



# Stewardship System Resources

*January 2021*

Hello,

This is a good time to look ahead to 2021 and firm up your stewardship plans for the year. I hope the information in this month's Stewardship System will be helpful to you.

Since our goal is to assist churches in their stewardship ministry, we hope you will use this Stewardship System material as you wish. The bulletin inserts, stewardship article, Insight, committee agenda... all may be copied and inserted in bulletins, meeting plans, etc. And of course pass it on to stewardship committees and volunteers at your church, as well as to friends at other churches.

And if you're planning to do a capital campaign to catch up from time lost in 2020, or wondering if it would be feasible, or even just wondering... [let us know](#). We're ready to assist you in all your stewardship endeavors.

Peace,

Sincerely,  
Denis Greene  
President  
Church Development

## Monthly Stewardship Committee Agenda January 2021

**Instructions:** use this agenda template to run your monthly stewardship committee meeting. Transfer the content to a Word document. You may modify or adjust the agenda as needed. Add your church logo and print a copy of the agenda for each committee member. The chair of your committee should lead the meeting.

Stewardship Committee Agenda

[Enter your church's logo here]

[Enter the Date Here]

1. Open in prayer
2. Read Acts 2:46-47: *Day by day, as they spent time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.*
3. Discussion Questions: The quotation from Acts takes us back to the very beginning of the Christian community. More than likely, these early Christians were expecting the quick return of Jesus, and so had little reason to make extensive plans for the future. Now, these many years later, while we can still anticipate his return, we know its time is uncertain... so planning for the future is part of our task. As we start 2021, perhaps the Stewardship Committee could ask these questions:
  - a. Do we have a stewardship calendar in place for 2021? If so, does it need revision?
  - b. Have we given thought to one or two "new ideas" for this year's stewardship?
  - c. Even though last year's annual campaign is probably just finished and this year's appeal is far away, are we devoting time and energy to ongoing stewardship education?
3. Review Action Items from last meeting
4. Read this month's Stewardship System Insight provided by Church Development
5. View Stewardship System training video.
6. Review your [Stewardship System Checklist](#)
  - a. Determine action for any stewardship culture building activities for the month
  - b. Determine action for next special appeal letter.
  - c. Monthly Stewardship System Checklist
    - i. Place stewardship inserts in bulletin
    - ii. Recruit layperson to give stewardship testimony
    - iii. Place article in newsletter
    - iv. Set date for next month's Committee Meeting
7. Update on status of annual stewardship campaign efforts.
8. New items of business
9. Close in prayer

## Stewardship System Insight January 2021

### New Year's Resolutions

Did you make a resolution for 2020? You know, to lose weight, work out, be a better dad (mom, husband, wife, partner, etc.), go to church more often, and so on. If you did, you're part of the 40% of Americans who typically make a New Year's Resolution.

That's the good news. The not-so-good news: a number of measures say that about 8% of people who make a resolution report success in keeping it. Certainly the unique situations of 2020 impacted all of our plans. Yet, even in adversity there is always room to grow. In fact, lots of resolutions could easily fall into the category of stewardship activities.

Use the tips below to set New Year's Resolutions related to being a steward of God's gifts.

**First:** Keep it simple. Big world-changing plans seldom pan out. Instead, set "small, attainable goals throughout the year, rather than a singular, overwhelming goal," according to psychologist Lynn Bufka. "Remember, it is not the extent of the change that matters, but rather the act of recognizing that lifestyle change is important and working toward it, one step at a time.

**Second:** Be specific. Instead of resolving to be 'more attentive' to the needs of those around you, determine to do a charitable act 3 times a week. And figure out a way to measure and record your success.

**Third:** Tell people. This is a case where you want to let your light shine before others, because that will help you keep your light lit. You'll get positive reinforcement and encouragement that can make the difference between success and failure. And when you're successful, tell people. You're not bragging, it's all about accountability. Emory University did a study that showed that couples who elope are more than 12 times more likely to divorce than couples who throw a wedding with more than 200 guests. In fact, the more wedding guests you have, the more likely you are to stay together as a couple. Why? Well, of course there could be a lot of reasons, but one reason is that saying "till death do us part" in front of 200+ wedding guests makes you accountable to them, and gives those guests a larger stake in your success.

So... congratulations on making a resolution for the New Year, and congratulations on your success in achieving it!

## Monthly Leadership Training Video:

### [What is the Role of Prayer in Stewardship](#)

**Instructions:** show this video during your monthly stewardship committee meeting. These video clips will provide meaningful training for your team.

All Church Development training videos are now available on [YouTube](#) and the [Resources page of our Website](#). Note: you will need internet access to view this video. You may also need projection equipment and sound system for acceptable viewing quality.

## Monthly Stewardship Newsletter Article – [January 2021](#)

**Instructions:** place this article in your monthly church newsletter under a “Stewardship Column” heading. You might title the column: “Stewardship Corner” or “Time, Talents, and Treasures.”

### A New Year of Gratitude

Stewardship is our response to an awareness of gratitude. It’s our way of acknowledging all that we are and have, and then sharing part of that with others

As we start this new year, we hope you’ll resolve once again to share your gifts with others: with your family, of course, but also with the people you worship with, work with, live near and those in need who live both near and far.

Thank you for your stewardship for our church community in 2020 and in the year now starting.

Happy New Year.

