

STEWARDSHIP

A FAITH JOURNEY

OUR TIME
OUR TALENT
OUR TREASURE
OUR FAITH
OUR FAMILY
OUR PRAYERS

"Everything we have is a gift from God"

A Faith Journey

Our Church is on a faith journey to make stewardship a way of life. We invite you to join with us on our journey. It will change your life forever.

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace"

(1 Peter 4:10 NAB)

What is Stewardship?

- Stewardship is having the wisdom to understand that everything we have is a gift from God of which we are to be the absolute best caretakers.
- Stewardship is a way of life, honoring God in everything we do with all His gifts. Living life God-centered rather than self-centered—thinking of Him first before our own wants.
- Stewardship is having the heart to give back out of love a portion of every gift that has been entrusted to us by God.
- Stewardship is living life with the understanding that someday God will ask each and every one of us what we did with all of His varied gifts.
- Stewardship is a life long faith journey that brings us ever closer to Jesus Christ; following the path He so perfectly laid out for us through His life example.
- Stewardship is life altering and its rewards last an eternity.

“For everything is from you, and we only give you what we have received from you.” (1 Chronicles 29:14 NAB)

What are two Great Examples of Stewardship?

1. *“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.”* (John 3:16 NAB)

This is the ultimate act of stewardship that God did for us.

What gift can we give to God in return for the greatest gift of all, his Son, Jesus Christ?

Live your life here on earth God-centered rather than self-centered. Honor God first in everything you do, and everything you do will be for Him.

2. *“Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the BREAD that I will give is MY FLESH for the life of the world.”* (John 6:49-51 NAB)

The Holy Eucharist: All over the world Jesus Christ shares His body and blood with us in the Holy Eucharist as “real food” to nourish our soul. This is Christ sharing His body, blood, soul and divinity with us every day. It is the holiest act of stewardship.

**Live life God-centered
rather than self-centered.**

Look at the six major gifts God has given you and see how you can use them for His purpose.

Stewardship of Time

Time is a **UNIQUELY VALUABLE** Gift from God

You cannot buy it, sell it or stop it. What will YOU do with this personal gift from God which is unique to you?

Stop and think of God first in everything you do with your time everyday, then invest it. Do not just spend it. It is really not hard, God is with you. Invest your time and:

- Pray whenever you have a free moment. Thank God for your life, your health, your family. Pray for a loved one, a friend or anyone in need. Pray 10 times a day, maybe 100, just say “thank you Lord” whenever you think of God. Talk to Him, He will listen.
- Give a warm heartfelt greeting to every one you meet. Be friendly and kind. Ask how their day is going and then LISTEN to their response.
- Play a game with your children or friends that THEY want to play.
- Visit a relative, offer to help them with a project or just enjoy the time shared with them.
- Help in a community project.
- Volunteer at church.
- Visit someone who is sick, in the hospital or in a nursing home.
- Go to a friend’s funeral and offer your condolences.
- Write a thank you card.
- Read the Bible.

These are just a few of the thousands of examples of stewardship of time. Your time is your gift to share. You can NEVER say I did not have the time to _____, you just chose not to share your time that way.

Assess how you use this gift from God today then CHOOSE to use it for His purpose.

“Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:17-1 NAB)

Stewardship of Talent

The Sharing of the Essence of Who We Truly Are

Your talents are gifts from God who instilled them in you before you were born for His purpose.

Make a list of all your God given talents, then decide how best to use these special gifts to give to Him and others. Honor God everyday as you use your talents.

My talents are (*some examples*): Singer, Musician, Teacher, Gardener, Carpenter, Painter, Writer, Listener, Business Man/Woman, Speaker, Artist, Counselor, Babysitter, Secretary, Kind Person, Computer Wiz, Etc.

Share your list with your church and community, offering your talents to be used whenever they are needed.

“For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.” (Ephesians 2:10 NAB)

Stewardship of Faith

Learn it, Live it, Then Pass it On

Our faith is a TREASURED gift from God.

Learn more about your faith each day and ask God for the wisdom to live it everyday in your actions. Then share it with as many friends as you can.

Read the Bible, the greatest work ever penned by the hand of man through the inspiration of God. It is the blueprint to your life’s purpose here on earth. It is the answer to every question you ever had about the meaning of your life. Open up your mind and your heart to its messages. Once you have finished it, read it again. God speaks to each and everyone of us individually through His word by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Do a home Bible study once a week with your family referencing the Catechism of the Catholic Church which will help you understand the true richness of your faith and/or join a Bible study at your Church. Read Bible stories to your children.

“Ignorance of sacred scripture is ignorance of Jesus Christ” (Saint Jerome NAB)

The more you learn, the more you will want to learn. Put into practice, in your everyday living, all that God has revealed to you.

This is living life as a Christian. This is becoming a Disciple of Christ. This is Stewardship of Faith.

“Indeed, the word of God is living and effective, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even between soul and spirit, joints and marrow, and able to discern reflections and thoughts of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12 NAB)

Stewardship of Treasure

Stewardship of Treasure is a Matter of the Heart

Pray to God asking for wisdom to understand the truth that your treasure here on earth is a gift from Him. Knowing this in your heart will change your life forever. God does not want your money, He wants your heart. For from your heart you will joyfully share His treasure.

“For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.” (Matthew 6:21 NAB); (Luke 12:34 NAB)

Think of God first. Give your gift to God from the first fruits, not what is left over. Give the gift of treasure to God from your heart as a sacrifice to Him with true joy, not out of obligation. Not equal giving, equal sacrifice.

