



Stewardship Alive!



March 2019

Stewardship: Personal Stewardship Best Practices

Hello Friend,

Stewardship can be divided into two areas – "parish" and "personal".

Parish stewardship focuses on the events and activities that our parish takes part in on a community-wide basis. Personal stewardship focuses on our own conversion of heart. Before stewardship can become engrained in our parish culture, our own personal stewardship must become internalized inside each of us.

How we live our lives can say more about us than what we say about how we are going to live. There are a couple of universal quotes about actions speaking louder than words that we've all heard before:

- "Faith is caught more than it is taught."
- "People believe more in a homily they can see rather one they can hear."

Just as there are parish stewardship best practices, there are also personal stewardship best practices:

- Prayer – develop a daily prayer process. The best thing we can do with our time is pray. There are many prayers, styles of prayer and daily prayer processes. Try different ones and find the one(s) that works for you. Many of us know about God, but do we have a relationship with Him? If not, stewardship, discipleship and evangelization doesn't matter. [Click here](#) to see Matthew Kelly's daily prayer process as an example.
- Participation – share your faith story with others. Each of us has a wonderful, beautiful story to share. We are all called to make disciples. Telling others about the joy of our faith will inspire and encourage others to grow in their discipleship. Develop a 30 second "elevator talk" when you don't have a lot of time and also develop a 5 minute version to share with larger groups.
- Generosity – plan your charitable giving on an annual basis. Many of us give from what we have "leftover" instead of giving from our "first fruits". Many Catholics are generous, however, not in proportion to all that they have been given. [Click here](#) to use the My Catholic Giving Guide to help with your charitable giving.



Are you a good steward of God's gifts? Look at your calendar and your banking statements. What are you spending your time and money on?" Are you investing it with eternity in mind or only for earthly comfort and pleasure?

The opening prayer is called the **Prayer of Hope**.

*God of Love and Mercy, ease my burdens,
calm my anxieties, strengthen my faith,
and increase my trust and confidence in Your caring goodness.
Bless me each day with Your healing grace,
with health in mind and body, and a heart filled with hope and peace.
Grant me the courage I need, dear Lord, to face all difficulties,
knowing that with Your help, miracles happen and lives are restored.
Amen.*

Department of Evangelization and Parish Ministry Support

- As of 2/15/19, the Stewardship Office is part of a larger department including the offices of Marriage and Family Life, Respect Life Apostolate, Catholic Youth Apostolate, College Campus Ministry, Evangelization and the Catholic Renewal Center.
- Our goal is to support ministry efforts of the parishes.
- Continue to contact [Dave Baranowski](#) for your stewardship needs (same services as before).

2019 Stewardship Educational Opportunities

- **Liturgical Publications, Inc. "Everyday Stewardship"** – presented by nationally known Catholic presenter and author, **Tracy Welliver**.
 - 3/19 – **St. Francis Borgia** from 7:00 – 8:30 pm
 - 3/20 – **Cardinal Rigali Center** from 1:30 – 3:00 pm
 - 3/20 – **St. Elizabeth Ann Seton** from 7:30 – 9:00 pm
 - 3/21 – **St. Norbert** from 9:00 – 10:30 am
 - Please contact [Nancy Rankin](#) to reserve your spot. All are invited!
- **Mary, Queen of Peace Children's Stewardship Activity Day** – experience the joy of children's stewardship formation.
 - 4/5 – Mary, Queen of Peace Grade School from 9:00 – 11:15 am
 - Please contact [Dave Baranowski](#) to reserve your spot.
- **Region IX Stewardship Conference "My Life With Jesus"** – stewardship formation with parishes from IA, KS, MO, NE.
 - 4/11 – 4/12 at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita, KS.
 - Featured speakers – **Kevin Cotter** from **"The Amazing Parish"** and **Fr. John Jirak**, pastor, **Church of the Magdalen**, Wichita, KS.
 - Includes multiple stewardship workshops.
 - [Click here](#) to register and for more information.



- **Parish Stewardship Best Practices Presentation**
 - Parish leaders from **Assumption (O'Fallon)** will review the start-up and results of their new "Home Visit" ministry.
 - Parish leaders from **St. Richard** will review their Parish Council/Stewardship reorganization and parish ministry support.
 - Each parish will present for 40 minutes, including question and answer periods.
 - **June 12** at Assumption (O'Fallon) from 7:00 – 8:30 pm
 - **June 13** at the Cardinal Rigali Center from 7:00 – 8:30 pm
 - Please contact [Dave Baranowski](#) to reserve your spot.

