

What return shall I
make to the Lord

for all the good He
has done for me?

- Psalm 116

Stewardship at St. Walter Parish

During October we will be reflecting on the meaning of Stewardship and how we are all called to be stewards of the gifts God provides.

We begin by reminding us all that Stewardship is not a program for fundraising. It is not a fancy way to talk about money. It is about a disciple's response to God's call to share our life with and for others.

Stewardship calls us to recognize one simple yet profound fact: everything we have comes from God. Everything we own is truly on loan for God. This is what makes us stewards. Stewards take care of things entrusted to them that they do not own.

If we examine life from both ends, at birth and death, we see that we leave this earth with the exact amount of material possessions that we entered life with. We came with nothing, and we will leave with nothing. We only take the spiritual.



Jesus once said, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and decay destroy, and thieves break in and steal. But store up treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor decay destroys, nor thieves break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be." - Matt. 6:19-21

*What is the treasure that we should be trying to store up?
What is the spiritual that we take with us?*

One of them is our character. What kind of person have we become, or what sort of soul has been shaped in us? We

will be given new bodies, but the inner person that we have become over a lifetime we will take into eternity. We will be recognizable as ourselves, having an identity that is based on this earth's identity.

Secondly, we will take into eternity relationships with people who love the Lord, whether we have known them for a score of years or we have just met them today. Relationships begun here will last forever in Christ.

Thirdly, any degree to which we reflect the glory of God will echo forever---any true word spoken in his name, any praise offered him that is of the heart, any opportunity we take to reflect his beauty to someone else in this life. Choices we make to honor the Lord are treasures in heaven.

This week we celebrate Respect Life Sunday, and acknowledge that Life itself is a total gift from God. Please pray over what treasures of life you would like to build up this week.

MY CHURCH

*My church is composed of people like me.
I help make it what it is.
It will be friendly, if I am.
Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.
It will do great work, if I work.
It will make generous gifts to many causes,
if I am a generous giver.
It will bring other people into worship
and fellowship,
if I invite and bring them.
It will be a church of loyalty and love,
of fearlessness and faith,
and a church with a noble spirit,
if I, who make it what it is,
am filled with these same things.
Therefore, with the help of God,
I shall dedicate myself to the task of BEING
all the things that I want my church to be.*

- Author unknown