



# A Parish Commitment to Prayer

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*“Prayer is the oxygen of the soul.”*  
St. Pio of Pietrelcino

Christian stewardship is a year round activity in which we recognize our gifts from God, share them in generosity with others, and return our gifts with increase to the Lord. The call to stewardship as a way of life is a very personal call that everyone must answer in their own way.

Prayer is the first fundamental principle of Christian stewardship. Everyone can benefit by incorporating daily prayer into their lives. Below you will find scripture verses that are directly tied to prayer, parish resource links about prayer, and suggested stewardship messaging for the Prayers of the Faithful.

## **What Does God’s Word Teach Us About Prayer?**

Mt. 7:7-8: “Ask, and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks will receive and anyone who seeks will find and the door will be opened to those who knock.”

Mt. 18:19-20: “Again, I tell you, if two of you join your voices on earth to pray for anything whatever, it shall be granted you by my Father in heaven. When two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in their midst.”

Mk. 11:24: “I give you my word, if you are ready to believe that you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer, it shall be done for you.”

Rms. 12:12: “Rejoice in hope, be patient under trial, persevere in prayer.”

Phil. 1:4: “I give thanks to my God every time I think of you, which is constantly, in every prayer I utter– rejoicing as I plead on your behalf.”

Phil. 4:6: “Dismiss all anxiety from your minds. Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of gratitude.”

Col. 4:2: “Pray perseveringly, be attentive to prayers and pray in a spirit of Thanksgiving.”

Luke 18:1: “Pray always and do not lose heart.”

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.”

After Jesus had cured Simon Peter's mother-in-law, "in the morning, a great while before day, He rose and went out to a lonely place, and there He prayed" (Mark 1:35-36).

After great crowds gathered to listen to Him, "He withdrew to the wilderness and prayed" (Luke 5:16).

After the multiplication of the loaves, He sent the crowd away and "went into the hills to pray" (Mark 6:46).

Again, before the appointment of the Twelve, "He went out into the hills to pray; and all night He continued in prayer to God" (Luke 6:12).

### **Prayer Resources for Parishes:**

1. Each month, the International Catholic Stewardship Council offers a prayer focused on stewardship and tied to a liturgical season or feast, stewardship reflections, and an annual conference dedicated to stewardship education.  
<https://catholicstewardship.com/category/stewardship-prayer/#>  
<https://catholicstewardship.com/icsc-2021-annual-conference/>
2. The USCCB offers a website featuring the U.S. Bishop's Pastoral Letter on Stewardship, video reflections on the spirituality of stewardship, and additional resources.  
<https://www.usccb.org/committees/evangelization-catechesis/stewardship>
3. Pope Francis' monthly prayer intentions:  
<https://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/the-popes-monthly-intention>
4. Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast offers a reading from the Bible each day with a plan to read through the entire Bible within a year's time:  
<https://media.ascensionpress.com/all-bible-in-a-year-episodes/>
5. How to be a Steward Video with Fr. Mike Schmitz:  
<https://media.ascensionpress.com/video/how-to-be-a-steward/>
6. Giving Back to God Video with Fr. Mark-Mary:  
<https://media.ascensionpress.com/video/giving-back-to-god-this-epiphany/>

## **Incorporating Stewardship into the Prayers of the Faithful:**

Consider incorporating stewardship messages in the Prayers of the Faithful to reinforce the understanding that everything we have and everything that we are comes to us from our loving God.

1. That by the Lord's grace, we use His many blessings entrusted to us to build up His kingdom...we pray to the Lord...

*Que por la gracia de Dios, usemos las múltiples bendiciones que Dios nos ha dado para construir Su Reino... oremos al Señor...*

2. All that we are, all that we have, and all that we will become is a gift from God. May Christians everywhere recognize the need to respond with gratitude to God's many gifts. For this we pray....

Todo lo que somos, todo lo que tenemos y todo lo que llegaremos a ser es un regalo de Dios. Para que los cristianos de todo el mundo reconozcan la necesidad de responder con gratitud a los muchos dones de Dios. Roguemos al Señor.

3. God calls each of us—clergy, religious, lay person; married, single; adult, child—to play a unique role in carrying out the divine plan. In answering that call, may Christians everywhere become good stewards of their personal, God-given vocation, we pray.....

Dios nos llama a cada uno de nosotros: clero, religiosos, laicos; casados, solteros; adultos, niños — para desempeñar un papel único en la ejecución del plan divino. Para que al responder a ese llamado, los cristianos de todo el mundo se conviertan en buenos administradores de la vocación personal que Dios les ha dado. Roguemos a Señor.

4. For all Catholics, who give generous support through time, talent and treasure to parish and diocesan programs and to the universal Church, in thanksgiving we pray.....

Por todos los católicos, que ofrecen un apoyo generoso a través de su tiempo, talento y tesoro a los programas parroquiales y diocesanos, y a la Iglesia universal, en acción de gracias Roguemos al Señor.

5. Many caring stewards here in our parish give generously of their time, talent and treasure in response to God's gifts. With gratitude for their stewardship, we pray...

Muchas personas corresponsables y solidarias en nuestra parroquia dan generosamente de su tiempo, talento y tesoro en respuesta a los dones de Dios. En agradecimiento a su corresponsabilidad Rogamos al Señor.

6. O, God, our loving Creator and Giver of all good gifts, bless our parish, strengthen our faith and grant us the spirit of Christian stewardship so that we may give generously to spread Your kingdom here throughout the world. For this, we pray to the Lord.

Oh, Dios, nuestro Creador amoroso y Dador de todos los dones buenos, bendice nuestra parroquia, fortalece nuestra fe y concédenos el espíritu de corresponsabilidad cristiana para que podamos dar generosamente para difundir Tu reino aquí por todo el mundo. Por esto, roguemos al Señor.

7. That our hearts be converted and our minds open to be good stewards of God's many blessings ... we pray to the Lord ...

Que nuestros corazones se conviertan y nuestras mentes se abran para ser buenos administradores de las muchas bendiciones de Dios. Roguemos al Señor.