RESOURCES

Catholic Diocese of Salt Lake City

[www.dioslc.org/outreach/stewardship](http://www.dioslc.org/outreach/stewardship)

The diocesan website's stewardship page includes resources and information you may find helpful. The site contains videos of Bishop Oscar Solis’ monthly stewardship messages. It also includes the stewardship brochure, and time, talent and treasure commitment forms. Another resource is the Catholic Giving Form, which is a fillable, interactive pdf to assist parishioners with determining their stewardship of treasure for their parish, diocese and community.

International Catholic Stewardship Council

[www.catholicstewardship.com](http://www.catholicstewardship.com)

The mission of the International Catholic Stewardship Council (ICSC) is to foster an environment in which stewardship is understood, accepted and practiced throughout the Catholic Church. The ICSC is a professional organization recognized internationally as a source of education, networking and information to advance the ministry of Christian stewardship as a way of life in the Roman Catholic Church, and to promote the cause of Catholic philanthropy in dioceses and parishes worldwide. ICSC is the only organization dedicated exclusively to advancing Christian stewardship, Catholic philanthropy and resource development in North America as well as overseas. Founded in 1962, ICSC has over 1,200 members representing over 800 dioceses and archdioceses, parish communities, Catholic organizations and professional firms internationally.

Each Fall the ICSC hosts their annual conference in cities across the United States. Hundreds of pastors, diocesan directors of development and stewardship, parish leaders, professional firms, Catholic associations, and religious congregations from around the world come together for four days of presentations, workshops, liturgies and major addresses. Participants experience the Catholic vision of Christian stewardship as a way of life. Timely topics by knowledgeable and experienced speakers fill a comprehensive program. Experts share practical information and experiences that have proven successful. Inspiring liturgies, annual award presentations, "table talk" luncheons, engaging receptions and specialized exhibits supplement the worthwhile and valuable program.

ParishSoft Ministry Scheduler Module

Each parish and mission uses the ParishSoft software program to track census, sacraments, and financial contributions. ParishSoft also has the ability to create and manage ministry groups, volunteers and liturgical schedules through the Ministry Scheduler Module. An online instructional manual is available at: <https://support.parishsoft.com/hc/en-us/categories/14621352994587-ParishSOFT-Family-Suite-PSFS>

You will want to click on "Ministry Scheduler".

Parish IQ

After you have entered your stewardship information in the Ministry Scheduler Module, you can extract this information through the use of Parish IQ. This module is available through Family Directory. Parish IQ is a user-friendly query tool that can extract the name, address, interested ministry and offertory pledge a family has made. This information can then be exported to a Word document to enable you to create your stewardship thank you letters easily.

Stewardship Scriptures – Old Testament

**Deuteronomy 16:10**

You shall then keep the feast of Weeks for the LORD, your God, and the measure of your own voluntary offering which you will give shall be in proportion to the blessing the LORD, your God, has given you.

**Deuteronomy 26:1-4**

When you have come into the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you as a heritage, and have taken possession and settled in it, you shall take some first fruits of the various products of the soil which you harvest from the land the LORD, your God, is giving you; put them in a basket and go to the place which the LORD, your God, will choose as the dwelling place for his name. There you shall go to the priest in office at that time and say to him, “Today I acknowledge to the LORD, my God, that I have indeed come into the land which the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.” The priest shall then take the basket from your hands and set it in front of the altar of the LORD, your God.

**1 Chronicles 29:14-16**

“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should have the means to contribute so freely? For everything is from you, and what we give is what we have from you. For before you we are strangers and travelers, like all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without a future. LORD our God, all this wealth that we have brought together to build you a house for your holy name comes from you and is entirely yours.

**Proverbs 3:9**

Honor the LORD with your wealth, with first fruits of all your produce;

**Proverbs 11:24**

One person is lavish yet grows still richer; another is too sparing, yet is the poorer.

**Psalm 116:12**

How can I repay the LORD for all the great good done for me?

**Sirach 35:6-10**

Do not appear before the Lord empty-handed, for all that you offer is in fulfillment of the precepts. The offering of the just enriches the altar: a sweet odor before the Most High. The sacrifice of the just is accepted, never to be forgotten. With a generous spirit pay homage to the Lord, and do not spare your freewill gifts.

