

TIME

29-30 October 2016

Everything we have is a gift from God. All good things are gifts from God (1 Timothy 6:17). Our food and clothing (Matthew 6:25, 33), the rain and fruitful harvests (Leviticus 26:4), faith (Ephesians 2:8), grace (James 4:6), wisdom (Proverbs 2:6, James 1:5), and life itself (Isaiah 42:5) are all gifts from God.

So it is very important to say Thank You to God and to express our gratitude to God for all that we have in our lives. The way we do this is through prayer. Our gratitude brings us to prayer. Our prayer is the way we grow in our relationship with God. And as our relationship grows, we grow in our desire to serve, to help, to share abundantly with others as we have abundantly received. As we prepare for our annual Stewardship Renewal, we are mindful of the precious gift of Time that we have been given.

Our time begins at birth and ends on this earth with death. For most, it is about 25,000 days. Our time is precious and cannot be stored up like grain in a barn. Once a moment passes, it is gone forever. God wants all of us to reach heaven; that is why He created us and why He sent us Jesus. Our life on earth is a pilgrimage toward heaven. Each day, each week, each month, and each year we must be progressing on our pilgrimage to God. We cannot do this unless we give some time to God.

Most people admit that it's difficult to find a quiet moment to spend with God. Family and work responsibilities sometimes seem to take up every spare second. Unless we're good stewards of our time, prayer just doesn't happen.

To become a more prayerful person, take inventory of how you spend the 168 hours in the week to discover which things may be less important than praying regularly. During our Stewardship Renewal at St. Ann's, please join with other parishioners who are learning to rearrange their schedule to make "first things first."

The United States Bishops in their Pastoral Letter on Stewardship say "For Catholics, stewardship of time should include setting aside periods for family prayer, for the reading of Scripture, for visits to the Blessed Sacrament, and for attendance at Mass during the week whenever this is possible."

Through daily prayer, we develop a close personal relationship with God, sharing with Him our successes and failures, and asking for His guidance in our daily lives. Reading Scripture daily helps us reflect on God's word. It also tells of God's great love for us.

Please take some time this week to think about your Gift of Time. Is God getting enough of it from you?

Remember, ***your gift of time is unique, because you are the only one who can give it.***