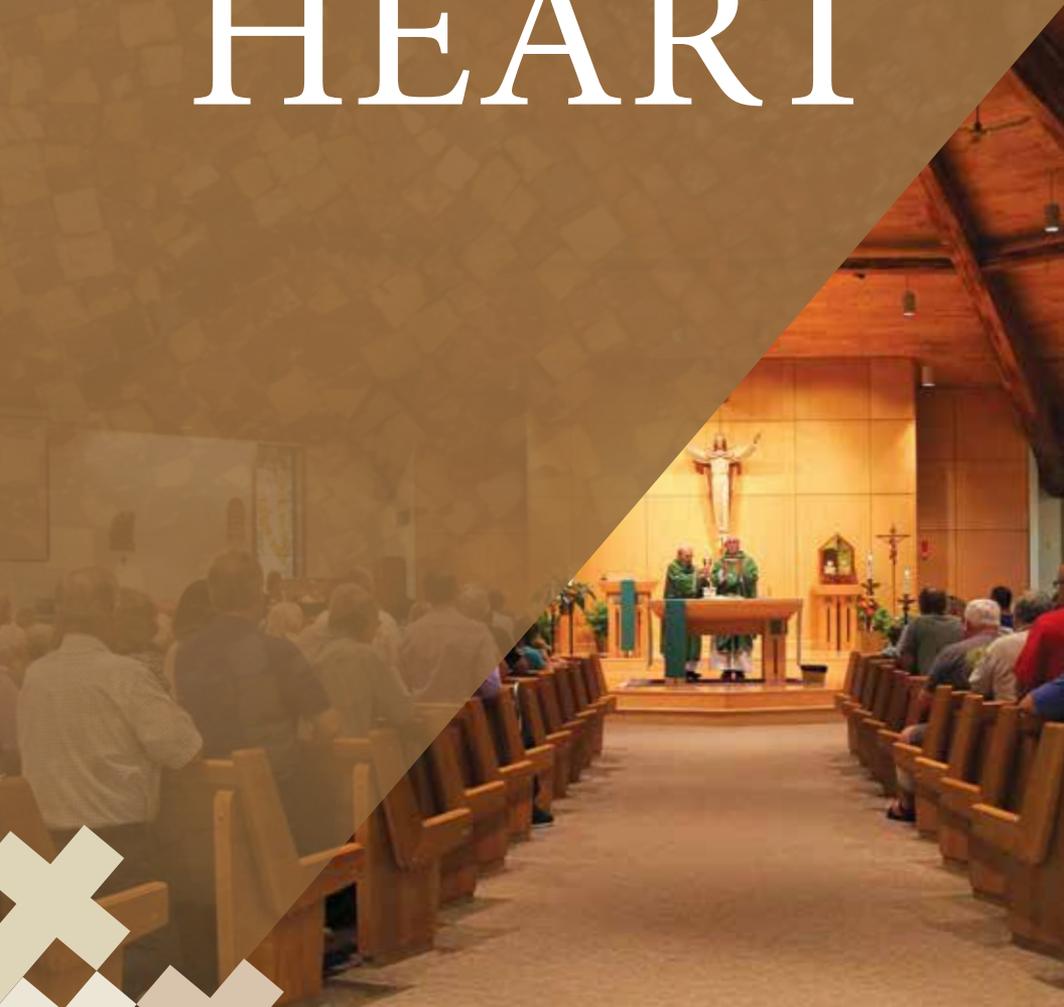


FORMED

in the

HEART



Church of the Ascension
2017 STEWARDSHIP RENEWAL

STEWARDSHIP

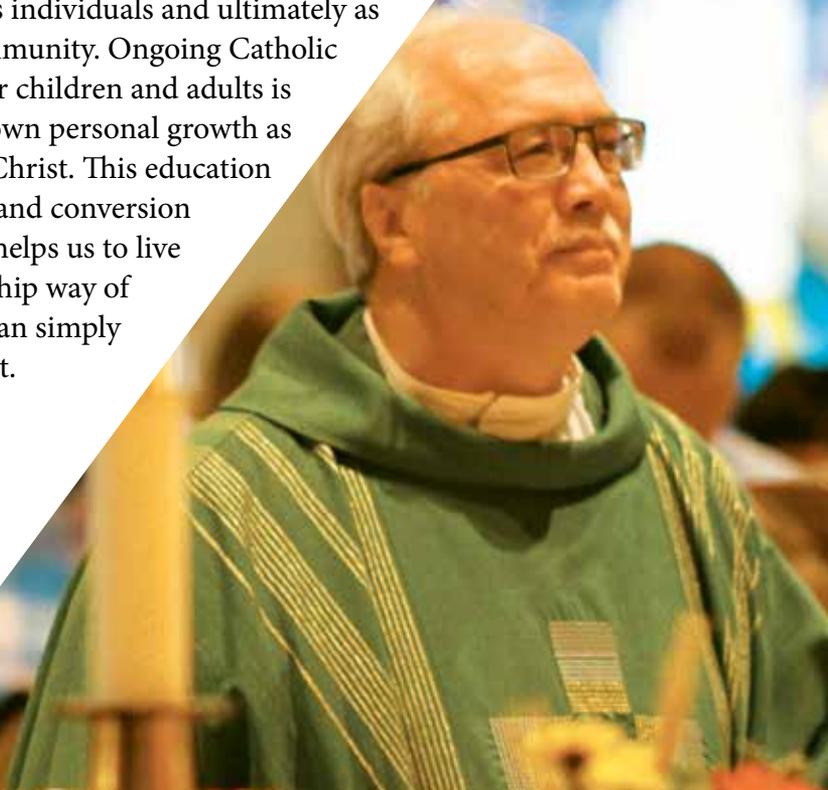
“Stewardship involves a lifelong process of study, reflection, prayer, and action. To make stewardship a way of life, it requires a change of heart and a new understanding of what it means to follow Jesus without counting the cost.”



Formed in the Heart

As the U.S. Catholic Bishops tell us in their pastoral letter, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, "Stewardship involves a lifelong process of study, reflection, prayer, and action. To make stewardship a way of life, it requires a change of heart and a new understanding of what it means to follow Jesus without counting the cost."

This conversion of mind and heart begins with a strong foundation in the principles of our Faith. Ongoing personal formation strengthens our faith, both as individuals and ultimately as a parish community. Ongoing Catholic education for children and adults is vital to our own personal growth as disciples of Christ. This education of the mind and conversion of the heart helps us to live the stewardship way of life rather than simply understand it.



Stewardship of Time

The foundation of our prayer lives and our ongoing formation as Catholic stewards begins with the Mass, the “source and summit of our faith”. The celebration of the Sunday Mass Liturgy gives us the spiritual nourishment that we need to live our lives as faithful stewards. The Eucharist not only feeds us, but challenges us to share the gifts we have received with others. We are sent “...to love and serve the Lord” at the conclusion of the Mass. A constant challenge exists for us to make the correlation between our call to discipleship as stewards and the liturgies we celebrate.

Each time we pray, we invite God into our lives at that moment, strengthening the foundation that we stand upon. During this year’s Stewardship Renewal, will you seek to strengthen your relationship with God?

STRENGTHENING YOUR PRAYER LIFE

- Pope Francis’ encouragement is to spend time in prayerful study of the scriptures, asking God what He would have you learn about Him and His will for your life through His Word.
- Go before Him in the Blessed Sacrament in Adoration, giving Him thanks for the good things He has brought to your life and asking for help in the challenges.
- Research the lives of the saints, read their works, and ask God for the grace to live as they did.
- Utilize Catholic phone and tablet apps such as iBreviary, Magnificat, Divine Office or The Pope App to pray and learn more about our Catholic faith.

