

Rev. Msgr. James C. Kidder

February 27, 2017

Dear Friend:

As we begin Lent – a time of prayer and reflection leading up to the joyous Resurrection of Christ – we also take the opportunity, as a parish community, to reflect on our own journey as Catholic stewards.

Some parishioners ask why Holy Trinity spends such a great deal of time on the subject of stewardship and they are often surprised by my simple yet straightforward answer: Holy Trinity is in the business of making disciples. In fact, that's the very reason we as a parish – and a people – exist.

As we put time into developing a personal, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, we become so aware of God's **grace**— the free and undeserved gift of God that allows us to respond to His call to be His disciples. Grace is the very character of God's nature, and it overflows outwardly in acts of mercy, compassion and endless giving.

Gratitude then is our natural response to God's grace. It is our response to all the undeserved blessings He provides us. Gratitude becomes a way of looking at one's life and consciously recognizing the blessings God freely gives us each day.

Giving is the way we express our gratitude to God – by sharing the goodness that He has given to us. Filled with deep appreciation for all we have been given, we have an instinctive need to share not because we have to but because we want to – knowing that what was given to us so freely by the grace of God is meant to be given freely to others.

Grace, gratitude & giving are all essentially interwoven in the life of a steward.

As we express our gratitude for God's grace by sharing God's blessings in our lives, we give so others may receive God's grace—and importantly, the cycle begins anew.

I invite you to embrace and respond to God's overflowing love during this year's Stewardship Renewal.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James C Kidder".

Rev. Msgr. James C. Kidder

Grace
Gratitude
Giving

ESSENTIALLY INTERWOVEN
IN THE LIFE OF A STEWARD



Grace is the free and undeserved gift of God that allows us to respond to His call to be disciples of Christ.

Grace is the very character of God's nature, and it overflows outwardly in acts of mercy, compassion and endless giving. Because God is for us and cannot be against us, He never tires of wanting the best for us — or giving the best to us. Grace is His continual gift to us throughout our lives, showered upon us freely, with absolutely no strings attached.

God's gift of grace should motivate us to live in a way that pleases Him and acknowledges His everlasting love for us.

"May grace and peace be yours in abundance through knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord."
2 Peter 1:2

Gratitude is our response as disciples to God's grace – and to all the undeserved blessings He gives to us.

Gratitude is the feeling one experiences after receiving an undeserved blessing or after being shown an undeserved kindness. Grateful people nurture and cherish their relationship with their Creator, because they recognize Him as the source of all goodness in life. Their gratitude is a fundamental and joyful acknowledgment of God's continued generosity in their lives.

Gratitude becomes a way of looking at one's life and consciously recognizing the blessings God freely gives us each day.

"Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ."
1 Thessalonians 5:18

Giving is the way we express our gratitude to God – by sharing the goodness that He has given to us.

People filled with gratitude recognize God as the giver of all good things. After gratefully receiving His gifts, we become eager to cultivate and share the gifts out of our loving relationship with Christ. We recognize that, filled with deep appreciation for all we have been given, we have an instinctive need to become grateful *givers* of what God has entrusted to us.

We choose to share not because we have to but because we want to – knowing that what was given to us so freely by the grace of God is meant to be given freely to others.

"And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."
Hebrew 13:16

ESSENTIALLY INTERWOVEN IN THE LIFE OF A STEWARD

TIME



Prayer and Worship

DO WE GRATEFULLY RESERVE THE ONE HOUR EACH WEEK WHERE WE MEET CHRIST IN THE EUCHARIST?

God gives all of us 24 hours a day and 168 hours a week.

For each of us, time remains our most valuable commodity as we seek to balance all the competing demands in our life. We need to find time for work, family, service to others, recreation, rest and, of course, prayer and worship.

But as Christians, aware that our lives are gifts from God, do we make "time for God" a priority in our busy lives? Do we join together on Sunday with our parish community to worship as the Body of Christ? Do we lovingly center our lives around the Eucharist, making it the "source and summit" of our life as Catholics?

Is daily prayer simply a task on our schedule that can be easily moved or canceled? Do we pray each day, acknowledging the Lord's dominion in our lives, thanking Him for the blessings given us, and laying our needs and the needs of others at His feet?