Stewardship Scriptures – New Testament

**Matthew 5:1-12**

When he saw the crowds,[\*](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/matthew/5#48005001-2) he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit,[\*](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/matthew/5#48005003-2) for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.[h](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/matthew/5#48005012-h) Thus they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Matthew 25:14-30**

“It will be as when a man who was going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one—to each according to his ability. Then he went away. Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them, and made another five. Likewise, the one who received two made another two. But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master’s money. After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five.[\*](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/matthew/25#48025020-1) He said, ‘Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master’s joy.’ [Then] the one who had received two talents also came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have made two more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master’s joy.’ Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter; so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back.’ His master said to him in reply, ‘You wicked, lazy servant![\*](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/matthew/25#48025026-1) So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter? Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return? Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten. For to everyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.’

**Luke 6:38**

Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.”

**Luke 10:25-37**

There was a scholar of the law[\*](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/luke/10#50010025-2) who stood up to test him and said, “Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “What is written in the law? How do you read it?” He said in reply, “You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” He replied to him, “You have answered correctly; do this and you will live.” But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, ‘Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.’ Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers’ victim?” He answered, “The one who treated him with mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

**Luke 12:32-48**

Do not be afraid any longer, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your belongings and give alms. Provide money bags for yourselves that do not wear out, an inexhaustible treasure in heaven that no thief can reach nor moth destroy. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be. “Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master’s return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.” Then Peter said, “Lord, is this parable meant for us or for everyone?” And the Lord replied, “Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward whom the master will put in charge of his servants to distribute [the] food allowance at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master on arrival finds doing so. Truly, I say to you, he will put him in charge of all his property. But if that servant says to himself, ‘My master is delayed in coming,’[\*](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/luke/12#50012045-1) and begins to beat the menservants and the maidservants, to eat and drink and get drunk, then that servant’s master will come on an unexpected day and at an unknown hour and will punish him severely and assign him a place with the unfaithful. That servant who knew his master’s will but did not make preparations nor act in accord with his will shall be beaten severely; and the servant who was ignorant of his master’s will but acted in a way deserving of a severe beating shall be beaten only lightly. Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.

**Luke 19:1-10**

He came to Jericho and intended to pass through the town. Now a man there named Zacchaeus, who was a chief tax collector and also a wealthy man, was seeking to see who Jesus was; but he could not see him because of the crowd, for he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. When he reached the place, Jesus looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down quickly, for today I must stay at your house.” And he came down quickly and received him with joy. When they all saw this, they began to grumble, saying, “He has gone to stay at the house of a sinner.” But Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Behold, half of my possessions, Lord, I shall give to the poor, and if I have extorted anything from anyone I shall repay it four times over.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation[c](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/luke/19#50019009-c) has come to this house because this man too is a descendant of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save what was lost.”

**Acts 20:35**

In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.

**Romans 12:6-8**

Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them: if prophecy, in proportion to the faith; if ministry, in ministering; if one is a teacher, in teaching; if one exhorts, in exhortation; if one contributes, in generosity; if one is over others, with diligence; if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

**2 Corinthians 9:6-8**

Consider this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work.

**Galatians 5:13**

For you were called for freedom, brothers. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love.

**1 Timothy 6:7-9**

For we brought nothing into the world, just as we shall not be able to take anything out of it. If we have food and clothing, we shall be content with that. Those who want to be rich are falling into temptation and into a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires, which plunge them into ruin and destruction.

**1 Timothy 6:17-19**

Tell the rich in the present age not to be proud and not to rely on so uncertain a thing as wealth but rather on God, who richly provides us with all things for our enjoyment. Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, ready to share, thus accumulating as treasure a good foundation for the future, so as to win the life that is true life.

**Titus 3:14**

But let our people, too, learn to devote themselves to good works to supply urgent needs, so that they may not be unproductive.

**Hebrews 13:16**

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have; God is pleased by sacrifices of that kind.

**James 2:14-17**

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,” but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

**1 Peter 4:8-10**

Above all, let your love for one another be intense, because love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.