## Weekly Bulletin Inserts – January 2021

### CATHOLIC BULLETIN INSERTS

**January 3, 2021**

**Epiphany**

*“Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?” Matthew 2:1-2*

Many of us are like the wise men, searching for the child, searching for a sign, an epiphany, an experience of God’s presence. Like all wise ones, let us keep our eyes, minds and hearts open during this new year, looking for God in new and unexpected ways.

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**January 10, 2021**

**Baptism of the Lord**

*“John proclaimed, “One mightier than I is coming after me.” Mark 1:7*

As we prepare to live out this new year, we want to acknowledge that we follow Jesus, the one who is more powerful and yet the one who came in humility and poverty. He is the one we proclaim as God’s son, yet he lived simply and died violently. We, his followers, have been baptized into his mission of justice and peace.

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**January 17, 2021**

**2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*“When Jesus turned and saw the men following him, he asked them, “What are you looking for?” John 1:38*

It’s a good question: what are we looking for? Hopefully we’re looking for our unique and special way to follow Jesus. Each of us are stewards of the kingdom of God, but each of us has unique and special gifts to share with God’s people.

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**January 24, 2021**

**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Jesus said to Simon and his brother Andrew, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. Mark 1:17-18*

A person once asked a friend, “When did you decide to follow Jesus?” And the friend answered, “This morning!” The decision to live the Christian life is ratified by the decisions we make each and every day. The decision to reach out in love and respect to our world and our sisters and brothers is a daily choice.

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**January 31, 2021**

**4th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*(Jesus and the apostles) went to Capernaum. When the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught, and they were astounded at his teaching.” Mark 1:21-22*

We who are stewards of Jesus’ kingdom continue to be astounded at his teaching. We are astounded each time we reflect upon his words and realize the great mission to which we are being called. We are invited to a life of care and concern for one another. How are we to live out that call?

## REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY (PROTESTANT) BULLETIN INSERTS

**January 3, 2021**

**2nd Sunday After Christmas**

*"He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him." John 1:10*

As we prepare to live out this new year, we look at the ways in which we still need to learn about who God is. The one who came in humility and poverty to be rejected by the world. We resolve to come to know Jesus more fully this new year and seek to heal the parts of ourselves that reject him.

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**January 17, 2021**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

*Nathanael said to Philip, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip responded, "Come and see." John 1:46*

Jesus the Nazarean proved to be surprising in many ways, despite his start in the backwater hamlet of Nazareth. Nathanael was only the first to discover that God was present in Jesus in a way that would change Nathanael's life. Our lives too are being changed daily by the many ways we faithfully follow Jesus.

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## Monthly Stewardship Testimony January 2021

**Instructions:** Have a lay person deliver a stewardship testimony this month. For your convenience, we have provided guidelines for the person giving the testimony to follow. You may want to have this person touch base with the pastor or the person in charge of service programming to go over the testimony prior to delivery. Use this script or share a similar stewardship-related vignette during services on the first Sunday of the month.

### Stewardship Campaign Testimony Guidelines

Thank you for agreeing to share your stewardship testimony at a service this month. This is a great opportunity to show how God has used giving to help you grow spiritually and help build His Kingdom. We greatly appreciate your willingness to assist our stewardship training efforts so others will also grow in the grace of giving.

These guidelines are provided to help you prepare your remarks. If you have questions, please contact your pastor or priest. God's blessings to you as you share.

1. **Suggested length:** your testimony should be two to three minutes long.
  - 1.1. Please time yourself prior to sharing so that you are certain your comments will fit the time frame.
2. **What to talk about:** Make sure to start your talk by including a definition of "What is stewardship?"
  - 2.1. Personal stories are always best.
  - 2.2. Recount the ways in which you've been blessed.
  - 2.3. Please share from the heart about why you give of your time, talent, and treasure.
3. **Where you will stand:** please come to the front of the church and the pastor will provide you with a microphone.
4. **During what part of the service will I speak?** You will share just before the sermon.
5. **What other tips can you give me to help deliver a successful testimony?**
  - 5.1. Speak clearly and at an easy pace.
  - 5.2. Look at your audience
  - 5.3. Share from the heart
  - 5.4. Animate your voice
  - 5.5. Tell stories
  - 5.6. Practice beforehand
6. **Sample Testimony:**
  - 6.1. My giving journey began when I was in college. I was working at Little Caesar's Pizza earning a check for the first time. I attended a Christian Rock Concert where they were promoting sponsoring a child in a third world country. When I looked at my take home pay, I realized that the monthly sponsorship cost was equal to about 10% of my earnings. For \$20 a month, a child would receive food, clothes, education, and Christian training. I felt very strongly that God was

calling me to do it, so I sent off for a packet and received a picture of Pierre Juanil, a little Haitian boy. From that day on I was hooked on giving. It was so great to see the impact even a small donation could make, and since that day, I have always given 10% or more of my monthly income to groups that do God's work. The bible says that if you sow generously, you will reap generously, and I can say that I've found this to be true. God has blessed me for giving obediently, and the real reward has been that I've grown in my faith and grown closer to Him. I hope this year's stewardship campaign will be a moment where your life intersects with God's plan and you experience the joy of giving.

Congratulations! You have completed all the tasks for this month's Stewardship System. Have your committee follow-up any action items as needed. We will send next month's information two weeks before the first day of the month.

If you have questions, or if we can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us [via our website](#) or through our Stewardship System hotline at: 816-333-8111.