

Matthew 25:23

Being a *servant* for Christ and His Church is a blessing and joy and it is the calling of a Christ centered life. Jesus Himself said, "I came to serve and not to be served." (Matt. 20:28)

When we serve the church by offering our Stewardship of time, talent and treasure to our parish, we are blessed by God and it is pleasing in His sight because we realize that everything we have has been given to us by Him. Therefore we are offering to Him what is already His own, and He responds to us by saying, "well done, good and faithful servant." (Matt. 25:23)

Good and faithful. We need more good and faithful people in our world today. And it is through the Church that we can grow in these virtues through our participation in liturgy, prayer, Gospel and Holy Communion in an environment of believers who are not perfect, but are on the same journey toward Christ, not in isolation, but together in a community of faith.

Beloved, your annual Stewardship support to our parish makes it possible to support all the ministries and activities of our parish (see enclosed) and to sustain our buildings, maintenance and operations. This enables all of us to grow toward Christ and to continue to become good and faithful servants.

The average annual stewardship pledge amount this past year was \$1,000 ("Pacesetter"). All Christians are humbly encouraged to consider moving closer toward the Biblical teaching of "tithing" by considering the many beautiful giving categories listed on the pledge card.

We ask that you please carefully review all of the enclosed stewardship material and prayerfully fill out your 2024 Stewardship Commitment/Pledge Form, using the enclosed return envelope, and mail/bring it to the Church by December 20.

Also, to make your giving easier, you may contribute weekly, monthly or any way you wish, using the stewardship envelopes you receive in the mail as you see fit. You may also choose to contribute via our online giving platform. And please know that your giving to the church is always tax deductible.

Thank you so much. We are deeply grateful for your love and support.

With much love in Christ for a blessed and Merry Christmas!

Fr. Christopher

John Vitale, Council President

Carol DiPietro, Stewardship Chair