**1 John 3:17-18**

If someone who has worldly means sees a brother in need and refuses him compassion, how can the love of God remain in him? Children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.

Stewardship Prayers

**Our Way of Life**

Oh Lord, giver of life and source of our freedom, we are reminded by the Psalmist that Yours is "the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it." We know that it is from Your hand that we have received all we have and are and will be. Gracious and loving God, we understand that You call us to be the stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all You have entrusted to us. Help us always to use Your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Christ in our lives. We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Blessings*

**Blessings Prayer**

Generous and loving God, You call us to be disciples of your son Jesus and good stewards of all your many gifts. Open our minds and hearts to a greater awareness and deeper appreciation of your countless blessings. Transform us through the power of your Spirit to nurture a stewardship way of life marked by faith-filled prayer, service to our neighbor and generous sharing. Teach us to be faithful servants of your gifts. With Mary's help, may we return ten-fold the gifts entrusted to us. Bless our Parish with a deepening devotion to prayer, a growing commitment for service, and increasing levels of generosity as we work to advance the mission of both our parish and diocese. We pray through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Countless Blessings Prayer**

Generous God, You have blessed us immeasurably. We are eternally grateful for your many blessings. The beauty of the world we live in, the wonder of creation, and the miraculous gift of life itself. The loving support of family and friends, their caring sympathy during troubles, and their sharing happiness during our joys. The challenge of the tasks we work at, the satisfaction of our accomplishments, the enjoyment of our hobbies and diversions and the meaningfulness of our volunteering. The gift of shelter, the nourishment of food and sustenance, and the warmth and comfort of our clothes. The trials and tribulations that each one of us faces, that cause us to acknowledge our dependence on You. The 'little things' — a good book or great movie, chocolate chip cookies, arriving home safely, and all those other things we take for granted. The love of a God who cares for each one of us, the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the continuing presence of the Holy Spirit, may we always remember to live as grateful stewards of Your countless blessings. We share our gratitude to You now and forever. Amen.

**Meal Blessing**

Good and gracious God, as we gather for this meal, we pause from the normal routine of our lives to give thanks and praise for the abundant blessings you have bestowed upon us. You have entrusted us with the wonders of your creation and given us the freedoms and opportunities to creatively collaborate in your divine plan. Bless all of us who gather here in your name. Give us the grace to be good stewards of your bounty, the courage to proclaim the Gospel in word and deed; and the wisdom to claim nothing for ourselves, but return all to You with increase. Bless this food we are about to share and all those who brought it to our table. Bless our loved ones, family and friends who are not with us this day; and on those who travel, that they may reach their destinations safely. And in a special way, bless those who are less fortunate than we are. Grant that we who are filled with Your abundance never close our hearts to those most in need of Your mercy, particularly the hungry, the homeless and the poor. We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

*Gatherings*

**Gathering Prayer**

Good and loving God source of every grace and blessing, we bring you thanks as we gather today for the many gifts you have given us. We seek to be good stewards, Lord! Bless us as we gather here to share Your gifts. Send us Your Spirit and be present among us — in the mouth of all who speak, in the ears of all who listen, at the heart of all we say and do. We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Prayers for Parish Council, Commission and Committee Meetings**

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Bless us Oh Lord as we, thy humble servants, come before you this day in our Stewardship journey to grow in Your likeness. May we be ever mindful of the blessings that You have bestowed upon us on a daily basis. Help us to understand that as we grow in Stewardship together as individuals, faith communities and as a nation, we grow only because of Your benevolence. May we use this time on earth that You have given us to make a difference, to open our eyes to the little things of life, to not be overwhelmed to the point that we delay our journey. When we accept the challenge of Stewardship and see Your face in the downtrodden, in the sick, in the dying, in the unborn, may we know it is only because of Your grace that we are able to accept that challenge. Dear Lord, thank You for e0arthly sustenance that gives us the strength of body to do Your work. But, more so, thank You for Your spiritual food that fills us with the grace and knowledge that we are indeed Your people. Be with us, touch our hearts, invigorate our minds and give us the energy to go forth. Amen.

