

# Stewardship

**Rekindle the Spirit Through  
Prayer - Participation - Generosity**

B L E S S E D T R I N I T Y P A R I S H

My Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The past two-and-a-half years have resulted in much anxiety and stress among us. This being said, it is not my intention in this letter to make matters worse! Far be it for me to be negative, cynical, and pessimistic. I simply want to be as honest and transparent with you as possible. The way I see it, the past two-and-a-half years have placed in our collective laps a monumental challenge and opportunity. Each of us has been incredibly blessed by God. Each of us is a true blessing, created in the image and likeness of God. God, who has done great things for us, is far from finished with us.

So how do we respond to the everlasting goodness and generosity of God? I propose, as an answer to this question, that we do this by being reflections of God's goodness and generosity in our own daily lives. Now is the time for us to rekindle the Spirit of the Living God that already dwells within us. We do not need more of it. We need to be more attentive to it and allow the space and time it needs to blossom and bloom within and among us.

During the most recent High School Mission Trip in July, Allie Bohenko offered an inspiring reflection on the importance of rekindling the flame. She shared how that flame had been sparked in a mission trip years earlier but had begun to fade and what she is doing to rekindle it. Allie has also written a beautiful article for this newsletter (page 7). Kindly take it to heart!! As I listened to her reflection, I immediately thought that every aspect of parish life needs a good "shot in the arm" right now!

Mass attendance is such that our current numbers could easily fit into one of our churches for one Mass every weekend. The offertory is moving in a "concerning" direction that could force us to cut some of the services we currently offer to God's people at Blessed Trinity Parish. A small percentage of parishioners have generously increased the amount they give in the offertory. We are most grateful for this stewardship of treasure! But it is essential that this small percentage become a much

larger one if we are to thrive as a community of faith in the years to come. If you have already "stepped up" and are generously giving, would you share your experience and invite a family member or friend to join us?

This, my dear friends, is the challenge; it is simultaneously a great opportunity for us to take stock of the many blessings of our lives and express sincere gratitude for them through the gift of a generous heart. The beautiful words of the "Prayer of Saint Francis" comes to mind:

*"Lord, make me an instrument of your peace...for it is in giving that we receive. It is in dying that we are born to eternal life."*

The Lord calls us to die to ourselves and to live for others. Therein we discover a peace and joy that only comes from God.

Please take these words to heart. I write them from the bottom of my own heart. It is the time for all of us to step up, to wake up, and to rise up—so that we can soar to new heights together—as the Body of Christ. This is not beyond our reach at all. It is ours for the taking, only if we so choose. Please God, together we will! And this is God's will for us: that we THRIVE and not merely survive!

Your constructive insights are always welcome! As a Parish:

1. What are we doing well?
2. How could we do better?
3. Would you participate in a "Focus Group" to discuss thoughts/feelings/ideas that we need to process going forward? (Dates to be determined.)

To provide your feedback on these questions, please go to the Annual Stewardship Renewal page on our website [www.BlessedTrinityCatholic.org/annual-stewardship-renewal](http://www.BlessedTrinityCatholic.org/annual-stewardship-renewal), or you can find survey cards at the entrances of both churches.

Blessings and Peace,



# Rekindle the Spirit through Prayer, Participation and Generosity - by Debbie Rhodes

Everything in life is a gift from God. When we reflect upon the greatest blessings in life, family, friends, and faith are foremost. For what are you thankful? During the month of October, we will have the opportunity to reflect upon the multitude blessings in our lives. This is the time for all of us at Blessed Trinity Parish to pray about the coming year and how we will make a commitment to living a life of stewardship.

Spiritual growth and renewal are critical to our individual spiritual development and vital to the community life of our parish. In renewing our stewardship commitment—or making one for the first time—we are thanking God for His many blessings by returning to Him a portion of the gifts He has given to us.

