

Discerning Gifts of Time and Talent

What do we have to offer?

Time

When we decide to give our time to something, we evaluate how important that *something* is. Our time is valuable – and limited! – and we’re all very busy with work and family commitments. How important is it for us to find time to help advance the work of Our Lord? Where do we find the time? Each of us must decide that for ourselves. *We make the time* for the things that matter most to us.

Talent

Certainly, we all recognize that God has given us talents. To *each one of us*, He has given *specific* talents. His desire is for us to use and develop these talents in building the Kingdom of God. So what are these talents? Some are more obvious than others. Some may be hidden within or haven’t fully surfaced yet. How do we discover these talents? Consider and pray about:

- What do you enjoy doing day-in and day-out? What kind of work or activity gives you joy?
- In your profession, what do you feel you’re good at?
- What talents do others see in you? Ask them. You may be surprised!
- What talents do you see in other members of your family? Don’t be surprised if you have some talents in common. Again, ask them what they see in you?
- Look for talents in times of challenge and adversity, past and present. Discover the good qualities and strengths that carry you forward.
- Look for talents that surface when you’re focused outside yourself – while working with and helping others.
- Discover hidden talents by being brave enough to do something you haven’t done before – maybe something that you’re *afraid* to do.
- Pray, pray, pray. God will help you know and develop your talents!

When we give of our time and talent, we discover the joy of loving as God loves by giving generously. Please continue to pray about your gifts and how you can share them through your parish as, together, we continue to build the Kingdom of God. Next weekend, October 27-28, we will be asking every parish family to consider making a commitment of time, talent, and treasure. We will provide Stewardship Commitment Forms for you to review, pray about, and return.

OTHER SIDE – CONSIDERING SPECIFIC WAYS TO SERVE

Some things to think about... pray about

Here are just some of the ways you can be actively and joyfully serving Our Lord through your gifts of time and talent. There is much work to be done in the vineyard and many laborers are needed. So we ask you to think about – and pray about – serving in the following ways. And then through helping in whatever ways you discern, see if it doesn't help you too!

- Hospitality and welcoming efforts at Masses and parish events
- Bringing Holy Communion to those unable to attend Mass
- Liturgical Ministry – Lectors, Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers
- Gifts of teaching and sharing the faith as a catechist
- Gifts in gardening, landscape design
- Adding your voice to our beautiful choir
- Assisting with liturgy preparations as a sacristan
- Driving disabled and homebound parishioners to Mass
- Organizing, setting up, or hosting/staffing at parish and/or school events
- Parish front office assistance
- Parish/school library assistance
- Clean up/spruce up the church or school grounds
- Using your gifts of faith and forming strategies to assist the Pastoral Council
- Faith formation programs and events
- Gifts of financial knowledge/business administration to serve the Finance Council
- Visiting the elderly and sick in our parish
- Calling parishioners on occasion to share important parish news, as needed
- Inventory of and organizing school textbooks
- Gifts in print design, social media, web design and communications
- School art class helper or lunch helper
- Gifts in prayer and healing

When you give, give generously and not with a stingy heart; for that, the Lord your God will bless you in all your works and undertakings.

– Deuteronomy 15:10

In every way I have shown you that by hard work of that sort we must help the weak, and keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who Himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

– Acts 20:35