

CALLED *to* SERVE

“FOR I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD, I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME DRINK, A STRANGER AND YOU WELCOMED ME, NAKED AND YOU CLOTHED ME, ILL AND YOU CARED FOR ME, IN PRISON AND YOU VISITED ME.” MATTHEW 25:35-36



ST. MARTHA'S PARISH
2023-24 Stewardship Handbook



STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

O Lord, giver of life and source of freedom, I know that all I have received is from Your hand. Gracious and loving God, You call us to be stewards of Your abundance, the caretakers of all You have entrusted to us. Help us to always use Your gifts wisely and teach us to share them generously. Send the Holy Spirit to work through us, bringing Your message to those we serve. May our faithful stewardship bear witness to the love of Jesus Christ in our lives. We pray with grateful hearts, in Jesus' name.

AMEN.



CALLED TO SERVE

“As I have done, so you must also do.” These were Christ’s words after He washed His apostle’s feet at the last supper. In this dramatic moment, Jesus called His followers to a life of humility and service. Helping others, especially the poor, is how we follow Christ’s command “to love your neighbor as yourself.”

During our Stewardship Renewal, we are focusing on the importance of service and having the heart of a servant. A servant goes where his master leads and responds without hesitation, ready and willing to do the will of the Master. With the right disposition, we can be ready for action when opportunity arises.

As many of us have discovered, service to others leads to peace and joy; we find that we are truly blessed when we give of ourselves. During this year’s Stewardship Renewal, let us turn to Christ for the grace to serve as He served and to love as He loved.



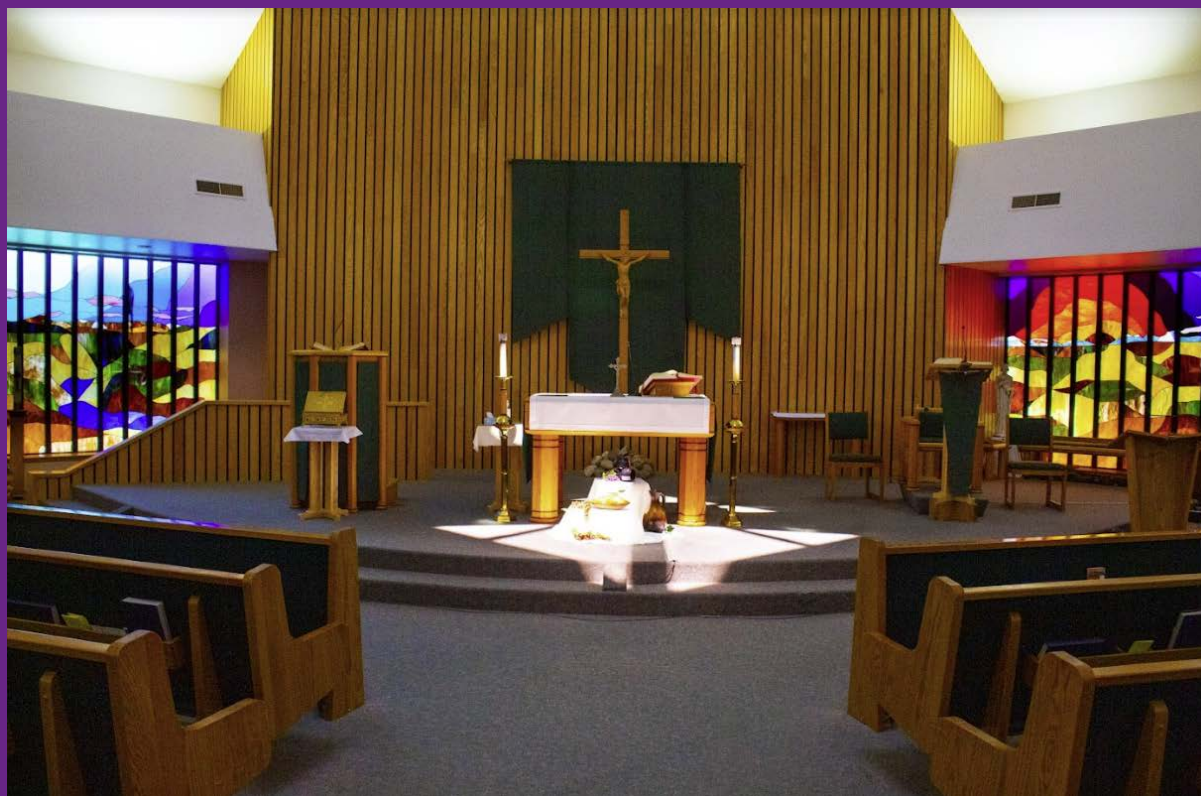
“AS EACH ONE HAS RECEIVED A GIFT, USE IT TO SERVE ONE ANOTHER AS GOOD STEWARDS OF GOD’S VARIED GRACE. WHOEVER SERVES, LET IT BE WITH THE STRENGTH THAT GOD SUPPLIES, SO THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD MAY BE GLORIFIED THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.” 1 PETER 4:10-11