**Finance Meeting Prayer**

God, our heavenly Father, You provide and sustain us in life. You gave us Jesus, our priceless treasure. May our counting and recording procedures promote good stewardship. Help us to fairly share our resources with others. May we respect all matters of confidentiality and do all in Your spirit of generosity. Bless us with wise discretion both now and forever. Amen.

**Parish Council or Finance Council**

O' God, the giver of all good gifts, our desire to praise You is itself a blessing You have bestowed upon us. We can offer You nothing that You do not already have except our love, which we render to You in worship and in service to all those whom You redeem in Jesus Christ. Be with us now during our gathering that You may guide our deliberations and help us to know Your will in our lives and the lives of those we serve. Help us with Your gifts of grace to allow us to love one another as You love us and to show this love in our thoughtful comments, respectful listening, faithful stewardship and visionary planning of all the actions we undertake in Your name in service to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We ask this all through Your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives, and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen.

**Leadership Meeting Prayer**

Good and Loving God, You refresh us with Your life-saving power. You have entrusted us with a share in leadership. Help us to share ideas and plans with each other. Keep us kind and courteous to one another. Give us insight to the work at hand that we may further Your causes and benefit many people. Help us to resist any temptation to dominate, control or forget the needs of all. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Professional Activity Day Opening Prayer**

God, our heavenly Father, You provide and sustain us in life. You gave us Jesus, our priceless treasure. May our counting and recording procedures promote good stewardship. Help us to fairly share our resources with others. May we respect all matters of confidentiality and do all in Your spirit of generosity. Bless us with wise discretion both now and forever. Amen.

*Gratitude*

**Prayer of Generosity**

Lord Jesus, You came to tell us that the meaning of life consists in giving. You told us that those who cling too tightly to what they have, without thought for You or others, end up losing everything. You gave us new values by which to measure the worth of a person's life. Help us to realize it is not temporal success or riches or fame that gives life meaning. Rather it is the service rendered to You and others that brings fulfillment and makes our lives worthwhile. May all of our activity help to build God's kingdom; our obedience to bring true freedom, our generosity to increase love, our sacrifices to bear generous fruit, our deaths to lead to eternal life. Amen.

**Prayer of Gratitude**

Jesus, Our hearts are deeply moved when we pause and think of how greatly You have blessed us. You have given us many gifts, large and small, tangible and intangible, of this world and of the next. Remind us frequently to be grateful for these gifts. We know You call us to be generous. Help us to not be overcome by fear of the unknown, but rather give us the faith to respond to Your call of generosity with joyful trust in You. Amen.

**Abundance Prayer**

Gracious and Loving God, You call us to be stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all You have entrusted to us. Help us to always use Your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. Send your Holy Spirit to work through us, bringing Your message to those we serve. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to your enduring love of all creation. We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Giving Prayer**

Good and gracious God, We thank you for all we are, and all we have. Everything is a gift from your infinite generosity. We marvel how bountiful is your kindness. We rest in appreciation of your enduring mercy. As we explore our responsibility to be good stewards, fill us with the compassion of Jesus, your Son. Give us eyes to see the needs of those around us, in the faces of our neighbors near and far. Give us hearts that are moved by the pleas of those who cry out; on behalf of the children, the refugees, the sick, and the suffering. Give us hands that are eager to share what has been entrusted to us; for the homeless and those alone in their homes. Give us feet to venture wherever the Spirit leads; for the mission to bring your good news to all. As we resolve to be mindful of the needs of others, we pray that You instill in us your generosity, your kindness, and your mercy. Free us from all attachments to the things of this world. Keep us focused in our mission of good stewardship. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**Gift Prayer**

Lord, you alone are the source of every good gift, of the vast array of our universe, and the mystery of each human life, We praise you and we thank you for your great power and your tender, faithful love. Everything we are and everything we have is your gift, and after having created us, You have given us the greatest of all gifts, your son, Jesus Christ. Fill our minds with His truth and our hearts with His love, that in His Spirit we may be bonded together into a community of faithful, caring people. In the name and spirit of Jesus, we commit ourselves to be good stewards of the gifts entrusted to us, to share our time, our talent and our material gifts as an outward sign of the treasure we hold in Jesus. Amen.

