

# Stewardship FRUITS

Ministry Growth

Enhanced Liturgies *Vocations*

Deeper Relationship with God

Care for the Environment  
*Outreach*

Peace of Mind

*Strengthened Marriages*

*Community Building*

Care for the Poor

*Leadership Development*

*Increased Evangelization*

Balance Amid Consumerism & Materialism

Healthier Mind & Body

*Greater Participation*

Financial Stability



Almighty God I give thanks  
for all that I have and all that I am.  
Most of all I give thanks  
for the great gift of your Son, Jesus.  
I pray that I may be a good steward –  
that I will follow faithfully,  
serve joyfully, give generously,  
live responsibly and possess sensibly.  
In gratitude for the abundant gifts  
you have so graciously given to me;  
I return to you the first fruits of these gifts,  
through acts of service  
and by generously sharing  
all that you have entrusted to me.  
Heavenly Father, by your Holy Spirit –  
Give me knowledge and understanding,  
help me to be a gift to others in your name.  
Amen.

*Stewardship*  
Faith on Fire,  
Hearts & Minds  
Transformed



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



Saint Teresa of Avila (1515-1582)

Christ has no body  
on earth but yours;  
no hands but yours;  
no feet but yours.  
Yours are the eyes  
through which  
the compassion of Christ  
looks out on the world.  
Yours are the feet with which  
He is to go about doing good  
and yours are the hands with which  
He is to bless His people.



## Stewardship is ...

**A way of life:** that is, a set of attitudes and actions that shapes all our thoughts, words and actions.

**Discipleship:** a continuation of Jesus' work on Earth as was promised in our baptism.

**An attitude of gratitude:** a way of thanking God for all that has been given to us. By returning a portion of our time, talent and resources allotted to us, we demonstrate our gratitude and accountability.

**Understanding that we are gifted:** understanding that no matter how much we have, there is always something we can share with others.

**Founded on both the writings of the Old Testament and the teachings of Jesus:** "Each of you has received a special grace, so like good stewards responsible for all these different graces of God, put yourself at the service of others."  
1 Peter 4:10

**Accepting our responsibility for the gift that is the Church:** challenges us to provide the resources of Time, Talent, and Treasure to carry out its mission.

### What does Stewardship mean for me, and why should I embrace it?

#### Trust

Accepting stewardship means trusting that God will provide for everything, which leads to peace of mind.

*"Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation." (Isaiah 12:2)*

#### Gratitude

Accepting stewardship means recognizing that everything that we have is a gift given to us out of love by God the Father.

*"O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever." (1 Chronicles 16:34)*

#### Love

Accepting stewardship means being in a meaningful relationship with God, allowing us to love one another more deeply.

*"Serve one another through love ... bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 5:13)*

#### Identity

Accepting stewardship means knowing we are children of God and servants of Jesus.

*"We are created in the image and likeness of God." (Genesis 1:27)*

### What does Stewardship mean for our Parish?

After the family, the parish is our faith community. Stewardship brings a new, stronger life to a parish. We want to be part of a stewardship parish, because it offers us an opportunity to use our gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure for others. In return, we benefit from the gifts of others to strengthen our faith.

*"Well done good and faithful steward." (Matthew 25: 21)*