

Prayer for “Stewards of Christ”

Good and gracious God, you are the font of all that is good: All that we are and all that we have come from you. Strengthen our faith, and help us to recognize your bountiful love and grace in our lives. Fill our minds with your truth and our hearts with your love. Through the intercession of Mary, our mother in faith and Our Lady of Guadalupe, and with the help of your Holy Spirit, may we be united as a community of faithful servants and true “Stewards of Christ.”

Give us the grace and help us to recommit ourselves to give generously of our time, talent and treasure that you have given and entrusted to us, so that we may continue to build your Kingdom here in our beloved Parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Through Christ our Lord.

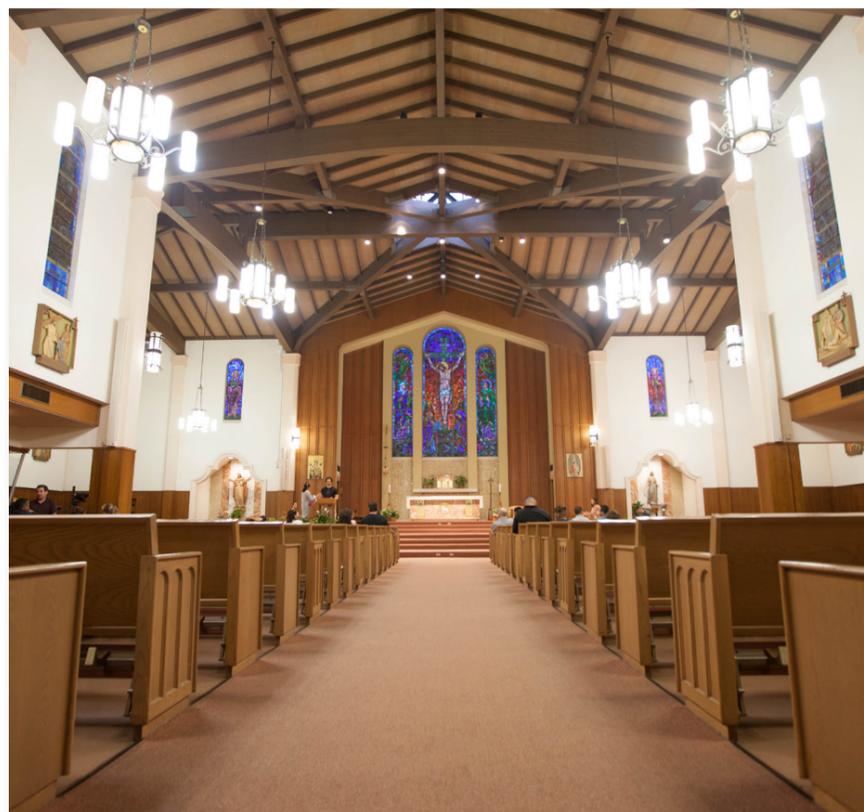
Amén.



Stewards of Christ

This Stewardship Initiative will help us recognize that everything that we have in this world is a gift from God, and that we are stewards who are called to manage and share our gifts with others according to God's will for our lives. By participating in the *Advancing our Mission in Christ* Stewardship Initiative, we will take another step in our journey to live as good and faithful stewards of our gifts.

Please prayerfully consider joining the *Advancing our Mission in Christ* Stewardship Initiative.



Our Lady of Guadalupe Church

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OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CHURCH

A community of faith, whose mission is sharing the Good News of Christ to the world.



STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVE STEWARDS OF CHRIST

A Message from our Pastor



“Our parish has grown over the years, and although we work diligently to live and proclaim the gospel in our community, our work is still not done. We are all called to advance the mission of our church. This Stewardship Initiative is an invitation to say “YES” to God and our beloved parish”.

Fr. Ed Becker

Dear Friends in Christ –

I invite and ask you to take part in our Fall 2017 stewardship campaign, “Stewards of Christ.” This is a time of prayer, discernment and recommitment as a parish family to meet the needs of our OLG parish and to help our parish life and ministries grow and thrive. We need everyone – including you! – to participate in this endeavor so that as a parish family we will give God our best and be able to do the good work that God has called us to do as Church here in La Habra.

We are all blessed with many gifts from God. God has blessed each and every one of us in many ways. No, our lives generally are not perfect or without some pain, problems, trials or tribulations. But even in the midst of these difficulties – and sometimes especially in the midst of these difficulties – we know that God is with us, blesses us, pours his grace upon us, and bestows bountiful gifts upon us. Indeed, our very lives – the fact that we exist at all – is a gift from God. Which means that everything that we are and everything that we have are gifts from God in one way or another.

And God calls us to share those gifts. And just as God has given us these many gifts out of his boundless love for us, he calls us to use those gifts not in a selfish or greedy manner but in loving service of him and one another, including our OLG parish family. That is what a life of Christian stewardship is all about: recognizing and acknowledging with gratitude that everything we have is a gift from God in one way or another, and that we are called to be good stewards of those gifts by using them to love and serve God and one another, generously and joyfully.

Our OLG parish is a gift for each one of us. I believe that our OLG parish is one of the greatest gifts that God has given to us. Yes, OLG is a gift from God, even though many

of us have given much of our own time, talent and treasure to help build our OLG parish community through the years. But except for our most senior members who were given the gift of membership in our OLG parish at its inception 70 years ago, the vast majority of us received that gift either when we were born or moved into this community. So our OLG parish is a gift from God for each and every one of us in one way or another. As Catholic Christians and disciples of Christ here in the La Habra area, we are called to be good stewards of that gift of our OLG parish; we are called to be “Stewards of Christ,” including good stewards of the Body of Christ that is the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe in La Habra.

God calls us to share our time, talent and treasure with our parish community. Already in recent months, you have been given the opportunity to share your time and talent with our OLG parish family, including as a liturgical minister, catechist and worker at La Fiesta. We now focus a bit more on how we share our treasure with our OLG parish community. Because each of us is blessed in different ways with different gifts, we neither can nor should be giving of our time, talent and treasure to our OLG community in an identical manner or in equal measure. But although we cannot and should not be giving of ourselves to our OLG community in equal measure, we are called by God to give with an equal level of sacrifice, in proportion to the ways that we have been blessed by God.

And in that way, we will be good “Stewards of Christ.” In that spirit, I ask you to take part in our “Stewards of Christ” campaign: First, let each of us pray about this, asking God, “What is your will, Lord? How do you want me to share my time, talent and treasure – all gifts from you in one way or another – with my OLG parish community?” And then as good “Stewards of Christ,” let us recommit ourselves to give to our OLG parish as God calls each one of us to do. In that way, we will continue building our OLG parish community

not only for our own good but for generations to come.

Please be assured that I thank God for each and every one of you. May God bless you, and may God bless the work of our hands!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Edward A. Becker".

Fr. Ed Becker
Pastor



God is the owner and giver of all things; He trusts us with everything that we have in this world, with the divine expectation that we will manage and share our gifts according to His will in our lives.