

STEWARDSHIP

NOT A PROGRAM

NOT A FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

NOT AN EMPTY BUZZWORD

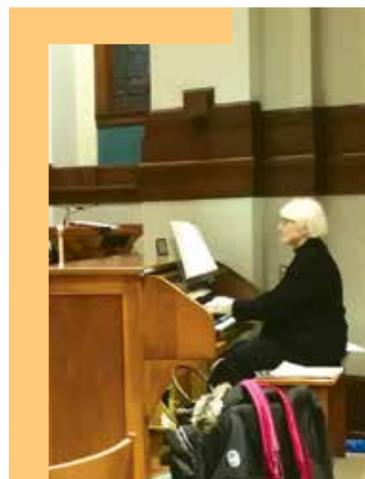
A Way of Life

2019 Stewardship Renewal



ST. ISIDORE THE FARMER

Area Faith Community



BECOMING A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

In common language, "stewardship" simply means taking good care of one's belongings. But at St. Isidore the Farmer, when we talk about stewardship, we mean something more than that.

As Christians, we believe that we don't really own anything, per se. God has created all things; everything we "own" is really "on loan" from God. From this perspective, then, stewardship means taking care of God's gifts.

Everything God has given us — special skills, a nice smile, a good income — is meant not only for us, but for others as well. As strange as it seems, being a good steward of these gifts involves giving them away. As we learn from Jesus' life, self-giving is the road to true happiness.

Stewardship is using our time, talent, and treasure to build God's Kingdom. All three elements are equally important.

Our annual Stewardship Renewal is an important event for the community of St. Isidore the Farmer. It is a time when we reassess the way we use God's gifts by making commitments of time, talent, and treasure.

Renewing ourselves in these areas results in great spiritual benefits for us as individual parishioners and for the community around us. This year, how will you use your gifts?



TIME:

Do I make time for prayer, to read the Scriptures, to thank God and ask for His help?

TALENT:

Is my talent at work, actively building the Body of Christ?

TREASURE:

Do I give a proportionate amount of my treasure to God through the weekly offertory?

PREPARING YOURSELF SPIRITUALLY

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says, "Prayer and Christian life are inseparable" (CCC, 2745). In fact, St. Paul tells us to "pray constantly." But as anyone who has ever tried to pray on a regular basis will tell you, prayer can be hard work. That is why we have to make a firm commitment to be persistent.

Just as we learn to budget our money or schedule occasions for service, we also have to be very specific when we make time for prayer. Many people set aside 10 minutes in the morning to sip a cup of coffee and read the daily readings. Others pray a Rosary on the way to work. Still others pray with their children before bedtime, or pray with their spouse before retiring for the evening. Whatever the format, the important thing is that we make a conscious effort to spend time with the One we love most.

"Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus."
— 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18

ACTION STEPS TO IMPROVE YOUR PRAYER LIFE

- Try to spend 15 minutes every morning in quiet prayer by reading and reflecting on Sacred Scripture. A helpful place to start is the readings for each day, found at uscbb.org/bible/readings or on Catholic phone and tablet apps, such as iBreviary, Magnificat or Divine Office.
- Thank God for the good things He has given you that you might take for granted throughout the day.
- Examine your conscience before going to sleep and say an act of contrition like we do at Mass.
- Pray with your children each night before bed, giving each family member an opportunity to pray for something and concluding with an *Our Father*, *Hail Mary* and the *Glory Be*.



BEING AN ACTIVE SERVANT



Every week, our parish is buzzing with activity. There are groups that pray together, groups that minister to other parishioners, and groups that reach out to the community. Christ Himself taught us that “whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40). When we lay down our wants and desires to serve each other, God blesses our efforts! Will you consider where God is calling you to serve Him?

“Jesus said to them, ‘Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.’ Then they abandoned their nets and followed him.”
— Mark 1:17-18

ACTION STEPS TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN SERVICE

- Pray about how the gifts God has given you can best be used to serve others.
- Use your Commitment Card to find a parish ministry that will help you grow personally in living out your faith.
- Commit to being faithful to God through those you serve in word and deed.

CONSISTENT & GENEROUS GIVING

Our deepest reason for giving is not because our parish has needs, but because we have a spiritual need to give. We are called to give to God from our first fruits, and to recognize that everything comes from Him. Our gifts to God should be out of faith and gratitude for what God has done for us. Just like the apostles who laid down their nets the moment that Jesus called them, we too should lay down everything, even something as important to us as our finances, to follow Christ. God's promise to us is a promise of life and security when we place all of our trust in Him. "The Lord will be with you and will never fail you or forsake you. So do not fear or be dismayed" (Deuteronomy 31:8).

