



## Stewardship Reflection

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Hello St. James Parish! When I was asked to write about Stewardship and what stewardship means to me, I first realized I needed to define stewardship. What is Stewardship? From the dictionary.com definition, the second part of the definition, defines stewardship as the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving.

At first, when I reference this definition, I was a bit puzzled on how exactly I was going to relate it to my church involvement but then it all made sense. All of us are given some type of talent. Some of us might say we have one talent and others might say they have many talents. In my family, we often refer to these talents as our Gifts from God. There is a reason God gave you these Gifts. When you are given a gift and/or talent it should be used. Referencing back to the definition, we are responsible for overseeing and protection and caring and preserving these gifts and talents we received from God. By not using these talents, we are not preserving them and caring for them like they are meant to be cared for. God wants us to use the talents and gifts or he would have never blessed us with them. We care for these talents by using them to benefit others, we use our talents as a tool to help strengthen our faith and our relationship with God. We use our talents to help others. We use our talents to help others see our Faith in hopes to strengthen their own. When one's faith and relationship with God is strengthened then the church and community will be strengthened as well.

Saying yes to being part of the St. James Picnic Committee, Arts and Environmental Committee and the Welcome Committee are all easy boxes for me to check on my Stewardship packet. These committees can all use the gifts that God has blessed me with. Some require a bit more time than others, but all are enjoyable, and have strengthened my relationship with God. These committees have not only given me the opportunity to give back and show thanks to God for the talents he has blessed me with, but I have gained wonderful personal experiences as well. I have built relationships that will last a lifetime, I have experienced quiet moments of powerful prayer and reflection at unpredictable times and I have witnessed firsthand what happens when Gods people work together toward one common goal. More importantly, my children have witnessed and been able to be a part of the committees that I am a part of as well. They now understand the importance of stewardship and being involved by seeing the examples that are being set by not only family members but other parishioners as well.

I encourage you to reflect on your talents and the gifts that you have been given by God and make sure you are preserving and caring for them and putting them to work on one of the many committee's St. James has to offer.