

Guidelines for Stewardship Of Time, Talent & Treasure

Revised July 2011

Stewardship is a faith decision. When we believe this, we believe that God will always meet our needs. Every registered parishioner is invited and encouraged to become an active member of the parish, embracing our commitment as a Full Stewardship Parish Community and making Stewardship their way of life.

An active Lourdes parishioner is:

1. One who is involved in the mission of our Parish:
 - in our liturgical life
 - in our formational and educational goals
 - **in our outreach activities and**
 - **in our community life and**
2. One who adopts stewardship as their way of life:
 - by completing an annual intention card of Time, Talent and Treasure and then
 - faithfully fulfilling one's commitments of Time, Talent and Treasure.

We believe God blesses each of us with gifts of time, talent, and treasure and that everything we have comes from God. Faithful stewards give back to God out of gratitude for all the gifts that God has bestowed on them. Faithful stewards also give their "first fruits" to God...meaning they give of their time, talent, and treasure back to God first...and then use the rest for their own needs and wants.

Your gifts of time and talent are very important to us. We ask each parish member to prayerfully consider the ministries in this directory, and make a definite decision to choose ministries that you can faithfully serve. If you offer your services and are not called, please call and see what the status is. We might be over-staffed in one area and short-handed in another and perhaps you would be comfortable in changing your selection.

Your treasure commitment is equally important to us. We aspire to the biblical standard of contributing 10% of our total income to charity. We invite you to become a faithful steward and expect you to contribute 5% of your total income to the parish and ask that you use the other 5% for charitable contributions such as the Archdiocesan Catholic Services Appeal, the United Way, the Red Cross, special gifts, and other worthy requests.

Educating our parish youth is one of the most important missions of the parish and also one of the most expensive. As a Full Stewardship Parish, stewardship contributions from the entire community are budgeted to cover educational expenses. Parish households with children accepted in either the parish school or the ERE (Evening Religious Education) program at Our Lady of Lourdes who fulfill the definition of an active parishioner will incur no tuition charge. An annual cost of approximately \$5,000 is budgeted for the education of each child in the parish school. We ask that all households keep this cost in mind when completing their treasure intention card.

If a household experiences financial hardship and your intention cannot be fulfilled, you must contact Father Scott or Marge Borders at the parish office. All calls are held in strictest confidence. As a parish household, if you have not fulfilled the definition of an active parishioner, as described in these guidelines, and you have not contacted the parish office, your stewardship status could be jeopardized.

As a member of Our Lady of Lourdes parish, you are asked to make stewardship your way of life.

A faithful steward...

- accepts ownership of the parish as their responsibility for God's work.
- looks within to determine what the commitment to a "stewardship way of life" means personally.
- signs up for ministries they will enjoy and find stimulating.
- is true to their word - following through on all commitments of time, talent, and treasure.
- gives generously of the "first fruits" of the household income.

- knows that the parish community needs them and they need the community, from “cradle to grave”.

As a stewardship parish Our Lady of Lourdes is also called to...

- commit 10% of all the parish receives to needs outside of the Lourdes community. This includes income of parish organizations.
- be accountable to you with financial reports periodically, bulletin notices and updates in the “Lourdes Life” which is sent to all parishioners and the “Bearcat” which is available to all parishioners on our web site.
- budget and follow an approval process for all parish expenditures through experienced committees, qualified staff, and ultimately the pastor.
- realize that the parish would not exist without the parish community.

Stewardship is a lifestyle conversion that, when nurtured, continues to grow and flourish! We welcome and challenge all parishioners to live their baptismal call and to be a visible expression of the Body of Christ.