TALENT



Sharing in Ministry

DO WE GRATEFULLY SHARE OUR TALENTS WITH OTHERS FOR THE ENRICHMENT OF OUR FAITH COMMUNITY?

Talents are the special gifts that are uniquely ours. Every member of our faith community has been given talents as gifts from God.

It is because God gave us these special talents that we are each able to earn a living and provide for our families.

Holy Trinity Parish boasts over sixty ministries. Do we share the talents which God has uniquely given to us in one or more of these ministries? Do we use our aptitudes, interests, passions, skills and abilities to further God's kingdom in our parish?

TREASURE



Sacrificial Giving

DOES GRATEFULLY GIVING BACK TO GOD COME FIRST IN OUR LIST OF SPENDING PRIORITIES?

We are stewards – not owners – of the treasure and possessions in our care. All we have, including our money, are gifts from God who gave us these gifts so that we would care for them and find ways to use them to improve the lives of others.

We all have different levels of income, yet the least affluent among us are rich in comparison to the rest of the world. As such, we are not called to equal giving, but we are called to equal sacrifice.

Our spending habits say a great deal about our values and priorities. How much is spent on a car, dining out, the latest gadget or entertainment? In comparison, where does God fall on our list of spending priorities?

Scripture tells us "Honor the Lord with the first fruits of all you produce." (Proverbs 11:24) Have we established a purposeful, intentional, annual plan for honoring God with our treasure?



Ministries of Holy Trinity Parish

Opportunities to extend God's love to one another by sharing our talents as

deliberate disciples and grateful stewards



Ministries of *Hospitality*

Acting as Christ the Shepherd, a parish committed to stewardship is a true community of faith that welcomes, honors, and involves every person in the life and work of the Church, acknowledging the blessing of our richly different backgrounds.

Baking and Culinary: Stewards lend their cooking talents to support a variety of events.
Coffee & Donuts Ministry: Stewards organize coffee and donuts after Sunday Masses.
De Colores Ministry: Parishioners welcome and encourage the Spanish-speaking community to full participation in our parish life.
Set-up/Clean-up of Parish Events: Stewards assist as needed during the set-up or clean-up of parish events.
Social Ministry: Stewards help build community among parishioners by planning the parish's social gatherings.
Welcoming Ministry: Stewards staff the registration table and make personal visits to welcome new parishioners.

Ministries of *Prayer*

Acting as Christ the Priest, a parish committed to stewardship strives to nourish each person through prayer, strengthening our relationship with the Trinity, and focusing on the Eucharist, the "source and summit of the Christian life."

Bread Bakers: Parishioners bake and deliver the bread used for the Eucharistic celebrations.
Children's Liturgy of the Word: Adults explain readings to children during Liturgy of the Word at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday Masses.
Eucharistic Ministers: Adult Catholics are commissioned to assist the presider in the distribution of the Eucharist.
Funeral Liturgy Ministry: Trained liturgical ministers assist at funerals and memorial services.
Greeters: Stewards welcome parishioners as they enter Mass, assist with collections, and distribute music books and bulletins.
Linen Ministry: Stewards launder the altar linens used during liturgy, as well as other parish linens.
Little Saints: Adults assist our Little Saints and provide a special place just for TK-1st grade children during Sunday morning Mass.
Liturgical Environment: Stewards create a beautiful worship environment in the Church for each liturgical season.
Music Ministry: Music is provided through a variety of ensembles for Sunday Masses, Holy Days and other celebrations.
Readers: Readers at Mass proclaim the Word of God to those assembled.
Sacristans: Sacristans assure that all liturgical supplies and objects are ready and available for all liturgical celebrations.
Sextons: The team coordinates the access to and use of the Church facility for Sunday worship and for special occasions.
Sound Ministry: Adults and high school-age youth are trained to assist with sound coordination of the music at liturgies.

NEW

NEW

The word "ministry" comes from the Greek word "diakoneo" which means "to serve." In the New Testament, ministry is seen as service to God and to others, and Jesus himself provided the model for Christian ministry centered not on our own needs but on those of others in our community. At Holy Trinity, we classify as "ministries" those parish-sponsored organizations and groups which primarily exist to provide a service to our greater faith community.

