



A Life OF Stewardship

The theme we have used for our stewardship appeal since I have been your pastor is **Sharing our Blessings**. This theme first reminds me to be mindful of how I am blessed. It helps me to focus on the good things in my life. I am reminded that one of the blessings I have is being able to share what I have received, to be a blessing for others.

My hope, as we enter into our stewardship appeal for 2015, is that you first take time to be mindful of how you are blessed and give thanks to God. Focus on the good in your life. Then consider how you can be a blessing for your parish and for others. You will receive a letter with a pledge card from me soon.

In 2015 give in the way you have been blessed. Support your parish financially, giving your time to the varied ministries going on here, and with your prayers.

In this newsletter you will find:

- ▶ A brief report on how people have responded to the call to stewardship in our parish and beyond.
- ▶ A look at how we are planning to grow our ministries.
- ▶ Testimonies from people who have learned to share their blessings.
- ▶ Opportunities for prayer and fellowship during the upcoming season of Lent.



Living Stewardship in 2015

Growing our Ministries

We have a good staff and good volunteers. There are a lot of good programs that happen here at Holy Spirit. Michelle Stewart is halfway through her first year as our Director of Religious Education. One weekend in the fall she made an announcement at the Masses that she still needed over 20 teachers. By the end of the weekend she had all of the teachers that she needed. That is stewardship.

Tom Kodera, our music director, invited people to start a choir for the 8:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. More than 30 people showed up for the first rehearsal. That is stewardship.

Staff Changes

Nancy Heifner, who works in our parish office, is leaving our staff in March to move to Pella, Iowa. She has been a blessing for our parish and we wish her well in her move. Terry Brunetti will be taking on additional hours in the parish office.

Ann Hayles has decided to move to part time on our staff. She will continue to direct the RCIA, do some Adult Faith Formation, and help parents to prepare their children to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

We are looking to hire someone to develop our youth ministry efforts.

Reaching out to the Larger Community

Our Stewardship efforts are not just about Holy Spirit Parish, but how we as a parish are a blessing for others.

Our Stewardship Committee moved the shopping cart to the middle of the narthex as a reminder for us to bring food for the hungry. The collection of food we deliver to Lee's Summit once a month has increased.

Our Spirit of Giving Program has adopted 30 families for Christmas in the past. This year the need increased and so did our response. Over 60 families were adopted.

We collected over \$5,000.00 for Heifer International during the Lent/Easter Season.

Once a month parishioners go to St. James Food Kitchen to serve a meal for the hungry.

These are some of the ways our parish has been a blessing for others.

Debt and Improvements

As of the end of December our debt dropped to \$5,694,793.00. Money given to our Mortgage debt reduction collection every month helps us continue to decrease our debt.

This year we were able to put in LED lighting for our parking lot thanks to a rebate from KCP&L, contributions from the parish golf tournament, and magnificent volunteers who installed them.

Ralph & Barbara Iseman

Ralph and Barbara have been members of Holy Spirit Parish since 1998. Belonging to a parish has always been an important part of their lives. For them belonging means that you are involved in the life of the parish. Over the years they have served on school boards, parish councils, been involved in fund raisers, doing those things that needed to be done in the parish.

Here at Holy Spirit Parish, Barbara is a Eucharistic Minister and Lector. Ralph is a member of the “Dirty Dozen” and the Knights of Columbus. It is not unusual to see him working on a project around the church. He told me that every parish he has been in he has built something.

When they were younger and raising their family (they have eight children living and one son who died shortly after birth) they wondered how they would be able to increase their contributions when asked. Over time they discovered they could raise their level of giving. They also found that blessings come from giving.

Sharing with others did not stop with the parish. They have given time to places like: Little Sisters of the Poor, Lee’s Summit Social Services, and St. James Food Kitchen. They volunteered at a Mission in Tucson. These are just some of the ways that they have shown themselves to be good stewards.



Rob & Ann Rastorfer

Rob and Ann Rastorfer have been members of Holy Spirit Parish since 2007. They have five children: Blaise, Grant, Luke, Eve, and Lorelei, ranging in ages from 10 to 3. Needless to say, raising five children involves a lot of stewardship. Yet they find time to be involved in the life of the parish.

Ann took training to be a teacher in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. She commented on how much she learns by being part of this program for our children. Rob volunteers time to help in the nursery during the 10:30 a.m. Mass. He wishes he could do more, but he went on to say, “if every family would do one thing to help our parish, think what a difference that would make.”





Holy Spirit Catholic Church

1800 S.W. 150 Highway, Lee's Summit, Missouri 64082

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Lent



Ash Wednesday, February 18	Masses at 8 a.m., 5 p.m., 7 p.m.
Lenten Weekday Masses	Evenings Tuesday & Thursday at 5:30 p.m., beginning February 19; Mornings Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 8:00 a.m.
Stations of the Cross	Fridays 5:30 p.m., beginning February 20. No Stations on March 27
Fish Fry	Fridays 5:30 p.m., beginning February 20. No Fish Fry on March 27
Sacrament of Reconciliation	Communal Service Wednesday evening, March 18 at 7:00 p.m.; Individually on Saturdays, 4:00-4:30 p.m.
Lenten Small Groups	Signups February 8 & 15; Book: <i>Tattoos on the Heart</i>
Palm Sunday, March 29	Palm Processions at all Masses March 28 & 29
Holy Week	Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday (March 29-April 5)
Holy Thursday, April 2	Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7:30 p.m.
Good Friday, April 3	Stations of the Cross at 3:00 p.m. Veneration of the Cross at 7:30 p.m.
Holy Saturday, April 4	Easter Vigil at 8:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday, April 5	Masses at 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.