



Rooted in Faith Growing to Serve

Saint Mary - Marne - 1852

The parish of Saint Mary in Marne is nearly the oldest parish in the Diocese of Grand Rapids. The families that founded our parish were dirt poor immigrants, scratching out a living in a new country. Yet they found it in themselves to build a community (not just a building) where they could worship the Lord, in both word and deed, for themselves and their children and their children's children. We are here because of their stewardship.

Once one chooses to become a disciple of Jesus Christ, stewardship is not an option! What is stewardship? Simply put, it's receiving, developing, sharing, and returning God's gifts. It is being Christ-like. That's what love is.

Stewardship is about taking responsibility for the gifts that God has given us (which is everything) and using them well. We are stewards, not owners, of the life God has entrusted to us. We are called to give back to God through our time, talents, and treasure. The spirituality of stewardship flows from authentic discipleship. This means if we claim to follow Jesus, we should be striving to live as good stewards. God has given us everything we need to go on the mission, to make disciples of all nations. Our gifts are meant to be generously shared, not hoarded. Stewardship calls us to make God the priority in all areas of our lives. This is a way of living, not a temporary parish program. God never stops giving. Our opportunities to respond from the heart are endless.

That's why stewardship is a way of life and a lifelong source of grace and deepening spirituality. We all receive very unique gifts specific to us, entering the personal mission God sent us on. These gifts include each minute of the day, our skills and abilities, our families, our homes, our finances, our jobs, and even our personalities and passions. With these gifts, we're called to grow and share them out of gratitude. If we hoard them or do nothing with them, we waste the gifts God has entrusted to us. Once we understand and embrace this idea, everything changes.

You are called to be a disciple, a follower of Jesus Christ. Accepting this invitation to be a disciple isn't just a one-time event, it's a daily conscious decision. This is about God's plan for your life. Did you know that when we give back to God, He multiplies our gifts? Remember when the little boy in John's Gospel offered his five barley loaves and two fish to feed the thousands? Jesus took this small offering, blessed it, multiplied it, and then fed the massive crowd. And there were leftovers! This miracle happened through the generosity of one little person.

Stewardship is a lifestyle that reflects who we are and what we believe. It goes beyond the mere sharing of one's resources but asks us to share ourselves: our time, our abilities and ministry, and our relationships. Stewardship is really a call to be a holy people. Stewardship is the disciple's response. What is your response?

Sharing our Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure

Please complete one form annually per family and return to the parish office.

Family Name: _____ **Parishioner Envelope Number:** _____

Members Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

Address: _____

Primary Phone: _____ **Primary Email Address:** _____

Please list Member's name in the Ministries that are of interest to you. A ministry volunteer will contact you.
For Descriptions of these ministries, please see the TOGETHER WE SERVE booklet or contact the Parish Office.

Ministry	Interested Member's Name
Adoration	
Advent Giving Tree	
Altar Server	
Bible Study	
Coffee & Donuts Server	
Collection Counter	
Eucharistic Minister	
Finance Council	
Funeral Luncheon	
Gift Bearer	
God's Kitchen	
Hospitality Minister	
Knights of Columbus	

Ministry	Interested Member's Name
Lector	
Mentor of Marriage Preparation	
Musician	
Our Lady of Fatima Guild	
Parish Social Committee (PICNIC)	
Pastoral Council	
Prayer Line	
Religious Education / VBS	
Respect Life / 40 Days for Life	
Sacristan	
Worship & Environment Committee	