Take the time to read the articles in this newsletter. Check out the Stewardship information found on our website ([www.blessedtrinitycatholic.org/stewardship](http://www.blessedtrinitycatholic.org/stewardship)). Listen to the stories that will be told during witness talks on the weekend of October 22nd-23rd. Review the 2023 Ministry Catalog for opportunities to serve at Blessed Trinity Parish. If we open our hearts and minds during this month of renewal, it can help increase our awareness of God's glory in the everyday; strengthen our relationship with God; lead us to thank God for our profound abundance; and encourage each of us to share our blessings.

As you pray and reflect during this month of renewal, contemplate the following:

**PRAYER** – How much time do you set aside each week in prayer and involvement in activities of spiritual growth?

**PARTICIPATION** – How are you using your talents for the betterment of Blessed Trinity Parish and our community? How much time do you set aside each week for volunteer activities to continue Christ's mission?

**GENEROSITY** – How do you financially support Blessed Trinity Parish and other charities?

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the need to quarantine, mask, and isolate affected us deeply. We had to deal with major disruptions like school closures or layoffs resulting in loss of income. Many of us had to deal with health issues as a result of contracting COVID. Or, worse, the loss of a loved one.

Many people continue to deal with psychological fallout because of their experiences over the past two-and-a-half years. I have heard people say they feel "rudderless" or feel they are simply "surviving" in this post-pandemic world. I have experienced those same feelings myself.

Many of us continue to struggle personally and wonder how to "bounce back" from all that we have endured over the past two-and-a-half years. But, as a parish, how do we "bounce back?" How do we rekindle the flame? Actively participating in the Annual Stewardship Renewal is taking a step in the right direction.

Anyone who has ever watched a fire knows that, at some point, the flames will subside and disappear. The smoldering coals will eventually cool and turn into cold, gray ashes. But there is a moment there, before the coals cool off, that they can be stirred up in order to reignite the flame.

St. Paul gives us such an image to encourage us to rekindle the fire of our faith:

*For this reason, I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands.  
(2 Timothy 1:6)*

For our own spiritual growth, and for the parish's spiritual growth, it is important that we all embrace stewardship and commit a portion of all of our gifts as an act of love and gratitude. Our commitment is a personal one between ourselves and God.

Please take the time to pray and reflect on your own commitment to **PRAYER, PARTICIPATION and GENEROSITY**. As a visible sign of that commitment, we are asking all parishioners to turn to pages 10 and 11 of this newsletter. Complete both pages and retain page 10 for your reference. *We ask that you bring your completed commitment card (page 11) to Mass on the weekend of October 29th-30th, 2022.* At offertory time that weekend, you will be asked to come forward and place your completed card in a basket near the altar.

Please use a separate card for each family member. Additional cards, as well as the 2023 Ministry Guide, are available at both church entrances and on the Blessed Trinity Parish website. Go to [www.BlessedTrinityCatholic.org/annual-stewardship-renewal](http://www.BlessedTrinityCatholic.org/annual-stewardship-renewal) for those documents and for more information about the Annual Stewardship Renewal.

Individually, and together, we can Rekindle the Spirit...through **Prayer, Participation and Generosity**.



## Evangelism Who, Me?!? - by Rich Chenell

*"Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16: 15-16).*

Those were Jesus' last words to the disciples immediately before He ascended into Heaven. He was calling for them to evangelize.

The word "evangelism" derives from the Greek words euaggelion—a good message, or gospel—and euaggelizo—to announce, declare, bring, or preach the good news. It also contains the word "angel," which dictionary.com defines as "a messenger, especially of God," and "a person who performs a mission of God or acts as if sent by God."

Not only was Jesus calling for His disciples to be evangelists, He is calling for all of us to evangelize too. Some of you are probably thinking right now, you want me to "go into all the world" and preach? Yeah, right! OK...fair enough...to a point.

