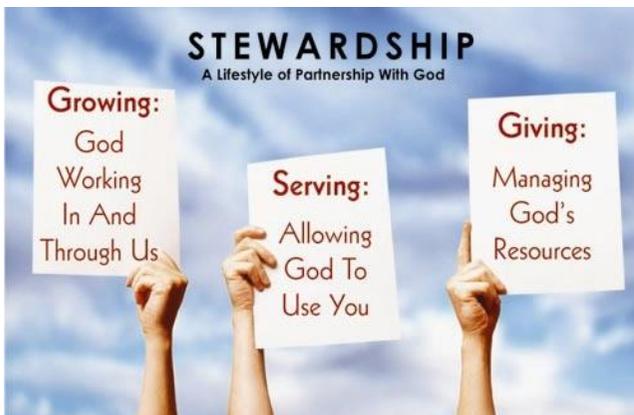


PARISH OF ST JOSEPH'S

CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP



As God's people, we recognize that all of creation—the earth, our time, relationships, talents, possessions—all good things come out of God's abundance and provision and are a gift of which we are caretakers.

God calls us to be givers, generous sharers of this abundance. In our giving, we participate in God's work in the world, and we participate in the transforming work God wants to do in each of us.

Why We Give

To Reveal God's Likeness in Us

God gives us the Holy Spirit who moves us to give with glad hearts, to give just as God gives. When we give we allow the Holy Spirit to transform us from within to help us take on the very nature of Christ. Through us, God reveals the reality of himself to the world—loving by giving.

To Grow in Our Dependence on God

God promises to care for us more than the birds of the air or the lilies of the field. (Matt 6:28-34)—When we stretch our faith through giving, we experience his care for us and our faith grows stronger. We learn that our dependence is not on ourselves or our ability to produce, but our dependence is upon our God.

To Join Jesus in the Work He Is Doing in the World through the Church

The body of Christ makes it possible for the many to do what individuals cannot do alone. In covenant with the Lord and with one another, we commit gifts and invest resources for God's work in the world.

To Share the Giving Love of a Living Savior

Giving and loving are never separate in the Bible. Nor are they separated in the life of a disciple of Christ. Behind every act of Christ is an act of giving. This consistent and giving love is a testimony to the reality of Christ's resurrection and life-changing presence, and it continues to be the basis for our mission and ministry efforts everywhere.



To Grow in Our Understanding That We Are Stewards and Not Owners

God is the source of everything we receive, and all our abilities, including our ability to produce wealth. As stewards of God's abundance and grace, we become a channel through which others can share in this abundance. The act of giving breaks the toxic powers of greed and pride in our lives and more deeply connects us with God, the source of every good gift.

How We Give

Cheerfully

It was God's good pleasure to create an abundant world. We give in gratitude and joyfully participate in being part of God's plan. This is a command, but it is also an invitation. Our gracious, giving God invites us into the joy and adventure of participating in the distribution of his good gifts in our world. When the Apostle Paul writes, "Each of you should give what you have decided," he means that our giving is a choice. We are not forced into sharing; so, our strong, consistent, and generous giving can bring enormous joy. By giving, we participate in and reflect God's own joy in giving.

Regularly



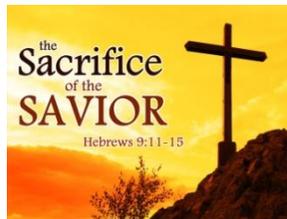
God's love for the world and its people is steadfast, and we demonstrate our faithful stewardship through steadfast and regular giving. Consistency in our commitments creates a healthy community and healthy ministry; life becomes fragile when we have fragile commitments. Faithful giving is another reflection of God's character in us. It is doing God's work as he himself does it—faithfully.

Proportionately

Our giving is a reflection of God's abundance. Since all of life, everything is a gift, it is very important that there is a clear connection between what we receive or earn and what we return to God. When we give in proportion to what we receive, we intuit a deep connection between our receiving and God's giving, and the Holy Spirit is able to work deeply in our lives.

Sacrificially

God's gift of his only son was the costliest sacrifice ever made. As the beneficiaries of that sacrifice, we, too, give sacrificially. For many of us, this means giving well beyond. We know that God receives our gifts, not according to their size but according to our hearts. God's economy is a radical departure from the economies of this world.



What We Give

Time

Our willingness to serve God through our church, our community, and the world demonstrates good management of life's gifts... of the hours and days we live as a disciple.



We foster that relationship by:

- Attending Mass more frequently.
- Developing a personal relationship with Jesus by praying more.
- Finding time to study Scripture and religious books, articles, websites, etc.
- Participating in faith-enrichment activities in our Parish.
- Visiting Jesus in the Adoration Chapel.
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Talents

The body of Christ functions fully only as its members exercise their God-given gifts in service. God does not give us all the same gifts, instead our individual spiritual gifts, talents, and abilities are intended to complement those of other members of the body.



No individual in the world is exactly the same as another. God has given each of us a unique set of gifts. As good stewards, God trusts us to find the ways in which we can joyfully share our talents. The joy comes in sharing them to do God's work.

Treasure

As Christians, we struggle with trusting in God's ability to meet our every need, often substituting trust in God with our own efforts to provide for ourselves. Our fear of scarcity can create the very shortage it anticipates: "whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly" (2 Corint9:6). In giving proportionately and sacrificially from the good we receive, we advance God's kingdom in our world.

Where We Give

To Our Church

From the tabernacle Moses built in the wilderness to the house churches Paul nurtured in his journeys, God has urged his people to participate in a worshiping, local fellowship, and then to regular giving through that fellowship. God has given us all the resources we need to impact the world God has called us to reach—but only as we respond together is that reach strengthened and lengthened.

To Spirit-Revealed Opportunities



God gives each of us unique opportunities to demonstrate his love to others through our use of time, talents and treasure. This openness to human need is one of the highest forms of witnessing and is a gift from God. When we reach out to others, we are responding to the word as the hands and feet of Christ.

We invite you to join our Parish in furthering the gospel through your generous stewardship of time, talent and treasure. Be encouraged that what we do together to share this love is never wasted.

God has given us all the resources needed to accomplish his work. Through the Holy Spirit the things that matter most to God matter most to us.

- Will you join us on this transformational journey?
- Will you allow God to transform us from people "living to get" into people "living to give"?
- May we journey together in stewardship – God's resources deployed through God's people to accomplish God's mission.