Our parish also provides many opportunities for prayer and faith-sharing, as well as other organizations which are fraternal and social in nature. Although these groups are not considered ministries of the parish, we encourage all parishioners to consider sharing in one of these worthwhile and community-building groups. These groups – too voluminous to include here – are listed and described in detail on our parish website.

Ministries of *Formation*

Acting as Christ the Teacher, a parish committed to stewardship emphasizes, through evangelization and catechesis, the development of households of faith, where our Catholic story as the Body of Christ is lived and shared with one another.

Faith Formation Ministry: This ministry inspires our community to share our rich Story, rooted in Scripture and Catholic Tradition, as we journey together through study, dialog, reflection, prayer, and service.
Faith Formation – Culinary: Adult and teen stewards prepare and deliver food items for FFM events during the year.
Faith Formation – Hospitality: Adult and teen stewards set up, welcome, or clean up during FFM events.
Family Faith Formation: High school and adult stewards, active in our Catholic faith, assist as catechists for children
Service Opportunities: Adult stewards assist in leading service opportunities for our youth confirmation students.
Infant Baptism: Parishioners assist our priests and deacons with our baptismal program.
School Ministry: Stewards support the school ministry by volunteering in the classroom and assisting at functions.
Vacation Bible School: Adults help children with religious education as well as fun-filled activities each summer.
Youth Ministry: This ministry provides opportunities for youth to inspire personal, social and spiritual growth.
High School Group: Adult stewards help with spiritual and social enrichment for grades 9-12.
Middle School Group: Adult stewards help with spiritual and social enrichment for grades 6-8.

Ministries of *Service*

Putting into action our commission as Christ the Shepherd, Priest, and Teacher, a parish committed to stewardship serves the many needs of its own parish family, as well as the needs of the larger community and the world.

Banking Ministry: This ministry sorts, counts, and deposits collections from the Masses.
Bereavement Ministry: A group experienced in loss is available to aid and counsel families who have suffered a recent death.
Child Care (for special events): Adults provide child care during special events at the parish.
Church Cleaning: The ministry provides the services required to maintain Church cleanliness.
Funeral Ministry: Parishioners assist parish families with arrangements for funeral receptions.
Grounds and Landscaping: Parishioners help improve and maintain the parish grounds.
Health Education Ministry: This ministry provides educational experiences and increasing awareness of health care resources.
Holy Trinity Community Servants: Serving as the hands and feet of Jesus, stewards help neighbors with small home projects.
Human Concerns: This ministry identifies Human Concern needs and coordinates the activities of various groups in the parish.
Jail Ministry: Periodic visits are made to minister to the spiritual needs of the incarcerated.
KidZone: Adults provide child care in a faith-filled setting for children ages 12 months to Kindergarten at 9 & 11 a.m. Sunday Masses.
Mailing: Assists in folding, labeling and sealing of mailings for the parish.
Office and Clerical: Assists with data entry or other office work in the parish offices.
St. Therese Ministry: Stewards help the parish community with various one-time tasks according to their abilities.
Visits to the Homebound: Takes the Holy Eucharist, spiritual and emotional support to homebound parishioners.

Grace Gratitude Giving

ESSENTIALLY INTERWOVEN
IN THE LIFE OF A STEWARD



Adult #1

Name _____

Email _____

Day Phone _____

Adult #2

Name _____

Email _____

Day Phone _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

We greatly appreciate your desire to be a Worshiping Steward, and we are grateful for your commitment to a Stewardship Way of Living. Please indicate below all the ways in which you will share your time, talent and treasure.

TIME

Prayer and Worship

God gives all of us 24 hours in a day and 168 hours in a week. For each of us, time remains our most valuable commodity. Making time for God is the most important use of the time which God has given to us.

- I/We commit to attend Mass each Sunday.
- I/We will read Scripture regularly.
- I/We will continue the ongoing formation of my/our Catholic faith by attending the parish mission, the speaker series, study groups, workshops, classes and other opportunities for spiritual formation.
- I/We will set aside time each day to pray.
- I/We will be part of a Small Christian Community. (will join already belong)

TALENT

Sharing in Ministry

Talents are the special gifts that are uniquely ours, and we hold the conviction that every parishioner has been given aptitudes, interests, and abilities as gifts from God to share for the enrichment of our community.

