

TRANSFORMED THROUGH CHRIST

"Do not conform yourselves to this age, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind."



BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC CHURCH • 2021 Stewardship Renewal

"I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect."

ROMANS 12:1-2



Mature disciples make a conscious, firm decision, carried out in action, to be followers of Jesus Christ no matter the cost to themselves. Beginning in conversion, change of mind and heart, this commitment is expressed not in a single action, nor even in a number of actions over a period of time, but in an entire way of life.

It means committing one's very self to the Lord.

Stewardship is an expression of discipleship, with the power to change how we understand and live out our lives.

FROM *STEWARDSHIP: A DISCIPLE'S RESPONSE*



FORMATION:

TRANSFORMED THROUGH CHRIST

Dear Parishioner,

This year we are emphasizing the third pillar of parish stewardship – *Formation*. Formation is the process of studying Christ's teachings and incorporating them deeply into our lives. It is a life-long effort by which we "put on Christ" (Rom 13:14) and are "transformed by the renewal of our minds" (Rom 12:2).

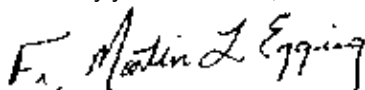
Above all, our formation should include studying Scripture and Church teaching. It should also include discussion with other Catholics and honest self-assessment. Its goal is to "discern the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect" (Rom 12:2).

Because formation helps us understand God's will, it therefore leads naturally to good stewardship. When our minds are transformed through Christ, we become like him: as Christ gave His life for us, so we give our lives to others.

During our Stewardship Renewal, in addition to our emphasis on formation, we continue to focus on prayer, ministry, and offertory giving – or what we call time, talent, and treasure. As your pastor, I ask you to take a step forward in each area. To do so, please bring your Commitment Card to Mass on September 25 or 26.

I am very happy and grateful to be your pastor, and I thank you for your dedication. I wholeheartedly welcome your involvement in our community.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. Martin Eggling
Pastor



THE PILLAR OF FORMATION



“Being a disciple is not just something else to do, alongside many other things suitable for Christians; it is a total way of life and requires continuing conversion.”

FROM *STEWARDSHIP: A DISCIPLE’S RESPONSE*



CONVERSION: A FLASH OF INSIGHT

“Something else must come before the practice of stewardship,” the U.S. Bishops said in an important pastoral letter. “People need a flash of light — a certain way of seeing — by which they view their world and their relationship to it in a fresh new light.”

What is this flash of insight? St. Ignatius of Loyola famously described it in very simple terms: God created us for a reason — to be with Him forever in heaven. He created other things on earth to help us achieve this goal. As a consequence, we should use earthly things to grow closer to God, or remove them if they are a hindrance.

One could say that the “conversion to stewardship” comes when we truly believe that everything we have should be used for God’s purposes.



PRAYER: FORMING A FRIENDSHIP WITH CHRIST

A man complained to his pastor that giving money to the Church was the hardest part of stewardship. The priest disagreed, responding: “For the next year, try setting aside 20 minutes every single day for uninterrupted prayer. And every week, give 5% of your income to the offertory. At the end of the year, tell me which was harder.”

Time is our most valuable commodity. Unlike our talents, which can be cultivated by practice, or our money, which can be recouped by more work, our time can never be recovered once it is spent. When we share our time — for prayer, service, friendship — we make a basic investment of ourselves. More than anything else, the way we spend our time reveals our priorities.

For reflection... _____

- ❖ How often do you spend time in uninterrupted prayer?
- ❖ How many kinds of prayer do you practice? Meditation, praise, Rosary, etc.
- ❖ How can you pray regularly with your spouse and children?

*“It is our duty to live among books;
especially to live by one Book,
and a very old one.”*

JOHN HENRY CARDINAL NEWMAN





FORMATION IN SCRIPTURE & CHURCH TEACHING

St. Pope John Paul II always emphasized ongoing conversion. From childhood through adulthood, our whole life must be a process of drawing closer to God. He never stops calling us forward to learn more and to examine ourselves more deeply. As Catholic adults, it is our responsibility to take the initiative for our own formation.

This year, because our parish is emphasizing Formation, we need to pay particular attention to opportunities for studying our faith. This includes reading scripture (and perhaps scripture commentaries) and other Catholic material. It includes attending classes, going on retreats, and discussing our faith with others. There are also dozens of bookstores and Web sites that offer high-quality information about our faith. Make sure to include Catholic books, videos, and movies among your reading and viewing choices.

“Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.”

ST. JEROME

For reflection... _____

- ❖ What can I do to put a greater emphasis on Catholic formation in my own life?
- ❖ How often do I read my Bible and other spiritual books?
- ❖ Do I participate in Bible study and discussion groups?



