



December 28, 2015

Dear Parishioner -

In recent weeks in the bulletin, parish website or Facebook page, you may have read about stewardship as *a way of life* at St. Nicholas Catholic Church. We invited you and your fellow parishioners to reflect on how God has blessed you and consider your response to His blessings through your gifts of time, talent and treasure. We write to you today to ask you to make a prayerful stewardship commitment to our parish.

What is stewardship and what does it mean in my life? Stewardship is a lifestyle. It is a life of accountability and responsibility. Living as a good steward acknowledges God as the Creator and the Owner of all. Christian stewards see themselves as the caretakers of God's gifts. Gratitude for these gifts is expressed in our prayer, worship, offerings, and action. Stewardship is a way of thanking God for our blessings as we return a portion of the many gifts (our time, talent, and treasure) that we have been given by God.

You will find a Stewardship Commitment Form for 2016 with this letter. Please take some time to reflect on the gifts God has provided you and determine how you can share your gifts to serve others through our parish. Your gifts will make it possible to continue supporting the needs of our parish in worship, education, and outreach. In the Talent section, please indicate (by using initials of each adult in the household) which ministries you would be interested in joining or are already involved.

“The Fifth precept (“You shall help provide for the needs of the Church”) means that the faithful are obliged to assist with the material needs of the Church, each according to his own ability.” (CCC 2043) Hence we would ask you to seriously and prayerfully discern what percentage of your income you are being called by God to give to the parish and to be intentional in making this a part of your weekly budget.

We ask you to join with other parishioners and return your completed 2016 Stewardship Commitment Form in the collection basket at Mass or by mail by Monday, January 18th.

God has blessed our parish in so many ways and you are a part of that blessing. Thank you for the gifts you have given to help us fulfill the mission that Christ has entrusted to all of us. May God bless you for generously sharing your gifts in service to the Church.

Sincerely,

Your Stewardship Committee