- I/We pledge to return the talents given as gifts from God through service in parish ministry. *[Please indicate on the back of this sheet ministries in which you are interested.]*

TREASURE

Sacrificial Giving

Proverbs 11:24 tells us "Honor the Lord with the first fruits of all you produce." As such, how we spend the treasure entrusted to us by God is fundamental to how we live as stewards. Our gift back to God should represent a truly sacrificial and gratitude-filled offering.

- I/We acknowledge God's blessings by returning to Him a sacrificial portion of the treasure He has given.
 - I/We pledge to return to God \$ _____ each week / month / year.
 - Please allocate _____% to the building fund & _____% to the collection.
- Change my current EFT (bank or credit card withdrawal) to \$ _____ per month, effective July 1, 2017.
- I/We will make an additional gift of \$ _____ to help pay down the \$1 million debt on the Education & Social Centers.
- I/We have included Holy Trinity Parish in my/our will or estate plans.
- An employer will match my gift. My employer is _____

Stewardship of Talent – Sharing Talent in Ministry

For each adult listed on the front side of this form, circle either "N" (for a ministry for which you wish to join as a NEW member) or "R" (for a ministry for which you are already involved and RENEWING your commitment). A description of all ministries can be found on our website at www.HolyTrinityParish.org.

Adult #1 First Name _____

Adult #2 First Name _____

Adult #1	Adult #2	Ministries of HOSPITALITY
N R	N R	Baking and Culinary
N R	N R	Coffee & Donuts Ministry
N R	N R	DeColores Ministry
N R	N R	Set-up/Clean-up of Parish Events
N R	N R	Social Ministry
N R	N R	Welcoming Ministry

Adult #1	Adult #2	Ministries of PRAYER
		<i>Please choose no more than one</i>
N R	N R	Bread Bakers
N R	N R	Children's Liturgy of the Word
N R	N R	Eucharistic Ministers
N R	N R	Funeral Liturgy Ministry
N R	N R	Greeters
N R	N R	Linen Ministry
N R	N R	Little Saints
N R	N R	Liturgical Environment
N R	N R	Music Ministry
N R	N R	Readers
N R	N R	Sacristans
N R	N R	Sextons
N R	N R	Sound Ministry

Other skills or interests that can be offered to the parish:

Adult #1 _____

Adult #2 _____

Adult #1	Adult #2	Ministries of FORMATION
		Faith Formation Ministry
N R	N R	<i>Faith Formation - Culinary</i>
N R	N R	<i>Faith Formation - Hospitality</i>
N R	N R	<i>Family Faith Formation</i>
N R	N R	<i>Service Opportunities</i>
N R	N R	Infant Baptism
N R	N R	School Ministry
N R	N R	Vacation Bible School
		Youth Ministry
N R	N R	<i>High School Group</i>
N R	N R	<i>Middle School Group</i>

Adult #1	Adult #2	Ministries of SERVICE
N R	N R	Banking Ministry
N R	N R	Bereavement Ministry
N R	N R	Child Care (for special events)
N R	N R	Church Cleaning
N R	N R	Funeral Ministry
N R	N R	Grounds and Landscaping
N R	N R	Health Education Ministry
N R	N R	HT Community Servants
N R	N R	Human Concerns
N R	N R	Jail Ministry
N R	N R	KidZone
N R	N R	Mailing
N R	N R	Office and Clerical
N R	N R	St. Therese Ministry
N R	N R	Visits to the Homebound

The word "ministry" comes from the Greek word "diakoneo" which means "to serve." In the New Testament, ministry is seen as service to God and to others, and Jesus himself provided the model for Christian ministry centered not on our own needs but on those of others in our community. At Holy Trinity, we classify as "ministries" those parish-sponsored organizations and groups which provide a service to our greater faith community.

Our parish also provides many opportunities for prayer and faith-sharing, as well as other organizations which are fraternal and social in nature. Although these groups are not considered ministries of the parish, we encourage all parishioners to consider sharing in one of these worthwhile community-building groups. These groups – too voluminous to include here – are listed and described in detail on our parish website.