A common misconception is that evangelizing is only the job of priests, clergy and missionaries. It isn't. Not only are we all capable of being evangelists, but as Catholics, it's our responsibility; it's what God expects of us. Another misconception is that evangelism happens only on a large scale like Jesus tasked the disciples with or with today's missionaries bringing God to remote places all over the world—all the remote places where they spread the good news that is Jesus.

But God doesn't necessarily expect us to evangelize on the grand scale of the disciples or missionaries. The "all the world" mentioned by Mark in the passage above is anywhere someone needs to hear the word of God. **Our** "all the world" can be our household, our neighborhood, our town, our workplace, our church. Evangelism is spreading the word of God on even the smallest scale.

And, it doesn't even have to seem to be evangelizing. Think Matthew 18:20 when Jesus said, *"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."* It can be just two or three people!!! This means that you are evangelizing by inviting someone to come to Mass, by sitting with someone and praying with them, by letting someone know that you are praying for them...in effect, any time we share our faith with someone, we are evangelizing.

God is calling us to be His hands and feet and to be active disciples during our time on Earth. We are to share our gifts of time, talent and treasure. It is precisely in the giving back of those God given gifts that we are evangelizing. The funny thing is that when we do that, we don't even realize we are evangelizing.

In this day and age, when God is being removed from our schools, music, television...actually from **most** public places, people are very hesitant to talk about God. It's become such a sensitive world that everyone is afraid to offend someone else or to be blacklisted. Trust me...I **know** that feeling. But, isn't that exactly the time we **should** be talking about God?

We don't have to be priests or missionaries and we don't have to "preach to every creature." It doesn't have to be a hard sell or an "in your face" proclamation. It could just be a small conversation, a simple spiritual comment or someone seeing you quietly saying grace before a meal in a restaurant. It's just planting a seed.

I'll end with a line from Romans 10:15 - *"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"* So, let's be those "beautiful feet" and help others hear the "good news" about our God and His promises to us.

Peace



# The Ultimate Prayer-Why Come to Mass?

There is a great billboard that says:

Come on over on Sunday,  
Bring the kids,  
I've got the food.  
Love, God

That is the invitation God makes to you and to me, every week of every year of our lives. He loves us unconditionally, cherishes our relationship with him, and when we gather together at Mass, he feeds our minds, bodies, and souls.

Did you ever take the time to really reflect on and articulate why you go to Mass?

Try asking your family or friends why they go to Mass and listen to what they say. A child might say "I go to Mass because my parents take me there" or "I go to see my church friends." Someone who has had some catechesis might answer, "I go to pray" or "to receive the Body and Blood of Christ at Communion." Others might answer, "I go to Mass because it lifts my spirits, brings me joy or helps me to feel a part of my faith community, the Mystical Body of Christ."

For me, the frequent attendance at Holy Mass being nourished by the Word and my soul being fed with the Bread of Life enhances and strengthens my relationship with Jesus and inspires me to go out and be of service to others as His disciple. Receiving Jesus in Holy Communion fills my heart with peace and joy.

Many in our faith community have experienced serious illness, have had major surgeries, or have even come close to death. After traumatic experiences like these, many feel a sense of gratitude and want to thank the Lord. How can we best thank the Lord for the gifts of life and health?



The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us **the ultimate prayer of thanksgiving is the holy sacrifice of the Mass.**

*"The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian Life... For in the Blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch...." (CCC 1324).*

Jesus modeled going to Mass for us. As a boy, he went to worship at the synagogue with his parents and continued this practice as an adult. We read in Luke 4:16, **"He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the Sabbath day."**

Jesus followed the ten Commandments handed down to Moses from God. As Catholics, we do too. The third Commandment is **Keep Holy the Lord's Day**. What better way to do this than by attending Mass? For Roman Catholics, the Lord's Day begins at the Saturday Vigil and continues through Sunday. It also includes the six Holy Days of Obligation during our Liturgical year.

Jesus encourages us to join together when we pray. At Mass, we join as a faith community in praying for our sick, our deceased loved ones, ourselves, our clergy, the needs of our Parish, our Diocese, our country, and the world.



