

From Our Pastor



Dear Friends and Parishioners,

Welcoming, generous, community of faith... these are words that we use often when talking about Saint Patrick Parish.

Through our ownership and sharing together, living as faithful stewards, “community” becomes more than just a word. Community and faith thrive when the sick and elderly receive the Eucharist in a home visit, when children learn about their faith, when families in need receive help from our outreach ministries and when we worship together in times of joy and times of sorrow. All of the ministries that are the heart and soul of “community” here at our parish are alive because of your generous and consistent support.

Every year we ask all parishioners to renew and, if possible, increase the annual pledge of financial support of the faith community that is our parish. There is one simple and obvious fact, if we all do our part to support St. Patrick Parish, our ministries will grow and blossom beyond our wildest dreams.

Please prayerfully consider your response. Our readiness to share the gifts and blessings that we have received is our response to God’s call in our lives. Our generosity, our faithful stewardship, is our faith in action.

Thank you for your continued support to St. Patrick Parish and its ministries.

God’s peace and blessings,

Fr. Oriol Regales, Pastor

What’s on your list?

Today, instead of asking you to consider all the ways you can give, suppose we asked you to **list all the gifts you have received from God.**

Would your list include the people with whom you share your life; family, friends, co-workers? Would it include your health, your job, your home, your freedom?

Would you list your faith; the teaching, healing and comforting that comes from God? **Would you include the joy of Saint Patrick Parish community celebrating God’s greatest gift of all, the Eucharist?**

“Stewardship is a conversion journey of receiving God’s love and returning love to Him. A conversion requires prayer, reflection and time to allow God to show us who we are, and the person of love that we can become. Throughout the conversion experience, the disciple yearns to change and grow into the person God created them to be - a steward uniquely His own, but united in one Body through Jesus Christ

Stewardship transforms lives because of its love, and it is in this transformation process and conversion journey towards love that we give new life to the Church.”

Pillars of Stewardship



Please remember St. Patrick Parish in your estate



WE ARE CALLED A Disciple’s Response to a Generous God



Supporting St. Patrick Parish and its Ministries



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Why should I give?

As good stewards, we come to the realization that everything we have is a gift from God. **God has generously given us everything we need with the expectation that, in faith, we will share what we have with His Church and with those in need.**

Sharing your monetary gifts through sacrificial giving enables our parish to operate and provide support to those in need within our community and throughout the world.

The most important reason for giving, however, is to fulfill our individual need to respond joyfully in gratitude for the many blessings we have received. Our hearts swell with happiness when we accomplish good things by sharing with others, when we act as the faithful stewards God intends us to be.

How much should I give?

It is not so much the amount of your gift, but your commitment to give that is important. Needs are great here at St. Patrick Parish, in our community and the world. **God has blessed us abundantly and invites us to use all we have - not just the leftovers - in love for Him and in service to others.**

All God's wonderful gifts are meant to be shared over and over until they multiply and spark stories of God's goodness everywhere. Through sharing, living as good stewards, we change in ways we never imagined. Without even noticing, we begin to think differently about money, and possessions and time.

Spend some time prayerfully considering what your financial commitment to St. Patrick Parish will be. Consider stretching, taking a step up to give a bit more, giving in proportion to ability

How does a discussion about income and expenses translate into tangible ministry?

In any conversation about our parish operating costs it is important to remember that what we are "operating" is not simply a business. Our parish is a faith community with members called by baptism to build the Kingdom of God here on earth. This puts "operating expenses" into a whole new light. Here are some of the ways your financial support built the Kingdom at St. Patrick Parish from **June 2015 to June 2016:**

- ◆ We baptized 77 new members into our Catholic faith and 28 kids made their First Communion
- ◆ 14 young people accepted their faith as adults in Confirmation, 8 adults entered into the Church at Easter Vigil through our RCIA process and 19 couples were joined in marriage
- ◆ 212 calls were made to the homebound and sick in hospitals and nursing homes, bringing God's comfort to those who may have needed it most
- ◆ 246 children and teens grew in their faith through our Faith Formation programs (Now known as Wisdom Wednesday & Weekends). We don't have our own school but we are committed to paying part of the tuition to 23 elementary students and 8 students in high school at Catholic Central.
- ◆ 29 faithful parishioners were buried and we grieved and celebrated their lives with their families.
- ◆ Your healing hands touched lives near (Hope Now, Open Arms Free Clinic, Elkhorn Food Pantry, Pregnancy Help Line) and far (Missions in Dominican Republic, Kenya and Guatemala)



What does all this mean to St. Patrick Parish?

While we have done a very good job of stewarding the gifts shared with the parish, health insurance premiums, utility costs and other daily expenses continue to rise. The need for outreach services continues to grow. It is critical to our parish and its ministries that our mission, rather than our budget, remains the driving force behind all we do.



What does this mean to me as an individual?

Imagine how our ministries would grow if giving outpaced expenses! With every parishioner giving *in proportion* to his or her ability, this would certainly be the case. Through your financial support of our parish you comfort the sick, pass the faith on to our children, console the grieving, share in the joy of weddings and baptisms and feed the poor. Your prayers and financial support are the life of our parish.