

St. Edward Stewardship

the language of our faith, spoken through our actions!

Holiday Stewardship - 2009

During the Christmas season we all think about giving gifts. But as Christians we are called to be stewards, and stewardship goes beyond giving objects. It entails giving gifts of heart and mind and soul, as well as time, talent and treasure. This year, you and your family can better understand what it means to be wise stewards by applying seven basic principles of holiday stewardship.

Emphasize the spiritual. Take some time out of the hustle and bustle of holiday preparations to prepare spiritually. During Advent, our parish is having a Communal Penance service at 7:00 PM on December 10. Consider going as a family. Make a point to do some spiritual reading and set aside time to pray together as a family, perhaps at the end of the day before everyone goes to bed.

Make time for family. We think of the holidays as family time, yet practical preparations can sometimes take a toll on quality family time. Consider changing some holiday “chores” (such as decorating or shopping) into family events, in which everyone shares in the task. Schedule some downtime to spend together. Prioritize family meals, making sure to sit around the table together at dinnertime.

Count your blessings. At a time of the year when budgets get tighter and wish lists get longer, it’s tempting to focus on what you lack, rather than what you have. At mealtime and during family prayer time, consider taking turns naming blessings God has given your family.

Plan family acts of charity. Take time out as a family to help those who are less fortunate. This may mean helping in a soup kitchen or collecting and sorting items for a local food or toy drive. During the Christmas season, our parish has a “giving tree” from which families can take an ornament and purchase specific items for those in need. You can also sort through outgrown clothing and toys for items to donate to shelters or local drives.

Donate time or talent to our parish. Consider helping with parish events, such as the annual Christmas Bazaar and other charitable outreaches that support those in need. Are there family members with musical talent who want to participate in special music for Christmas Masses? Sign-up sheets will soon be available in the gathering space for those parishioners who are able to serve as lectors, altar servers and Eucharistic ministers for the Christmas and New Year’s Masses.

Include nonmaterial gifts when giving to family members and close friends. Children can give their parents coupons for extra help with household tasks. You may wish to make a donation to charity in honor of the person rather than buying them a gift.

Remember the true meaning of Christmas. Remembering “the reason for the season” can help you to put things in perspective. Christmas is about remembering and honoring God’s greatest gift, His only Son, and helping to bring Christ’s love into the world. In those moments when you feel overwhelmed by the holidays, ask yourself: “Is this a fitting way to remember Jesus’ birth?” or “Will this help to bring

God's love into the world (or to my family, parish, or community)?" Keeping this focus will help make Christmas a giving and deeply fulfilling experience for you and your family.



Welcome Table Spotlight

For this issue, the spotlight is on the Rosary Garden Committee. This committee is responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the beautiful Rosary Garden located on the church grounds. Please stop by the Welcome Table in December where members of the committee will be available to provide more information and answer your questions.

WELCOME TABLE CALENDAR

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| December | Rosary Garden |
| January | St. Vincent de Paul |
| February | St. Edward Preschool |
| March | Men's Faith-Sharing Group |
| April | Funeral Lunches |
| May | Adult Bible Study |
| June | Hospitality/Ushers |
| July | Women of St. Edward |
| August | Religious Education Office |

Stewardship Ministry – What We Do!

The role of the Stewardship Ministry is to foster a spirit of giving. We are always looking for people to help us in our efforts. If you are interested in joining us, please contact the parish office or any member of the Stewardship Ministry: Amy Amspaugh, Dave Conway, Ivan Hall, Ruby Hall, Nancy Hughes, Bev Knoderer, Suz Shook, Julie Waggoner, Ted Waggoner, Merilee Wagner, and Whitney Wermter.