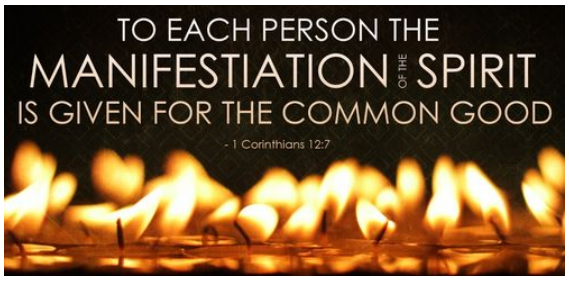
Stewardship

Spirit

We as Catholics are baptized and give our lives to Christ. We are” given the gift of the Holy Spirit to guide us to do God’s work here on Earth. This makes us stewards of God’s gifts. In response, we ask for the guidance of the Spirit in ways to make this world more of God than of us. There are many ways in which we can do this. The most common are Time, Talent and Treasure. These three words are used with the word Stewardship but it’s that and so much more.



Stewardship

Time, Talent and Treasure

Time: When we hear these words we often think about how little time we have or how much we have on our plate, yet do we have that in the correct order? Have you heard “let go and let God.” This is easier said than done, but if we took our time and slowly tried to put God first in our day each day he will guide us with the Holy Spirit to show us how much time we have to help make his kingdom great.

A priest once challenged his congregation to try and volunteer two hours a week at church. If everyone found two hours to give to church everyone would have to work less to build a great community.

Talent: This is a word that can bring up so many questions about who we are. We see people all around us with talents we recognize but what about the talents we have that are hard for us to see but needed to serve the Church. Some of those talents look like

- Welcoming others as greeters or being a part of Shepherds for Christ;
- Reading and being a lector or Liturgy of the Word
- Musically inclined- singing or playing an instrument with the choir
- Teaching- RCIA, Faith Formation, Liturgy of the Word, Sacrament Preparation
- Mentoring- Sponsor Couples, Knights of Columbus Squires, RCIA
- Ministering- Communion to the Homebound, Social Ministry, Knights of Columbus
- Coordinating- Mass Captains, Weddings, Funerals
- Working outdoors- Habitat for Humanity, Shepherd's Garden

There is training available and mentors can be provided. This is not an all inclusive list of our ministries. Come to our welcome center or CGS offices to find out where to start. With all of us using our talents as the body of Christ our work for each of us becomes smaller.

Treasure: is a word whose meaning can change as your life changes. Treasure could be a child’s favorite toy, a smile from a loved one. Treasure could be a warm meal, a shower or a safe place to lay your head. Treasure can also be money. God’s greatest treasure is Christ and he chose to sacrifice his treasure for us to have eternal life. We need to reflect on our time, talent and treasure to see what sacrifice we can make to help God’s Kingdom to be seen and reached for all.

Stewardship

Experience

Stewardship is an experience which we are blessed to be called to participate. Stewardship is an experience which can change your life if you say yes to God's call. You may see how God moves through the smallest task just by being part of the experience. Take time to reflect on a moment when you saw God work in your life. What is a way you can share the joy of Christ while serving his kingdom? Ask God to show you the way.

Worship

We are called to worship everyday. Worshipping our Lord and thanking him for all of our blessings is an important part of our day. We are asked as Catholics to come together each weekend and come to worship with our family. How can we use our talents to help set the table for our family to worship together?

Stewardship

Appreciative

We all might not be appreciated for all the things we do each day for our work, families, community or our church. But, how much do we thank God for all he has done for us. Sometimes, saying thank you may not always be enough. So, what can we do to show God and our family how thankful we are for all that is given and done for each of us.

Responsibility, Respect

Responsibility: When God created Adam he gave him the responsibility of naming and taking care of all the animals on Earth. Jesus gave the Apostles the responsibility of sharing God's word and spreading the Kingdom of God. As baptized Catholics we are all called to the same responsibility. We are called to care for our fellow man, help care for the Earth and help celebrate and spread God's message to all. We have been given much responsibility, and it is what we do together to get the mission done.

Respect: This is a word which our world is struggling with very much right now. We have people who ask you to take sides and to look at the color, job or religion of a person and not the whole person who God has blessed you to see. God sent down his only son with the message of Love and Respect. We were asked to respect widows, children, sinners and each other when Christ walked this Earth. He left us with the responsibility of showing this message as much as we talk the message. How can we show God that we still carry his message of love and respect? What can we do in our church and community to show what God has asked us to?

Stewardship

Daily, Duration

Daily: Stewardship we are told is to be a way of life. Many people forget about it or feel like it is an obligation especially when they are asked only for more time and money. Stewardship is so much more than that; as practicing Catholics we are blessed with a faith that has many different activities for us to do daily to help us celebrate such as praying the rosary, praying the liturgy of the hours, celebrating Mass, and so many ways to serve our community. Make stewardship a way to say thank you to God through our daily prayers but also through our daily actions if it is taking time to hold the door open for someone, hugging your family, taking time on your way home from work to say a prayer of Thanks for the day or stopping by church or your neighbors to see where you can give a hand.