We greatly appreciate your desire to be a *Worshiping Steward*, and we are grateful for your commitment to a *Stewardship Way of Living*. Please indicate below all the ways in which you will share your time, talent and treasure.

Youth Information

First Name _____ Address _____ Grade in Spring 2017 _____
 Last Name _____ City/Zip _____ School _____
 Day Phone _____ Home Phone _____

TIME

Prayer and Worship

God gives all of us 24 hours in a day and 168 hours in a week. For each of us, time remains our most valuable commodity. Making time for God is the most important use of the time which God has given to us.

- I commit to attend Mass each Sunday and ask my parent(s) to drive/accompany me.
- I will set aside time each day to pray. I will read Scripture regularly. I will say grace before meals.
- Other _____

TALENT

Sharing in Service

Talents are the special gifts that are uniquely ours, and we hold the conviction that every parishioner has been given aptitudes, interests, and abilities as gifts from God to share for the enrichment of our community.

- I will sing or play an instrument in the Youth Band at Sunday Mass (grades 8 and higher).
- I will sing in the Children's Choir at Sunday Mass (grades 2-8). I will help take care of the parish grounds.
- I will serve as an altar server at Sunday Mass (grades 5 and higher). I will serve as an aide in FFF classes (high school students)
- I will serve as a reader at Sunday Mass (must be confirmed). I will help on parish projects as needed.
- Other _____

TREASURE

Sacrificial Giving

Proverbs 11:24 tells us "Honor the Lord with the first fruits of all you produce." As such, how we spend the treasure entrusted to us by God is fundamental to how we live as stewards. Our gift back to God should represent a truly sacrificial and gratitude-filled offering.

- I acknowledge God's blessings by returning to Him a sacrificial portion of the treasure He has given.

In order to make it easier for our youth to return to God their offerings of time, talent and treasure, we provide envelopes for use during the offertory.

- I already have stewardship envelopes. Please send me envelopes. I don't wish to have envelopes.

*Grace
Gratitude
Giving*

ESSENTIALLY INTERWOVEN
IN THE LIFE OF A STEWARD



Giving of God's Treasure to build His Kingdom



Sign up for Holy Trinity's electronic funds transfer (EFT) program just like hundreds of other parishioners have already done. Donations can be taken from your checking account or credit card once each month.

Use the form below, or sign up online at our website – www.holytrinityparish.org – by clicking the “Donation and Payment Center” link and then following the instructions, which are very simple.

Your gift will be transferred electronically once each month from your checking account or credit card directly to Holy Trinity Parish on or about the 5th working day of the month. A record of each gift will appear on your bank or credit card statement.

After you join, you may increase, decrease, or suspend your giving by contacting Holy Trinity Parish at (530) 677-3234. Just complete the form below and return it to Holy Trinity by **returning it to the parish office by fax at 530-677-3570** or by mail at 3111 Tierra de Dios Drive, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762. (Please indicate the amount you wish to donate and keep the top portion of this form for your records: transfer \$_____ each month.)

A copy of the form will be returned to you, confirming your enrollment. The first transfer will occur in about four weeks.

CURRENTLY USING EFT

- Please change my monthly gift to \$_____
(or send email to htp@holytrinityparish.org indicating the amount)

I WANT TO START AN EFT

- EFT from CHECKING ACCOUNT**
Please transfer \$_____ once a month. Of this amount, please attribute:

\$_____ as unrestricted gift (parish may use where needed)

\$_____ to the building fund

\$_____ to the weekly collection

Enclosed is a voided check. Transfer my monthly gifts from my checking account as specified above.

- EFT from CREDIT CARD**
Please charge \$_____ once a month to my VISA/MasterCard. Of this amount, please attribute

\$_____ as unrestricted gift (parish may use where needed)

\$_____ to the building fund

\$_____ to the weekly collection

Acct # _____

Expiration Date _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

For Office Use Only: _____

All gifts provided to Holy Trinity Parish originating as ACH transactions comply with U.S. law. I understand my future monthly gifts will be transferred directly from my account and I can increase, decrease or suspend my giving at any time by calling Holy Trinity Parish.

Where an allocation of funds is not listed, the entire EFT will be attributed to the building fund.