Stewardship Starts at Home

Stewardship Renewal 2019

Ascension Catholic Church
“Love is shown by little things, by attention to small daily signs which make us feel at home. Faith grows when it is lived and shaped by love. That is why our families, our homes, are true domestic churches.” — Pope Francis
Whether “home” is a studio apartment for one, or a house bursting at the seams with family, a stewardship way of life begins at home. Each household that makes up Ascension Catholic Church is a small part of our larger, extended parish family. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that each of our homes, “can and should be called a domestic church” (2204). That is why it is so important to live as Christian stewards in every aspect of daily life, beginning right in our very own homes.

At Ascension Catholic Church, we have adopted stewardship as a way of life for our parish family. As we enter into this time of Stewardship Renewal, we are focusing in particular on daily life within each of our “domestic churches” and asking ourselves if we are truly living as Christian stewards every day of the week.
How we spend our time at home says a lot about who we are and what is important to us. When we make God the center of our homes by committing to daily time with Him in prayer as our highest priority, He will transform our lives. How will you commit to use your time in the year ahead so that God is truly the center of your home?

**Consider These Ideas to Help You Get Started:**

- If you are married, pray together each day as a couple. Start with a daily prayer that Jesus recommends, the Our Father!
- Commit to saying grace before meals and have every family member add a prayer of thanks for some blessing received that day.
- Spend five or 10 minutes reflecting on the daily Gospel reading.
- Remember that your home is a gift from the Lord — make sure that what you allow in your home (TV, Internet use, music) honors Him.
We have been created in the image and likeness of an infinitely talented and endlessly creative God. That means young or old, healthy or infirm, we all have talents. And God gave us these talents with a specific purpose and mission in mind — a mission that evolves and changes over time, but a mission that is meant to be ours for a lifetime. The first “mission field,” of course, is our own homes. Let’s ask ourselves how we can best use our talents in the year ahead to serve each other well in our homes, in our parish family, and in our wider community.

**Pray About the Following Possibilities:**

- Commit to serving at a parish event or in a ministry as a family this year. (You will be using your talents and bonding as a family at the same time!)

- Parents and children alike can commit to one extra act of service to a family member every day (doing a siblings’ chore, reading to a young one, coloring a picture for a grandparent).

- If you are homebound, consider ways you can serve right from home — helping with phone calls or emails for a ministry, or offering skills like sewing or baking for parish events. There are countless ways to serve God’s kingdom.
“Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Phil 4:6-7). We all want peace in our homes. God desires this peace for us, too, more deeply than we can comprehend. We obtain it by trusting completely in His love and provision for us. What does money have to do with this? For the true steward, money has a spiritual component. When used according to God’s will, our income becomes a sort of prayer — an expression of our devotion to God, and our trust in His plan for our lives. Our spending habits are also a reflection of what we value most. God asks us to trust Him in all things, even our finances, so that He can fill our hearts and homes with His peace.

Try Challenging Yourself in the Following Ways This Year:

• Take a look at your current budget and spending habits, and assess what expenses are preventing you from giving more selflessly.

• Ask yourself if your family budget reflects your true priorities so that your spending is a reflection of the values of your Catholic faith.

• Commit to giving a percentage of your income to God through the parish offertory and be faithful to this commitment as an expression of your trust in God.

• Choose a charity that you and your family are passionate about and set a goal of giving a certain amount.
ADULT ALTAR SERVERS FOR FUNERALS
Adult Altar Servers for funerals assist the priest at funeral Masses. Contact: Julie Ternes, 701-223-3606, jternes@ascensionbismarck.org

ALTAR SERVERS
Altar Servers assist the priest and deacon during the weekend Mass and other special Masses. This ministry is open to any youth in fourth grade and above. Contact: Deacon Doyle Schulz, 701-214-9359, doyleschulz@yahoo.com

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
The Environment Committee decorates and prepares the church for the different liturgical seasons and special occasions. Members of the committee create an atmosphere that will enhance the worshiping experience for parishioners and deepen their awareness of God’s presence. Contact: Judy Ness, 701-400-9145, juness@bis.midco.net

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion assist the priest in distributing the Sacred Body or Precious Blood during weekend Masses or other special Masses. Individuals interested in joining this ministry must be at least 16 years of age and confirmed. Contact: Julie Ternes, 701-223-3606, jternes@ascensionbismarck.org

