

St. Paul & St. James Stewardship Season

Show Up

Step Up

Serve Up

On Sunday

Your Pledge

Your Talents

A New Season Begins

On September 30, St. PJ's kicked off this year's stewardship season. Each month, we'll be exploring how to make whole-person stewardship a part of our parish life. What do we mean by whole-person stewardship? Essentially that stewardship is not only giving our tithes and other offerings, but also as a way of growing in our relationship with God by showing up faithfully at Sunday worship, supporting the church with our prayers, and serving God by volunteering our time in this community. Our motto for St. PJ's Stewardship Season is **Show up on Sunday, Step up your pledge, and Serve up your talents**. At Ingathering Sunday, November 18, we will hand in our pledge forms which will commit our prayers, presence, tithes and time to this vibrant parish community.

As the season gets underway, be on the lookout for inserts in the bulletin, announcements during the worship services, and other special happenings. On November 4, please join us for a special parish luncheon, featuring entertainment as your stewardship committee dramatizes scenes from St. PJ's rich history. During this time, you may also want to read the book from which we are drawing our inspiration, Treasures of a Transformed Life by John Ed Mathison (Copies are available for purchase on Amazon.com, or you can borrow one from the parish library). Finally, we want to pose a question. *What goals would you set for your parish, in terms of worship attendance, gifts and services, for this stewardship season?*

Showing up on Sunday

This month we'll look at what happens when everyone pledges to attend Sunday service on a regular basis. Ironically, I began attending church regularly again during one of the busiest times of my life—when I was a graduate student in London. As a Master's degree student, balancing my coursework with writing articles, volunteering at the British Museum, and having a life in an exciting city with consistent church attendance was a challenge. However, a speaker one Sunday made a point that has stuck with me since: whenever you make time for worship on Sunday, God will sort out the rest of your week! More than just a nice thought, this idea makes sound sense, as the nurturing community you belong to can help sustain you during hectic times. As Jane Howard said, "Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe, call it a family. Whatever you call it, whoever you are, you need one."

And the church needs your presence. When we show up on Sunday, we make ourselves available to God, so that we can work to bring God's blessings to others and ourselves -and it can actually be fun! We invite you to consider your time commitments over the coming year, so that on Ingathering Sunday you can pledge to being an integral part of this lively community.

Yours ever,

Laura Gardner

St. PJ's Stewardship Committee

Dates to remember

PARISH LUNCHEON

11/4

12:30 pm

Featuring scenes from St PJ's history acted out by your stewardship committee

INGATHERING SUNDAY

11/18

8:30 and 10:30 services

A time to pledge our time, talents and tithes to the church

Committee members:

Kathy Alison, Laura Gardner, Laura Giovanetti, Janie Lange, Jeff Lange, Michelle Mitchell, David Tate, Wilma Whitley