

How Much of My Gifts Should I Return to the Lord?

The best measure can be found in Scripture:

*Much will be required;
and from everyone
to whom much has been given
and from the one
to whom much has been entrusted,
even more will be demanded.*

(Luke 12:48)

We need to remember that everything we have is a gift from God, and the way to share His love is to share freely of ourselves. In that light, we should be cheerful givers of our time, talent, and treasure, knowing that our actions are what is good and right.

How can I learn more about Stewardship opportunities within the parish?

Review our parish Ministry Directory for detailed information on our ministries and contact names. You can also call the Parish Office at 978-443-2647.



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Our Lady of Fatima Parish



Gifts Discernment Guide

Our Unique Gifts

*There are different gifts
but the same Spirit;
there are different ministries
but the same Lord;
there are different works
but the same God
who accomplishes all of them in
everyone.*

*To each person
the manifestation of the Spirit
is given for the common good.*

(1 Corinthians 12)

Sharing our Unique Gifts

Compassion, reverence, musical talent, spirituality, financial acumen, leadership, administrative skills, guidance. Each of us has been gifted in some unique way, and at the heart of stewardship is the belief that all of these unique gifts flow from God, the Source of all.

As Christian stewards, we:

- Receive God's gifts gratefully
- Cultivate them responsibly
- Share them lovingly in justice with others, and
- Return them with increase to the Lord.

Share the blessings of your God-given gifts and talents with your family, your parish family, and your community. You can literally change lives. Explore yourself, and discover the unique gifts God has given you.

Discovering Your Gifts

Being able to discover one's own gifts is an essential step in the stewardship of talent. Some find it a bit uncomfortable at first; after all, haven't we been taught not to be boastful? But Jesus tells us that "no one

after lighting a lamp puts it under a bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven"

(Matthew 5:15-16)

Discerning Your Ministry

Discernment involves opening ourselves to the working of the Holy Spirit. It asks us to let go of preconceived ideas of our talents and capabilities so that we can be open to new possibilities and new ministries. It asks us to be still and listen for God's calling. When we regularly pray about our gifts and how God is calling us to use them, we are more likely to be fulfilled in our lives.

Properly matching one's unique gifts to a particular ministry can heighten the spiritual experience and enhance lifelong discipleship.

To help you determine the ministry best-suited to you, consider the following:

- Your occupation/profession
- Your talents and skills
- Your personality traits and preferences
- The amount of time you can commit
- The gifts and strengths others say they see in you

Matching Talent to Ministry

Here are some examples of talents and traits which might be good matches for specific ministry groupings:

Liturgy Ministries:

Spirituality
Musical talent
Reverence, awe
Welcoming, warmth
Tradition-oriented

Faith Formation Ministries:

Teaching
Counseling, guidance
Mentoring
Spirituality

Social Outreach Ministries:

Compassion, warmth
Empathy
Concern for social justice
Helper, friend

Guidance/Administrative Ministries:

Strategic, goal-oriented
Dependability, stability
Efficiency
Thoroughness
Logical, analytical

Affiliated Ministries:

Community-oriented
Social concern
Event coordination