

STEWARDSHIP



TIME · TALENT · TREASURE

“A Way of Life”

MONTHLY BULLETIN INSERTS

Office of Stewardship & Development
Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence
www.providencediocese.org

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STEWARDS OF GOD'S GIFTS

What about gifts?

In our culture, gifts are given for many occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries and holidays. Many times they are chosen out of love and with care. Because these gifts are special, even the wrappings reflect the giver's delight. When we receive a gift, we consider it a good thing to take care of the gift and to thank the giver. Sometimes, we even share the gift with others.



There are many similarities between what happens when we receive gifts in our culture and when we receive gifts from God.

Because of God's profound generosity and love, we are the recipients of many gifts. They are special and unique to each of us. They help make us who we are and who we are called to be. We need to "unwrap" our gifts from God. In our spiritual journey, this is what we call discerning or discovering our God-given gifts.

As Christian stewards, we need to respond in gratitude for the many gifts God has given to us, and also become responsible for taking care of them. Additionally, we are called to make our gifts grow and to share them lovingly in justice with others. We stand before the Lord in the spirit of accountability for all that we are given.

What are some of your God-given gifts?

How can you respond in gratitude to God for all His many gifts?

STEWARDS OF GOD'S GIFTS

The Holy Spirit is with us and has given to us all the gifts that we need to further the mission of Jesus. God's generous love is poured out freely upon all who believe and for this we celebrate and give thanks!

We have much reason to celebrate with joy for all God's gifts. For our individual giftedness, for the gifts God has given to others and for the shared gifts of the community of faith – it is right to give God thanks and praise!

God's gifts are present in all facets of our life. Those who are baptized develop, use and share what God has given to them at home, in the workplace, in the community and throughout the world.



Right here in our church, so many people are involved in sharing their gifts and talents in service to and with others. Why not take some time to get to know the many Catholic ministries and activities that are present in our faith community? Perhaps you are already involved in some of them or perhaps you want to get involved. Remember, the Holy Spirit has gifted each of us and we pray that through God's grace we may become who and what we are called to be.

What are some ways you can respond and give thanks for God's blessings?

How will you share your gifts of time and talent this year?

STEWARDS OF GOD'S GIFTS

In Jesus' parable of the sower and the seed (Luke 8: 4-15), we are told that the seed that bears fruit is from the seed that fell on rich soil. Our God-given gifts that are cultivated and developed are just like the fruit – to be shared with others.

We are invited to decide how and where to use our gifts from God. In particular, we focus on our gifts of time and talent. We do this with gracious, generous and good hearts. Our gifts are meant to be given away!



A Disciple's Response

The commitment you make gives witness to your priorities and considers your current circumstances. It involves how and where you share your gifts at home, in the workplace, in the community and at church.

How are you currently sharing your God-given gifts of time and talent at home, in the workplace, in the community and at church?

What plan do you have to take the next step to make or renew a commitment to sharing your gifts of time and talent during this year?

THE GOOD STEWARD

The freshness of Spring and the new life of Easter aid us in renewing our commitment to a Christ-centered way of life. We are beginning our annual stewardship renewal. As we reflect on how we have used our God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure, we become aware of how we have stewarded those gifts. As we plan for this year, we may ask ourselves:

- ✂ Have I shared my gift of time wisely among my family, friends, work, prayer, weekly Eucharist, etc.? Am I able to take-a-step, reprioritize and plan to share a little more time in those areas which I consider important?

- ✂ Do I acknowledge and give thanks that all around me is a gift from our most generous God? Am I able to take-a-step and acknowledge that I, too, am a gift from God?

- ✂ Have I begun the journey of discerning what special gifts and talents God has given me? Am I able to take-a-step in this most vital process?



Before we can begin using and sharing our God-given gifts and talents, we must first discover what we have been given. Then, when we live a stewardship way of life, out of gratitude to God for all that we have been given, our work becomes holy.

By accepting Jesus' mission as our own at Baptism and depending on the Eucharist to nourish and sustain us for this challenge, we become ever more aware that at home, at work, at the parish, in the community and in the world.

GIFTED, GRATEFUL, GENEROUS

As we embrace stewardship as a way of life, we are invited to become aware and conscious of our God-given gifts and of the many ways God has blessed us. We are invited to evaluate our priorities and how well we have stewarded our time and talents this past year. We are also invited to celebrate these gifts and the good we have done with them. Finally, we are challenged to take another look and see if we are able and ready to take-a-step on our journey as faith-filled followers of Christ.



Stewardship

A Way of Life

Our parish has embarked on our stewardship journey of faith. It is a journey that begins with awareness and reflection. As we begin our journey, we assure ourselves of these simple truths:

- ✝ I have been gifted by God!**
- ✝ My gifts are special and unique!**
- ✝ I am grateful to God for the gifts and blessings that I have received.**
- ✝ The gifts that I have been given are for a real purpose!**
- ✝ I am called to use my gifts to serve with love and gratitude.**
- ✝ I am called to share my gifts at home, at work, at school, at my parish, in my community and in the world!**
- ✝ I have been gifted by God and I am called to serve as a follower of Christ as a Christian steward.**

GIFTED, GRATEFUL, GENEROUS

As a parish community, we have been reflecting on God’s generosity in our lives. We have been invited to explore and acknowledge the many gifts God has blessed us with including our family and friends, our home and careers and our talents and skills. We recognize that although each of us has our own unique gifts to share, our mission is the same. Our mission is to continue Christ’s mission to serve others and help build God’s kingdom.

We celebrate with great joy the gifts God has given to us, to others and the shared gifts of this community. We celebrate, too, the many ways in which we share our gifts to serve others as Jesus has taught us. Whether it be in the home, workplace, parish or community, our work is holy when we do it with love and in gratitude to God – the Source of our being.

