

Stewardship Ministry Team
Meeting Notes
August 29, 2016

Stewardship Treasure Commitment Weekend: **Brainstorming**
November 5-6, 2016

October 22-23 and 29-30: Include in Announcements after Mass (can be in Bulletin, too).

“St. Thomas’ Annual Treasure Commitment Weekend is November 5-6. In preparing for the weekend, we ask Parishioners to take time to reflect upon our many gifts and blessings and come to Mass prepared to put our monthly financial commitment in writing.”

“Our parish and staff are very grateful for your support which allows us to carry out our faith mission in serving families and students. Your financial support helps keep the lights on, employs an outstanding and dedicated staff, and serves those who desperately need our help.”

October Announcements:

I (we) could ask every staff member how they could expand and improve their programs and better serve the community with ten (10) percent increase in budget. (Share this with Parishioners in announcements after Mass and in Bulletin.)

Include a prayer and say THANKS!” In order to continue to carry out and expand our mission, we ask all who are able to consider increasing your monthly offering by ten (10) percent. An increase in funding is required annually in order to maintain and grow our programs, our infrastructure, and achieve our mission.

Additionally, we ask that all Parishioners pray for the success of our Commitment Weekend.

For all three weekends, (**October 22-23, 29-30, and November 5-6**) set up double sided display signs in each hallway and in the gathering space.

Annual Stewardship Treasure Commitment Weekend
Nov 5-6, 2016

Please prepare for our “Annual Treasure Commitment” weekend by reflecting upon God’s many gifts and blessings.

With a sense of gratitude for these gifts, please come to Mass prepared to put your monthly financial commitment in writing.

Thank you,
Stewardship Committee

Stewardship Commitment Card Nov 5-6

STA Stewardship Declaration

“With a sense of gratitude, good stewards acknowledge their God-given blessings and respond to the Gospel message by graciously sharing those blessings with others.”

After reflection and careful discernment, I/we commit to sharing our blessings with our STA Community. My (our) monthly contribution will be: \$ _____

Note: This card is not to be collected, but taken home. (Commitment is personal and this may even lead to more reflection and discussion.)

I think it is important that we actually “hand out” the cards (same as Name Tag Sunday)...Not set them “at the end of the pew.”

Stewardship Follow-Up throughout the Year (MAKE STEWARDSHIP VISIBLE!)

1. On a monthly basis, communicate parish “accomplishments”/highlights achieved with “Sharing of Treasure”
2. Include financial support dollars vs previous year
3. Extend appreciation

Several ideas were discussed. Including:

- Having different speaker for each mass, so people know the speaker better.
- Would likely be hard to coordinate that many speakers and have consistent message.
- Need to have clear goal for what we wanted parishioners to give and what increased funds would be used. This likely will come from the Parish mission statement and vision matrix, but discussing with Fr. Jon and/or parish council is recommended
- Weekend before Sacrificial Giving Appeal have Stewardship be the spotlight.
- Possibly, incorporate visualizing of stewardship activities in the parish.
 - Have packets with three colors of sticky notes and pencils at the end of each pew. Have parishioners identify their “best/favorite/most common” time, talent or treasure activity they completed previous year.
 - Time yellow sticky note,
 - Talent blue sticky note
 - Treasure purple sticky notes
 - Have parishioners stick them on large wall hanging type poster on the way out. Have this next to the Story wall and call it the “Parish Stewardship Story.”
- For Sacrificial Giving Appeal ask everyone to donate X (5 or 10) dollars more on the Sunday of appeal. This would need to be put in the bulletin for two weeks before this and mentioned at the Stewardship highlight the weekend before. Maybe have a catch phrase to market it, e.g. “\$5 or 10, Do it again.”
- Importance of students being a part of the parish means responsibility of support.
- Calculate “extra” money collected that Sacrificial Giving Appeal weekend and link it with specific goal?
- Importance of follow up and report
- Who should make the actual appeal at Masses?
 - **Suggested names**
 - Fr. Charles
 - Roman Lynch
 - John Moore
 - Patrick Clem indicated he would be willing in the future, but not this year.
- What are the preliminary steps before the appeal?
- Roman will be speaking with Fr. Jon about goals and feedback on ideas.
- Need to determine if visualizing of stewardship activity doable
- Decide who best to do the appeal and clarify if marketing idea is acceptable

Next meeting to discuss these ideas and finalize a plan: September 19 – 7pm