

## Stewardship Prayer

Almighty and Gracious God, giver of all good gifts,  
who gives us yourself in all times and in every place,  
give me, we pray, a spirit of generosity and love  
as we become your sons and daughters  
through the saving love of Jesus Christ.

Perfected by service, make me your servant.  
To a dark and broken world let me bear your light.  
Make me, O Lord, powerful in love for those things  
entrusted to us to care for on this earth.

May our Churches be full of those seeking you  
and of those thanking you for your generosity  
May gratitude dominate my heart and perfect me  
by leading me to beautify our world  
as you have beautified our darkened lives with your divine light.

May your Son's light be seen in me always  
as we live in the unity created by His Body and Blood.

May we share, and give, and provide, and serve bravely in our parish  
for your glory and the realization of beauty  
in the gifts we've been given.  
For you live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

April, 2019

## WHERE HAVE OUR CONVERSATIONS TAKEN US?

*During Lent, 2019, we gathered with parishioners throughout the season to reflect on the needs we are observing around us and spoke of ways we can more effectively present the love of Christ. Part of our consideration was rooted in a reflection of the Good Samaritan, Jesus' washing feet and this Stewardship reflection.*

**My church is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is. It will be friendly, if I am. Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them. It will do great work, if I work. It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver. It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I invite and bring them. It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things. Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my church to be.**

*Based on our Lenten conversations, in consultation with members of Hospitality, Visitation, Stewardship Committees, Stephen Ministers and parish staff, we propose the following actions steps to address some of the expressed needs. We know the list is long, wide-arching and multi-phased. We recommend the following as steps to be taken in spring, 2019:*

We are a people who need to know and feel and experience our connectedness, not only to one another, but also to Christ and his Church.

Sometimes, life situations promote a feeling of isolation from others. Whether it be because of a relocation, illness, or life change, we are called to be surrounded by others who understand our situation, and reach out with the love of Christ to help us through these rough times.

We have named several common life situations we intend to be more sensitive and responsive to.

#### **BULLETIN PRAYER LIST.**

Many are listed on our weekly bulletin prayer list. Although as a faith community we pray for all of them at Mass, we have not had any other contact with those persons. We intend to put together a more coordinated method to ensure that those persons' needs are known and addressed. It might be by sending a card, or making a phone call or visiting. This requires our having more information on these persons' needs, not to be invasive, but to be able to demonstrate our deep caring for them.

#### **HOSPITALITY.**

We intend to help people feel more connected. We want to ensure that all persons are greeted at the doors each time they enter church with a friendly face and greeting. We want this to be a hallmark of St. Benedict Parish, where all are welcomed, visitors and newcomers are made to feel at home, and where all people can easily express their needs and questions through the use of pew cards.

#### **VISITATION.**

We need to mobilize more persons to visit persons in the hospitals, care facilities and individuals' homes to extend a caring visit and the Eucharist to those who cannot worship with us at Sunday liturgy.

#### **BEREAVEMENT.**

The pain, sorrow and isolation that comes to us when a loved one dies should not be ignored or minimized. We intend to make a more intentional follow-up care for those who grieve, that they feel the ongoing support of St. Benedict Parish.

## **I WANT TO HELP ST. BENEDICT'S TO TAKE NEXT STEPS**

**Please contact me. I want to help my church to be all I want it to be.**

**MY NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**MY PHONE NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_

**MY EMAIL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**The best time(s) to contact me: (circle)**

**morning    afternoon    evening    weekend**

**I want to help: (check as many as you are interested in)**

\_\_\_\_\_ **update the information we have** *for persons on the PRAYER LIST*

\_\_\_\_\_ **serve as a greeter** *before Mass (come fifteen minutes early, find out about anything "special" or different at that Mass, welcome people at an entrance, give a bulletin, answer questions)*

**I would serve** \_\_\_ **as an individual** \_\_\_ **as a couple**  
\_\_\_ **as a family** *(kids are most WELCOME)*

\_\_\_\_\_ **follow-through with needs as identified on pew cards**

\_\_\_\_\_ **be involved in welcoming new parishioners**

\_\_\_\_\_ **help support people who are grieving a loss**

**I would be willing to** \_\_\_ **send a note / card**

\_\_\_ **make a phone call**

\_\_\_ **visit**

**Please place your completed form in the collection basket at Mass.**