

Living the Four Pillars of Stewardship

"How can I repay the Lord for all the good He has done for me?"
-- Psalm 116:12

When Monsignor Kidder was given a map of Western El Dorado County on St. Patrick's Day 1992 and told to gather the county's Catholic people, find some land, and build a parish, Monsignor knew his hope was to create a faith community where stewardship is a way of life.

Now, nearly 22 years later, Monsignor's vision for the parish remains clear: *good stewards see **everything good** as a gift from God.* And good stewards seek to return to God the gift of self, not out of obligation but out of sincere gratitude for the blessings God has given.

As we reflect on our own personal commitment to stewardship, we realize that trying to repay the Lord for all He has done is an impossible feat. Instead, as the Bishops' Pastoral letter on Stewardship explains, we humbly recognize that a Christian steward is "one who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord."

At Holy Trinity, we appreciate that the foundation of stewardship is Jesus Christ himself. It is Jesus who came to give life, and it is Jesus who deepens the conversion of our hearts and creates an intensifying desire to respond in gratitude with the gift of self.

From Jesus Christ – our strong, unyielding foundation – rise four "pillars" of good stewardship. For some parishes, these pillars might seem extraordinary; at Holy Trinity, they have been an integral part of our parish-life since we celebrated our first Mass together:



Hospitality

Acting as Christ the Shepherd, a parish committed to stewardship is a community of faith that welcomes and involves every person in the life of the parish. At Holy Trinity, we continually welcome new members to our faith community, and we seek to foster a sense of belonging for all parishioners.



Prayer

Acting as Christ the Priest, a parish committed to stewardship strives to nourish each person through prayer, strengthening our relationship with the Trinity and focusing on the Eucharist, the “source and summit of the Christian Life.” At Holy Trinity, we not only gather together at Mass, but we offer many other opportunities for prayerful fellowship and study of Scripture.



Formation

Acting as Christ the Teacher, a parish committed to stewardship emphasizes, through evangelization and catechesis, the development of households of faith, where our Catholic story as the Body of Christ is lived and shared with one another. At Holy Trinity, for example, our Parish-Life Center supports family-centered religious education with the weekly faith formation program as well as our elementary school for children, an active Youth Ministry for teenagers, and extensive education opportunities for adults.



Service

Putting into action our commission as Christ the Shepherd, Priest, and Teacher, a parish committed to stewardship serves the many needs of its own parish family, as well as the needs of the larger community and the world. Holy Trinity is alive with more than sixty ministries that provide service to our parish and our community – everything from landscaping, to serving the homeless, to baking bread for Mass.

As our community strengthens and builds upon these four pillars, we assist each other in living God’s call to be faithful disciples.

Each of us is called in a special way to support our parish – and each other – through this faithful discipleship. And it is through this discipleship – and with this generous heart – that each of us can answer the question ***“How can I repay the Lord for all the good He has done for me?”***