



Dear Friend in Christ,

Most of us are thankful for the blessings we have in our lives. We have families we love; jobs that help us provide the necessities of daily living, good health, and friends, and freedom to live our lives. We are grateful to God, and want to express our gratitude. We are called to express our gratitude by using all our time, talent and worldly treasure in the right proportion. Stewardship begins with prayer: at home, with our family leading to the church, where we join together as a community of believers to receive Jesus Christ into our hearts during Eucharist.

Gratitude is an Attitude. It's a mindset of thankfulness and joy for the wonderful blessings in our lives, received as gifts from God. Our hearts and minds are lifted in joy when we reflect on the beauty and love surrounding us.

Gratitude can be hard to foster when we are experiencing struggles at the same time. We know stories of families who lost loved ones to cancer but found in their sorrow a faith community which assisted them in prayer and love. We know of families who struggle to pay monthly bills. We know families who came to rely on God's goodness and found their lives transformed.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus is our foundation of good stewardship; we are invited to love as Jesus loves. Acting in the name of Jesus, we are called to become a parish committed to stewardship; one that welcomes and involves others in the life of the parish. We work to foster a sense of belonging for all. We strive to nourish each other through prayer, strengthening our relationship with God and focusing on the Eucharist, the "source and summit of the Christian Life."

We support family-centered religious education with the weekly faith-formation of children, Youth Ministry for teenagers, and educational opportunities for adults. When we are committed to stewardship, we serve the many needs of its own parish family, as well as the needs of the larger community and the world. We help one other in living God's call to be faithful disciples.

Gratitude is reflecting on and being thankful for the blessings we receive from God. Acknowledge the goodness and love surrounding you. Tell your loved ones what they mean to you. Embrace them and be thankful for their presence in your life. Focus on love, and the source of love, which is God.

Please take some time to reflect on the gifts God has provided you and determine how you can share these gifts to serve others through our parish. Your gifts will make it possible to continue and expand the spiritual, sacramental, social and outreach ministries at our parish.

Thank you for your gift of yourself. You are the Church and together we will build up God's kingdom on earth and answer His call to **Stewardship** as *a way of living*. May God bless you for sharing your gifts in service to His Church.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Philip Wells, Pastor