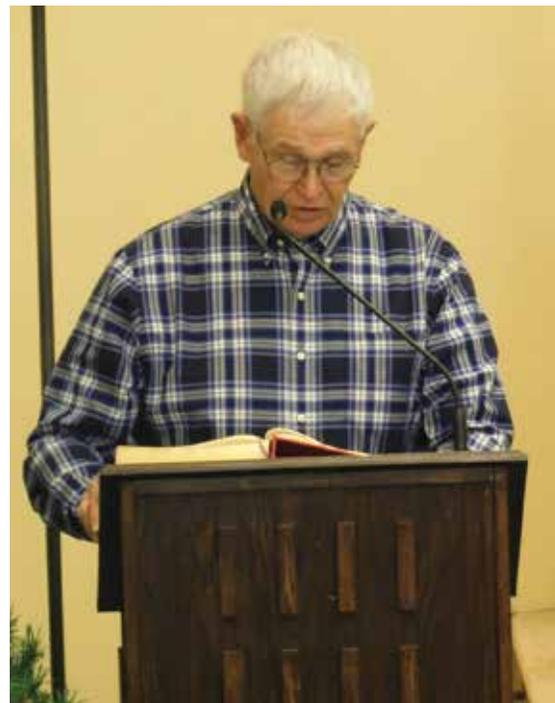


Discipleship through Stewardship

2019 STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL



Holy Family Area
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

A Stewardship Prayer

Jesus, teach us to pray. Help us to manage our time so that we can spend it with You.

Holy Spirit, fill us with your gifts. May we offer ourselves in sacrifice for all in need.

Father, give us generous hearts. Help us to manage our finances and to give You priority.

As your faithful disciples, we ask this for ourselves and people everywhere, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen





Stewardship

In common language, “stewardship” simply means taking good care of one’s belongings. But at Holy Family Area Catholic Community, when we talk about stewardship, we mean something more than that. As Christians, we believe that we don’t really own anything, per se. God has created all things — everything we “own” is really “on loan” from God. From this perspective, then, stewardship means taking care of God’s gifts — and using them for His purposes.

Stewardship is using our time, talent, and treasure to build God’s Kingdom.

Discipleship

Stewardship isn’t a “program” or a fundraising effort. It’s not a one-year experiment. It’s a commitment to a lifestyle of Christian discipleship. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* tells us that discipleship is, “the common vocation of all Christ’s disciples, a vocation to holiness and to the mission of evangelizing the world” (CCC, 1533). When we commit to lives of stewardship, we are saying that we are going to take the gifts that God has given us in our lives — our time, our talents and our treasure — and use them to grow in holiness and to share the love of God with everyone we meet. God asks us to be His hands and feet to those we encounter. Will you follow where He leads?

“Steady my feet in accord with your promise.” — Psalm 119:133

Making Time For Prayer

Many of us know that it is important to pray, but what is prayer and how do we do it? According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, prayer is “the raising of one’s mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God.” As Christians, each of us is encouraged to make time for doing just this every day. It is through prayer that we receive the peace that can only be found in doing God’s will. There are many ways to practice prayer, and each one connects us to God in a unique way.

“Stewardship of time... should include setting aside periods for family prayer, for the reading of Scripture, for visits to the Blessed Sacrament, and for attendance at Mass during the week whenever this is possible.”

— U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response*

Action Steps to Improve Your Prayer Life

- Pope Francis encourages all to start spending 15 minutes every morning in quiet prayer by reading and reflecting on Sacred Scripture. A helpful place to start is the readings for each day, found at usccb.org/bible/readings or on Catholic phone and tablet apps, such as iBreviary, Magnificat or Divine Office.
- Thank God for the good things He has given you that you might take for granted throughout the day.
- Examine your conscience before going to sleep and say an act of contrition like we do at Mass.
- Pray with your children each night before bed, giving each family member an opportunity to pray for something and conclude with an *Our Father*, *Hail Mary* and the *Glory Be*.





Being an Active Servant

Every week, our parish is buzzing with activity. There are groups that pray together, groups that minister to other parishioners, and groups that reach out to the community. Christ Himself taught us that “whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40). When we lay down our wants and desires to serve each other, God blesses our efforts! Will you consider where God is calling you to serve Him?

*“Jesus said to them, ‘Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.’
Then they abandoned their nets and followed him.” — Mark 1:17-18*

Action Steps to Become More Active in Service

- Pray about how the gifts God has given you can best be used to serve others.
- Use your Commitment Card to find a parish ministry that will help you grow personally in living out your faith.
- Commit to being faithful to God through those you serve in word and deed.



Consistent and Generous Giving

Our deepest reason for giving is not because our parish has needs, but because we have a spiritual need to give. We are called to give to God from our first fruits, and to recognize that everything comes from Him. Our gifts to God should be out of faith and gratitude for what God has done for us. Just like the apostles who laid down their nets the moment that Jesus called them, we too should lay down everything, even something as important to us as our finances, to follow Christ. God's promise to us is a promise of life and security when we place all of our trust in Him.

Take a Step Toward 10 Percent

At Holy Family Area Catholic Community we honor the scriptural tithe. We invite parishioners to give 5% of their gross income to God through the offertory, 1% to the diocese and 4% to other charities.

Using the chart below, find your current percentage of giving, then determine what steps you can take toward giving 10% of your household income. Consider increasing your gift by 1% or 2% increments until you reach the scriptural tithe and be faithful to your commitment, whatever it may be.

Action Steps to Be Financially Generous

- Pray about the best use of your financial resources and ask God to show you where you need to give Him priority in them.
- Evaluate your regular offertory gift and increase it based on what you think God is calling you to give until you reach the full scriptural tithe.
- Make a commitment to give regularly to God through the parish offertory, and be faithful to your tithing commitment, even when you attend Mass elsewhere.

Guide for Giving 5%:

Annual Income	5% Weekly Gift
\$10,000	\$10
\$20,000	\$19
\$30,000	\$29
\$50,000	\$48
\$70,000	\$67
\$100,000	\$96
\$150,000	\$144
\$200,000	\$192





Stewardship Involves Commitment

It's difficult to give God any percentage of our time, talent, or treasure if we do not first give Him 100 percent of our hearts. For this reason, our Stewardship Renewal is a time for growing closer to God above all else. It is a time to make God our top priority, and then to express this growth through written commitments. How will you turn more readily to Him with your whole heart?

Time

Several suggestions for regular prayer are listed on your Commitment Card. Will you set aside time each day to spend with God?

Talent

Your Commitment Card lists numerous parish ministries available for your involvement. Will you offer yourself in service to God through others?

Treasure

This year, will you make a specific financial pledge to contribute to the Sunday offertory?

Please bring your completed Commitment Card to Mass on January 26/27, or mail it to the parish in the envelope provided.

Discipleship through Stewardship



Holy Family Area
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2019 Commitment Card
My Offering of Time, Talent & Treasure

First & Last Name

Phone

Email

Spouse: First & Last Name

Spouse: Phone

Spouse: Email

Address

City **State** **ZIP**

Please Check Parish Membership:
 St. Andrew St. Joseph
 St. Clara

After completion, please bring this card to Mass on **Jan. 26 or 27**, or mail using the envelope provided. Thank you and God bless you!

Please keep until Winter 2020



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