— by Jackie Butterfield

Due to the pandemic, we have been incredibly fortunate to be able to watch the 4:00 pm Mass live streamed from St. Catherine's Church. Many of us may have adopted the practice of watching Mass in our pajamas in our living rooms while enjoying a hot cup of coffee. While watching the Mass on TV is a great option for those who are sick or homebound, Jesus desires more for us.

At the last supper, Jesus knew that his time on earth was almost over and he gave important instructions to his disciples, which we in turn observe at every Mass. *"And when He had taken some bread and given thanks, He broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is My body, which is being given for you; do this in remembrance of Me'" (Luke 22:19-20).*

Jesus desired for us to receive his most precious Body and Blood in order to feed us and to offer us eternal life. *"Jesus said to them, 'Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day'" (John 20:53-54).* Jesus teaches that we are the mystical Body of Christ. *"So we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another" (Romans 12:5),*

and that we should encourage each other to come together to worship, *"We should not stay away from our assembly, as is the custom of some, but encourage one another, and this all the more as you see the day drawing near" (Hebrews 10:25).*

Some mistakenly believe that doing good works are more important than attending Mass. St. John Vianney, patron of the Parish Priest explains, *"Put all the good works in the world against one Holy Mass, they will be as a grain of sand beside a mountain" (Good Catholic Series on the Holy Mass).*

Have you ever lost a loved one? If so, wouldn't you give just about anything to be with that person again? Jesus knew that he would be leaving his family, friends, and disciples, and in his great love, he found a way to remain truly present with them and with us. Peter Gohn writes, *"The Eucharist is the most profound and intimate way in which we can be with God while on earth."* Because the bread and wine can only be consecrated within the Rite of the Mass, Gohn says, *"The Mass is the only way that we can have a truly personal encounter with Our Lord, Jesus Christ; Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity"*

According to Bishop Robert Barron,

*"With the reception of Holy Communion, with that intimate and prayerful reception of Christ into our own bodies, we have reached the fuller expression of our worship. We become what we eat."* This means we become more Christ-like. The gospels tell us what Christ is like, He is pure love. At the Last Supper, Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment to make it very clear how we should treat each other *"I am giving you a new commandment, that you love one another; just as I have loved you...By this all people will know that you are My disciples: if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35).*

Becoming more Christ-like means we become less sinful, and more charitable, we begin to have self-emptying love. Think of what an amazing world this would be if we all knew about the ultimate prayer, the Mass; if we attended and received Holy Communion and became more Christ-like, more loving towards ourselves and others! Jesus' heart leaps for joy when we gather for the Eucharist.

Please join us in praying for everyone we know who is not currently attending Mass and invite them to come with you. Jesus will be waiting there ready to receive them with open arms.

# Rekindle the Spirit...



PRAYER

PARTICIPATION

GENEROSITY

## "Give to God What Belongs to God" – by Leo Carroll



In Mark's Gospel, Chapter 12, Jesus famously holds a Roman coin into the air and says to a group of Pharisees and members of Herod's party, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God." He was replying to their question about the payment of Roman taxes. In Psalm 116.2, King David says, "Because He bends down to listen, I will pray as long as I have breath." In my mind, these two disparate verses can be seen as part of the same eternal thread. It is by praying that we can re-orient our lives to "give to God what belongs to God." This, to me, is the essence of stewardship. We are made in

the "likeness" and "image" of God, and to fully nurture that divine mustard seed, our souls must be regularly bathed in the grace of God. There are immense challenges to accomplishing this. Spiritual warfare rages! We are beset by the world's earthly distractions and whispers. So how can we carve out time and pray in accordance with King David, "as long as I have breath"?

