



Stewardship is a concept rooted in the Bible. A stewardship way of life includes recognizing that everything we are and have is gifted to us by God. If we truly believe this, then we become grateful stewards of God's gifts and blessings.

Our earthly mission is to manage wisely and use responsibly all God has placed in our care, as is explained with the Parable of the Talents in the Gospel of Matthew. We are called to be "...good and faithful servant(s). Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy." Mt 24:20

Stewardship brings us closer to God and is in line with our parish vision statement, "A welcoming community, helping one another to live holy lives in Jesus Christ." As grateful stewards, each year during this renewal process we commit to using our Time in prayer, our Talent in service, and our Treasure in support of our parish, the poor and other worthy causes.

Please use the next six weeks to reflect on how you will use **Your Unique Gift**, in gratitude, as we continue Christ's work on earth, **Building the Kingdom**.

FINDING SUPPORT

"Fear not, I will help you." Is 41:13

God has a plan for each of us and it could be that we aren't all called to serve at this time. Maybe before you are called to serve, you need some support to develop your faith and find your place, while you are going through a difficult life experience or just getting settled as a newly registered parishioner. Many parishioners serve to support others through:

- Bereavement
- Separation
- Divorce
- Job Transition
- Parenting
- Belonging
- Faith Exploration
- Fellowship
- Retirement

? Where could you use support and how can we reach you?



TIME TO
Commit

*Your Unique Gift –
Building the Kingdom*

Go Forth as Disciples to be Generous Stewards
of God's Gifts – Go In Peace

2020 STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL

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WAYS TO GIVE



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Time

Think of 3 gifts you've been given. Did you receive them recently or years ago? Are these gifts material, experiential, expensive or practical? Is one gift a relationship with someone significant or influential? Which one is your favorite or most important? How do you honor it or take care of it? How did you show your appreciation?

- I appreciate you.
- Thank you!
- Thanks.
- You're my BFF.

Tears, laughter, hugs, a note?

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but have eternal life." Jn 3:16

How are you showing your gratitude to God for this and the many other gifts God has given to us — our very lives, our families, our homes, our faith...? The list can go on and on. We didn't do anything to deserve the gifts God has given to each of us, God was generous with His love.

Prayer is one way we can offer our thanks to God for His generous love. What can you do to improve your prayer life? **As you reflect**, do you attend Mass regularly, will you join a Scripture or LinC Group, pray with family, spend time in the Adoration/Meditation Chapel, listen to spiritual reflections, or go to Reconciliation?

? How will you offer Community and Individual prayer in gratitude?



Talent

"And he gave some as apostles, others as prophets, others as evangelists, others as pastors and teachers, to equip the holy ones for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God." Eph 4:11-13

At American Martyrs, one way we show each other Christ's love is through engagement in parish ministry. In these activities, we serve God through serving one another. Through service, we live out our gratitude by using our God-given gifts and talents, those things that come easily and naturally to us.

For your reflection, what gifts and talents have you been given, maybe vocal gifts for speaking or singing; artistic gifts such as cooking, crafting, gardening; playing an instrument, drawing or writing; supportive gifts such as listening and guiding; or others like teaching, organizing, or constructing.

? What gift(s) or talent(s) are you already using in love to serve others?

? If you are not currently serving, what is one gift or talent you will start using to serve others?

? Is there a ministry you've been wanting to join? What's holding you back?



Treasure

"Consider this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.... The one who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness." 2 Cor 9:6,10

As Christians, we are each called to give back gratefully for the gifts we have been given. In the upcoming year we ask that you pledge a portion of your treasure for use in good causes.

Our parish has been blessed by your contributions and those of many others. We built new facilities to help us welcome and engage our community, we repaired and maintained our existing buildings including our beautiful church tower, and we continue to fund our ministries and tithe to the poor.

Please help us further our parish mission to serve one another and those in need outside our community by:

- ▶ Giving regularly to the Sunday Offertory via online giving or envelopes
- ▶ Giving to special funds, collections and appeals, such as Religious Education, Together in Mission and the upcoming Called to Renew campaign
- ▶ Giving to collections that provide assistance beyond our parish, such as Priest Retirement and Catholic Relief Services
- ▶ Increasing your giving to the Sunday Offertory
- ▶ Tithing 5% to the parish and 5% to other worthy causes

? How will you give back to God through your contributions to our parish and other causes?