*Saints*

**Prayer of Saint Francis of Assisi**

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow charity; where there is injury, pardon; where there is error, the truth; where there is doubt, the faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying to ourselves that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

**Prayer of Saint Ignatius**

God, Take and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will — all that I have and call my own. You have given it all to me; To you, God, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace. That is enough for me. Amen.

**Saint Paul Prayer**

Gracious God, You sent us Saint Paul. To preach the Gospel, inspire us in faith, and show us the way to be good stewards of Your grace. In our time together, show us how to be fervent ambassadors of Christ, Your Son. Grant us the wisdom to recognize that through His gift of the Eucharist there is one bread, and we are one body. Give us the courage to proclaim the Good News in word and deed. And in the spirit of Saint Paul, teach us to live, no longer for ourselves, but in Christ Jesus who lives and reigns with You, and the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen.

*Seasons*

**Prayer for the New Year**

Gracious and Loving God, the old year has passed and a new year begun. We thank you for Your active presence in our busy lives, for the opportunities given, and for blessings received. As we embrace a new year, breathe freely through us and renew our spirits with fresh resolve and purpose. Give us the grace to be good stewards of all that You have entrusted to us and to serve You with generous, compassionate and loving hearts. Bless our days ahead. Give us the courage to be faithful. And show us how to proclaim the good News of Your Son, Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God forever and ever. Amen.

**Lent**

Heavenly Father, Thank you for this new day and another opportunity to give the traditions of Lent genuine meaning in my life. Help me to be a good steward of this day; to use it wisely to reflect on my words and deeds, review my habits, and correct my faults. Inspire me to live as Jesus did, to embrace his cross, and live the great Paschal mystery in a way that gives hope to others. Be merciful to me this day. Forgive me my failings and weaknesses. Cultivate in me a humble and repentant heart. Prepare me for the renewal of my baptismal vows, today and throughout the season of Lent; so that at Easter I may truly rejoice in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever. Amen

**Lenten Prayer**

God of mercy, You have given us this special time to reflect on our lives, believe in the Good News and draw closer to You. May this season of Lent help us use this time to fast and pray, be more generous and show others how to live in Christ. Let us see each day of this season as a new opportunity to renew our lives and gain a deeper appreciation of Your active presence in us and our community of faith. Give us the grace to see Your face in others, especially the poor and those who suffer. And through your Spirit, spark in us the fire of Your love so that we may be better stewards of Your redeeming work throughout the world. We ask this through Jesus, Your Son. Amen.

**Easter Prayer**

Christ is risen and with him all creation! Light replaces darkness, joy replaces sadness, live replaces death. There is no failure the Lord's love cannot reverse, no humiliation he cannot exchange with blessing, no anger he cannot dissolve, no routine he cannot transform. All is embraced by the victory of his cross and resurrection. May we always be good stewards of Easter's light, see Resurrection as a daily event, and yearn for Jesus' love as intensely as he yearns for ours. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Advent Prayer**

Dear God, help us to be good stewards of these Advent days. In this precious time of hope-filled waiting, help us to seek you more intentionally and more often. Teach us to look for you in the faces of the needy we will be invited to help and the lonely ones we may be called to accompany in new and unexpected ways. Help us to be still now and then, even in the midst of our business, and see you in the beauty of your creation — in the shimmer of sunlight on snow or the crystal blue of the desert sky. Each morning, may we wake, knowing that you love us, and rejoice that you have given us another day in which to share our lives and our blessings. And each night, before we close our eyes, may we remember to thank you for the gifts and graces of the day. Make us mindful of your presence, Lord, as we wait in joyful hope for the coming of your Son. In his Holy Name, we pray, Amen.