Duration: There is a statement that it takes seven days to create a habit. As people we try different things at least once a week if not daily in our jobs or in our families. We push ourselves to be better than we were yesterday to impress our coworkers to be there more for our family. But how are we there more for God. Fr. James challenged us to pray the rosary daily. How many of us took up this challenge and how many of us still do this to remind us of what Christ did for us? We are asked to give our time, talent and treasure but do we continuously do this. How many of us pick up our old habits after giving them up for lent? The point is that Stewardship is meant to change our lives and those around us. We need to not just make the effort for a day or week or a time at church when there is a campaign. Stewardship needs to be something we hold in our hearts and live out in every breathe God gives us.

Stewardship

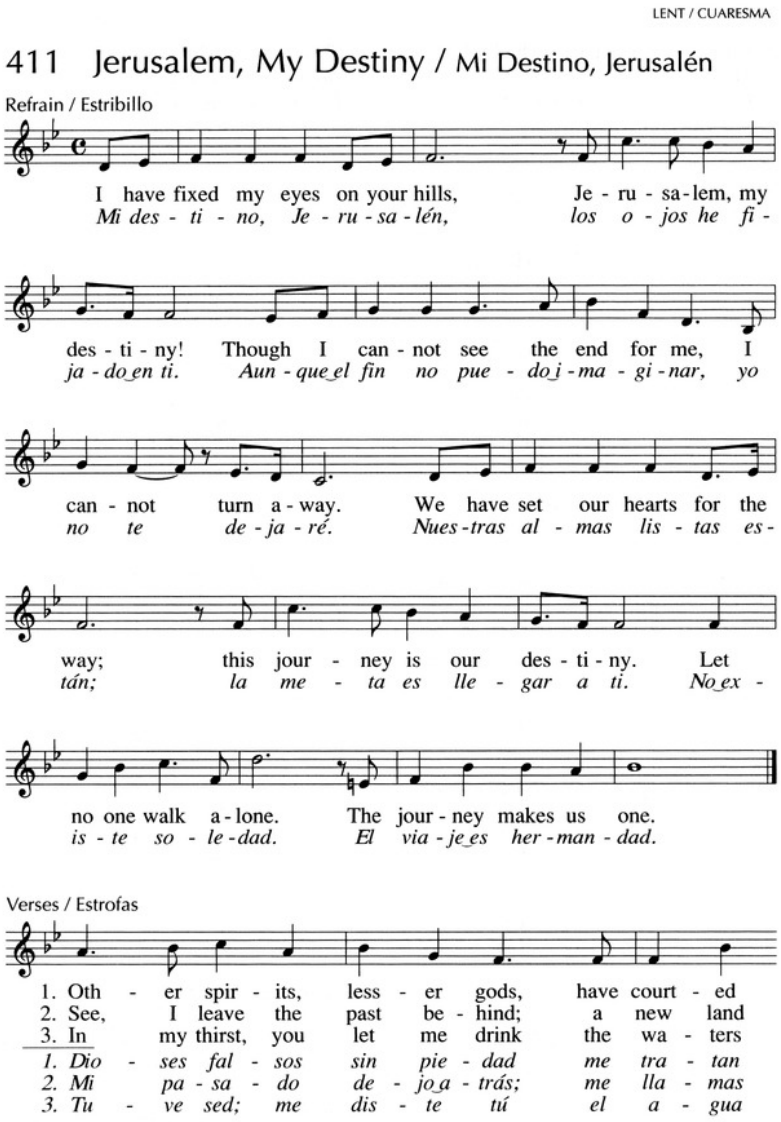
Seeking

How to seek God? How do we seek what God is calling us to do? This might be the scariest part of stewardship because when you seek God he will be there with answers and guidance but maybe in ways you never thought possible. He may call you to face your biggest fear such as speaking in front of people. God might call you to give more money than you think you have. God might ask you to tell people about your journey or just be a listening ear to those that need it. You might not know how to seek God. Here are some ways: prayer, joining an Arise group to learn more about your faith and community, reading the bulletin or website to see if anything strikes you and calls you to participate. Participate in our days of discernment or formation with guest speakers or our priest. Attend a retreat for example the ACTS Retreat. You could even go to a spiritual director to see where God and you are in your life.

