

St. Anne-St. Catherine Faith Community

Living Our Faith...Sharing Our Blessings



Stewardship Begins at Home

*We are not in this world just to go to Church,
but called to be Church in the world.*

2020 Annual Stewardship Renewal

Pastor's Letter

The impeachment hearings going on in Washington have captured some people's attention. For other people, they are perceived very differently. There was one amazing God moment that captured my attention which had nothing to do with the impeachment hearing. This event caught the attention of both Republicans and Democrats.

A witness was asked "why did you enter public service?" The witness went on to reveal her reason. Her response sliced through the fierce political partisanship in the room. Those in attendance were became silent pondering what they had just heard. Her comments and what she said brought tears to my eyes as I listened to her heartfelt explanation.

The woman spoke about her own father who was forced to leave Stalin's brutal dictatorship in Russia. The Communist regime controlled every aspect of one's life destroying the gift of freedom that God has bestowed on every person. He fled to America where he was warmly received and had the opportunity to begin a new life. Her mother underwent a similar traumatic experience when she was forced to leave Germany due to the ruthless behavior of Hitler and the Nazi government. Her mother escaped to America where she was accepted with open arms. She met her husband, the woman's father, here in America and was so blessed to be able to begin a whole new way of life.

The witness went on to say that her reason for entering public service was to give thanks for what America provided her parents and her family. Her gratefulness to God and to America began with her awareness of what a gift it is to live in home in a free country.

Living stewardship at home begins with an awareness and gratefulness for the very country we live in. Most of us who love to travel usually echo a familiar phrase, "It is so good to be back home. Yes, I enjoyed a wonderful trip, but I am so glad to be back in America."

When I visited where my parents emigrated from in Ireland in 1920, I understood the poverty that they escaped and why they were forced to leave. I too, am profoundly grateful for how this country gave my parents an opportunity for a whole new way of life - a life lived here joyfully with their children.

Lord, help us to grow in gratitude for this blessed country that you have given to us. Sure, it is not perfect, but its people are always hoping to be better. Awaken my gratitude and the gratitude of others in acts of loving service for this place that we all call home, America.

Fr. Peter

2020 Annual Stewardship Renewal

Stewardship is truly a gift from God, a way to live as His modern-day disciples in this messy, busy, chaotic world. It is a way of life that, when truly embraced, brings order, purpose, peace and deep fulfillment to our families. Be confident as you embrace stewardship at home, knowing you are offering your loved ones a priceless gift.

Each household of our Faith Community is a valuable part of the larger extended church family. The "Catechism of the Catholic Church" teaches that each of our homes --- can and should be called a domestic church (CCC2204). That is why it is so important to live as Christian Stewards in every aspect of daily life, beginning right in our very own homes. *Parishioners from youngest to oldest must strive to live as Christian Stewards every day of the week!*



Commitment cards have been redesigned this year. Each commitment card is made to be separated into two distinct cards. One side for contact information and commitments to talent. The other side will be an anonymous card for commitments to Time and Treasure.

We ask that you be sure to complete and separate the attached cards (back cover of this booklet) and bring both cards with you on Commitment Weekend.

Please use a separate form for each family member. Additional forms may be found in both churches, at the Parish Offices or on either website:

www.littletoncatholic.org OR www.stcatherineparish.org

The 2020 Renewal materials have been prepared by the Faith Community's Stewardship Council. The Council is comprised of a group of volunteers whose purpose is to encourage parishioners to practice stewardship as an expression of gratitude to God and as a way of life for Disciples of Christ, and to see that active involvement is a means of returning the many gifts we have been blessed with by God. Council members:

Carolyn Stall (Co-Chair)

Laura Doherty (Co-Chair)

Chris Banks

Rita Biagioni

Lisa Dougherty

Deacon Bill Dwyer

Kathy Emberley

Rick Garvey

Sue Gormley

Vladimir Lemaine

Gloria Rios-Monarez

Debbie Rhodes

Bob Stall

Denise Van Veen

Jackie Welham

Fr. David White

Stewardship of Time (Prayer)

God calls us to be generous with all of our gifts, including our time.

God loves you more than you can imagine. He created you. He sustains you in life. He wants to have a personal relationship with you. The best way to grow in relationship with the Lord is to spend some quiet prayer time with Him every day. Share with Him what's on your mind: your dreams, joys, daily frustrations, sorrows. Ask for His guidance, His comfort, for whatever it is that you need to live in a more Christ-like manner. Those who have children in their lives can talk to them about their relationship with the Lord. Invite them to accompany you to Mass, to say Grace with you at meals, and to pray with you at bedtime. Model Christ-like behavior for them.