Take a Step Toward 10 Percent

At St. Isidore the Farmer we honor the scriptural tithe. We invite parishioners to give 5% of their gross income to God through the offertory, 1% to the diocese and 4% to other charities.

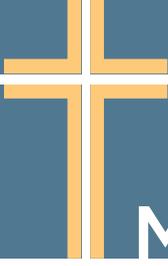
Using the chart below, find your current percentage of giving, then determine what steps you can take toward giving 10% of your household income. Consider increasing your gift by 1% or 2% increments until you reach the scriptural tithe, and then be faithful to your commitment, whatever it may be.

Guide for Giving 5%:

Annual income	5% Weekly Gift
\$10,000	\$10
\$20,000	\$19
\$30,000	\$29
\$50,000	\$48
\$70,000	\$67
\$100,000	\$96
\$150,000	\$144
\$200,000	\$192

ACTION STEPS TO BE FINANCIALLY GENEROUS

- Pray about the best use of your financial resources and ask God to show you where you need to give Him priority in them.
- Evaluate your regular offertory gift and increase it based on what you think God is calling you to give until you reach the full tithe.
- Make a commitment to give regularly to God through the parish offertory, and be faithful to your tithing commitment, even when you attend Mass elsewhere.



MINISTRY CATALOG

PRAYER

Eucharistic Adoration

Join us in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on the second Tuesday of each month in Benson and the second Thursday each month in Murdock. Spending time in meditation, prayer, and adoration in the presence of Christ is an excellent opportunity to experience grace in our lives. Confessions are available as well! All are welcome.

Contact: John Carruth, 320-567-2137, elainemccarruth@gmail.com or Rod Yost, 320-875-2026, rjctyost@gmail.com

Healing Ministry

Throughout the year the Diocese of New Ulm provides opportunities for healing ministry in the Area Faith Community! Many people experience the healing power of Christ through these prayers. Stay tuned for opportunities to participate.

Contact: Deacon Mike McKeown, 507-233-5310, mmckeown@dnu.org

Prayer Line

Prayer Line ministry is a group of people who pray for special intentions requested by the community. If you would like to join the prayer line or request prayers, please contact us!

Contact: AFC — Parish Office, 320-842-4271, office@stisidorethefarmerafc.org; After hours, please call Patricia Walsh, 320-843-2226

Rosary

The Holy Rosary will be prayed thirty minutes before weekend Masses and on Monday evenings at 5 p.m. in Benson. All are welcome to join in this glorious prayer!

Contact: Benson — Margaret Grossman, 320-843-3553, 144man@gmail.com

Word and Communion Service

Volunteers willing to be trained in conducting a Word and Communion Service are needed. A Word and Communion service would be held in the event of inclement weather, illness, etc. where the priest would not be able to travel, but local faithful may be able to attend and gather for prayer.

Contact: AFC — Parish Office, 320-842-4271, office@stisidorethefarmerafc.org

FORMATION

Adult Faith Formation

An opportunity to grow in our faith spiritually, academically and communally. We strive to grow in relationship with God, to learn more about our faith that opens our hearts to the truth which sets us free and to grow in friendship with one another along this journey. Gatherings are usually held every other Tuesday at 7 p.m. at St. Francis in Benson.

Contact: AFC — Parish Office, 320-842-4271, office@stisidorethefarmerafc.org

Baptismal Preparation

Baptismal preparation is available for parents seeking baptism for their child, along with godparent preparation.

Contact: Stuart and Samantha Johnson, 320-304-3857,

Samantha.marie.johnson95@gmail.com

Children's Faith Formation

Children's Faith Formation classes are offered for children from PreK-11th grade. Classes prepare students for First Holy Communion, Reconciliation and Confirmation, and serve to strengthen the youth in their faith. Classes take place on Wednesdays. Volunteer Catechists are always needed to help teach children about the faith!

Appleton: 3:15 p.m., grades K-6;

7 p.m. grades 7-11

Benson: Grades 1-6 classes meet once/month, home lessons the other weeks; 6:45 p.m. grades 7-11; Preschool meets in coordination with the weekend Mass time in Benson.

