

St. Joseph Parish is honored to work with you in forming your child in the Catholic faith. The following information is a reminder of what each of us pledges to do in living out that faith by virtue of our Baptism in the "...one holy, catholic and apostolic Church." Committing or recommitting ourselves to the precepts of the Church and being stewards for the good of our Parish can enliven the St. Joseph Community. Our hope is to make the fire of living a life of stewardship burn brighter here.

Stewardship has three parts: time, talent, and treasure. For the parish to thrive, we need to support all three elements. We encourage you and your family to consider giving some of your time to the parish. We cannot carry out our mission successfully without the support of those who serve at Mass, on commissions/committees, in education ministries, and in other roles. Please prayerfully consider what time and talent your family is actively committing to the parish. Four ministries in greatest need at each of our weekend Masses are:

- Altar Servers
- Lectors
- Ushers
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion/Homebound Ministers of Holy Communion

Thank you for your commitment.

Sincerely,
Fr. Fred

The Parish: Pope Francis states the parish is the "Church living in the midst of the Homes of her sons and daughters." As the Church among us and through the 4 Pillars of Stewardship - Hospitality, Prayer, Formation, Service - our Heartland Parishes offer to all members:

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| + <i>The benefits of Mass and the Sacraments.</i> | + <i>Opportunities of continued Faith formation.</i> |
| + <i>The benefit of living in community with our brothers and sisters in Christ.</i> | + <i>Opportunities to place one's gifts at the service of the parish through our ministries.</i> |
| + <i>Opportunities to engage in parish life and activities.</i> | |

The Precepts of the Church are set in the context of a moral life bound to and nourished by liturgical life. The Obligatory character of these positive laws decreed by the pastoral authorities is meant to guarantee to the faithful the very necessary minimum in the spirit of pray and moral effort, in the growth in love of God and neighbor: (CCC 2041-2043)

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| + <i>First Precept: You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor. (CCC 2042)</i> | + <i>Fourth Precept: You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church. (CCC 2043)</i> |
| + <i>Second Precept: You shall confess your sins at least once a year. (CCC 2042)</i> | + <i>Fifth Precept: You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church. (CCC 2043)</i> |
| + <i>Third Precept: You shall receive the sacrament of Eucharist at least during the Easter season. (CCC 2042)</i> | + <i>The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to his abilities. (CCC 2043)</i> |

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St. Joseph Parish Religious Education
Information 2026-2027

Parishioners: Discipleship calls us to more than membership; it calls us to an encounter with Christ through active Stewardship. Active Stewardship is realized when a parishioner makes a generous and sacrificial gift of their time, talent, and treasure to God and neighbor. Active Stewardship for all parishioners is defined as:

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| + <i>Attend Mass faithfully on Sunday and Holy Days of Obligation.</i> | + <i>Return the completed Stewardship forms to the parish office annually.</i> |
| + <i>Participate in parish life and contribute one's gifts of time and talent to serve the parish through its ministries, activities, and events.</i> | + <i>Support and cooperate with the religious education programs of the parish: Adult Faith formation, K-8 Faith Formation, sacramental preparation, OCIA (formerly RCIA), etc.</i> |

Parents: I reaffirm my commitment to be an active steward. I ask the support of my parish in nurturing my faith as I strive to form my children as disciples through the parish's Faith Formation program.

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| + <i>I will attend Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation unless impeded for a serious reason, e.g. illness.</i> |
| + <i>I pledge to give a percentage of my income annually.</i> |
| + <i>I will nurture my child/children's commitment to their faith and to their academic responsibilities.</i> |
| + <i>I will participate as a steward in parish ministries, activities, and events.</i> |

Students: I understand that I am expected to practice my faith every day - at home, in school, at work, and with my friends.

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| + <i>I will attend Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation unless impeded for a serious reason, e.g. illness.</i> |
| + <i>I will participate as a steward by giving my time and talent to the service of the parish, e.g. server or lector</i> |
| + <i>I understand that as a Catholic, I must use my gifts and talents to perform my best in school: in academic, athletic, social, or religious service.</i> |

Pastor: On behalf of the parish community, I reaffirm the parish's mission to nurture its members in the practice of the Catholic faith day by day so that together we may build the Kingdom of God on earth and spend eternity with God in heaven.

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| + <i>In conjunction with your commitment to live a Stewardship way of life, the parish will support your child/children in our Faith Formation program for the 2026-2027 school year.</i> |
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Parents, please sign below to confirm you have read and understood this document on your family's behalf, and return it to Allison at the parish office or on the first night of class. You can also email the signed form to Allison at stjdre@stjoeahys.com.

Signature

Date