PRACTICING FINANCIAL DISCIPLINE

It's no accident that the fruit of our labor, the collection, is offered at the same time as the presentation of the gifts of bread and wine. In the same way that the bread and wine are "the work of human hands," in modern society, money represents the result of our work. Our financial gift, then, is a gift of ourselves to God. God accepts our bread and wine, transforms them, and gives them back to us to convey His grace. In a similar way, God accepts our money and transforms it through the work of the parish.

Our parish asks each family to give 5% of its gross income to the offertory. This is only possible, however, when we are good stewards of the remaining 95%. And because consumerism is rampant in our society, this can be difficult to do. Part of our Catholic formation should include a serious look at where we spend our resources. If needed, seek out assistance with budgeting, fiscal discipline, and overall financial stewardship.

"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

God loves a cheerful giver"

2 COR 9:6-7



GUIDE FOR GIVING 5%:

| Annual Income | 5% Weekly Gift |
|---------------|----------------|
| \$10,000 | \$10 |
| 20,000 | 19 |
| 30,000 | 29 |
| 50,000 | 48 |
| 75,000 | 72 |
| 100,000 | 96 |
| 125,000 | 120 |
| 150,000 | 144 |
| 200,000 | 192 |

For reflection... _____

- ❖ Do I believe that all I have belongs to God, and do I seek help to become more financially responsible?
- ❖ Does my spending reflect that God is a priority in my life?
- ❖ Have I made a good-faith effort to give 5% to the parish?

The ministries listed here provide opportunities for all ages to participate in parish life through learning, teaching, socializing, and serving within the parish and community. We encourage you to become active in our parish life through your commitment of time and talent in any number of our ministry offerings. Without your participation, few of these ministries would exist — join us please!

FAITH FORMATION

We offer religious education to preschool children through mature adults to help form their understanding of Catholic doctrine, devotions, morals, scripture, and spirituality. These offerings include Children's Liturgy of the Word, all sacramental preparations, young adult faith formation, and adult enrichment studies.

Contact: Deb Wetzell, 308-395-8521 unless otherwise noted.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Volunteers lead children ages three years through sixth grade in a Liturgy of the Word for Children which includes 30 minutes of age-appropriate study, prayer, and crafts

based on the Sunday readings at the 10 a.m. Mass twice a month. Volunteers range in age from older youth through grandparents. You will enjoy your time committed in this ministry.

Preschool through Grade 8 Religious Education

We offer religious education classes to preschoolers through 8th grade on Wednesday evenings from September through Easter. This includes sacramental preparation for First Eucharist and Reconciliation. We depend on a commitment of many faithful volunteers willing to commit an hour each week in class plus preparation time. As a volunteer, you will receive training, guidance, and support to prepare you to be successful in the classroom. Prior experience is not required; rather a deep faith and desire to pass on our Catholic faith to our youth.

High School Religious Education and Youth Ministry

We use the Godparent Program Model for our high school religious formation program that aims to help our teenagers to learn to apply Christian principles and incorporate Jesus' teaching into their daily lives through theological discussion, practical applications, social activities, and prayer. The Godparents stay with their group 2 ½

years beginning with a freshman group. Generally, Godparents are those of an age and experience that enables them to relate to teen issues and can include married couples. Time commitment for Godparents is 1 ½ hour class time plus preparation time each week for the Religious Education Year. During the junior year, the students move from this program into preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation which is taught by another Catechist.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

We offer RCIA to adults who desire to join the Catholic Church and to those who want to learn or refresh their doctrinal understanding and practice of being Catholic. We need faithful volunteers to augment the teaching of clergy and people in consecrated life willing to commit 2 hours a week from September through Easter.

Adult Enrichment

From fall through spring, we offer short study programs to adults lead by faithful volunteers, clergy, and people in consecrated life. We encourage you to submit your topics of interest to incorporate into our enrichment studies. In general, these studies last 1.5 hours a week and run from 4 to 8 weeks long. *Contact: Sr. Bernadette Engelhaupt, 308-384-0532, ext. 202*

PASTORAL CARE

BeFriender Ministries

This ministry provides training and support to lay ministers to extend pastoral care to those experiencing any variety of difficulties in their lives. Its key component is listening, so the person visited finds their own inner wisdom to overcome their concerns. Initial training requires a commitment of 2 hours a week for 10 weeks; after which these BeFriender Ministers commit to attending a 2-hour development meeting once a month plus meeting with a person assigned to them twice a month for about 1 hour each visit.

Contact: Sr. Bernadette Engelhaupt, 308-384-0532, ext. 202

Visiting Homebound

Parishioners take Holy Communion to those who are unable to attend Mass due to illness or advanced age. This happens at the request of the person who is homebound. Time commitment is usually one visit a weekend after a weekend Mass. Visitors are trained and accountable to Fr. Marty or Sr. Bernadette.

