



Saints Peter & Paul
CATHOLIC PARISH

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November 2023

Dear Parishioners,

Thank you for taking the time and making the effort to explore and respond to our annual Catholic Stewardship Renewal. I and your previous pastor, for the past few years, have been talking about what it means to be a steward, namely: a disciple of the Lord who realizes that everything one has is a gift from God, that these gifts are given to us to be used for the good of the Body of Christ (the Church, the world, all of us), that they are to be multiplied, and that they are ultimately to be returned to the Lord.

Now I ask you to make some kind of commitment to yourself and God by exploring the enclosed materials. This commitment should include at least three items:

FIRST: A commitment to worshipping with the community at Mass weekly and on Holy Days, and some other form of personal prayer

SECOND: A prayerful consideration of how you will try to be of service to your fellow parishioners and the community. The stewardship booklet at the church entrances is a great starting point for considering how you might be called to serve, especially if you are unfamiliar with some of our ministries. Please don't feel that you need to limit yourself to one or two things (the Lord may have gifted you with more time and talents than that!) but also please don't check off 20 items knowing that you could not do all of them if asked by the various chairpersons.

THIRD: A prayerful consideration of how you will share your material blessings with your parish family. Most of us are not tithers (committed to sharing 10% of our material blessings as presented in the Scriptures). I ask each of you to prayerfully consider how you might make another step in that direction this year. If you add up all your charity and it comes to 2%, consider making it 3% this year, thus showing yourself and God progress in being an even better disciple. If you haven't read it before, consider reading Life's Greatest Lesson by Allen Hunt for inspiration and encouragement to become a real tither.

I hope you noticed a pattern: prayer, prayer, and more prayer. That's how one deepens one's discipleship and how one more fully sees grace operative in one's life. After prayer, some of you may conclude that you would like to participate in the same ministries as last year. Please mark the form with those same ministries. Others may realize a call to try some different or additional ministries as compared to how they have been serving in the past. Some of you may have questions about whether a particular ministry is appropriate for you or not. Feel free to mark on the form that you are interested, and when you are contacted, please let the chairperson know that you would like some more information before you can fully commit to that ministry.

Please know of my prayer for all of you. I, too, need to examine my stewardship and thus will be doing much of the same reflection as I hope each of you will do. We have a vibrant parish and with a prayerful commitment to our ongoing stewardship, it will continue to grow as a beacon of the Lord's presence. I wish each of you a more generous portion of the Lord's peace. God bless,

Fr. Mark