

STEWARDSHIP

Responding as Disciples in Gratitude



OUR LADY  OF GRACE
CATHOLIC CHURCH
EDINA




STEWARDSHIP

Responding as Disciples

Many people do good works daily. But until they do them in ways showing that they love God above all, they have not yet discovered stewardship as a way of life.

We are all at different stages of our understanding of stewardship and our willingness to embrace stewardship as a way of life. Yet this much is clear: as baptized Catholics, each of us can grow closer in our relationship with Jesus and His Church by consciously and prayerfully considering our actions like disciples. God gives us prayer, service and tithing to bring us closer to the living Jesus - to enter into deeper communion with Him by extending His mercy to others. By extending His love, we become more and more the person God created us to be and, at the same time, live for His glory.

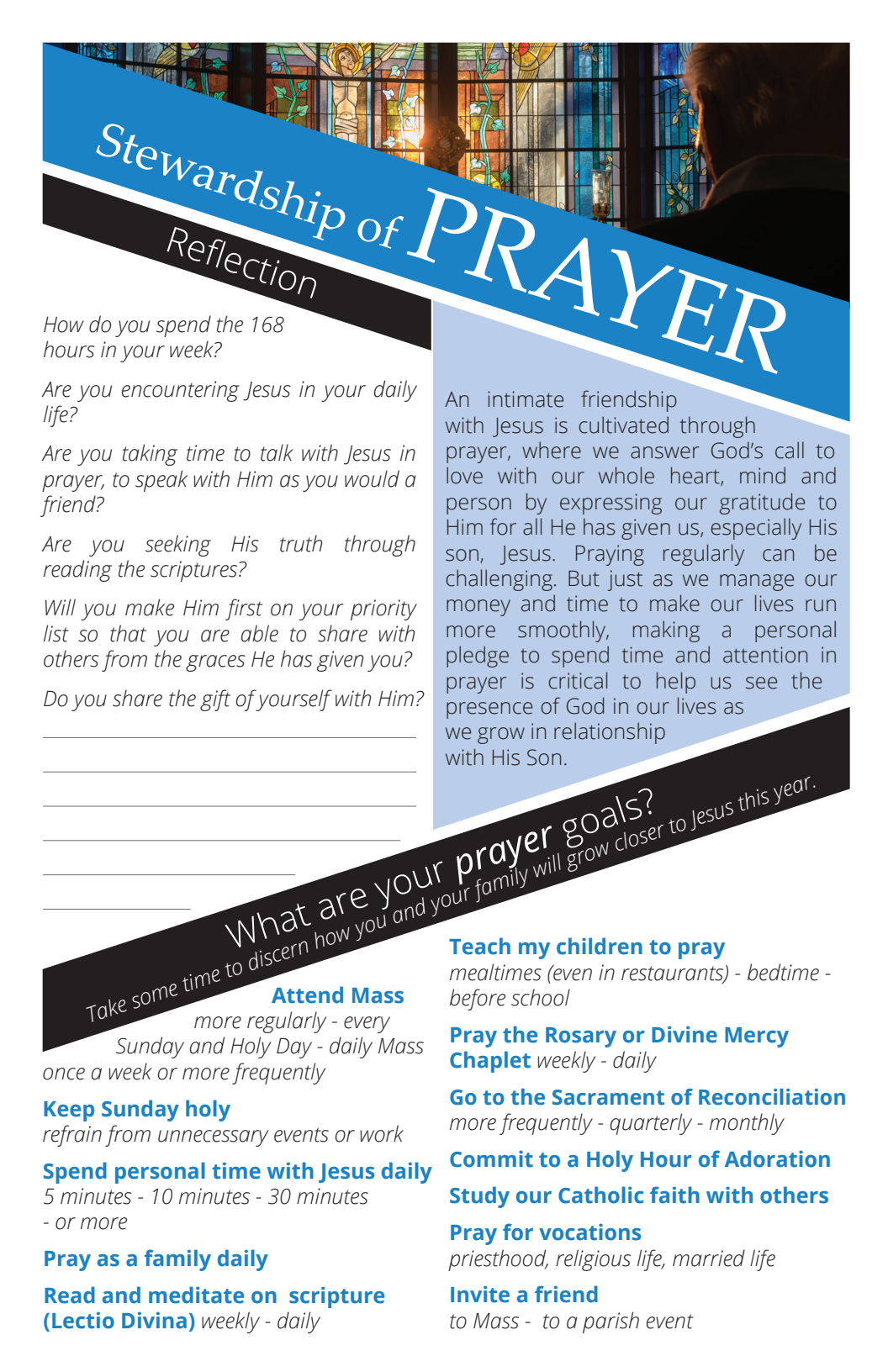
Each of the over 2600 registered families at Our Lady of Grace is called to make Jesus Christ known and loved. As we annually renew our commitment to stewardship, we are asked to respond as disciples, by looking inward and examining our lives, taking time to recognize our gifts, discerning how those gifts may change over time and, in the process, reflecting on how God wants us to use such gifts to become lights of the world (cf. Mt 5:14).



What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is the intentional, grateful and loving response of a Christian disciple – a way of life that recognizes, receives and shares God's gifts and charisms for the good of all, making Jesus Christ known and loved.



A photograph of a person's profile looking out a window with colorful stained glass. The window features various religious scenes and symbols, including a figure on a cross and a figure holding a staff. The lighting is warm, suggesting an indoor setting.

Stewardship of PRAYER

Reflection

How do you spend the 168 hours in your week?

Are you encountering Jesus in your daily life?

Are you taking time to talk with Jesus in prayer, to speak with Him as you would a friend?

Are you seeking His truth through reading the scriptures?

Will you make Him first on your priority list so that you are able to share with others from the graces He has given you?