“No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”
[money] (Matthew 6:24 NAB)

The giving of your treasure to God as a gift of thanks to Him is a personal gift between you and God. This gift of treasure can be used to fulfill Christ’s request of us as Christians to feed the hungry, clothe the poor, help the needy, care for the sick and grow God’s kingdom here on earth.

The Bible gives us a reference point from which to **START** as good stewards of all God’s gifts: 10% of our first earnings (fruit). This may shock you, even scare you but do not let it. **TRUST IN GOD.** The remainder of your earnings are God’s gift to you to steward.

“All tithes [10%] of the land, whether in grain from the fields or in fruit from the trees, belong to the LORD, as sacred to him.” (Leviticus 27:30 NAB)

As you review your faith journey in Stewardship of Treasure, look at the treasure God has entrusted to you and decide what personal sacrifice you and your family can make to maximize your gift to God. Pray for the wisdom to understand the difference between your wants and your true needs. Then with joy, give back to Him.

Stewardship of Treasure (cont'd)

Start today. Try one less movie rental, one less meal out, cutting out one magazine subscription, only buy what you truly will enjoy reading, use coupons. Before you buy anything, ask yourself these questions: “Have I thought of God first?” “Do I really need it?” Give to God first out of your earnings—His gift.

When you give from your heart and from your sacrifice this personal gift of your treasure, it will be pleasing to God.

Stewardship of treasure can also be passed on at the time of your death through a will and estate planning. Using your treasure to carry on God’s work here on earth after your passing is another way of expressing your true Christian calling as a follower of Christ.

‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ (Acts 20:35 NAB)

Stewardship of Family

One of God’s Most PRECIOUS GIFTS to us is Our Family

The people God has placed in our lives are our most precious gift. This gift is varied and different for everyone. As Christian stewards, God has entrusted us to be the caretaker of this most precious gift.

Take a moment to look around you at the people who make up your family; then give thanks to God for this most precious gift by giving of yourself to them. Clear away all the distractions in your life and focus on this most cherished gift of family. Take time to let them know you love them.

All children are a blessing from God. Invest in them not only of your money but of your time and of yourself. The more you invest of yourself in them the greater the reward. Let them know everyday that you love them by your actions. Play a game with them, read a book with them, go to their play or event. Stop and truly listen to them. Take a walk, ride a bike or take them to the playground. What you sow of yourself in their young lives, you will reap when you are old, as will they.

“And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me.” (Matthew 18:5 NAB)

Stewardship of Family (cont'd)

You are also a member of a church family. Meet new friends, go to more church functions, join into ministries where you see God at work or even start one. Be kind, reach out and help someone in need at your church or in your community. Every act of kindness is an act of stewardship.

Together, in partnership with God, we grow both our family and His family – His kingdom here on earth.

Stewardship of Prayer

The Power of Prayer

Prayer is God's most POWERFUL yet COMFORTING gift He has given each of us to share.

Open your heart to the true gift of prayer and start building your personal relationship with God today by speaking to Him daily of your needs, concerns, pains, temptations and failures. Seek His forgiveness, comfort and guidance.

Share the gift of prayer with everyone God puts in your life or on your heart. Seek His strength, wisdom, comfort and love to guide, protect and help yourself and others.

God wants us to turn to Him each day of our lives, sharing with Him, from our heart, our inner most self. He is our Father and we are His children. He delights when we turn to Him for help and thank Him for all He has done for us.

The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful (James 5:16 NAB)

The Serenity Prayer

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;
courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know
the difference.

Living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; taking, as He did, this
sinful world as it is, not as I would have it; trusting that He will make
all things right if I surrender to His will; that I may be reasonably
happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever in the next.

Amen

You Can Not Change Your Past No Matter How Hard You Try, Yet Partnered with Christ, You Can Make Your Future.

“Who then can be saved?” Jesus looked at them and said, “For human beings this is impossible, but for God all things are possible.” (Matthew 19:25-26 NAB)

Start today, join us on this incredible faith journey in the footsteps of Christ.

The **life changes** you make today will last an eternity. It all starts with the first step.

Trust in God. He will be with you for the entire journey.

Each person’s goal in life should be the same—Eternal salvation through Jesus Christ. Let Christ into your heart so that He may guide you on your journey so that you may hear the words when you stand before Him: *“Well done my good and faithful servant.”* (Matthew 25:21 NAB)

Eternal salvation is not a guarantee, it is an invitation and a choice each of us must make. Join us today on this faith journey of stewardship allowing Christ to light the way.

Living the life of a true Christian steward is living in the Spirit. Open up your heart to God so that He may use you for His purpose. Share His love, which He has poured out to us, with everyone you meet.

Trust in God Let His Truth Set You Free

How do I Start my Faith Journey in Stewardship?

- **Trust in God.**
- **Ask for God's help.**
- **Pray** every day for the Holy Spirit to guide you on this Journey. Here is a stewardship prayer you can use. Take your time, pray it slowly, open up your heart and mind to the wisdom behind each sentence.

Congratulations! You have taken the first step.

A Stewardship Prayer

Dear Lord

I pray that You give me the wisdom to guide me on this
faith journey of stewardship.

Help me to understand that everything I have is a
gift from You.

Open up my heart and my mind so that I may use these
marvelous gifts to give back to You here on earth.

I pray Lord that You welcome me into Your kingdom at the
end of my life and that You are pleased with what I have
done with all Your gifts.

Amen

From the author: *"I held the pen"*

This booklet was written and donated by a Christian Steward

St. Peter Catholic Church — Elizabethtown, PA

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