*Service*

**Gift of Life in Service to Others**

Dear Lord, You have given us life. Through Baptism, You invite us to share the gift of our lives in service to others. Be with us as we choose each day to show Your Presence in our world. Give us the courage and generosity to respond to Your life, to Your call. We pray especially for those who serve You in ministry throughout our parish. May we bear the "Good News" to those in need. Keep us close to You. Open the minds and hearts of many other men, women and young people, that they may accept Your challenge to build the Kingdom in our parishes. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Service Prayer**

Gracious and loving Father, we rejoice in the gifts of love we have received from the heart of Jesus your Son. Teach us to see Christ in the lives we touch, to offer Him living worship by love-filled service to our brothers and sisters. Help us to always use Your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. Send your Holy Spirit to work through us, bringing Your message to those we serve. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ in our lives. We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Prayer for Deacons and other Ministers**

Heavenly Father, since the time of the Apostles You have inspired the Church to commission certain members to assist in a special way in the pastoral mission of Christ. Bless the deacons and all other ordained and nonordained ministers that they may be humble and faith-inspired in their service. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

*Time, Talent, and Treasure*

**Act of Faith**

Loving God, I come to you in thanksgiving, knowing that all I am and all that I have is gift from you. In faith and love, help me to do your will. I am listening, Lord God. Speak your words into the depth of my soul, that I may hear you clearly. I offer to you this day all the facets of my life, whether it be at home, at work, or at school - to be patient, to be merciful, to be generous, to be holy. Give me the wisdom and insight to understand your will for me and the fervor to carry out my good intentions. I offer my gifts of time, talent and possessions to you as a true act of faith, to reflect my love for you and my neighbor. Help me to reach out to others as you my God have reached out to me. Amen

**Good Stewards of Our Gifts**

Lord, hear our prayer as we seek to be good stewards of the many gifts You have bestowed on us. Give us wisdom to discern Your will for us. Strength to meet the challenge, and the grace to be steadfast in our commitment to You. Let us use our Time, Talent, and Treasure for Your greater honor and glory. In your name we pray. Amen.

**Christian Stewardship**

Heavenly Father, Creator and Giver of all that I am and all that I possess, bless our parish and strengthen our faith. Grant us the spirit of Christian Stewardship, so that we may give generously of our time, talent and treasure to spread Your Kingdom here at our parish and throughout the world. Amen.

**Renewal**

Christ is risen and with him all creation! Light replaces darkness, joy replaces sadness, live replaces death. There is no failure the Lord's love cannot reverse, no humiliation he cannot exchange with blessing, no anger he cannot dissolve, no routine he cannot transform. All is embraced by the victory of his cross and resurrection. May we always be good stewards of Easter's light, see Resurrection as a daily event, and yearn for Jesus' love as intensely as he yearns for ours. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Prayer for Wise Use of Talents**

Almighty God, You have blessed each of us with unique gifts, and have called us into specific occupations, relationships, and activities using those gifts. Enable us to use our talents to witness to our faith in You and to communicate Your love to the people we meet each day. Empower us to be ministers of reconciliation, love, hope, and justice. Keep us steadfast in our commitment to serve actively in Your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Social Justice**

Heavenly Father, eternally kind and gracious, we thank You for all we are and all we possess. This is all fruit of Your unlimited generosity and benevolence. We thank You because we do not possess anything, not even our lives, that has not been a gift from You. Enlighten our minds so that we can use wisely all the gifts that we receive from You daily. Help us understand that it is better to give than to receive, because giving helps our soul give up the material and temporal in order to ally it with a spirit of altruism and charity. Help us comprehend more each day that by means of giving, we can adjust the inequalities of the human race. This is the only way the strong and powerful can help the weak, so that social peace can reign among us. We place this in the name of Your beloved Son, Jesus, who lives and reigns in unity with the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen

**Trust Prayer**

Almighty and ever-faithful Lord, gratefully acknowledging Your mercy and humbly admitting our need, we pledge our trust in You and each other. Filled with desire, we respond to Your call for discipleship by shaping our lives in imitation of Christ. We profess that the call requires us to be stewards of Your gifts. As stewards, we receive Your gifts gratefully, cherish and tend them in a responsible manner, share them in practice and love with others, and return them with increase to you. We pledge to our ongoing formation as stewards and our responsibility to call others to that same endeavor. Almighty and ever-faithful God, it is our fervent hope and prayer that You who have begun this good work in us will bring it to fulfillment in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Growth Prayer**