THE LANGUAGE OF A SERVANT

PRAYER

Prayer is the life-blood of a true disciple of Christ. Without a healthy relationship with our Savior, we can't hope to know His perfect will or the depths of His love. Take time in daily prayer with God, asking Him how you can best serve others. As you discern how God is calling you to give of your time this year, ask Him to transform your heart into that of a servant.

"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path." – Psalm 119:105



WAYS TO PRAY:

- ❖ Pope Francis' encouragement is to read the daily readings of the Catholic Church found at <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings>, asking God how He would have you apply them to your life.
- ❖ Spend 5 minutes each morning, thanking Him for the ways He has graciously blessed you and then asking Him for help with your struggles.
- ❖ Pray with your children each night before bed, giving each family member an opportunity to pray for something and concluding with an *Our Father*, *Hail Mary* and the *Glory Be*.
- ❖ Download and utilize Catholic phone and tablet apps, such as iBreviary, Magnificat, The Pope App or Divine Office.

THE ACTIONS OF A SERVANT

TALENTS

Talents are the gifts God has given us that enable us to serve Him. All talents or skills that we have can be used to give God glory and are equally important in His eyes. During this year's Stewardship Renewal, consider your own talents and ask God how you can best use them to serve Him through His people.

ACTION STEPS TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN SERVICE

- ❖ Pray about how the gifts God has given you can best be used to serve others.
- ❖ Use your Commitment Card to find a ministry that will help you grow personally in understanding the faith as well as serving others.
- ❖ Commit to being faithful to God through those you serve in word and deed.



"Incline my heart according to your will, Oh God." — The Divine Office

THE SERVANT'S GIFT

TREASURE

In just the same way that we have received the gifts of time and talent from God, so have we received our treasure. While many of us have worked hard to earn the money in our pockets, His gifts to us are what have enabled us to do so. In grateful appreciation for His gifts to us, we are called to give our best, our “first fruits”, back to Him.

At our parish, we give to God in accordance with the scriptural tithe, and ask parishioners to give a percent of their income to God through the offertory, to other charities, and to the diocese. In this way, we entrust our plans and ourselves in a unique way to God and His providence in our lives. By placing Him first in our finances, we show Him that He is more important than any of the material goods we have in this world, and give Him power over all in our lives.

REASONS TO TITHE: WHY GIVE A PERCENTAGE OF INCOME?

We give because the tithe (which means 10% of one's harvest or income) is a Scriptural benchmark that the Church has honored for centuries (see Malachi 3:10).

“In this is love: not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.” – 1 John 4:10



WAYS TO GIVE GENEROUSLY TO GOD:

- ❖ Take a look at your current budget and spending habits and assess what expenses are preventing you from giving more selflessly.
- ❖ Commit to giving a percentage of your income to God through the parish offertory and be faithful to your tithing commitment, even when you attend mass elsewhere.

THE SERVANT'S COMMITMENT

STEWARDSHIP INVOLVES COMMITMENT

All parishioners are encouraged to participate in our annual Stewardship Renewal. Please take the time to review the materials in this packet, and prayerfully consider how you can offer Christ a portion of your time, talent and treasure this year. Then, take a few moments to fill out the enclosed Commitment Card. The Commitment Card enables you to make a written commitment to God of how and where you desire to place Him first.