Contact: Fr. Marty Egging, 308-384-0532, ext. 206; Sr. Bernadette Engelhaupt, 308-384-0532, ext. 202

Funeral Dinners

As a service to the family who is grieving, our parish provides a dinner immediately following the funeral service. Often these luncheons can be quite large, so many volunteers are needed to prepare and serve the meal.

Contact: Parish Office/Teri Puncochar, 308-384-0532

Cookie Ministry

Volunteers provide and serve cookies after Vigil services to the bereaved. Occasionally, this group also serves cookies after other special events.

Contact: Sheryl Blauhorn, 308-380-0176

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

These ministries serve one purpose: the celebration of the Eucharist which is the “source and summit of our faith” (Vatican II).

Contact: Richard Clawson (Music and Liturgy), 308-384-0532, ext. 205

Lectors

Those who proclaim the Word of God and lead the Prayers of the Faithful.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC)

Those who assist the Priest in the distribution of Christ’s Body and Blood during Mass, cleanse the communion vessels after Mass, and prepare the vessels for the next liturgy.

Hospitality Ministers

Those who have an important role of greeting and welcoming the community to Mass. They find someone to take up gifts and collection, respond to emergencies, and distribute bulletins after Mass. This underserved liturgical ministry is one of our highest priorities for volunteer recruitment. We need 4 persons for each Mass and children can augment this ministry.

Altar Servers

Female and male altar servers range from 4th grade students to adults.

Music Ministers

Those offer their musical gifts and talents in service to Christ and his Church. In addition to choir members and soloists, music ministers may also serve as Cantors or play musical instruments for the glory of God and the enrichment of our worship.

Technology Ministers

Those who offer serve as videographers for all liturgical functions Livestreamed on various social media platforms and who operate the sound board for liturgical celebrations, including weekend and Holy Day Masses, funerals and weddings.

Art & Environment Ministers

Those who enhance liturgical celebrations by decorating our church and other spaces in ways that reflect the liturgical season. Volunteers with artistic or interior design skills plan the décor, and those with physical ability decorate the space as needed.

Contact: Barb Binfield, 308-379-1671

Sacristans

Those who set up for Mass and ensure that the ministers for the Mass are present, or if necessary, find someone to fill in for an absent minister.

HOSPITALITY/OUTREACH

Coffee and Rolls

Volunteers set up and serve coffee and donuts each Sunday after the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Masses.

Contact: Parish Office/Teri Puncochar, 308-384-0532

Welcome Committee

Members of this committee call on people who are newly registered in the parish to welcome them, share information about the parish and give them a welcome gift bag.

Contact: Sr. Bernadette Engelhaupt, 308-384-0532, ext. 202

Parish Nurse Program

The parish nurse, and volunteers working with her, focus on both healing ministry and on wellness of mind, body and spirit by providing education, blood pressure clinics, Brown Bag consultations with pharmacists, individual counseling regarding health issues, and finding resources for persons with health issues. Time commitment: For nurses about ½ hour a month; for pharmacists about 3 hours once or twice a year.

Contact: Mary Anne Hinchey, R.N., 308-384-0532, ext. 211

Health Advisory Committee

This is an appointed committee of certified health and safety practitioners, led by the parish nurse, to advise the Pastor on matters of infection control, safe food handling, OSHA compliance, and environmental hazards. This group meets 4 times annually and members are responsible for bringing their professional concerns and problem-solving proposals to the attention of the Pastor.

Contact: Mary Anne Hinchey, R.N., 308-384-0532, ext. 211

Parish Thrift Store

The Thrift store has a Christian mission of helping those with limited incomes live dignified lives by providing clothing, furniture, household

appliances at an affordable price. It also helps the environment by keeping quality used goods out of the landfill. Funds derived from resale of goods help fund parish ministries and outreach programs. The Thrift store needs volunteers on Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays during the hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Time commitment is up to the volunteer.

Contact: Judy Foster, 308-398-3443 on the above days of the week; or at home, 308-380-4335

Food Pantry

The parish Food Pantry lives up to the work of mercy: “Feed the hungry”. Volunteers would help with stocking shelves, rotating stock, being aware of expiration dates, and setting up the grocery bags that would be given to those in need. They would also be aware of how well stocked the freezer is with perishable items such as meats and breads. Since this could happen in a couple of hours one day a week with two or three volunteers, having multiple teams could mean rotating weeks.

Contact: Teri Puncochar, 308-384-0532

Habitat for Humanity

Working with people from all walks of life, Habitat for Humanity builds homes for the working poor. Volunteer work can be as little as one hour a month or a full eight-hour day.

Contact: Julie Markvicka, 402-440-5254; Marty Markvicka, 308-390-3988

Compass

Blessed Sacrament participates in Compass Nebraska, which is a statewide Christian Ministry which focuses on keeping struggling, local families intact by meeting their basic financial and material needs. We need volunteers to help decide which needs we will fulfill and to recruit the finances to fill those needs. Time commitment: about 45 minutes for a meeting once a month.