How, Heart

How do we begin? Stewardship seems like a large commitment. How do we give back to God as much as he has given to us? We are only human and he has given us so much. We do this together one step at a time. Try to find five minutes (that is close to a commercial break on TV) to spend more time serving God. Look around at Mass see if there is something you think you would like to do. Yes, there are people who are doing those jobs but more people means others can take a rest or discover new talents to use in the church. Some Mass jobs include playing instruments or singing in the choir (there are choirs for all ages), helping coordinate the Mass, Extraordinary Minister of Communion, Greeter (all ages are welcome in saying hello to those coming into the church), alter server (around 5th grade to high school) Liturgy of the Word (helping to share the faith with our children). You can also say "hi" to those who you are sitting next to in Mass. Participate in community Sunday by going over and meeting people or even just catching up with those you have not seen in a while. Participate in pancake breakfasts to help the Knights support different activities in our community and enjoy a good meal with your family and church community. We all need to learn how to be better stewards. All ages are welcome to participate. This challenge is not easy, but if we all do it together then we will grow closer to Christ together.

Stewardship



LENT / CUARESMA

411 Jerusalem, My Destiny / Mi Destino, Jerusalén

Refrain / Estribillo

I have fixed my eyes on your hills, Je - ru - sa - lem, my
Mi des - ti - no, Je - ru - sa - lén, los o - jos he fi -

des - ti - ny! Though I can - not see the end for me, I
ja - do en ti. Aun - que el fin no pue - do i - ma - gi - nar, yo

can - not turn a - way. We have set our hearts for the
no te de - ja - ré. Nues - tras al - mas lis - tas es -

way; this jour - ney is our des - ti - ny. Let
tán; la me - ta es lle - gar a ti. No ex -

no one walk a - lone. The jour - ney makes us one.
is - te so - le - dad. El via - je es her - man - dad.

Verses / Estrofas

1. Oth - er spir - its, less - er gods, have court - ed
2. See, I leave the past be - hind; a new land
3. In my thirst, you let me drink the wa - ters

1. Dio - ses fal - sos sin pie - dad me tra - tan
2. Mi pa - sa - do de - jo a - trás; me lla - mas
3. Tu - ve sed; me dis - te tú el a - gua

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Stewardship

Internal, Individualized

Internal: Stewardship should not be something that you feel like you need to do just because everyone else is doing it. For example, If saying hi to people makes you nervous then choose something else by looking to see where your talents and God are asking you to go. Stewardship is not a competition of who wrote the biggest check or who spent the most time serving the church. Stewardship is about the growth of our faith and allowing God to call us a grow from watching your family be on fire and asking you to go to church, to then wanting to learn with your family more about our faith, to then wanting to teach others about our faith and then becoming willing to be seen as someone who is always there or willing to try new things to make our church amazing. This is something that moves with in you. Stewardship is about you and God working and moving together to help spread his message in the best way you can.

Individualized: Stewardship is not a one stop shop. Stewardship is something that many people say is only three things time, talent and treasure. Those are the three main points but they and you are so much more. You are more than just a member of the church, you are so much more than just a member of your family, or an employee at work. You are a gift of God and he made you to help build the kingdom of God and to make the Body of Christ whole. So as you are different than any other person who walks this earth so should your stewardship be. You are an amazing person with so many gifts to give so let you your light shine and help build the body of Christ.

Stewardship

Participate, Praise

Participate: We are blessed to participate in the Mass and sharing the Eucharist each Sunday. We have the opportunity to participate in Mass daily. We have that blessing. Our faith is like our education; just as if we are a child who is in school, we still have homework or field trips to keep us interested in learning. As adults we have trainings and education opportunities to make sure we are updated and current in our field. Why can we not do the same in our faith? Let's participate more in Mass by volunteering during the service or let's take a part of the Mass and reflect more on the readings or sing the songs or take time to reflect on the prayers which we say during Mass. Then as we are sent forth think about the one thing which you felt God was talking to you and asking you to take with you that week and share it with one person such as your spouse, children, best friend, a person at church, or how about with that friend who is reluctant to participate just share what you learned.

Praise: Take time through out your day to praise God for all that he has given you especially this amazing church family that we are all blessed to be a member. Thank him for allowing you to wake up this morning and the ability to have one more day to share his grace and ask him what can we do to show him how thankful we are today for him and all the blessings.

Stewardship

In Love Sacrifice and Just Be Present

We are all busy people and asking for more time and money or even taking time to figure our more about who we are and how to better our relationship with God seems too much. Sacrifice is scary so as we all work towards learning what more we can do to better our church, our family and ourselves, we need to take time to be present with our community starting at home with our family. Turn off the TV, put the phones aside and be at the table with those you share it with. If you are physically alone at the table don't forget God is there with you so take time to talk to him as you eat your meal. Take time to be present at church and try to get there early so you can thank God for the week and the blessings of the next week. Then celebrate with us and put aside the worry about the grocery list or what you have to rush off to right after church. For the hour we are called together please take time to be with us in celebration and prayer for our family, community and world.

Please take time to ask God, "Where am I suppose to be and please show me how to do your will."

Amen.