*Please return the completed card during Mass on the weekend of November 19/20.
Thank you for your participation in the life of our parish community!*



2023 Ministry Catalog

PARISH ADMINISTRATION

FINANCE COUNCIL

Chair: Anthony Rodzinyak – a.rodzinyak.leth@gmail.com

As an advisory council to the pastor, the Finance Council prepares the budget, reviews financial statements, reviews regular audits, monitors the overall financial condition of the parish, and provides advice and guidance to the pastor in the administration of parish assets. Parishioners with accounting, financial, legal, banking and/or administrative expertise are appointed by the pastor.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Chair: Rick Poulin – rpoulin80@yahoo.com

The Pastoral Council is an advisory council to the Pastor. Charged with helping fulfill the pastoral mission of Jesus and His Church, the Pastoral Council seeks to develop Catholic identity, promote evangelization, and foster stewardship within the parish.

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Chair: Colin McCarthy - plumbkrazy2@shaw.ca

The Maintenance Committee acts as an advisory council to the Pastor. They oversee maintenance, repairs, and general upkeep of the church property and rectory. The committee advises, supports and makes recommendations to the Pastor and finance council on all matters of facilities manage



PARISH OPERATIONS

ALTAR LINENS

Contact: Barb Heske - 403-315-3339

Members launder and iron all the sacred linens from the Holy Mass.

ALTAR LINENS COORDINATOR

Contact: Barb Heske - 403-315-3339

Schedules and trains Altar Linens volunteers.

BULK MAIL / BULLETIN INSERT

Contact: Cristiana – 403-381-8891, office@stmarthasparish.ca

Members are needed to help place inserts into the weekly bulletin or assist with assembling any bulk mailings / letters sent to parishioners throughout the year.

CHURCH CLEANING

Contact: Myra Clark – mkeyclark@gmail.com

Volunteers help to ensure that the Lord's house is clean and beautiful for all the Masses and are a great assistance to our custodian.

CHURCH GROUNDS BEAUTIFICATION

We are seeking a Chair for this ministry. Volunteers share their talent to keep the grounds surrounding the parishes beautiful and inviting.

PHOTOGRAPHY

We are seeking a volunteers for this ministry. Members share their talent taking photos for social media publications.

VOLUNTEER SCREENING COORDINATOR

Contact: Cristiana – 403-381-8891, office@stmarthasparish.ca

The Coordinator supports the office by ensuring all volunteer information is up-to-date and following up with volunteers to receive refresh training.

LITURGY AND WORSHIP

ALTAR SERVER COORDINATOR

Parish Office: Fr. William Monis - 403-381-8891

Creates the altar server schedule; assists the priest or deacon with training of altar servers; maintains communication with the priest and deacon about upcoming liturgical events and needs. If you are a parent of an altar server and/or love kids, this is a great ministry for you!

ALTAR SERVER

Parish Office: 403-381-8891

Boys and girls, who received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion, serve Jesus at Holy Mass. They firstly lead the congregation in praying by their reverence in the sanctuary and secondly assist the priest. Servers are required to attend occasional training sessions.

AUDIO VISUAL MINISTRY

Coordinator: Kevin Orr - orrkevin24@gmail.com

Members enrich and enhance the worship experience for the church and community watching the Sunday live-streamed Masses. Some computer skills are required and this would be a great ministry for tech-savvy teenagers.

ART & ENVIRONMENT/DECORATE CHURCH

Coordinators: Pat Ward - wardpatg@gmail.com

Volunteers help with preparation of worship space, especially for Christmas and Holy Week/Easter.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Coordinator: Ruth McMillan - ruth.mcmillan55@gmail.com

Assist the priest at Communion time so that the faithful can receive the Lord's Body and Blood. In addition, they ensure that all the sacred vessels of the Holy Mass are cleaned and properly stored.

HOSPITALITY

Coordinator: Marina Miller - 403-308-9280

Hospitality consists of greeters during Masses and refreshments servers following Sundays and Holy Days. Members provide a warm welcome upon arrival to the Masses. They prepare coffee and other refreshments for parish socials following the Sunday 9am and 11am Masses. Hospitality members are the true face of St. Martha's, welcoming all and providing a hospitable atmosphere.

LECTORS

Coordinator: Devon Dempsey - devon.dempsey01@gmail.com

The reader is instituted to proclaim the readings from Scripture, with the exception of the Gospel. They also serve as commentators, announcing the intentions for the general intercessions.