Some things you can do at any age are:

- Each morning offer a prayer of gratitude for the gift of life and faith. Ask the Lord for His guidance.
- Say Grace before meals and offer prayers of thanksgiving.
- Attend daily or weekly Mass to celebrate the Eucharist and enrich your Catholic faith.
- Invite a friend, neighbor or family member to Mass or a church event.
- When outdoors marvel at the diversity of life and beauty of nature, thank God for sharing this with you.
- Children in kindergarten through grade 10 can learn with their peers in our faith formation program.
- Older teens and adults can look into faith sharing, scripture study and service opportunities offered in our Faith Community.
- Attend a retreat, Cursillo or ACTS weekend.
- Spend some time reading the scriptures for the upcoming Mass or other faith related reading.
- In the evening, review your day. Thank God for his many blessings, for all that went well and the grace to understand what did not go well. Ask for forgiveness for any hurt you may have caused. Most importantly, just sit quietly and listen to God's loving voice speaking to you.



Stewardship of Talent (Service)

God calls us to be generous with all of our gifts, including our talent.

When we were young, our parents taught us to say “please” and “thank you,” to take turns, to share and to help with household chores. Just as in our homes we show our love for others through acts of service, God calls us to do the same for those we encounter in our daily lives. God has given each of us gifts and talents that he desires for us to use in service to others. This doesn’t have to be difficult. If we do something we enjoy, it can bring us great satisfaction and joy. A quote attributed to Saint Teresa of Calcutta says: ***“In this life we cannot always do great things, but we can do small things with great love.”*** The ministries of our faith community offer many opportunities for you to use your talents to serve.

Here are just a few examples. Please see our Ministry Catalog for a complete listing.

- Girls and boys who have made their first Communion can become altar servers.
- Both individuals and families may enjoy welcoming parishioners in our greeter and usher ministries during weekend Masses.
- If you have a love for the Word of God - then consider becoming a Lector.
- If you have a love and reverence for the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist - spend time in Eucharistic Adoration or consider becoming a Eucharistic Minister.
- If you play a music instrument or sing – consider joining the music ministry.
- If you feel called to share your faith with others – then consider becoming a Children’s Liturgy of the Word (CLOW) leader, catechist, or faith-sharing facilitator.
- Are you a good organizer? Put your skills to work helping to organize our faith formation Works of Mercy projects and St. Vincent de Paul fundraisers.
- If you enjoy cooking and serving meals – consider joining the Neighborhood Supper ministry or volunteering at Cor Unum.
- Participants in our Mission Trips often share that it is a life-changing experience. Team members are needed to plan the high school mission trip, young adult trip and adult trip.



Stewardship of Treasure (Sharing)

God calls us to be generous with all of our gifts, including our treasure.

Without God, we forget that all is gift and we begin to think ourselves as owners, instead of stewards, masters of the universe instead of servants of the one lord who has called us to nurture and develop his gifts wisely and well for the good of all. — Pope Benedict XVI

And so, we pray... “Lord, how would You like me to be generous with all of the gifts of treasure You have given me?”



Spirituality of Stewardship reminds us to be grateful to God for all of our blessings. We are summoned to nurture those blessings and create a spiritual plan for returning those blessings to the community and to God’s Church in gratitude.

In gratitude, we are called to give to God from our first fruits. That means working toward a level of giving to His Church that is planned, proportionate and sacrificial.

Giving itself is a gift from God. It helps us keep God first in everything and place money second. Pray for God’s guidance to keep an open heart. The Spirit-directed goal is to give a total of 10% of your annual gross income (5% to the local parish and 5% to other Church needs and other charities that serve the greater community). ***Some families may have difficulty reaching this spiritual goal. Try increasing your gifts incrementally until you reach an amount that you know is right for you.*** Some best practices for giving are to:

- Place food baskets on the altar during the offertory collection for local food pantries;
- Create and maintain a household budget;
- Attend a Financial Peace University course;
- Plan your charitable giving annually;
- Volunteer and/or give to St. Vincent de Paul;
- Buy gifts for others through Toys for Tots, Christmas Giving Tree, etc.;
- Collect money for Rice Bowls during Lent;
- Create an estate plan for you and your family;
- Base your charitable giving on a proportion of your income; and
- Utilize Online Giving when supporting your parish. *(Online Giving allows you to support your parish even when you are unable to attend Mass. This ensures the parishes have a stable income and assists the Finance Councils when planning the budget.)*

“How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good He has done for me?” (Psalm 116:12)

Everything we have is a gift from God, including our financial blessings. As it says in Psalm 24: *“The earth is the LORD’s and all it holds, the world and those who dwell in it”,* and in Leviticus 27:30 *“All tithes of the land, whether in grain from the fields or in fruit from the trees, belongs to the LORD, they are sacred to the LORD.”*

Please detach the commitment card (back cover). Fill it out and then separate it into two distinct commitment cards. We ask that you return **both** cards at Mass the weekend of January 25 – 26, 2020. **PLEASE NOTE: the side of the card for commitments to Time & Treasure will be completely anonymous.**