



## **St. Francis of Assisi Parish**

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May 10, 2019

Dear Parish Family,

*"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace"* (1 Pt 4:10). These words of St. Peter inspire us to give thanks to God for the gifts we have been blessed with in loving service of Him and others. Our parish is blessed with many people who generously share their time, talent and treasure to build the Kingdom of God in Springfield.

The word stewardship can be challenging to explain. Many years ago, a Pastoral Letter on stewardship provided an insightful way of describing the way of life for disciples of Jesus Christ: *"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."*

We strive to be a community of faith that seeks out and supports parishioners in their involvement in our ministries, while encouraging them to develop a closer relationship with God and each other. As a Parish Family we take our duty to be good Christian Stewards seriously.

To strengthen our commitment to stewardship as a way of living, I'm pleased to share news of our adoption of a Stewardship Policy now in effect for our Parish. The policy explains how stewardship aligns with our Parish Mission and Strategic Plan/Pastoral Priorities and the supporting role of our Pastoral & Finance Councils and Stewardship/Development Committee. These three groups contributed to the policy design and approval over the past year.

This new policy applies to the Parish in its entirety, including all organizations/ministries, and is designed to strengthen us as a Stewardship Parish. It provides standards/guidance in the identification and support of Ministerial Needs, the protection, accounting and reporting of Financial Resources, and the conduct of efficient and organized Fundraising Activities.

I ask that you prayerfully review this. The first two pages are important for all to understand, while the Financial Resources and Fundraising sections may or may not apply. Know how deeply I value your loving service and acknowledge that some changes in practice will affect us all. Our parish staff, councils and I will support you as we implement this new policy.

It is not every day that we write a formal parish policy. I believe this policy will help us to live our parish mission of being centered in the Eucharist as we are called to encounter, follow and imitate Jesus' way of life through the humble example of our patron, St. Francis of Assisi.

Please reach out to us with observations or questions. We expect to enhance this policy into the future as circumstances and needs dictate and as your voice and contribution is heard.

In Christ,

  
Rev. Anthony J. Costa