As part of our celebration today, acknowledge your giftedness! Put into writing those talents that make you – you! These are just some of the many gifts with which God has blessed you.



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You have been gifted by God. Celebrate with joy as a steward of God’s gifts!

GIFTED, GRATEFUL, GENEROUS

Our parish community has been invited to reflect upon and bring to consciousness the many ways God has blessed each of us. We were asked to celebrate those gifts and how we share them in love and service to others at home, work, our parish and in our community. Thanks be to God for all that we have and all that we are!

We have come to a point in our stewardship journey when we are challenged to take a step. We are challenged to move forward to share our gifts and to serve others. What have you discovered from your reflection and celebration?



Have you discovered that...



...you have been gifted by God?



...you have additional gifts you did not already know you possessed?



...you have more time to share than you realized?



...our parish has many ministries where you can share your gifts?



...your gifts are holy when you share them in love and justice?

You are gifted, grateful and generous. On a regular basis, make a commitment to reflecting, discovering, celebrating and sharing the gifts God has given to you. Acknowledge God's gifts in your life. Cherish and care for them in a responsible and accountable manner and then, share them. Share them with love and gratitude in your heart to our most generous God.

CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT

The journey of our life places before us opportunity after opportunity to live out the call and commitment of our Baptism to be the Light of Christ as we recognize, develop and share our gifts in a spirit of accountability at home, in the workplace, the community and the parish. The love of God and the Light of Christ in our world then will show through our words and actions.



Name, claim, own and celebrate the gifts God has given YOU.

Discover you own individual call.

Be the face of God.

Speak the truth in love.

Be a prophetic voice.

Know and celebrate YOUR giftedness.

Spread the light.

Make Jesus known...

...and watch the world be transformed!

Jesus is the light of the world.

THE COMMITTED STEWARD



As committed stewards we take up Jesus' mandate to wash the feet of others as He washed the feet of His disciples. Jesus tells us, "I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do." (John 13:15)

As part of our stewardship plan, we are conscious of how we serve others. We are conscious of our time spent in prayer and with our families; how we use our talents in service to others and how we share a portion of our treasure to further the mission and ministry of Jesus. We evaluate our efforts and try often to take-a-step to do even more to help build God's kingdom.

It is time to put our faith into action! We receive the Body of Christ to become the Body of Christ as stewards in today's world. We are the hands of Christ – yours are the hands of Christ. Reflecting on the words of Saint Teresa of Avila as a guide, embrace stewardship as a way of life.

Christ has no body now but yours.

No hands, no feet, on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world.

Yours are the feet with which He blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet.

Yours are the eyes, you are His body.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

R. S. V. P.

Requesting Stewards for a Vibrant Parish

**You are cordially invited
to attend our parish's
Ministry Fair
and
Stewardship Commitment Weekend.**



- **Door Prizes**
- **Refreshments**
- **Kid's Corner**

Come learn about the ministry opportunities at Saint Mary Parish and talk to parishioners already involved.

CELEBRATE GOD'S GIFTS

Our God is Amazing!

THINK and pray about what God has given you.

Where do you see God's gifts in your life?

DISCOVER all of your treasure:

Your relationships, time, talent, spiritual gifts, possessions and skills. Find these gifts in your home, your family, your workplace and in the community.

Ask a loved one to tell you about the gifts he or she sees in you.

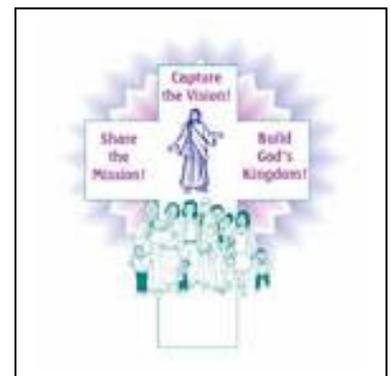
Tell others about the gifts you see in them.

EXPLORE how we develop and share what God has given us:

Join with our community as we renew ourselves and take time to celebrate God's generosity in our lives, particularly as we share our gifts right here in our parish!

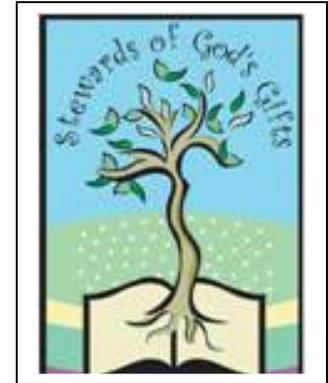
WE GIVE THANKS ...

Let us give thanks to God for all that we receive
Let us celebrate God's profound generosity.
Let us be responsible stewards of our gifts,
sharing them in love and justice with others.



CAPTURE THE VISION...SHARE THE MISSION...BUILD GOD'S KINGDOM

YOU ARE INVITED...



- Who?** All baptized followers of Jesus Christ (Christians everywhere – YOU)
- What?** To try and live as Jesus teaches us (everyday, in all aspects of our lives)
- How?** Capture the Vision, the vision of Jesus for the world (recognize your God-given gifts)
- Then?** Share the Mission (responsibly use and share your many gifts)
- Where?** On your faith journey (at home, at work, in the community, the parish and the world)
- When?** Now (today)
- Why?** To help build God's kingdom where there is justice, peace, reconciliation, healing, respect for the dignity of all life, and unity in diversity for all God's people.

How do you respond?

As one who is created and gifted by God

As a member of your family

As part of this local community

As a member of this parish

As a citizen of the world

As a responsible Christian steward

**If you plan to utilize these stewardship bulletin inserts,
but would prefer to edit some of the text using a word document,
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