

## Stewardship Reflection

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Thinking back, my stewardship started in my childhood. I attended St. James School for all 12 years. At that time, we were given child-sized Sunday envelopes to put in our small amount of change for the collection basket. At the time, I had never heard the word “stewardship.” But that was what I was doing. Also, when in high school, I was in the church choir and many mornings would get up early to go sing at morning Mass before school. Yes, I did it for Jesus, but still just thought of it as my duty for being in the choir, and partly because the nuns expected us to be there. Little did I realize I was being taught what stewardship is all about.



My stewardship has continued through my life. When I began to write this article, I wrote down at least 18 church ministries in which I have worked in through the years. A few of my favorite things have been being in the adult choir for 42 years, singing for God’s glory and praise. I joined when our present Church was built in 1970 and continued until my late husband became ill, and I needed and wanted to take care of him full time – yet another ministry.

Other ministries close to my heart was working in the Sick and Homebound Outreach Ministry for over 30 years. After we were married in 1995, my husband and I co-chaired and worked in the ministry for several more years. Another favorite was teaching CCD classes (Religious Ed) helping to prepare 2<sup>nd</sup> graders for First Communion.

After my first husband passed away, I felt called to work in the Bereavement Ministry. Besides fixing a dish for the family meals after the funeral service, I also cantored at many of the funeral Masses. I have been a RCIA sponsor, Extra Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion, a lector, and a group leader in several workshops. Tithing is a way of life for me. A fairly new ministry for me is attending Adoration for one hour each week. This particular hour has been and is such a blessing in so many ways for me. I only wish I had been able to do this a long time ago. If you feel called to give this one hour a week to Our Lord and Savior, please join us.

In every ministry, you receive so much more than you give! I have been gifted with a BLESSED life! The first gift in my life was being baptized at St. James Church when I was an infant. I am a lifelong member of St. James. Throughout my life, just knowing that God has been and is always holding my hand, has brought me such comfort, peace, and joy in my life. I pray for all of the clergy and people of St. James every day. JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU.