

## Financial Stewardship and Faith Formation



*Sacred Heart*  
**PARISH**

Stewardship is a lifestyle which acknowledges all in life as blessing from God. Blessings are given to us in love, not due to our own merits, and are to be shared for the good of the Kingdom of God. In sharing blessings received, our gratitude is expressed and God's goodness is further extended. Through prayerful discernment, households are asked to commit of their finances, their time, and their talents to the mission of Sacred Heart Parish. It is our intent that all, regardless of income, can participate in our programs.

Beginning this year for faith formation programs, our parish is moving from the "Faith Based Covenant Model" to full and active Stewardship. What does this mean for your family? Each household is asked to make a commitment to strive to contribute 4% of the household's gross income to the parish through the Sunday envelope. If your family is not able at this time to commit to tithing 4% or more, the faith formation registration cost per household is \$300 per year. This includes participation in *Journey In Faith*, preparation for the sacraments including confirmation, and for most youth ministry activities. If this presents a hardship for your household, please contact one of the individuals listed below. In addition to a financial commitment, everyone in the parish is asked to make a commitment to share their gifts of time and talent.

The faith formation registration form will include an opportunity to volunteer in various areas of our programs. The form will also include a section to make a financial commitment. A variety of payment options are available, including a monthly contribution for 8 months. Payments can be paid via automatic withdrawal from a checking or savings account, or by credit card.

Our goal at Sacred Heart is to become a total stewardship parish. That means everyone contributes regularly to the parish according to the gifts they have been given by God. This enables all to participate in all programs with no additional fees.

Contact us with questions or to discuss your concerns.

Joan Krause  
Faith Formation Director  
251-8115, ext.\*818

Bob Zawacki  
Business Manager  
251-8115, ext.\*811

Fr. Ron Weyrens  
Pastor  
251-8115, ext.\*812

Email: [parish@sacredheartsaukrapids.org](mailto:parish@sacredheartsaukrapids.org)

# Stewardship Discernment Process

The following guide is provided to help you prayerfully discern your investment toward Sacred Heart Parish.

## Prayer of Discernment

### **Prayer:**

We give you thanks and praise God for all the blessings you have showered upon us. We praise you for sun, moon, and all the stars; for rain and snow; for warmth and cold; for trees and flowers; for animals and insects, large and small; for family and friends; for faith communities and schools; for peace and joy; for love and forgiveness; for tears and humor. How blessed we are for all the signs of love and goodness you bring into our life. We are especially grateful for.....  
*(in silence or aloud call to mind blessings for which you are thankful)*

### **Reading:**

For this reason I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, as to what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor for your body, as to what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, that they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not worth much more than they? (Matthew 6:25-26)

### **Reflection:**

*Spend some time in silent prayer followed by discussion. In your discussion keep in mind your blessings, as well as your financial situation. Remember God does provide!*

### **Prayer:**

O God we know we are precious in your eyes and you will provide for our every need. Send down upon us your Holy Spirit to give us the wisdom and the courage to share the blessings of treasure, time, and talent without fear.

God, thank you for guidance in this process. Help us share our faith with others and may our example give witness to your love for all. When afraid give us courage; when in doubt give us hope; and when alone assure us of the support of your people. Amen