LITURGY COORDINATOR

Parish Office: Fr. William Monis - 403-381-8891

Under the supervision of the clergy, the coordinator prepares and implements liturgical events, ensuring they conform to the norms and laws of the Church; along with Sacramental Coordinator, he/she oversees the preparation for Sacramental Rites, and collaborates with parish staff and clergy in the planning of liturgies and worship plans.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Coordinator: Chris Hartman - speak with choir following Masses

The musical traditions of the Universal Church are a treasure of inestimable value for the celebration of Sacred Liturgy. In combination with sacred music and words, it forms an integral part of the Sacred Liturgy. Therefore, sacred music is to be considered the more holy, the more closely connected it is with liturgical action. Pianists, other instrumentalists, vocalists, and cantors needed.

PASTORAL CARE/COMMUNION VISITS

Coordinator: Mary Gruber - 403-381-8891

Pastoral Care volunteers are part of a coordinated ministry of the parish to visit and bring the Blessed Sacrament in Holy Communion to those who are ill, housebound, or living in residential care facilities.

SACRISTANS

Coordinator: Noreen Richter - noreen_ward@hotmail.com

Sacristans are a valuable help to the priest and have the privilege of preparing for Holy Mass. Duties, among others, include setting out the chalice and ciboria, bread and wine, liturgical books, and other things needed for Holy Mass.

USHERS

Coordinator: Leanne Wehlage - leanne.wehlage@gmail.com

Along with hospitality members, ushers provide a warm welcome to parishioners. Members assist parishioners to their seats as needed, aid in the collection of the offertory gifts, and help in the distribution of parish bulletins.

PARISH OUTREACH & PARISH LIFE

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Contact: Sandy Lodge - 403-380-2212

This international Catholic lay organization was founded in 1833 for the sanctification of its members by personal service of the poor. Members can answer phone calls, pick up donations, and distribute items to those in need. Members bring the love of Christ to serve the poor on a person to person basis. Those in need are always treated with dignity and provided with support as they struggle in crisis situations.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

*President: Lindsey de Kreek -
lindsey@lethbridgevehicle.com*

Join a sisterhood of over 70K women across Canada who are committed to faith development, upholding Christian values and education, the understanding of religious freedom, social justice, the recognition of the human dignity of all people, and the sanctity of life from conception until natural death. The CWL is involved in many initiative from grassroots fundraising and community initiatives to the diverse range of impactful resolutions brought forward to government. They provide extensive support and assistance to the parish community, while also leading and sharing in prayer and social activities.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Grand Knight: Mark Nixon-mark.nixon53@gmail.com

A fraternal organization of men over 18 years of age with a membership of over 1.9 million members around the world. The KofC empower Catholic men to live their faith at home, in their parish, at work and in their community. With service and charity at their heart, they are committed in making the parish community and beyond a better place while supporting their Church. St. Martha's Knights are at the forefront of many parish, school and community initiatives.

LEGION OF MARY

Contact: Ted Gross - theojb.gross@gmail.com

Join the largest lay apostolic association in the world, whose object is the glory of God through the holiness of its members developed by prayer and active cooperation in Mary's and the Church's work. Seeking the spiritual and social welfare of each individual, they participate in the life of the parish through visitation of families, the sick, and through collaboration in every apostolic and missionary undertaking sponsored by the parish.

PARISH LIBRARY

Contact: Parish Office - 403-381-8891

Anyone interested in helping maintain and support our parish library housed at St. Martha's Parish would be welcome. Includes annual cleaning and inventory.

PRISON MINISTRY

Contact:

FORMATION & EDUCATION

SACRAMENTAL PREP

*Contact: Zachary Hampton - 403-381-8891,
sacraments@stmarthasparish.ca*

Under the supervision of the Sacraments Coordinator, implements lessons and activities to children receiving the Sacraments of First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation.

RCIA

*Contact: Zachary Hampton - 403-381-8891,
sacraments@stmarthasparish.ca*

Our RCIA program is the journey of faith for individuals interested in joining the Catholic Church. Adult volunteers to serve as catechists, parish sponsors and hospitality assistants are needed.



STEWARDSHIP



PUTTING OUR FAITH IN ACTION

How to practice it?

TIME



**Pray
Gratefully**

Recognize
everything we
have is a gift
from God

TALENT



**Serve
Responsibly**

Thank God
for all the
talents He
has given us

TREASURE



**Give
Generously**

Thank God
for the
resources He
has given us

