

Stewardship

Stewardship is a total way of life. It is based on the biblical view of God as Creator and us as His servants, accountable to Him for our use (stewardship) of the gifts of time, talent and treasure that He gives us during our life on earth.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

In this stewardship approach, the fundamental motive for giving is gratitude. When enough people are moved to return to God a truly grateful share of the blessing he bestows upon us, the Church's present needs are met, with a surplus for future expansion. Far more important, however, is the spiritual blessing bestowed on those who accept the stewardship message. Giving out of gratitude means giving God the first portion of the gifts He entrusts to us. Deciding to do so is a faith decision. We trust that what is left over for us, after we have given to God "His" share, will be enough.

Weekly Sunday envelopes or online giving are used for contributing the amount you specified on your stewardship intention card. Online giving is also available on the church website. Goal to consider is that at least 5 percent of one's gross income be contributed to the parish.

Stewardship of Time and Talent

Stewardship calls us to view our resources of time and talent as gifts from God. By using these blessings and abilities, we express our gratitude to God, our Creator. At St. Martha parish there are many ways to offer your time and talent.

*"My friends, what good is it to profess faith without practicing it?"
(James 2:14)*

St. Martha Time and Talent Ministry Guide

100: Administration/Parish Office

Administration and Finance

Reviews the financial and business operational aspects of the parish, making sure the parish follows Archdiocesan Policies and Procedures. Activities include: reviewing monthly financial reports, approving the budget for Parish Council, auditing finances of parish-related organizations, and providing advice on business-related decisions. Time commitment: Year-round, meeting the last Thursday evening of odd months.

Bethany Center Steering Committee

Oversees and coordinates all scheduled events held in Bethany Center; manages building rentals and funds. Activities include: pre- and post-event set-up and clean-up; concession stand support, and approving maintenance and repair schedules.

Time commitment: Minimal and varies based on facility usage.

Buildings and Grounds

Supplements and supports our full-time maintenance crew in the maintenance of buildings and grounds, primarily in organizing and implementing Spring/Fall Clean-up project days.

Time commitment: Bi-annual; Fall/Spring Clean-up

Parish Office Help

Assists in the Parish Office answering phones, helping with mailings, stuffing bulletins, etc. This help is on an as needed basis. (Flexibility in scheduling)

Volunteer to count weekend Mass collections. Time commitment: Flexible

200: Religious Formation

Adult Formation

A many faceted ministry that seeks to awaken faith, renew faith, inform and educate adult members of our parish including retreats, missions, small group opportunities, adult learning lecture series and Bible studies, etc.

Young adult group provides an opportunity to come together to share common interests and goals. Age group roughly 18 to 30. Activities: Social, Spiritual, and Service- related activities as decided upon by the group.
Time commitment: Planning Teams for these groups meet as needed.

Advent Workshop

Celebrates and prepares families for the Advent Season and Jesus' Birth. First Sunday of Advent 12:00-1:30. Ornament making, food, and music.

Time commitment: Preparation meetings as needed and day of event.

Baptism Preparation

Leaders are trained to meet with the families to discuss the sacrament and responsibilities of the parents and godparents, faith sharing experiences and a walk through the Rite of Baptism.

Time commitment: One hour preparation meeting with parent. Assist Deacon on baptism day.

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)

Lead children from pre-kindergarten through 4th grade in understanding the scripture readings and liturgy for Sunday 11:00 a.m. Mass.

Time commitment: Rotating basis, typically once every 4-6 weeks at the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

Children's Evening Religious Education (ERE)

Religious Education and sacramental preparation, including Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation for public school children in grades 1-8. ERE attendance is required in order for St. Martha Parish public school children to participate in the St. Martha Parish Sports Program.

Time commitment: Classes meet on Wednesday nights from 7:00 -8:00 p.m. in the parish office basement. All classes start in September and finish in May.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.)

Catholic Team Members and sponsors help prepare those adults and children seeking membership in the Catholic Church for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion and learn more about the Catholic Faith.

Time commitment: Meetings usually take place on Sunday mornings from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Easter Vigil is when unbaptized RCIA candidates are welcomed into the Church.

Vacation Bible School

Summer program designed for children Pre-K thru 5th grade. Provides a unique opportunity for children to grow in their faith through prayer, music, scripture, and activities. Lead by adult volunteers.

Time commitment: Arranged in conjunction with the Summer Care program.

Youth Ministry

To empower young people to live as disciples of Jesus Christ in our world today. To draw young people to responsible participation in the life, mission and work of the Catholic Faith Community. To foster the total personal and spiritual growth of each young person in grades 7-12. Planning team helps plan activities and gives support to the youth minister.

Time commitment: Volunteers help with chaperoning and activities.

300: Worship

Altar Society

Care for Altar and Church cleaning including robes and vestments. Responsible for purchase of candles, wine, robes and vestments, and also getting volunteers to bake cakes for bake sales.

Time commitment: Altar Society meets every third Monday of every other month, September-May.

Art and Environment

Decorate the church during all special occasions during the Liturgical year especially Christmas, Holy Week and Easter. Parishioners help on an as needed basis.

Lectors/Ministers of the Word

Serve the Parish by reading the Scriptures at weekend and Holyday Mass, one to two times each three month period. Please indicate preferred Mass times. Training provided.

