

*"There are different kinds of gifts
but the same spirit: there are
different forms of service but the
same Lord."*

1 Corinthians 12:4

*"As each one has received a gift, use it
to serve one another as good stewards
of God's varied grace."*

1 Peter 4:10



the joy of
STEWARDSHIP

Our parish journey

Stewardship

Stewardship is based on the spiritual principles of the Old Testament and the teachings of Jesus. As Catholics, realizing all that we have is a gift from God, we are encouraged to reflect on our blessings, increase the gifts God has given us and share with others. By giving of ourselves and helping those around us, we are practicing Christian stewardship.

In 1992, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops brought attention to this principal when they published a Pastoral Letter entitled *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*. Looking beyond financial contributions alone, this document encourages Catholics to live their lives as disciples of Jesus and to share their gifts of Time, Talent and Treasure - more out of gratitude than obligation.

Join us as we begin our journey to understand how Stewardship is...

- A disciple's response
- A conversion of heart
- An expression of love
- Centered in the Eucharist
- An honor and an opportunity
- Thanking God for all our blessings and in turn...
- Returning to God a portion of our Time, Talent and Treasure

Church Name

123 Any Street

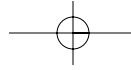
Anytown, NY 00000

(000) 555-1234

church@dor.org



the joy of
STEWARDSHIP



Stewardship

My church is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is. It will be friendly, if I am. Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them. It will do great work, if I work. It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver. It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I invite and bring them. It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things. Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my church to be. Amen

"It is in giving that we receive..."



Time

Time is the universal gift. Everyone gets the same amount each day. We cannot add to it. We cannot slow it down. But we can choose how we use it. We must never forget that Jesus was born "in the fullness of time" and saved us in human history. We are born in time, baptized in time and invited to live lives of faith within God's precious gift of time.

Stewardship of Time is...

- Talking to God in prayer
- Attending Mass and services
- Assisting with parish activities
- Investing in community activities
- Being present to family and friends

the joy of stewardship

Talent

Everyone has one or more talents that are special gifts from God. Stewardship invites us to offer our talents to our parish and our community in order to build up the kingdom of God on earth. A good steward also looks for talents in others and encourages them to put these gifts to work. Some are able to organize, some are teachers or coaches; still others have the ability to visit the sick and to listen to those in need with special care.

Stewardship of Talent is...

- Being a lector or usher
- Coaching a CYO team
- Serving on a committee
- Leading a specific ministry
- Teaching to instruct and inspire
- Speaking to counsel or entertain

Treasure

God calls a few people to a vow of poverty. On the other hand, most of us live in a world where money and possessions are necessary. Stewardship calls us to have a proper attitude toward money and material things. Are we owned by our possessions, or do we see them as God sees them? A steward responds by recognizing he or she has a need to give and that sharing a portion of one's income, assets and possessions is a wonderful way to show gratitude to God. How much is right? A steward gives what in prayer feels right with God. The Lord expects no more—and no less.

Stewardship of Treasure is...

- A planned *upfront* decision
- In proportion to the gifts we have received
- In grateful response to our blessings
- Sacrificial and without reservation