In my case, I have turned to the Catholic app HALLOW (<https://hallow.com>). It is available to both Apple and Android users and is considered the #1 rated Catholic app. It is one of at least 50 Catholic apps

and is designed to assist in our daily prayer life, our participation in liturgy, and our understanding of God's Holy Word. It has wonderful Gospel reflections, mini meditations, and litanies, as well as the daily Rosary, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, beautiful instrumental music, and much more. It features superb Bible scholars and speakers and has lovely night prayers to settle our thoughts before sleep. Wherever I am—at my dentist's waiting for a teeth cleaning, at my doctor's office awaiting a blood pressure screening, in Logan Airport on my way to the West Coast, or at Panera's having a coffee after my morning Regency workout—I am able to listen to HALLOW.

However, there are other highly regarded apps as well! Amen, Laudate, Pray as You Go! and Reimagining the Examen are but a few of these. Like HALLOW, many of the 50+ apps are available on both Apple and Android. Some are free such as Amen and Laudate. Many of these apps can be found at <https://catholicapps.com>. So, take a peek! Try an additional way to "give to God what belongs to God..."

Please take the time to pray and reflect on your own commitment to **PRAYER, PARTICIPATION and GENEROSITY**. As a visible sign of that commitment, we are asking all parishioners to turn to pages 10 and 11 of this newsletter. Complete both pages and retain page 10 for your reference. **We ask that you bring your completed commitment card (page 11) to Mass on the weekend of October 29th-30th, 2022.** At offertory time that weekend, you will be asked to come forward and place your completed card in a basket near the altar.



## Stewardship Witness Talk - by Allie Bohenko

*Each year during our Annual Stewardship Renewal, we invite members of Blessed Trinity Parish to witness about their experiences with Stewardship. Allie Bohenko will be away at school during our Annual Stewardship Renewal, but she generously agreed to give us her testimony for this newsletter. Thank you, Allie!*

My name is Allie Bohenko and I am a current senior at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY majoring in Psychology/ Special Education. I am a Westford resident and am part of the Blessed Trinity Parish. Since high school, I have volunteered at the church (such as with CCD and Vacation Bible School) purely to receive community service hours. Although I enjoyed my time volunteering, I was unfulfilled and felt a disconnect between myself and Christ.

The summer entering my Junior year of high school I decided to join the young adults of BTP on a mission trip to Presque Isle, ME. I joined purely because I had heard how much fun my friends had the previous year, with no intention of getting anything out of it other than my community service hours for the National Honors Society. With a sense of dread and excitement, I gave up a week of my summer to drive eight hours away from home to a place that I never knew would change my life.



Not only did I complete 40 hours of community service, but I also screamed songs of worship at the top of my lungs, danced like a fool in Walmart, touched the hearts of local residents, used power tools, heard beautiful witness talks, and began to rekindle my relationship with Christ. I wanted to keep the flame burning inside me, and decided to join the Saint Vincent de Paul youth at BTP, where I continued to help those in the local community. I rejoined BTP in Presque Isle the following summer, where I gave my first witness talk about my mental health, and received an outpouring of support and love from everyone there. I continued to participate in SVdP when I returned home and still felt strong in my relationship with Christ. In my final year going to Presque Isle, I was saddened that everything I had become a part of was coming to an end, and the flame that I had fueled for years was beginning to dim.

With the start of college, a new and exciting time for me, I lost sight of Christ and focused more on making memories than protecting the little flame of faith I had left. As my faith declined, so did my mental health, where I felt lost in the darkness. With the hit of COVID-19, however, I was able to take a step back from my stressors and focus solely on myself. I had more time to think, and more time to rekindle the flame that had nearly died out. Although there was no way for me to participate in the church like I once did, I devoted myself to living the way Christ did, which was spreading the word and loving others.

Through social media, I was able to share my story of mental health and how faith had helped me through my darkest times. And when Brian Mahoney invited me to assist in the revival of the mission trip, there was no hesitation to join. This year's mission trip was different than in years past and made my flame grow more than ever before. Over the course of three short days, we saw a spark in all the participants and even the chaperones. The teens who had no idea what the mission trip meant saw how important it was not only to the community but also to themselves.

