

Stewardship Committee Meeting
December 9, 2025
Egg Harbor Site

Our Mission: *"Stella Maris Catholic Parish prayerfully unites people in the love of Jesus guided by our patron, Mary."*

Our Vision: *We invite all to journey as disciples. By sharing the Gospel, responding to Jesus' love and the gifts God has given us, we welcome all to grow in faith and in our parish life.*

Attendees: Bernie Freeman, Mark Loper, Tom Polacek, Larry Leporte, Jody Weitman, Jim Perry, John Talley, Laura Paider

Absent: all present

Call to Order: Bernie opened the meeting at 3:37pm

Opening Prayer: Tom

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the August 19, 2025, meeting were approved by consensus.

Critique of 2025 Stewardship Drive

- Ministry Opportunities booklet will continue to be available and utilized
- Stewardship Drive schedule to remain roughly the same in 2026
- Commitment Forms
 - All volunteers, new and returning, will be asked to fill out a hard copy form in 2026.
 - Continue to insert forms into bulletins during 2026 Drive
 - Nonfillable PDF of form will be available on parish website
 - Larry reported that new volunteers to a ministry are contacted by the parish office or are put in touch with someone from that ministry in a timely manner.
- Witness Speakers
 - Exact dates of witness talks will be determined at the January 2026 meeting.
 - An effort to include seasonal members as witness speakers should be made; Mike Hoida (a seasonal member) has already volunteered to speak.
 - Suggestion: inform parishioners of the number of volunteers in the witness speakers' presentations (100+ new volunteers)

Critique of 2025 Volunteer Event

- Continue inserting a "save-the-date" card into the bulletins as opposed to mailing

- Plans for the event and the program timeline should remain unchanged
- Involve the Commission Chairs in the planning process again in 2026
- Mid September is an optimal time to hold the event, as the large crowds are gone and most seasonal parishioners are still in the area.
- Event should be advertised earlier to allow people to plan around the date, if desired

Stewardship Projects

- **“Spotlight on Parish Ministries” Bulletin Articles**
 - This method of promoting ministries has been successful and has received much positive feedback from parishioners.
 - 32 different ministries have been highlighted beginning April 27 and will run through early January 2026.
 - Suggestion-continue to create and publish spotlight articles, but with different writers to offer different perspectives
 - Bernie will confirm with Lorie whether space in the bulletin is still available to us.
- **Potential New Project-Loaves and Fishes Meals**
 - Committee members could volunteer or attend event
 - Angela Packard is Stella Maris’s contact person for this event.

Stewardship Budget

- Not doing mailings for the Stewardship Drive or the Volunteer Appreciation Event is a great savings...use of the office copier is absorbed by the Parish
- Larry informed the committee that the Stewardship Committee did not have any expenses and the projected budget for FY2026 is \$840

2026 Volunteer Event

- September 16

2026 Meeting Dates

All meetings will be held at 3:30pm at the Egg Harbor site, unless otherwise noted.

- January 20
- May 5
- August 18 (9:00 Volunteer Event Planning Meeting/10:00 Regular Meeting)
- October 13

Closing Prayer: Bernie

Meeting adjourned: 4:40pm

Respectfully submitted, Jody Weitman