Do you share the gift of yourself with Him?

An intimate friendship with Jesus is cultivated through prayer, where we answer God's call to love with our whole heart, mind and person by expressing our gratitude to Him for all He has given us, especially His son, Jesus. Praying regularly can be challenging. But just as we manage our money and time to make our lives run more smoothly, making a personal pledge to spend time and attention in prayer is critical to help us see the presence of God in our lives as we grow in relationship with His Son.

What are your prayer goals?

Take some time to discern how you and your family will grow closer to Jesus this year.

Attend Mass

more regularly - every Sunday and Holy Day - daily Mass once a week or more frequently

Keep Sunday holy

refrain from unnecessary events or work

Spend personal time with Jesus daily

5 minutes - 10 minutes - 30 minutes - or more

Pray as a family daily

Read and meditate on scripture (Lectio Divina) *weekly - daily*

Teach my children to pray

mealtimes (even in restaurants) - bedtime - before school

Pray the Rosary or Divine Mercy Chaplet *weekly - daily*

Go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation

more frequently - quarterly - monthly

Commit to a Holy Hour of Adoration

Study our Catholic faith with others

Pray for vocations

priesthood, religious life, married life

Invite a friend

to Mass - to a parish event



Stewardship of SERVICE

Reflection

Do you know or recognize the talents God has given you?

Have you spent time in prayer discerning how the Holy Spirit wants you to share the gifts and charisms He has given you?

Do you regularly share these talents and gifts for the good of others?

Do you spend a set amount of time each week/month in service to family, our parish and the community?

Each one of us has been given unique gifts and charisms from God. Stewardship invites us to use those gifts and charisms not only to earn a living and provide for our family, but also to accept them gratefully, without pride or false humility, and use them well, as God prompts us. As disciples we must consciously and lovingly pledge to use these gifts and charisms in our parish and the community.

What are your gifts and talents?



We invite you to review the inventory of gifts and talents to the right and discern which talent(s) and/or gift(s) you have that you may be willing to share from time to time. When we have a need in that area, we will give you a call. If you are unable to assist us for whatever reason, we'll keep you on the list and check back with you for a future need.



Gifts and Talents Inventory

ARTS AND ACTIVITIES

Acting, Drama, Artistic Design/Drawing, Calligraphy, Lettering, Coaching Sports, Crafts, Creative Activities, Dancing, Decorating, Directing (Drama), Floral Arrangement, Music (vocal), Musical Instruments, Outdoor Sports/Activities, Digital Photography, Sewing/Knitting, Sports

BUILDING, CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIR

Carpentry, Electrical (Licensed), Gardening, Landscaping, Painting, Plumbing, Power Tools, Power Washing, Small or Large Equipment Experience, Woodworking, Yard Work

BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY

Accounting/Finance, Audio/Visual, Clerical, Data Entry, Desktop Publishing, IT, Microsoft Office, Phone/Reception, Video Production

COMMUNICATIONS

ASL Interpreter, Bilingual, Editing, Historian, Proofreading, Public Speaking, Sign/Banner Making, Social Media, Writing

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Coordinating, Development, Evaluating, Facilitating, Human Resources, Interviewing, Leadership, Management, Marketing, Mediating, Negotiating, Organizing, Planning, Recruiting, Research, Teaching, Team Building, Training, Visioning


HOSPITALITY

Baking, Catering, Childcare, Cleaning, Cooking, Event Planning, General Assistance, Hostessing, Laundry, Welcoming

SPIRITUALITY

Compassionate Care, Faith Sharing, Hospice Training, Listening to, Praying with/for, Reading to, Serving and Visiting Others

What are your service goals?
Take time to discern how God is calling you to serve.



Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as you discern your talents and charisms.

Attend a Called and Gifted workshop to understand more fully your God-gifted talents and charisms as well as how best to share them.

Commit to using your talents and gifts by spending a set amount of time each week/month in service to your family, parish and community.

Assess your current ministry activity and recommit to ministry or choose a new ministry to join. Choose activities that bring you joy!

Practice corporal works of mercy by: visiting someone who lives alone, or is homebound or incarcerated; feeding the hungry; helping to build a house for those in need; serving at a charitable organization.

Stewardship of TITHE

Reflection

Throughout the Gospels Jesus speaks often about money, possessions and our need to share in abundance the gifts God has given us. Sadly many people measure their lives by the goods that they acquire; they are owned by their possessions. Those responding as disciples, in contrast, plan and prioritize their lives as stewards, knowing that whatever they have is held merely in trust from God. They recognize an inherent need to give in ways that have nothing to do with the need to receive in return. In giving their first fruits, they not only help make possible the work of God that is happening all around them, but give powerful expression to the place of God in their lives. They live knowing that their heart lies where their treasure is (cf. Mt 6:21).

Are you owned by your possessions? Or do you see them as God sees them – gifts that you merely hold in trust for Him?

Do you routinely give to a need or do you understand that you have an inherent need to give?

Do you plan and budget your giving?

Do you give to God your first-fruits rather than “the leftovers”?

Have you assessed your current giving level to the Parish Stewardship fund?

What is your giving goal?

Most parishioners are not in a financial position to start out tithing (giving) 10%; however, over time, by adding a percentage increase each year, the 10% can be reached.

Please prayerfully consider a gift to the Parish Stewardship fund that is honest, consistent and generous, one that moves you further towards a tithe of 10% by:

Becoming a new giver making a weekly donation of one hour of pay per week.

Increasing your current pledge by 5% to 10%

Pledging a percentage of your annual income, for example:

Income	%	Annual Giving
less than \$50,000	1%	\$500
\$50,000-\$100,000	2%	\$1,000-\$2,000
\$100,000-\$200,000	3%	\$3,000-\$6,000