Participating in the church is an opportunity to live as Jesus, where the spark of the spirit is not only started in you but is passed down to the future generation who will continue to protect it. Participation allows us to be vulnerable to others and to take risks, which strengthens our bond with friends, the community, the church, and most importantly God. Participating does not need to be a large feat, but rather can start with attending weekly Mass and soon grow into helping those in the local community, regardless of whether they are part of the Parish or not. As Catholics, it is our duty to love others as Christ loves us, and that can be kindled through involvement in the church.

With love,  
Alexandra "Allie" Bohenko

## Live a Life of Staggering Generosity - by Bob & Carolyn Stall

The most fun you can have with money is to leave a tip more than twice the cost of your meal. Or, hand a \$50 bill to the parking valet as you tell them "Thanks!" and you've made their day. Will this financial outlay make a difference in your finances? No, but it may help you to become more detached from things of this world and focus your gifts on God's purpose for helping your fellow man.

### HOW DO WE VIEW OUR WEALTH AND POSSESSIONS?

Simply put, our attitude towards wealth can fall into two views—Pride or Stewardship. Pride is vain, self-centered and thankless. We have **our** money and material possessions due to our **own** efforts. The stewardship attitude, is one of gratitude. As good stewards, we are care-filled and grateful for our blessings. If you struggle to be more generous with your material goods, thank God every day for all you have and all he has given you. Gratitude is one of the most powerful financial outlooks you will ever employ.

### GET YOUR FINANCIAL HOUSE IN ORDER

How hard is it to be generous? We cling to our wealth as we rationalize our need for it. We always say we would love to give more but... It always seems that life puts something in our path. Sometimes it is a necessity, an unexpected medical bill or car repair. Sometimes we're saving for that next luxury car, the second home, etc.

The first step towards generosity is to get a hold of your finances. If you are struggling to pay your bills each month or have a mountain of debt, consider taking a course to help you get on track. If a significant portion of your income already has someone else's name on it (i.e. BigBank Mortgage, ABC credit card, etc.), you have less freedom on where to allocate your resources.

### WHERE SHOULD I GIVE AND HOW MUCH?

A big reason we focus first on our local parish is we realized how important our parish is to our life and our faith. We want our parish to be as vibrant as possible. We love our staff and realize it is up to us, the parishioners, to see they are paid a just wage.

While the Catechism of the Catholic Church does not prescribe a particular amount or percentage of our income to give, the faithful are obliged to assist with the material needs of the Church, each according to their own ability.

Many ask; "What about tithing?" Realize that tithing is not something you **must** do but that it is something you **get to** do. Simply put, tithing is good discipline. The goal of tithing should be to establish the financial priority of putting God first and honoring him as the giver of all good gifts. It is an act of gratitude. Set a goal not just for this year but for where you want to be in 5 or 10 years.

### HOW TO GIVE

Your giving should be intentional. Far too many of us give to the parish only during the grand annual appeal or at Christmas or Easter. While this is wonderful, how many realize that the Christmas and Easter collections go to the clergy benefit trust? A fantastic cause, but none of that helps keep the parish running.

To increase your giving in the face of all the other demands on your resources, look for the opportunities when life affords you to expand your giving. Every time you get a raise, allocate a greater percentage to charity than you are currently giving. We all tend to expand our lifestyle, but try to first expand your generosity as a way of thanking God for your blessings. There are other times in our life when our cash flow increases but not our income, like after paying off debt, or when your youngest finally graduates from college and goes on their own. These are huge blessings that also put cash in your pocket. How do you say, "Thank You?"

### WHAT IS YOUR VISION?

Where do you see our parish in 5, 10 or even 25 years? We see a vibrant parish with a lot of young families, increased vocations, and solid finances, but how do we get there? As you may be aware the parish ran a deficit last year. Thus, the question becomes, do you want to see our parish thrive or merely survive?