Murdock: 3:30 p.m., grades 1-6; 6:45 p.m. grades 7-8

Contact: Appleton — Angie Conn, 320-289-1467, aconn06@gmail.com;

Preschool in Benson — Molly Gades, 320-815-0579, molly.klassen81@gmail.com;

Murdock — Gina Kelly-Wilts, 320-264-5912, hgwilts92@gmail.com or Stacy Johnson, 320-264-5785, johnsonsrock@tds.net



Marriage Preparation

Please contact AFC Office at least six months ahead of time to plan and prepare for your wedding. If one party has been previously married, the wedding cannot move forward unless an annulment has been granted by the Catholic Church.

Contact: AFC — Parish Office, 320-842-4271, office@stisidorethefarmerafc.org

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

Formation classes are available for adults who are interested in joining the Catholic Church. Eight months of classes introduce them to Catholicism and integrate them into our parish. Many other parishioners also attend the weekly classes to learn more about their faith. Sponsors are assigned to RCIA candidates and catechumens to support them on their faith journey. They act as a friend and mentor both before and after their reception in the Catholic Church.

Contact: AFC — Parish Office, 320-842-4271, office@stisidorethefarmerafc.org

Youth Group

The Youth Group is open to students in grades 4-12. Leaders help the youth learn more about their faith in a meaningful and fun environment that is appealing to teens. This group provides an opportunity for students to get together, meet new friends, and participate in social, spiritual, and service activities. Groups meet one Sunday evening per month at Sacred Heart in Murdock.

*Contact: Murdock —
Samantha Johnson, 320-304-3857,
Samantha.marie.johnson95@gmail.com*

SERVICE

Altar Servers

Boys and Girls, third grade or older, who are members of the parish serve the congregation by assisting the priest during Mass. Servers serve at daily and weekend Masses, funerals, and weddings. Training sessions are held several times a year. Trainers are also needed!

*Contact: Appleton — Parish Office,
320-842-4271, office@st.isidorethefarmer.org;
Murdock — Rod Yost, 320-875-2026,
rjctyost@gmail.com;
Benson — Chuck Koenigs, 320-843-2260,
chuckkoenigs@gmail.com*

Area Faith Community Council

With representation from each parish in the AFC, this group advises the pastor regarding the AFC budget as well as pastoral matters affecting the AFC.

*Contact: AFC — Parish Office, 320-842-4271,
office@stisidorethefarmerafc.org*

Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities offers personal, marriage, family and pregnancy counseling.

Contact: 1-866-670-5163

Catholic United Financial Volunteer

Volunteers are welcome to help coordinate events for our parish. With the aid of CUF, these events raise money for our parish community!

*Contact: Appleton —
Sharon Piotter, 320-808-4121;
Benson — Rosie Hoffman, 320-843-2228,
rhoffman33@hotmail.com;
Murdock — Judy Hoffer, 320-264-5228,
judyonfarm@tds.net*



Council of Catholic Women

Affiliated with the National Council of Catholic Women, this organization is involved in many aspects of parish life for women and families. They are dedicated to spirituality, education, leadership and service, such as, serving funeral lunches and helping with parish fundraisers.

Contact: Murdock — Judy Hoffer, 320-264-5228, judyonfarm@tds.net or Shari Wentzel, 320-875-2012, shari32768@yahoo.com;
DeGraff — Bev Byrne, 320-843-4321, patrickbyrne56233@gmail.com;
Appleton — Katie Mahoney, 320-394-2190 or Cindy Enke, 320-297-0549;
Clontarf — Katie Reardon, 320-843-2037, Katherine_reardon@yahoo.com

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Homebound

This ministry is necessary to bring Communion to members of the parish community who are unable to attend Mass due to age, illness, or other circumstances. This ministry involves bringing the Eucharist to people in their homes or in nursing facilities. Training is provided.

Contact: Chuck Koenigs, 320-843-2260, chuckkoenigs@gmail.com

Knights of Columbus – Council # 2129

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. Open to any practicing Catholic man over 18. Knights undertake a large variety of service and social activities. Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at St. Francis.

Contact: Gerald Aarhus, 320-567-2378, aarhus@fedtel.net

Liturgical Environment

To enhance liturgical celebrations and reflect the current liturgical season, our worship space is decorated with fabric, flowers and art. Volunteers with artistic or interior design skills are needed to plan the space, as well as people who can assist with the physical needs of preparing our sanctuary for worship.

Contact: Benson — Sue Fitz, 320-843-3780, sueedfitz@icloud.com;
Appleton — Pat Krebs, 320-289-2066 or Kerry Bonk, 320-289-1615;
Murdock — Rod Yost, 320-875-2026, rjctyost@gmail.com or
Paulette Collins, 320-354-5479, collins7@tds.net

Liturgical Ministries

This ministry schedules all members who are involved in liturgical ministries (lectors, ushers, altar servers, Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion, sacristans). Let us know if you would like to serve in a liturgical ministry!

