



Sample Pastor Talk on Stewardship Introduction

Today we are beginning the Stewardship process here at _____ Parish. It is an important and significant event in the life of our parish, one that I hope will change how we view our world and our lives as well as the life of our parish.

In the coming weeks you will hear from two of our parishioners about the stewardship of our parish and their personal stewardship journey.

At the end of the four-week stewardship process, you will be asked to make a specific commitment of your time, talent and treasure to our parish. We will ask for your commitment in each of these areas and will ask you to complete and return your commitment form on Stewardship Commitment Weekend, please refer to Timeline for suggested dates.

So you may be asking...*what is stewardship?*

Christian stewardship begins with a sense of who we are as Christians — as disciples of our Lord Jesus. A good steward recognizes that all blessings come from the Lord and these blessings are to be used to serve all of creation.

This concept of Stewardship as *a way of living* focuses not on our temporal (temporary) needs such as facilities and debt; rather, it focuses on our spiritual “need to give.” This need lies within all our hearts. Our loving God created us in His image with the potential — and expectation — that we share our gifts with the world around us.

Stewardship is a way of living.

It is a lifestyle, a life of total accountability and responsibility. It is the acknowledging of God as the Creator and the Owner of all. Christian Stewards see themselves as the caretakers of all God’s gifts. Gratitude for these many gifts is expressed in our prayer, worship, offerings and action. Stewardship is a way of thanking God for all our blessings by returning to God a portion of the many gifts (everything we have — our time, talent, and treasure) that we have been given.

In the coming weeks we will be called, as God’s faithful servants and members of our parish, to:

- Prayerfully discern how God has uniquely gifted each one of us — our time, our talents and our treasure.
- Reflect on what priority God and His Church play in our lives.
- Decide how we plan to share these gifts with God and His Church.
- Make an intentional, planned and proportionate gift to God and His Church in the areas of
 - Time in prayer
 - Talent, and
 - Treasure