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Homebound take the Holy Eucharist to those unable to attend Mass with the parish family. Contact: Rita Ritter, 701-223-3606, rritter@ascensionbismarck.org
Hospitality Ministers
Hospitality Ministers enhance an atmosphere of hospitality during weekend Masses and other special liturgies. These individuals welcome people to the church, assist with seating, distribute and collect hymnals, and assist with the offertory and Communion procession. Those interested in hospitality must be at least 12 years old.
Contact: Julie Ternes, 701-223-3606, jternes@ascensionbismarck.org

Lectors
Lectors proclaim God’s Living Word at weekend Masses and other special liturgies.
Contact: Julie Ternes, 701-223-3606, jternes@ascensionbismarck.org

Sacristans
Sacristans assist the clergy in setting up for weekend Masses and other special Masses, and in caring for the liturgical vessels, vestments and sacred furnishings.
Contact: Julie Luger, 701-223-3606, jluger@ascensionbismarck.org

Video/Audio Ministers
Video/Audio ministers operate the video projection system and make any needed volume adjustments to the audio system during weekend Masses or other special liturgies. A basic knowledge of computers is enough, and the video slideshows are prepared for the ministers. Training is provided. Open to high school students through adults.
Contact: Julie Ternes, 701-223-3606, jternes@ascensionbismarck.org

Music Ministries
Contact: Julie Ternes, 701-223-3606, jternes@ascensionbismarck.org

Accompanists
Accompanists accompany vocalists on organ, piano or guitar during Mass or other special liturgies.

Cantors/Vocalists
Cantors/vocalists lead the congregational singing during Mass and other special liturgies. Cantors/vocalists can sing as soloists or within a small group.

Instrumentalists
Instrumentalists play alongside cantors, small groups or choirs.

“Raising Praise” Choir
“Raising Praise,” directed by Joan Backes, usually leads the music at 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass once a month and other special liturgies. Rehearsals are usually Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Adults and teens are welcome to join this choir.

Young People’s Choir
This group, directed by Mary Bachmeier and Jeanne Jankowski, leads the music at Sunday Mass once a month and at Faith Formation liturgies. They use piano, guitar, and drums accompaniment. The group is composed of young people from 7th grade through college.
Parish Event Ministries
Involvement with the following Parish Events is made available via sign-ups (online and in church entrance) in the weeks preceding these events. Direct contacts for those who mark “interested” in this form are not made, please watch for the sign ups!

CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER
This dinner is held on Christmas Eve at Ascension. It is for those who are alone or have nowhere to go for Christmas. Many volunteers are needed to help setup, cook, dish, serve, and cleanup the meal. Additional volunteers are needed to help pass out gifts, treat bags, and provide music.
Contact: Sahlenia Braun, 701-238-8666, sahleniab1@gmail.com

ST. MARY’S CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL CARNIVAL
This annual event raises funds for Catholic education in Catholic schools and parish religious education programs. It is a three-day event and includes meals, Midway games, bingo, live and silent auctions and a raffle. Each parish is responsible for coordinating volunteers to operate specific activities or booths in the midway.
Contact: Troy & Deb Schon, 701-250-4859, jstand6@gmail.com

THE BANQUET
An ecumenical outreach to the poor and homeless. It consists of a hosted and served meal that takes place at Trinity Lutheran Church. Our parish is involved two to three times a year.
Contact: Tina Kellar, 701-226-1458, tkellar@good-sam.com

PARISH PICNIC
This is the parish annual appreciation picnic. Hotdogs, hamburgers, and drinks are provided; parishioners bring potluck items. This is one of the ways Ascension Catholic Church shows their appreciation to our parishioners. Volunteers are needed in a variety of ways.
Contact: Beth Kathol, 701-223-3606, bkathol@ascensionbismarck.org
PARISH SPRING DINNER
This is the parish annual turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Volunteers are needed to cook, dish-up, serve and cleanup.
Contact: Margie Frank, 701-258-2974

Faith Formation Ministries

ADULT FAITH FORMATION
A variety of Adult Faith Formation opportunities are held throughout the year, such as: small faith sharing groups, Bible study, book discussions and more.
Contact: Hannah Smith, 701-258-5692, hsmith@ascensionbismarck.org

FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE
The Faith Formation Committee is an advisory board for the parish Faith Formation programs. It meets only four times per year, and members serve three-year terms.
Contact: Jessica Mattson, 701-258-5692, jmattson@ascensionbismarck.org; or Hannah Smith, hsmith@ascensionbismarck.org