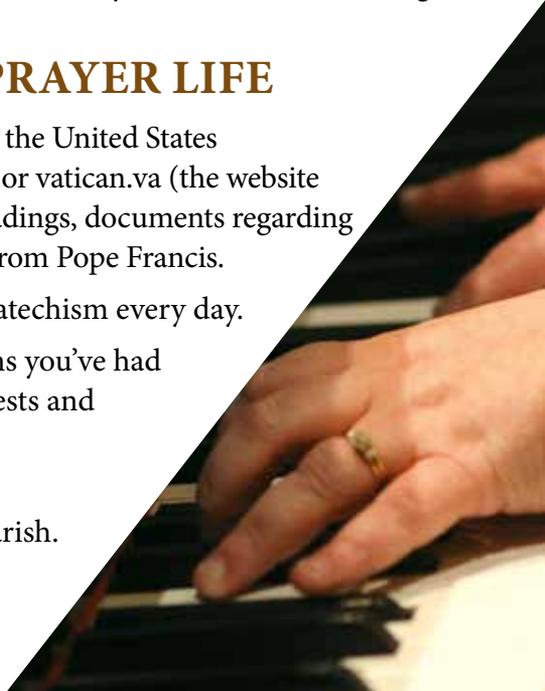
Stewardship of Talent

The work of stewardship and evangelization always begins at home — “home” in our own hearts, and then the “home” of our parish. Of course, a faithful steward shares his or her talents by serving others, but an important step toward growing closer to Christ is through a personal commitment to a life of continual conversion in Christ through the life of the Church.

As Catholic adults, our continued formation is a talent we must cultivate for our entire lives. Whether it is regularly reading scripture, attending scripture study classes, participating in retreats, or engaging in meaningful discussions on the faith with our Catholic friends and fellow parishioners, there is a multitude of ways we can grow in our faith. Thanks to modern technology, the internet gives us a seemingly endless supply of formational opportunities. Ultimately, by emphasizing our own personal formation, we in turn will have something more meaningful to give back to our loved ones, our parish family, and the Church at-large.

DEEPENING YOUR PRAYER LIFE

- Search uscgb.org (the website for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) or vatican.va (the website for the Holy See) for the daily readings, documents regarding faith and morality, and wisdom from Pope Francis.
- Read one paragraph from the Catechism every day.
- Seek out answers to the questions you’ve had about our faith by talking to priests and knowledgeable parishioners.
- Participate in faith formation opportunities available at our parish.



Stewardship of Treasure

God has a plan for every aspect of your life, including your finances. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (2404) tells us to be “stewards of providence,” and calls us to use our resources not just for our own good, but for the good of God’s work in the Church. Creating a personal budget is one way to apply God’s principles to our finances and become better managers of the resources He has entrusted to us. We must learn how to take the gifts God has given us – our skills, our abilities, and our income – and use them for His work.

Our parish invites each family to give 10% of its gross income to God – 5% through the offertory, 1% to the diocese and 4% to other charities – to give according to the scriptural tithe. In order to accomplish this goal, however, we also must learn how to manage the remaining 90%. By setting goals, creating a budget and sticking to the plan, and most importantly coming to a greater understanding of the role generosity plays in our financial and spiritual lives, we can all exercise good stewardship of our treasure. How will you work making a specific, percentage-based commitment to God through the offertory?

% of Hshld Income:	10%	5%	4%	1%
Household Income	Amount of Weekly Gift			
\$30,000	\$58	\$29	\$23	\$6
\$50,000	96	48	38	10
\$70,000	135	67	54	14
\$100,000	192	96	76	19



Time to Commit *Call to Action*

The famous Christian author, C.S. Lewis, once wrote, “A person whose hands are full of parcels cannot receive a gift.” Stewardship is a life-long conversion of heart, mind and soul, so that we are able to receive God’s love and return that love to Him. The better we understand our Catholic faith and our personal role within God’s kingdom, the better equipped we will be to share God’s love and resources – our time, our talent, and our treasure — with others. This year, how will you take the next step in your journey of sharing God’s love through personal formation and conversion?