Contact: Mary Anne Hinchey, R.N., 308-384-0532, ext. 211

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Fall Fest

The Fall Fest is an annual parish festival where there is fun and food for everyone in the parish and community. It is run solely by parish volunteers and we have dinner, games for the children, and raffles for all. Volunteers in abundance, are needed to assist this one event.

Contact: Teri Puncochar, 308-384-0532, ext. 201, teripuncochar@gmail.com; Fr. Martin Egging, 308-384-0532, ext. 206, martyegging@hotmail.com

Prime Time Group

The Prime Time Group offers an opportunity for our senior citizens (age 50+) to share some time together. The group meets the third Wednesday of each month for the noon Mass followed by a home-cooked dinner and a program of education or

entertainment. A freewill offering is taken to help defray costs. Volunteers are needed to prepare the meal, decorate the Jubilee Center, and help plan for the education and entertainment offered.

Contact: Sr. Bernadette Engelhaupt, 308-384-0532, ext. 202

Quilting Group

This group hand quilts the raffle quilt for Fall Fest and does hand quilting for individuals. No experience is necessary to join. We will teach you.

Contact: JoAnn Sok, 308-379-5618

Women's Spring-A-Ling

An evening for women beginning with a light supper followed by an inspirational speaker. Volunteer Committee members plan and set up for the event. Time commitment is 4 meetings of one hour each, plus what each volunteers to do to make the event happen.

Contact: Sr. Bernadette Engelhaupt, 308-384-0532, ext. 202

FACILITIES ENVIRONMENT

Courtyard Gardening

The courtyard is maintained by volunteers with many ornamental bushes and flowers to assist any person in prayer. Volunteers are needed throughout the year to do general gardening.

Contact: Deb Kobza, 402-200-0774

Maintenance Ministry

Volunteers are needed to help with the maintenance of the parish property including lawns, buildings and the equipment.

Contact: Scott Hiatt, 308-379-9666

SMALL GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Catholic Daughters of the Americas

These women strive to embrace the principles of faith through love in the promotion of justice, equality, and the advancement of human rights and dignity for all. Under the patronage of the Blessed Mother, its members are united by their faith in Jesus Christ, in their devotion to the Church and the Holy See. New members always welcome.

Contact: Mary Phelan, 308-382-0311

Knights of Columbus

This Catholic men's fraternal organization was formed to tender financial aid to members and their families. Social and intellectual fellowship is promoted through educational, charitable, religious, social welfare and service to the Church, country and fellow men. New members always welcome.

Contact: Mike Jarosz, 308-379-9791

Men's Early Morning Group

Men meet on Tuesday mornings at 6:30 and read a book together pausing and discussing when something resonates with a participant. It is safe place to share.

Contact: Greg Rempe, 308-390-4028

Centering Prayer Group

Centering Prayer is a receptive method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplation which is a simple gaze of love between God and the person. The Centering prayer group meets on the first and third Mondays of the month; one Monday focuses on praying and the other on learning about centering prayer.

Contact: Dee Brabander, 308-380-7217

Charismatic Prayer Group

Charismatic Prayer Group is a gathering of parishioners and others for the purpose of praise and worship of our Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The weekly meetings consist of prayer which may include some of the members speaking in tongues and some praying over others. It also includes song, and Scripture sharing with Mass once a month.

Contact: Dean and Anita Graf, 308-384-8855

SCHOOL MINISTRIES

Blessed Sacrament Preschool

We provide and support our very own pre-school to both parish and non-parish families by offering a distinctly Christian and caring environment. We pledge excellence in preparing young children to move on to Kindergarten. We welcome committed volunteers and grandparents as classroom assistants once background checks are complete. Time commitment for volunteers is worked out with the Director of the Preschool.

Contact: Leah Housel, 308-384-2086

Central Catholic Middle/High School

We support Central Catholic Middle/High (GICC) School and strongly encourage your involvement in their academic and athletic endeavors. Volunteer opportunities abound at GICC.

Our Parish Contact for GICC: Parish Representative Rob Czaplewski, 308-370-1372; Mr. Jordan Engle is the Principal, 308-384-2440

PARISH COUNCILS AND COMMITTEES

The positions on these councils are either elected or appointed, but it is helpful to know who might be interested in them.

Finance Council

Works with Pastor for the financial well-being of the parish. These members include the two directors of the parish and others at the invitation of the Pastor.

Parish Pastoral Council

This council is advisory to the pastor and looks at the total welfare of the parish. Members are elected in the months of May and/or June.

Stewardship Committee

This is an appointed committee whose focus is developing a stewardship culture in the parish.