2nd Quarter 2019 Stewardship Bulletin Reflections and Prayers of the Faithful

- [Click here](#) to see the 2nd quarter 2019 Stewardship Bulletin Reflections in English and Spanish.
- [Click here](#) to see the 2nd Quarter 2019 Stewardship Prayers of the Faithful in English and Spanish

Electronic Offertory

- 109 of the 179 parishes in the archdiocese use an electronic offertory system. If you don't use one, you should seriously consider doing so. If you do use one, you should promote it more vigorously (at least once a month).
- Remember "Good Catholics" attend Mass at their home parish 40 of the 52 weeks in a year (12 weeks they are away and there is no offertory envelope).
- [Click here](#) to read bulletin articles promoting electronic offertory.
- [Click here](#) to read the complete list of approved Electronic Offertory suppliers.

Roman Catholic Foundation – The Conversation: A Catholic Perspective on End-of-Life Issues

- This free seminar is designed to help Catholics of all ages and life situations plan for the future.
- Topics include:
 - Principles of Catholic Bioethics (guidance for making end-of-life medical decisions)
 - Estate Planning and Advance Directives
 - Charitable Gift Planning
 - Funeral and Cemetery Planning
- See upcoming dates and register at <https://rcfstl.org/the-conversation>

Concert

- **March 24 – St. Catherine Laboure** at 4:00 pm by **David Kauffman** and sponsored by the **Vincentians**.
- Proceeds benefit kids in Kenya.

Monthly Stewardship Webinars

- The **April** webinar is "**The Spirituality of Grief**" by **Jeannie Ewing** (author and speaker) on Tuesday, **April 9**. [Click here](#) to register for the 1:00 pm session.
- The **May** webinar is "**Embracing Youth and Young Adults**" by **Katie Herzing** (Our Sunday Visitor Parish Coach) on Tuesday, **May 14**. [Click here](#) to register for the 1:00 pm session.
- **PLEASE NOTE:** The Registration site for Stewardship seminars has changed. A password is now required when registering. The [password](#) is: **Stewardship**



Stewardship Thoughts

- Let us go into Lent with a sense of enthusiasm, a deep consciousness of sin, an awareness that we are penitents in need of redemption, and knowledge that we are ailing people whom the Physician is coming to heal. **Mother Mary Frances, P.C.C.**
- Love desires knowledge and knowledge serves love. Each truth that we learn about God is a new reason for loving Him. **Frank Sheed**
- Wherever there is anxiety, there is opportunity. **Joe Polish**
- The challenges that come our way in life are simply opportunities to change, to grow and to become the best versions of ourselves. **Matthew Kelly**
- Prayer is a personal response to God's presence and it means God first makes Himself present to you. Thus, what God wants to say to you is much more important than anything you may have to say to Him. **Karen Dwyer**
- To despise the gifts that God has given you is not due to humility, but to ingratitude. **Thomas Aquinas**

Thank You

- **Mary, Mother of the Church** Men's ACTS retreat team for the 2/7 – 2/10 retreat.
- **Msgr. Richard Hanneke**, pastor **Our Lady of Lourdes (University City)**, for the 2/14 and 2/27 stewardship meetings.
- **Fr. Anthony Dattilo**, pastor **St. Joachim**, for the invitation to speak at all Masses on 2/16 and 2/17.
- **Deacon Dan Donnelly**, **St. Joseph (Manchester)**, for the 2/21 stewardship meeting.
- **Fr. Dennis Schmidt**, pastor **Our Lady Queen of Peace**, for the invitation to speak at all Masses on 2/23 and 2/24.
- **St. Joseph (Imperial)**, Stewardship Committee for the 2/26 meeting.

Inspiration Gallery

This month's pictures are from **Assumption in New Haven, MO**. The parish was founded in 1858 and is located in the Washington Deanery. **Fr. John Deken** is the pastor.



Odds and Ends

- [Click here](#) for **The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network**.
- Listen to **Catholic Radio** on **AM 1080** or **1460** and **FM 96.7**.
- [Click here](#) to check out the **St. Louis Review** for all your Catholic news.
- Stewardship is on Twitter! My address is [@dbaranowskiSTL](#).

Jokes

- What is the only thing bad about being retired? You never get a day off.
- My wife asked me if I stuck to my diet. I told her I had two eggs for lunch. She asked, "Scrambled?" I replied, "Cadbury".
- Did you hear about the new restaurant on the moon? Great food...no atmosphere.
- I used to be a professional fisherman, but I just couldn't live on my net income.

The closing prayer is for **Pope Francis'** prayer intention for March – that Christian communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.

*O Lord Jesus Christ, we confess you as the Way, the Truth and the Life!
We rejoice in this profession of our saving faith
and ask you to keep us always aware of what a great gift it is.
We know, O Lord, that in imitation of you,
many of our brothers and sisters, ancestors in faith,
died for their profession of this faith in you.
Teach us, like them, to value our union with you, our trust in you,
our love for you more than any earthly treasure. Amen.*

Peace,

Dave

OFFICE OF STEWARDSHIP AND THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

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