

# Time, Talent and Treasure

While pastoral leaders often speak of stewardship in terms of Time, Talent and Treasure, the truth is that stewardship involves *all* of human 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

The Christian steward is one who receives God’s gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord. (**Stewardship, a Disciple’s Response**, the USCCB)

## 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?*** Henry David Thoreau once said: *“It is not enough to be busy, so are ants. The question is what are we busy about?”*

## Talent

We have all been blessed with various talents, whether we are aware of it or not, or whether we have developed our talents or not. Ideally, we can and should develop some of them and use them wisely to bless and enhance the Catholic communities we belong to. Stroll through our website (**MENU** drop down box) for ways you can share your Time and Talent with your church family.

## 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.

When it comes to financial support of our church family our Bishop requests sharing 5% to your parish, 4% to local and national charities and 1% to the diocese. 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* should be set aside for the support of the church and for charity. To help and encourage ‘intentional giving’ our parish offers **On Line Giving**, (access to this service can be found on the opening page of our website).

*Generous financial giving helps to make us a little more like our good and generous God.*