



Stewardship Principles – the Basics

- **Ownership:** The fundamental principle of biblical stewardship: God owns everything, we are simply managers or caretakers acting on His behalf.
- **Accountability:** One day each one of us will be called to be accountable for how we have managed what God has given us.
- **Responsibility:** As stewards, we are responsible for how we treat what is entrusted to us and what we do with it.



“What exactly is Stewardship?”



Stewardship is the grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God’s gifts and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor. Money is a piece of it, but so is time, so are relationships, so is influence and so is truth that He’s given us. We are stewards over everything.

During the last several years, we have been blessed to make many enhancements to our campus facilities, mostly without the need for a capital campaign. Your generous offertory contributions have enabled us to add our Livestream system, install new sound systems in the church and Parish Center, add digital displays in the church, replace nearly all of our 43 HVAC units, upgrade our entire supply of campus lighting to energy efficient LEDs – and more.

Everyday Stewardship Never Asks for Volunteers

“As family members of our parish community, we are expected to do our part; to pull our own weight.”

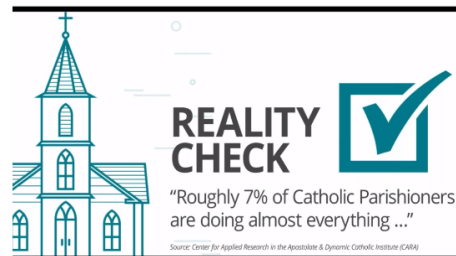
As parishioners we are part of a parish family. We belong to our parish community. As family members of our parish community, we are expected to do our part; to pull our own weight. Just as in our primary families, we must clean up after ourselves, do the dishes, take out the trash, cut the grass, maintain our landscape and pay the bills.

The call of the Body of Christ occurs in every parish and our response should be that of the psalmist, “Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.” Real stewardship never counts the cost and never has to ask for volunteers. We step forward because we belong to something greater than ourselves and the head of that community is Jesus. After dinner at your house,

someone needs to clean up the kitchen. In your parish community, someone needs to respond to the call of Jesus. In both cases, no volunteers are needed. We will rely on family instead.

Did you know?

It's commonly recognized that in most parish communities, roughly 7% of the parishioners do almost everything! At St. Michael, our numbers are a bit higher, but the 80/20 rule pretty much applies here with 20% of our parishioners doing about 80% of everything – volunteering time and talent and giving of their treasure.



Our St. Michael Parish Family Snapshot (4/1/2019)

| | |
|--|----------------|
| 4,423 active families | |
| Total offertory* gifts in 2018 | \$2,331,548.14 |
| # of families who gave \$0 | 1,750 (40%) |
| <i>The top 20% of our donors gave 79% of total offertory gifts</i> <i>*Offertory gifts do not include special collections or targeted gifts</i> | |

Our Changing Landscape: a New Norm

With the completion of the Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral and the new church at St. Mary Magdalene in July 2017, we have seen a rebalancing of families in the local area. St. Michael has lost more than 400 families while both the Cathedral and St. Mary Magdalene have gained families. Another 400+ families have joined Mother Teresa Mission and they have begun a capital campaign to build a building and become a

new parish. Our offertory donations have been down since mid-2017 and show signs of stabilizing at what we think may be our "new norm." However, in the absence of more financial support from our parish family, we will face some cutbacks in either programming or staff – or both – until we again are on financially solid ground. With an aging campus, we have additional challenges with higher than usual maintenance expenses that compound the issue of decreased offertory gifts.

So, we gratefully say "thank you" to the 20% of our parishioners who gave 79% of our offertory donations during our last fiscal year (see the chart above). Your generosity has helped us to build and maintain a vibrant community of which we are all proud to be a part. Sadly however, 40% of our parishioners provide no financial support. If each of these families were to contribute as little as \$5 per week, we would add more than \$450,000 to our offertory total. This would more than balance our budget and enable us to continue to enhance programming and operational support to keep St. Michael the amazing parish it has been for 55 years!

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Please consider what kind of "steward" God is calling you to be in our parish family

For questions or feedback, contact Larry McAnallen, Stewardship Director, at 919-468-6180 or lmcanallen@stmccary.org

***We are a Roman Catholic community called by God to
discipleship through WORSHIP, EDUCATION and SERVICE.***

