

Rev. Msgr. James C. Kidder
Pastor

February 10, 2016

Dear Holy Trinity Parish 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 reason we exist.

Our great commission to make disciples means we want people to develop a personal, intimate relationship with Jesus Christ so that they can live like Jesus did, trusting fully in God and realizing how dependent we are upon Him. Seeing God as the ultimate source of all that we are and all that we have becomes evident.

As the conversion takes root, we become **grateful receivers** of God's gifts in our life. We become eager to cultivate the gifts out of our loving relationship with Christ. We recognize that, filled with appreciation for all He has given us, we have an innate need to become **grateful givers** of what God has entrusted to us.

It is this new way of living out our lives as deliberate disciples – willing to share with Christ and others what has been gifted to us – that is the practice of stewardship.

During February, our parish and its ministries will be talking a great deal about our call to be Catholic stewards. In preparation for those discussions, and as you look over the materials accompanying this letter, I ask you to pray about a few things:

Have you nurtured an intimate, personal relationship with Christ?

What priority is God in your life?

What's your personal inventory of how God has chosen to bless you?

Are you a grateful receiver of God's blessings – and a grateful giver of those blessings to others?

In what ways would you like to improve or grow in your relationship with God?

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

Sincerely in Christ,



Rev. Msgr. James C. Kidder



AN ACTIVE AND REAL GOD
*invites us into **relationship** as*
REAL AND ACTIVE STEWARDS

To many, our Catholic faith just means a series of rules, regulations and obligations.

But, at its most simple, our faith is about a relationship with God – a deep, loving, personal relationship.

That's why Jesus calls each of us. He calls us to make a deliberate choice to be a disciple—to strive to imitate the life of Christ ... to live for the same reasons Jesus did, just as Jesus did.

Jesus' invitation is a personal call to each of us. He doesn't summon us as faceless names in a crowd. He calls us as unique individuals. He knows our strengths and weaknesses. He knows our personal histories and our individual destinies. He has a specific purpose in mind for each of us. And He invites each of us into an intimate, personal relationship with Him.

Responding enthusiastically to Jesus' call is what Holy Trinity Parish calls "deliberate discipleship."

Whoever strives for an intimate relationship with Christ soon learns God isn't some abstract, far-away figure in the clouds. He is present every day. He is as active and real today as He was at the beginning of time.

The constant presence of our active and real God reminds us that there is great work to do on His behalf. Yet imitating the life of Christ—praying, announcing the Good News, loving and serving others—can seem daunting. At times, it can seem impossibly overwhelming.

Fortunately, a disciple never travels alone. A constant companion is the Holy Spirit, whom God sent to strengthen our relationship with Him.

The Holy Spirit begins a conversion of mind and heart, so that a brand new way of living allows us to freely commit our very selves to the Lord.

This brand new way of living is manifested as gratitude, the foundation of our relationship with God.

This conversion of heart and mind allows us to recognize God as the giver of all that is good—the source of all that we have and all that we are.

We become grateful receivers of God's gifts in our life. We become eager to cultivate the gifts out of our loving relationship with Christ. And we recognize that, filled with appreciation for all we have been given, we have an innate need to become grateful givers of what God has entrusted to us.

It is this divine dance of receiving and giving that is the practice of stewardship.

REAL AND ACTIVE STEWARDS

love deeply...

live gratefully...

give sacrificially.

TIME



Prayer and Worship

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

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 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 Service

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 and different material resources, 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, priorities, and wants. How much is spent on dining out, entertainment, the latest electronic gadget, or paying on a car?

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*



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 welcomes and encourages the Spanish-speaking community to full participation in our parish life.
Rides to Church: Parishioners assist with transportation to Mass for those unable to drive.
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 for new parishioners and make personal visits to welcome new parishioners.



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 assist in readings for 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.
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.
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.

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 and community-building groups. These groups – too voluminous to include here – are listed and described in detail on our parish website.



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
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 of fun-filled activities each summer.
Youth Ministry: This ministry provides opportunities for youth to inspire personal, social and spiritual growth.
[UnNamed]: 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.



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.
Facilities Maintenance: The ministry provides care for the parish buildings and grounds, and provides safety and security.
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 the parish's Human Concern needs and coordinates the activities of various groups in the parish.
Information Technology: Technical support is provided for parish computers, telephone system and use of video equipment.
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 and 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: Brings the Holy Eucharist, spiritual and emotional support to homebound parishioners.

REAL AND ACTIVE STEWARDS

love deeply... live gratefully... give sacrificially.

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.

Adult #1	Adult #2	
Name _____	Name _____	Address _____
Email _____	Email _____	City/Zip _____
Day Phone _____	Day 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/We commit to attend Mass each Sunday.
- I/We will set aside time each day to pray.
- I/We will read Scripture regularly.
- I/We want to be part of a Small Christian Community. (will join one already belong)
- 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.

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/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, 2016.
- I/We will make an additional gift of \$ _____ to help pay down the debt on the Education & Social Centers.
- Please send information on making a gift in my/our will or estate plans.
- 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	Rides to Church
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 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	Infant Baptism
N R	N R	School Ministry
N R	N R	Vacation Bible School
		Youth Ministry
N R	N R	<i>[UnNamed] High School Group</i>
N R	N R	<i>Middle School Group</i>

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

Adult #1 _____

Adult #2 _____

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	Greeters
N R	N R	Linen Ministry
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

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	Facilities Maintenance
N R	N R	Funeral Ministry
N R	N R	Grounds and Landscaping
N R	N R	Health Education Ministry
N R	N R	Holy Trinity Community Servants
N R	N R	Human Concerns
N R	N R	Info Technology/Web Page
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.

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Youth Information

First Name _____

Address _____

Grade in Spring 2016 _____

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 participate in youth group (for middle and high school students).
- 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 serve as a greeter at Sunday Mass (with my parents).
- 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 Family Faith Formation classes (high school students)
- I will serve as a reader at Sunday Mass (must be confirmed). I will help on parish projects as needed in the new St. Therese Ministry.
- 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 stewardship envelopes. I don't wish to have stewardship envelopes.