

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN ACTIVE STEWARD

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STEWARDSHIP OFFICE HOURS

MARCH 22, 2023

# OPENING PRAYER

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Loving God, source of all that is good,  
we give you thanks, and we ask you to be with us  
as we gather together.

We ask you to give us sight,  
free from the distractions and obstacles  
that keep us from seeing your grace in our midst.

Guide our minds and hearts toward your vision for our world,  
and make us ready to share our gifts to bring your vision to life.

This we ask, this we seek, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

# STEWARDSHIP DEFINED

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- **“The grateful response of a Christian disciple who recognizes and receives God’s gifts and shares these gifts in love of God and neighbor.”**
  - Gratefulness is not something abstract and intellectual...it must be something concrete and visible.
  - We are all called to be disciples – intentional followers of Jesus who trust in Him and seek to follow His call and commands.
  - **“Our Lives Are Not Our Own.”** Everything we are and everything we have comes to us from the Lord. As God has given to us, so we are called to give back...both to God and neighbor by living lives of sacrificial love and service.

# THE PROMISES OF BAPTISM

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- You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him (her) in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him (her) up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?
- **PARENTS: We do**
- On your part, you must make it your constant care to bring him (her) up in the practice of the faith. See that the divine life which God gives him (her) is kept safe from the poison of sin, to grow always stronger in his (her) heart. If your faith makes you ready to accept this responsibility, renew now the vows of your own baptism. Reject sin; profess your faith in Christ Jesus. This is the faith of the Church. This is the faith in which this child is about to be baptized.



# THE 3-LEGGED STOOL OF CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

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- Leg #1 – **Prayer**
  - Attendance at weekend/Holy Day Mass in the parish (or another parish when travelling).
- Leg #2 – **Participation**
  - Give a portion of your time and talent to assist in building up the parish community.
- Leg #3 – **Sacrificial Giving**
  - Pledge and stay current on a proportional tithe of treasure to support the work and ministry of the parish.



# THE MINISTRY OF ACCOUNTABILITY

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- Each October **all** parishes in our diocese will participate in the ***Catholic Stewardship Renewal (CSR)***. Like “Time, Talent, & Treasure” campaigns of the past, this parish renewal will ask **all** parishioners to:
  - **Commit** to attend Mass & use a portion of their time/talent to help support the work and ministry of the parish.
  - **Pledge** and stay current on a sacrificial tithe of treasure to assist in funding the work and ministry of the parish.

# THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE *CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL (CSR)*

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- The CSR is not **just** an administrative exercise, but an opportunity to:
  - **REVIEW & REDIRECT** – How am I doing as an active steward? What can I do to strengthen my ability to live out my discipleship?
  - **REAFFIRM & RECOMMIT** – By my participation in this process I am concretely stating "I am a part of this parish community and supportive of its mission and vision."

The most important spiritual element of the CSR is the fact that it is a communal activity, undertaken by the whole parish, and geared toward strengthening all parishioners on the road to discipleship.



# REFLECTION

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**Begin the process of prayer, examination of life, and discernment as to how God can best use you to build up the parish community!**

- In what ways have you received God's grace and unconditional love in your life?
- How do you share the light of Christ with others through the stewardship of your gifts, time and resources?



# CLOSING PRAYER

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## Hail Mary

Hail Mary, Full of Grace,  
The Lord is with thee.  
Blessed art thou among women  
and blessed is the fruit  
of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary,  
Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners  
now and at the hour  
of our death.



**Amen.**

# OFFICE OF STEWARDSHIP

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Fr. Stephen W. Jones

Director of Stewardship

[stewardship@diojeffcity.org](mailto:stewardship@diojeffcity.org)

573-635-9127 ext. 239

Patricia “Trish” Lutz

Associate Director of Stewardship

[plutz@diojeffcity.org](mailto:plutz@diojeffcity.org)

573-635-9127 ext. 230