



Holy Name of Mary

ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH

STEWARDSHIP

SHARING THE GIFTS
GOD HAS GIVEN US WITH OUR PARISH
FAMILY.

STEWARDSHIP INVOLVES ALL OF LIFE

While stewardship is referred to here mainly in terms of Time, Talent and Treasure, the truth is that stewardship involves *all* of life - body, mind and spirit, our material possessions, friendships, etc. All we are and have is a gift from our Creator for us to use wisely to build up God's kingdom here on earth. **Stewardship is a way of life.**

TIME

Time is a very precious gift. Most of us feel we don't have enough time for all the things we want to do. Everyone is given the same amount of time: 24 hours each day, 168 hours each week. The question is:

How do we choose to use our time?

*"It is not enough to be busy,
so are ants.*

The question is what are we busy about?"

Henry David Thorea

TALENT

*All of us have been blessed with various talents, whether we are aware of it or not, or whether we have developed our talents or not. Of course, it is usually not possible to develop *all* of our talents. But, ideally, we can and should develop some of them and use them wisely to bless the communities we belong to.*

This brochure will help you to find a place to share your time and talents with your parish family. The Parish is currently in need of volunteers to help with Liturgical and Sacramental Preparation ministries. Training and/or guidance is supplied for each ministry position.

LITURGICAL

Altar Servers assist the priest on the altar at Mass. Anyone who has made their First Communion may become an altar server. Time commitment: Twice a month.

Children's Liturgy provides an opportunity for children to hear the word of God in language that is easier for them to understand. Adults are needed to instruct the children during the first half of the Mass. Time commitment: Once a month.

Liturgy Art and Environment volunteers help ensure that the Sanctuary and the church space are properly maintained and decorated throughout the year. This includes taking care of the altar and the linens, purchasing flowers and other needed items to decorate the church for various liturgical seasons and celebrations, maintaining vestment and producing new ones. Parishioners who have a talent in sewing, decorating, crafts, making floral arrangements or putting things together are always welcome.

Time Commitment: One season or event per year.

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion assist the priest in distributing communion at Mass. Adults who are confirmed may volunteer for this ministry.

Time commitment: One Mass, twice a month.

Pastoral Care Ministers take communion to sick and shut-in parishioners on Sunday, normally after the 9:00 am Mass. Time commitment: Weekly

Lectors proclaim the word of God during Mass. Lectors should have good verbal skills and take time to prepare before coming to Mass. Time commitment: Once a month.

Commentators help us to focus our attention on the Mass and the theme of the day, as well as read the announcements and intentions, and lead the people in the Prayers of the Faithful. Time commitment: Once a month.

Ministry of Hospitality includes both Greeters and Ushers performing distinct but similar roles. **Greeters** arrive 15-20 minutes early to welcome parishioners as they arrive and help visitors feel at home. **Ushers** arrive early to help seat people, organize a family to bring up the gifts and take up the collection. Although distinct they are our guests' first point of contact and provide a welcoming atmosphere. Time commitment: Weekly at one Mass.

Mass Coordinators arrive 20 - 30 minutes early and help set-up for Mass and ensure that all ministries are covered. Time commitment: One Mass a week.

Music Ministers enhances the Mass experience through music and song. Experienced pianists, guitar players and organists are required as well as strong singers to set the tone and lead the congregation in prayer. Time commitment: Two or three time a month.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism Preparation helps parents prepare for the Baptism of their child (children). Teaching and some sharing are tasks involved. Time commitment: One evening a month for a three month period, twice a year.

First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion classes provide formation to grade 2 students and above, and are held during the school year. Teachers and assistants are required. There are 6 to 7 classes that take place on the third Sunday of the month after the 10:30 Mass. Time commitment: All classes plus one or two meetings.

Confirmation classes provide formation to grade 6 students and above, and are held during the school year. Teachers and assistants are required. There are 6 to 7 classes that take place on the second Saturday of the month after the 4:30 Mass. Time commitment: All classes plus three meetings.

RCIA or Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is a program that provides education, guidance and mentoring of adults who wish to join the Catholic church. Leading discussions and sharing are part of tasks involves.

Time commitment: Twice a month meetings (October to April).

PARISH & COMMUNITY LIFE

Within our parish there are various groups and committees that work to keep everything functioning in our parish and in the community.

The Parish Pastoral Council is responsible for providing for the needs of the parish as a whole, working to ensure that the spiritual health of the parishioners is attended to. Recent focus includes ensuring that the needed catechetical and faith formation programs are provided, initiating monthly Coffee and Name Tag Sundays, coordinating the Parish Feast Day BBQ in September, and encouraging increased stewardship within the parish community. New members are needed to help with prayerful visioning, planning and implementation of these important aspects of parish life. Members should be fully initiated Catholics over the age of 16 who are registered with and practicing at the parish.

Time commitment: One meeting plus several hours a month.

Youth Group provides a safe place for our youth to pray, socialize and learn more about their faith. Leaders are needed to organize and facilitate these gatherings. Please speak to Father Paul if you are interested.

Time commitment: Flexible.

Ministers of Welcome for New Parishioners follow up with newly registered parishioners to provide them with a sense of belonging and information to help them become more involved in our parish family.

Time Commitment: Varies depending on the number of new parishioners.

TREASURE

There are over 2,300 verses in the Bible about money, possessions and the right use of them. Why is this? Perhaps because God knows our propensity to misuse money or allow it to distract us from keeping our eyes on him.

TITHING

When it comes to financial support of our church family, the biblical ideal is a tithe—or 10%—of one's income. Many Catholic Church leaders suggest giving at least 6% to church and 4% to charity. Most Catholics who tithe reach this ideal gradually. In this area of stewardship, one of the most important steps to consider is to become an 'intentional giver'—as opposed to a 'loose change giver.' An intentional giver is one who has the willing diligence to 'do the math,' that is, to look at his/her annual income and then prayerfully and intentionally decide what percentage to set aside for the support of the church and for charity.

CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

Within the Archdiocese of Ottawa, it is a priority to create safe and secure environments for all parishioners so that they feel welcome and protected. Therefore it is necessary that all volunteers who work with vulnerable populations, such as children and the elderly, to have police background checks done. These checks are free for volunteers. These checks are carried out by the OPP in Carleton Place. They take very little time and are an important part of keeping our parishioners and our community safe.

STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

*Generous and loving God,
You call us to be disciples
of your Son Jesus
and good stewards of 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 neighbour,
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.
We pray thorough Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

Bishop Robert Monroe

