



# Stewardship System Resources

*February 2021*

Hello,

It's hard to believe that the season of Lent is just about upon us.

Lent is a special time of stewardship. Some churches, though not too many, conduct annual appeals during Lent. But for most churches, Lent is a time of spiritual generosity, and all of us at Church Development join you in walking through this holy season.

As always, [let us know](#) how we can be of assistance to you in your stewardship ministry,

Sincerely,  
Denis Greene  
President  
Church Development

## Monthly Stewardship Committee Agenda February 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
  - a. Read Matthew 6:1-6, 19-21 (below is a small portion): *Jesus said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*
  - b. Discussion Questions: Lent begins Feb 17. Matthew 6:1-6, 18-21 is one of the lectionary readings for Ash Wednesday, and it encourages the three traditional Lenten activities of fasting (some type of self-restraint), prayer (time with God and self) and almsgiving (care for others, especially the needy). The Stewardship Committee may want to discuss questions like these:
    - i. Do you think stewardship and lent are connected?
    - ii. Can this season of lent be an opportunity for stewardship formation?
    - iii. Where is our treasure?
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 February 2021

### 8 Major Benefits of a Feasibility Study

A pre-campaign feasibility study offers church leaders a deep understanding of church members and helps facilitate successful capital campaigns. In addition to measuring the likely levels of financial commitments, a properly conducted feasibility study discovers the congregation's level of support for the church and its ministries, the pastoral and volunteer leadership, and the proposed fundraising effort.

Churches often assume they already understand their members' willingness to support a capital campaign. In an effort to curtail costs, a church might forego conducting a feasibility study. This decision limits the church's ability to set a realistic goal, capture valuable opinions and desires of church members, and include members in the planning and executing of a capital campaign.

### 8 Major Benefits of a Feasibility Study

- Informs and Educates Church Members
- Captures the Input of Key Church Leaders through Personal Contact
- Involves All Members of the Congregation
- Captures Key Issues Important to Church Members
- Analyzes Internal Giving Trends
- Researches the Demographics of the Area Served by the Church
- Identifies Potential Campaign Volunteers
- Evaluates the Potential to Reach a Specific Goal

#### **1. Informs and Educates Church Members**

A feasibility study communicates the church's initial vision and rationale for a capital campaign. Through their participation in the assessment, members' knowledge and understanding of the church's vision expands. The interactive approach of a Church Development feasibility study helps members begin the process of building a stronger commitment to the church.

#### **2. Captures the Input of Key Church Leaders**

A successful capital campaign depends on good leadership. Your current church leaders will become the principal advocates of your capital campaign. Personal interviews to capture the thoughts and opinions of these important leaders prior to the campaign. In our feasibility studies, we aim to interview between 30-100 church leaders.

#### **3. Involves All Members of the Congregation**

A feasibility study illustrates to church members that their input matters. It invites them to help craft the church's vision and plans. Through a written or online survey, all church members can participate in the feasibility study in a way that is convenient and comfortable for them. This process strengthens the sense of belonging and identity with church, which is healthy for church communities!

#### **4. Captures Key Issues Important to Church Members**

How to successfully plan and execute a capital campaign depends largely on the attitudes of the church's members. A feasibility study captures their opinions, hopes, and frustrations. It is a useful tool for gauging levels of satisfaction and support. This information is used to plan a campaign that addresses the needs of the congregation.

#### **5. Analyzes Internal Giving Trends**

No church should embark on a capital campaign without first understanding its own giving history and potential. Our standard practice is research-based; we carefully analyze trends in the church's contributions, membership, and general growth to understand the full picture of the culture of stewardship in the church, not just looking at how much money is coming in.

#### **6. Researches the Demographics of the Area Served by the Church**

To better understand the church's geographic environment, the likely home of many church members, our final report includes a breakdown of the area's socio-economic statistics. To be able to reach your neighbors you have to know who they are and where they are coming from.

#### **7. Identifies Potential Campaign Volunteers**

An important part of the feasibility study explores the willingness of members to serve on campaign committees. The responses provide a means to identify committee chair persons and members. This information is invaluable as any community-based campaign takes lots of volunteers. The statistics make it clear that your success hinges on the participation of volunteers.

#### **8. Evaluates the Potential to Reach a Specific Goal**

The feasibility study gauges the overall support and likely level of financial commitment to a capital campaign. In rare cases, the study may predict that members will not support a campaign without additional church visioning, planning, and communication efforts. Most of the time, a realistic goal is clear and sets the church up for success.

## Monthly Leadership Training Video:

### *Involving Volunteers*

**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 online in a video library format. The site can be found under the Resources main menu tab on the website. [Click here to view the video library](#). 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 – February 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.”

### Lent 2021

Lent is a great stewardship season. It’s a season of prayer, restraint and self-giving. It invites us to reflect on what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ and how we can live that mission every day.

So we wish you a great Lent and pray it will lead to spiritual growth for you and for all the members of our church family. Thank you for walking with us in this journey of faith.

## Weekly Bulletin Inserts – February 2021

### CATHOLIC BULLETIN INSERTS

**February 7, 2021**

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*When Simon and his companions found Jesus, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.”* Mark 1:37

People today continue to search for Jesus, for his message, his encouragement, his presence. As stewards, our task is to make Jesus present by what we say, what we do, how we act, how we support, how we love.

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**February 14, 2021**

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*A leper... said to Jesus, ‘If you choose, you can make me clean.’ Moved with pity, Jesus...said to him, ‘I do choose. Be made clean!’* Mark 1:40-41

It is a matter of choice! We each decide how we want to live out our Christian calling. The important thing is that we take the prayerful time to choose.

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**February 21, 2021**

**First Sunday of Lent**

*After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”* Mark 1:14-15

The annual experience of Lent offers us a wonderful opportunity to focus more clearly on God’s kingdom. We are stewards of that kingdom, and it comes into the world partially through the ways we proclaim and live it.

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**February 28, 2021**

**Second Sunday of Lent**

*Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good that we are here!”* Mark 9:5

It is good for us to be here, in this season of Lent. Let’s strengthen our resolve to be present to this holy time, to take advantage of this opportunity to pray more, care more, love more.

## REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY (PROTESTANT) BULLETIN INSERTS

**February 7, 2021**

**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

*When Simon and his companions found Jesus, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." Mark 1:37*

People today continue to search for Jesus, for his message, his encouragement, his presence. As stewards, our task is to make Jesus present by what we say, what we do, how we act, how we support, how we love.

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**February 14, 2021**  
**Sunday**

**Transfiguration**

*Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here." Mark 9:5*

It is good for us to be here, in this season of Lent. Let's strengthen our resolve to be present to this holy time, to take advantage of this opportunity to pray more, care more, love more.

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**February 21, 2021**

**First Sunday of Lent**

*And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." Mark 1:10-11*

Jesus was fully present to the world happening around him. He noticed small and large signs of his Father's presence and love for him. Let us become more aware daily of the Father's love for us and our identities as Beloved during this Lenten season.

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**February 28, 2021**

**Second Sunday of Lent**

*Jesus rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." Mark 8:33*

Often we can get so caught up in the chaos and anxieties of this world that we forget for whom and what we are living. How can I turn my attention from the distractions of this world to the things of God?

## Monthly Stewardship Testimony February 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.