Ministers of Holy Communion

Serve the Parish by offering the Eucharist to those present at all Masses and to those in hospitals, nursing homes and the homebound. Mandatory training is needed. Please indicate preferred Mass times.

Ministers of Hospitality

Welcome people at church entrance, collect gifts and distribute bulletins following weekend mass. One weekend Mass every month when scheduled. Please indicate preferred Mass times. Training provided.

Music

To plan and carry out all music for the worship needs of the parish, we need cantors, adult choir members, youth choir members, and instrumentalists. The choir is open to all members of the parish third grade and up.

Time commitment: Choir Rehearsals weekly. Youth Choir -Wednesdays from 5-6pm during the school year; Cantor rehearsal - Wednesdays from 6-7pm; Adult Choir rehearsals - Wednesdays from 7-8pm.

Extra rehearsals may be needed for Christmas and Easter seasons

Worship Committee

Supports and furthers the faith development of the parish through worship services and ministries. Coordinates all worship services throughout the year including Sundays, weekdays, Christmas, Easter, and Holy Days.

Time commitment: Worship Committee meets as needed.

400: Outreach/Pastoral Care

Bereavement Committee

Support bereaved families by preparing food for bereavement meal and/or serve at meal. Possibly attend vigil and pray for departed and their family.

Time commitment: Approximately 4 hours per bereavement.

Prayer Blanket Committee

Work independently on blankets with 1-2 group sewing projects during the year. Help is needed with sewing, quilting, knitting, crocheting or tying. The blankets are made available to anyone suffering from an illness, loss of a loved one, or in need of comfort.

Respect Life

To foster a respect for all life in our parish by carrying out directives from the Archdiocesan Respect Life Office. This committee sponsors Mother's Day Spiritual Bouquets and Baby Bottle Boomerang for Little Way Pregnancy Resource Center, and Right to Life initiatives throughout the year. Time commitment: Meetings as needed.

***New Ministry: Walking with Moms in Need**

Serving mothers in need throughout our community. This ministry is in partnership with Little Way Pregnancy Resource Center.

Sick and Homebound

To provide a link between St. Martha Parish and parishioners who are homebound or in nursing facilities through visitation and activities. Need volunteers to visit homes, visit nursing homes, make meals and drive others to church and doctor's appointments.

Time commitment: Meetings are odd months on the 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

Social Concerns

Provide opportunities to the parish for outreach in accordance with the social teachings of the church - such as Respect Life, monthly Giving Box, Giving Tree, Habitat for Humanity, Racism Awareness, and Refugee assistance. Also work alongside school's Shamrock Service Leadership program efforts.

Time commitment: Meetings the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m., approximately 1 hour.

Society of St. Vincent De Paul (SVDP)

Provide temporary assistance such as food, clothing, rent or utility payments to those in need.

Time commitment: Monthly meetings the first Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m., parish office.

500: Parish Life**Martha Gras**

Supports parish's second largest fundraiser in February by coordinating and managing food, horse racing and a silent auction.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

Promote educational growth and spiritual welfare. Strive toward a better understanding and cooperation between parents and teachers. Activities include Spring Fling, Rock-a-thon, Restaurant Spirit Nights, Chili Supper, Santa's Workshop, Teacher Appreciation, Homeroom Parents, and much more.

Time commitment: Periodically as needed for committee meetings and events. Board meetings are the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Parish Council

Share the responsibility of the apostolic work of the Church and provide support to all organizations Within our parish.

Time commitment: Meetings are second Wednesday of every odd month from September thru May at 7:00 p.m., and special meetings as necessary.

Picnic Committee

Supports parish's largest fundraiser by coordinating and managing all aspects of the picnic.

Time commitment: Meetings monthly from January through June. Picnic is fourth Friday and Saturday in June plus setup Monday through Thursday of that week.

School Advisory Board

Consider and develop matters of school policy subject to regulations from the Ordinary of the Diocese, the Archdiocesan School office and the Parish Council.

Time commitment: Meetings the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Library.

Senior Citizens

Discuss and promote social functions for the enjoyment of its members.

Time commitment: Monthly meetings the second Sunday, 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria.

Sports Ministry

Team to oversee the student sports programs.

Time commitment: Monthly meetings the second Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

Stewardship Committee

To foster the Stewardship program and encourage parish giving of Time, Talent, and Treasure. To educate the parish community about Stewardship.

Welcoming Ministry

Serve food at periodic events such as doughnuts after Mass, etc.

Time commitment: 1 to 2 hours every few months.

600: Affiliated Ministries**Boy Scouts (ages 10-17)****Cub Scouts (ages 5-10)**

Teach boys about citizenship, preparedness, outdoor living, nature lore, environment, self-reliance, and self-image.

Time commitment: Boy Scouts every Tuesday, 7:00 p.m., Cafeteria; Cub Scouts weekly den meetings and monthly pack meetings. September-May.

Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts will prepare your daughter for a lifetime of leadership, success, and adventure in a safe, no-limits place designed for and by girls. The Girl Scout experience is a collection of engaging, challenging, and fun activities like earning badges, going on awesome trips, selling cookies, exploring science, getting outdoors, and doing community service projects.

Time commitment: Meet once a month with additional outings and events.