FAITH FORMATION VOLUNTEER
Volunteers are needed to help serve in a variety of ways throughout the year. Volunteers can help for a single occasion or on a regular schedule. Areas include meal events, hall monitor, create bulletin boards, environment and other opportunities as needed or any place you can share your talents.
*Requires background check in accordance with the diocesan policy on Safe Environments.
Contact: Jessica Mattson, 701-258-5692, jmattson@ascensionbismarck.org; Hannah Smith, 701-258-5692, hsmith@ascensionbismarck.org

FAITH FORMATION CATECHIST
Faith Formation catechists have the opportunity to share and teach the Catholic Faith with children and youth in grades 1-9. Catechists help youth and children come to know Christ Jesus and the teachings of the Catholic Faith. Faith Formation sessions take place at 4:00, 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings during the school year. *Requires background check in accordance
with the diocesan policy on Safe Environments.

Contact: Grades 1-5 – Jessica Mattson, 701-258-5692, jmattson@ascensionbismarck.org
Grades 6-9 – Hannah Smith, 701-258-5692, hsmith@ascensionbismarck.org

RCIA PARTICIPANT

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is the process in which adults become full, active, participating members of the Catholic Church. RCIA helps us to grow in our relationship with God, become familiar with Catholic teachings and practices, get acquainted with people in the community and get involved in service with the community. The process is open to non-Catholics, Catholics who have been baptized but not Confirmed, and Catholics who are Confirmed but wish to learn more about their faith. Classes go from September to May.

Contact: Deacon Doyle Schulz, 701-223-0287, doyleschulz@yahoo.com

RCIA SPONSORS

RCIA teaches individuals about the Catholic Faith and Church Traditions. Parishioners are needed to volunteer as sponsors, catechists or prayer partners for those who wish to become Catholic.

Contact: Deacon Doyle Schulz, 701-223-0287, doyleschulz@yahoo.com

VOCATIONS COMMITTEE

The Vocations Committee obtains and distributes information on vocations. Committee members promote an awareness of and encourage prayer for vocations and those serving as priests, deacons and religious.

Contact: Mike and Julie Luger, 701-222-0382, mnjluger@bis.midco.net
Youth Ministries

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH ACTIVITIES
For High School Youth in grades 9-12 who are interested in learning and sharing about the Faith in a meaningful and fun environment. Events available for participation are Search, Diocesan High School Youth Rally, NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference) and Steubenville.
Contact: Hannah Smith, 701-258-5692, hsmith@ascensionbismarck.org

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH ACTIVITIES
For Middle School Youth in grades 6-8 who are interested in learning and sharing about the Faith in a meaningful and fun environment. Events available for participation are the Diocesan Junior High School Rally and National Middle School Youth Conference.
Contact: Hannah Smith, 701-258-5692, hsmith@ascensionbismarck.org

YOUTH ADULT LEADER
Youth Adult Leaders assist with junior high and high school youth events. *Requires background check in accordance with the diocesan policy on Safe Environments.
Contact: Hannah Smith, 701-258-5692, hsmith@ascensionbismarck.org

Service/Outreach Ministries

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS
This is a support group for women who have lost a loved one. They meet the first Thursday of the month for lunch.
Contact: Lil Krance, 701-202-5594

COMPASSION MINISTRY
Teams of four to five families dedicated to providing assistance to grieving families.
Contact: Tammie Johnson, 701-258-5380, tmjohnson@bis.midco.net

FUNERAL LUNCHEONS (CALLING FOR FOOD)
Members of this ministry call parishioners to donate food for funeral luncheons.
Contact: Rita Ritter, 701-223-3606, rritter@ascensionbismarck.org

FUNERAL LUNCHEONS (SERVING)
Members of this ministry assist grieving families by serving food during funeral luncheons.
Contact: Rita Ritter, 701-223-3606, rritter@ascensionbismarck.org

FUNERAL LUNCHEONS (PROVIDING FOOD)
Every parishioner is called on a rotating basis to help provide salads, bars, chips and pickles for funeral luncheons.
Contact: Rita Ritter, 701-223-3606, rritter@ascensionbismarck.org

HOMEBOUND VISITATION
This ministry is devoted to providing friendship and supporting the spiritual needs of the homebound. Are you talented in conversing and listening? An hour or two a month can provide a much needed connection,
comfort and companionship to the most isolated and lonely in our parish.

Contact: Jan Sitter, 701-223-3606, jcsitter@ascensionbismarck.org

LADIES OF ASCENSION
This organization offers all women in the parish the opportunity to participate in apostolic works. In addition, the organization hosts a bake sale twice a year.