*Contact: Murdock — Heather Wilts, 320-264-6970, bhwilts@gmail.com;
Benson — Margie Tolles, 320-842-4271, office@stisidorethefarmerafc.org;
Appleton — Jo Ann Loher, 320-289-1017, stjccao@gmail.com*

Music Ministry

The Music Ministry provides music for parish liturgical celebrations. Those who love to sing wholeheartedly are invited to join the parish choir. If you have a musical background and can contribute instrumental skills, especially pray about sharing that with our parish, we need your talent. All instruments can be incorporated into our Sunday worship — strings, woodwinds, percussion, and brass! Those who have been blessed with the gift of a musical voice or an ability to play an instrument are encouraged to share that gift with the parish family by joining one of the choirs or volunteering to lead music during Mass.

*Contact: Benson — Mary Alice Hoffman, 320-843-4019, maliceh@charter.net;
Murdock — Marlis Kavanagh, 320-875-2201, tomkav1986@tds.net or Brenda Klema, (Hispanic Ministry) 320-599-4280, bfmind@tds.net;
Appleton — Lu Ann Rheingans, 320-289-2127 or Pat Krebs, 320-289-2066*

Nursing Home Ministry

This consists of volunteers who set up for Mass in the nursing homes in Benson and Appleton, usually once per month.

*Contact: Benson — Julie Zniwski, 320-843-4779 or Katie Maurer, 320-843-3095;
Appleton — Bill Clemen, 320-289-1041*



Parish Administrative Councils

Members of the Parish Administrative Councils advise the pastor regarding the management of parish finances and property and advises the pastor and business manager regarding the maintenance and improvement of the parish buildings and grounds. Members are appointed by the pastor.

*Contact: AFC – Parish Office,
320-842-4271, office@stisidorethefarmerafc.org*

Parish Cemeteries

This ministry upkeepes the church cemeteries and is available for the purchase of burial plots.

*Contact: St. Francis – Greg Lee,
320-843-4684, greglee2@embarqmail.com;
Sacred Heart – Pat Walsh, 320-875-4403,
patrickwalsh@tds.net;
St. Bridget – Mary Lou Birch, 320-368-0745;
St. Malachy – Marilyn Kent, 320-843-3831;
Visitation – Steve Wersinger, 320-567-2152;
St. John-St. Agnes Cemetery (Hegbert) –
Bill Banken, 320-289-8018;
St. Joseph Cemetery (Holloway) –
Ron Rudnick, 320-394-2257*

Pastoral Care

If any parishioner or family member needs a pastoral care visit and Holy Communion, please call the parish office. Today's privacy laws do not permit hospitals to contact churches

when a patient needs a pastoral visit. We are made aware of it only when the individual or their friends and family contact us. We are also not always aware of parishioners that are homebound and would desire a pastoral visit.

*Contact: AFC – Parish Office,
320-842-4271, office@stisidorethefarmerafc.org*

Social Concerns Committee

The Social Concerns Committee helps the parish to become aware of community needs, to create an awareness of those needs among the members of the parish, and to coordinate parish services to those in need. The Committee meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at St. Francis.

*Contact: AFC – Paul Hayden,
320-843-3340, prhayden@yahoo.com*

St. Francis Family Groups

This organization serves funeral dinners, and organizes and assists with fundraisers for the parish of St. Francis.

*Contact: Benson – Renee Cannon,
320-843-4830, reneecannon@charter.net or
Janet Pagel, 320-567-2459,
jpagel@christiansoncpa.com*

STEWARDSHIP INVOLVES COMMITMENT

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

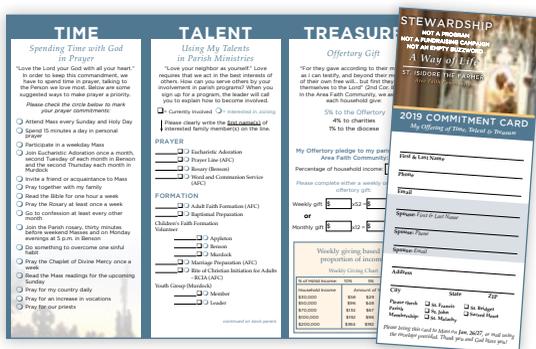
Several suggestions for regular prayer are listed on your Commitment Card. Will you set aside time each day to spend with God?

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 **January 26/27**, or mail it to the parish in the envelope provided.

ST. ISIDORE THE FARMER Area Faith Community