To live a life of staggering generosity, you must first be a person of gratitude. As it says in *Matthew 24:6*, "**No one can serve two masters...you cannot serve God and mammon.**" Whom will you choose to serve? Will you use your wealth for your glory or His?

This article was condensed for this newsletter. For the full article, visit <https://www.blessedtrinitycatholic.org/annual-stewardship-renewal> and look for the 2023 Annual Stewardship Renewal Materials.



## Teach Your Children Well – by Chris and Mary Trainor



"Chris," I called to my husband. "Come and see what our nephew is doing." Derek, then four-years-old, smiled up at us with a green playdough mustache attached to his upper lip and a matching green beard on his chin. "Just like Uncle Chris?" he beamed.

*Our children, ever watching us, learn by our example.*

In our family generosity has been modeled by opening our home to those in need—some family members, and some neighbors. Before I met my husband Chris, it was not uncommon for someone in need to stay at my home. My neighbor Jessie, convalescing from a stroke, stayed with us for several weeks. One evening Jessie sat at the kitchen table and chatted while I did dishes and prepared dinner. As I held my little Maggie, in my arms, Jess smiled sadly, "If only this arm would work, I could hold her."

After dinner, Jessie sang to Maggie who was sitting in her highchair. Slowly, Maggie's eyes started to close, and her head began to droop lower and lower. Jessie reached out her hand and gently held Maggie's head, looking up at me with tears in her eyes, she whispered, "She fell asleep in my hand."

God provided a way for Jessie to hold little Maggie after all. My husband Chris, before he met me, opened his home to his sister and her family while they looked for a new house. Their two week stay lasted for twenty-four weekends. Chris's children Tom and Dan, and his niece Trina loved the time they spent together making memories and creating a bond that would last into adulthood.

Shortly after Chris and I were married, my nephew came to stay with us, and several months after that Chris's father joined us as well. Last year when Chris's son needed a place to stay, he knew he could come home, and he did, with his wife, and their dog and cat. All were welcome. Some family members have moved on to new places and others have stayed with us. Our experience has taught us how much God has blessed us by the generosity of those who have stayed with us.

My neighbor Jessie brought much joy to my son Michael, my daughter Maggie, and me. She gave her undivided attention to the children, watching them at play and interacting with them. We loved listening to her sing her songs and tell her stories of days gone by, it enriched our lives.

Chris's father, Grandpa, mowed the lawn, triumphed over the persnickety weedwhacker, and shoveled his share of snow while with us. He would peel the apples for our pies, and surprise us with homemade lentil and bean soup.

Dan and Isa helped install the new garden fence, planted an herb garden, dug potatoes, and created wonderful dinners for us to share. We loved having Noodle the dog to pet and play with.

*We don't have to open our homes to show generosity. Our children can learn from the example we set in everyday life.* We can be generous to the person trying to get out of a side street on our way home from work. We can make eye contact with the busy cashier or to the person bagging our items, and if they are wearing a name tag, we might thank them by name. We can put money in the collection basket, or better yet, have our children do it.

At home we can show generosity by taking the time to listen to our children when they are relating a story from their day. We can catch ourselves when we get distracted and bring ourselves back into the present moment.

*There are so many ways to be generous if we are mindful of the opportunities when they are presented. We have come to learn that just like God's love, generosity, when shared, creates more generosity.*



# Blessed Trinity Parish - 2023 Stewardship Commitment

The month of October kicks off our Annual Stewardship Renewal for the coming year. During the Renewal, we are all asked to pray about how God is inviting us to be generous stewards through **PRAYER, PARTICIPATION and GENEROSITY. As Christian stewards, we acknowledge that all that we have – and everything we are – is a gift from God.**

**Prayer** — Is our most precious commodity. The demands of work, school, community, parish, and family can be overwhelming, but time spent visiting with God in prayer is vital to our spiritual development. God gave us this wonderful gift of prayer on earth. In spending time with God, we have the opportunity to rethink our priorities and examine whether we are returning a portion of our life here on earth to God.

**Participation** — God in all of His wonder and glory has given each of us talents that we are meant to use as part of His divine plan. From heart surgeons to social workers to artists to construction workers, God gave each of us special talents to share with our neighbors. Using our gifts in charitable works and parish ministry is how we respond to God's call.

**Generosity** — Is your gift of treasure that allows our parish to provide religious, educational, and social ministries. Our weekly Offertory collection is the primary source of our parish's financial support. To be a good steward of treasure means committing a regular portion of your income to support our parish and other charities. Many Catholics are generous, however, many of us are not generous in proportion to what we have been given.

Our commitment is a personal one between ourselves and God. As a visible sign of that commitment, **we are asking all parishioners to bring their completed commitment card (on page 11) to Mass on the weekend of October 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.** At offertory time, you will be asked to come forward and place your completed card in a basket near the altar.

Please use a separate card for each family member. Additional cards, as well as the 2023 Ministry Guide, are available at both church entrances and on the Blessed Trinity Parish website. Go to [www.BlessedTrinityCatholic.org/annual-stewardship-renewal](http://www.BlessedTrinityCatholic.org/annual-stewardship-renewal) for those documents and for more information about the Annual Stewardship Renewal.

***Please record your 2023 Stewardship Commitment below and retain this page for your reference:***

**My Commitment for **PRAYER** (Time) for 2023 will be:**

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**My Commitment to **PARTICIPATION** (Talent) for 2023 will be:**

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**I have expressed an interest in the following ministries:**

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**My Commitment to **GENEROSITY** of my financial resources this year (Treasure):**

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## Blessed Trinity Parish - 2023 Stewardship Commitment Card

***Please bring this completed commitment card to  
Mass on the weekend of October 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> or mail to:***

***Blessed Trinity Parish  
Attn: Stewardship  
2 West St.  
Westford MA 01886***

***Please Print:***

---

First Name

Last Name

---

If under 18, parent's name(s)

---

Phone

Email

---

Address

---

City

State

Zip

- ☐ I have made a personal commitment to **PRAYER** (*Time*) for 2023.
- ☐ I have made a personal commitment to **GENEROSITY** (*Treasure*) for 2023.
- ☐ I have made a personal commitment to **PARTICIPATION** (*Talent*) for 2023 by continuing with the following ministries:

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- ☐ I would like more information about or would like to volunteer for the following ministries:

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How can we make **STEWARDSHIP** more meaningful to you?

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# BLESSED TRINITY PARISH



**Blessed Trinity Parish**  
**2 West Street • Westford, MA 01886**  
**(978) 320-4220**  
**office@blessedtrinitycatholic.org**  
**www.blessedtrinitycatholic.org**

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**Saint Anne Church**  
**75 King St.**  
**Littleton, MA 01460**

**Saint Catherine Church**  
**107 N. Main St.**  
**Westford, MA 01886**

## CURRENT MASS SCHEDULE:

### *Weekend Schedule:*

*Saturday 4:00 pm – St. Catherine Church (live streamed)*

*Sunday 8:30 am – St. Anne Church*

*Sunday 10:30 am – St. Catherine Church*

### *Weekday Schedule:*

*Mon & Tues 8:00 am – St. Anne Church*

*Thu & Fri 8:00 am – St. Catherine Church*

### *Reconciliation:*

*Saturday 3:00 pm or by appointment*

*St. Catherine Church*

*Fr. Peter Quinn 978-320-4201*

*Father Joe Rossi 978-320-4202*

## 2023 Stewardship Prayer:



Gracious and Loving God,

You are the Creator and Giver of all gifts.

You call us to be the stewards of all You have entrusted to us.

Help us always to use Your gifts wisely, by giving back to you through our PRAYER, PARTICIPATION and GENEROSITY.

May we live each day in gratitude for all the blessings you have given to us.

And may our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives.

We pray with grateful hearts, in Your name. Amen.