Bless us Lord as we, your humble servants, come before you on our Stewardship journey to grow in your likeness. May we be ever mindful of the blessings that you have bestowed upon us on a daily basis. Help us to understand that as we grow in Stewardship together as individuals, faith communities and as a nation, we grow only because of your benevolence. May we use this time on earth that you have given us to make a difference, to open our eyes to the little things of life, to not be overwhelmed to the point that we delay our journey. When we accept the challenge of Stewardship and see your face in the downtrodden, in the sick, in the dying, in the unborn, may we know it is only because of your grace that we are able to accept that challenge. Dear Lord, thank You for earthly sustenance that gives us the strength of body to do our work. But, more so, thank you for Your spiritual food that fills us with the grace and knowledge that we are indeed Your people. Be with us, touch our hearts, invigorate our minds and give us the energy to go forth and grow in your image. Amen.

**Creation Prayer**

All powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks. All things are of your making. All times and seasons obey you. You chose to create us in your own image, and set us over the whole world in all its wonder. You made us the stewards of creation, to praise you every day for your wisdom and power. May we imitate your Son, Jesus in his life of service. May we be faithful stewards of all your gifts among the people of God. Amen.

*Youth – Prayers for Children*

**Sharing of Gifts**

Dear God, I thank You for everything You have given me. My gifts of time and talents are precious; help me use them to do Your will. Please help me realize that I need to share all of my gifts with the Church and others. Help me be generous, forgiving, and holy. I offer You this day all I think, and do, and say. With the help of Jesus, your Son, I will try to love everyone. Amen.

**Thank you, God**

Thank You, God, for each new day and for the time to work and play. Please be with me all day long through every story, game and song. Teach me how to give and share the gifts You've given to my care. May all the happy things I do make You, our Father, happy too. Amen.

**Bless Us as We Give**

Leader: Bless us this day. Fill our hearts with Your Love. Guide us in all we do and think and say,

**All: Bless our hearts and help us to enjoy the gifts of your creation.**

Leader: For the sun and moon,

**All: We praise You, O God.**

Leader: For green valleys and life-giving water,

**All: We praise You, O God.**

Leader: For flowers and fruit trees,

**All: We praise You, O God.**

Leader: For stars in the sky and mountains to climb,

**All: We Praise You, O God.**

Leader: For birds that sing and creatures that crawl,

**All: We praise You, O God.**

Leader: For the many wonders of life, but especially the gift of our family,

**All: We praise You, O God.**

Leader: For the special gifts You have given each of us,

**All: We praise You, O God.**

Leader: Be with us, God, as we follow Your example,

**All: and rejoice in sharing all that is ours to give. Amen.**

*Youth – Prayers for Teens*

**A Reflection on the Spirit**

The Spirit is the part of us that responds to beauty and goodness, that inspires us to give of ourselves, that calls us to worship, and draws us away for peaceful reflection. The Spirit calls us to a quiet place where we can be alone with our loving God. The Spirit calls us to a place of compassion where we can reach out to others as a response to our beliefs. The Spirit joins us together even when we are strangers and gives us the words to speak to each other. The Spirit lifts us above the ordinary and opens our eyes to even the smallest wonders. The Spirit gives us faith in our future and guides us as we let our gifts flow out to nourish our community and our world. The Spirit is the painter, the dancer, the teacher, the healer, the dreamer that each of us carries within. Lord, grant us the grace to always live by and in...Your Spirit. Amen.

**Generous God**

Generous God, we give thanks to You for the gifts You have given us: life, family, friends, time, talents, and material possessions. All that we have comes from You. Help us to remember this and rejoice in your goodness. Walk with us, Lord. Help us on our spiritual journey, so that we may constantly renew our relationship with You and all the good people in our families, our parish, our community, our country and our world. Renew in us your Spirit. Give us strength and courage to become better followers of Jesus; to become His disciples. Help us hear the call to "Come, Follow Me." Amen.

**Lord and Source of All Gifts**

Lord and Source of all gifts, with faith in our future we, Your children rejoice in the fullness of Your generosity. We thank You for those whose lives are visible signs of Your love and blessings to others: our parents, our teachers, our Church. Make us good stewards of all we have received, generously sharing our unique gifts with others in a spirit of gratitude to You. Guide us today, tomorrow and everyday as we grow in our faith. Amen.