Contact: Rita Ritter, 701-258-9141, rmritter@bis.midco.net

OFFERING COUNTERS
The Offering Counters count the weekly offertory. The members of this group serve on various teams. The coordinator will contact interested volunteers.

Contact: Jan Sitter, 701-223-3606, jcsitter@ascensionbismarck.org

OFFICE HELPERS
Occasionally, the office staff needs volunteers to help stuff envelopes, assemble bulletins, prepare the monthly newsletters for mailing and perform other office duties.

Contact: Rita Ritter, 701-223-3606, rriter@ascensionbismarck.org

PRAYER LINE
Members of Prayer Line pray for those in the parish with serious illnesses or injury as well as for the needs and concerns of the community at large.

Contact: Pauline Mueller, 701-226-9471

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE
The Social Concerns Committee promotes the social justice concerns of our parish and reaches out to the community. Initiatives of this ministry include “The Banquet,” Christmas Giving Tree, prayer blankets, and other projects.

Contact: Tina Kellar, 701-226-1458, tkellar@good-sam.com
Sacramental Ministries

**DIACONATE**
Permanent deacons are ordained ministers of the Church. Diaconate candidates go through a five-year formation process, which is made up of a two-year Aspirancy Program and three years of formation.
*Contact: Msgr. Jim Braaten, 701-223-3606, jbbraaten3@ascensionbismarck.org*

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION SPONSORING COUPLES**
Married couples meet with engaged couples before the wedding. They administer the FOCCUS inventory and review the results with the engaged couple.
*Contact: Deacon Tony Finneman, 701-222-8635, finntj@bis.midco.net*

**PRE-BAPTISM PROGRAM INSTRUCTORS**
This is a program that explains the Sacrament of Baptism, as well as the roles of parents and godparents in the faith formation of their child.
*Contact: Deacon Tony Finneman, 701-222-8635, finntj@bis.midco.net*

Pastoral Leadership Ministries

**PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL**
The Finance Council is consultative and assists the pastor in all aspects of the parish’s financial administration and is accountable to the pastor and parishioners for the financial integrity of the parish and all the financial dealings conducted by the parish. Members serve five-year terms. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 12 p.m.
*Contact: Wayne Hatzenbuhler, 701-221-2511, gwhatz1@bis.midco.net*

**PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL**
The Pastoral Council serves as a consultative board to the pastor. The council strives to discern the needs of the parish and offer guidance and help in following its mission to share the message of Christ with others. New members are elected or appointed each December and take office in January. Council members serve three-year terms. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month from September to May.
*Contact: Beth Kathol, 701-223-3606, bkathol@ascensionbismarck.org*

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**
The Stewardship Committee studies the meaning of stewardship, and formulates ideas and ways of promoting stewardship, including
ways in which parishioners can offer the first fruits of their time, talent and treasure to the Lord and the parish community. Meetings are held on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m., six times a year.

Contact: Eric Miller, 701-527-1878, emiller@ae-solutions.com

National Catholic Organizations

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA
The Catholic Daughters of America is a group of Catholic women who lend support and love to other Catholic women. Members participate in spiritual programs and activities.

Contact: Virginia Dolajak, 701-258-5379, momofsixs@yahoo.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #7602
The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal service organization of men, founded under the principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. This organization provides men with a vehicle for building up the parish community and family life with an emphasis on family, youth, church, council, and community activities.

Contact: Mike Kraft, 701-221-7745, mike.kraft@bektel.com

SERRA CLUB
The Serra Club encourages and fosters vocations to the priesthood, religious life and permanent diaconate. Members also support those already in the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.

Contact: Mike Luger, 701-222-0382, mnjluger@bis.midco.net
It’s difficult to give God any percentage of our time, talent, or treasure if we do not first give Him 100 percent of our hearts. For this reason, our Stewardship Renewal is a time for growing closer to God above all else. It is a time to make God our top priority, and then express this growth through written commitments. How will you turn more readily to Him with your whole heart?

**TIME:** Several suggestions for regular prayer are listed on your Commitment Card. Will you set aside time each day to spend with God?

**TALENT:** Your Commitment Card lists numerous parish ministries available for your involvement. Will you offer yourself in service to God through others?

**TREASURE:** This year, will you make a specific financial pledge to contribute to the Sunday offertory?

Please bring your completed Commitment Card to Mass on October 12/13 or mail it to the parish in the envelope provided.