2017 Stewardship Opportunities

Liturgical Ministries

ADULT ALTAR SERVERS FOR FUNERALS

Adult Altar Servers for funerals assist the priest at funeral liturgies.

Contact: *Pete Baumgartner*,
701-226-8556

ALTAR SERVERS

Altar Servers assist the priest and deacon at Mass during weekend and special liturgies. This ministry is open to any youth in fourth grade and above, or adults.

Contacts: *Deacon Doyle Schulz*,
701-223-0287, doyleschulz@yahoo.com;
Deacon Tony Finneman, 701-222-8635,
finntj@bis.midco.net

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

The Environment Committee decorates and prepares the church for the different liturgical seasons and special occasions. Members of the committee create an atmosphere that will enhance the worshiping experience for parishioners, and deepen their awareness of God's presence.

Contact: *Judy Ness*, 701-400-9145,
juness@bis.midco.net

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion assist the priest in distributing the Sacred Body or Precious Blood during weekend Masses or other special Masses. Individuals interested in joining this ministry must be at least 16 years of age and Confirmed.

Contacts: *Kathy Lewis*, 701-223-3606,
klewis@ascensionbismarck.org;
Pauline Mueller, 701-226-9471

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Homebound take the Holy Eucharist to those unable to worship at Mass with the parish family.

Contact: *Kathy Lewis*, 701-223-3606,
klewis@ascensionbismarck.org

HOSPITALITY MINISTERS

Hospitality Ministers enhance an atmosphere of hospitality during Masses and special liturgies. These individuals welcome worshippers to the church, assist with seating, distribute and collect worship aids, and assist with the offertory and Communion procession.

Contact: *Val Frank*, 701-258-2974,
marval@bis.midco.net

LECTORS

Lectors proclaim God's Living Word at weekend Masses and during special liturgies.

*Contacts: Kathy Lewis, 701-223-3606, klewis@ascensionbismarck.org;
John Paul Martin, 701-527-3469, john.paul.martin@noaa.gov*

SACRISTAN

Sacristans assist the clergy in setting up for weekend Masses and special Masses, and in caring for the liturgical vessels, vestments and sacred furnishings.

*Contacts: Lil Krance, 701-255-7610;
Jan Sitter, 701-223-3606, jcsitter@ascensionbismarck.org*

Music Ministries

ACCOMPANISTS/

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Accompanists/instrumentalists accompany vocalists on organ, piano, guitar, or other instruments during Mass or other special liturgies.

Contact: Kathy Lewis, 701-223-3606, klewis@ascensionbismarck.org

CANTORS/VOCALISTS

Cantors/vocalists lead the congregational singing during weekend Masses and special liturgies. Cantors/vocalists can sing as soloists or within a small group.

Contact: Kathy Lewis, 701-223-3606, klewis@ascensionbismarck.org

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

GROUP-“REVIVE”

This group leads the music at 11 a.m. Sunday Mass at least once a month and during special liturgies. This ensemble sings upbeat praise and worship music. The group is composed of young people from sixth graders on up to adults.

*Contacts: Kathy Lewis, 701-223-3606, klewis@ascensionbismarck.org;
Michelle Friedt, 701-541-4686, mrfriedt@gmail.com*

MIXED CHOIR “RAISING PRAISE”

“Raising Praise” leads the music at 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass once a month and during special liturgies. This choir sings a mixture of traditional, folk and contemporary hymns. Rehearsals take place Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Adults and teens are welcome to join this choir.

Contact: Joan Backes, 701-223-9007, ad8keez@msn.com

VIDEO/AUDIO MINISTERS

Video/Audio ministers operate the video projection system and make any needed adjustments to the audio system during weekend Masses or other special liturgies. A basic knowledge of computers is sufficient, and the video slideshows are prepared for the ministers. Training is provided. Open to teens through adults.

Contact: Kathy Lewis, 701-223-3606, klewis@ascensionbismarck.org



Parish Life Ministries

OFFERING COUNTERS

The Offering Counters count the weekly offertory. The members of this group serve on various teams. The coordinator will contact interested volunteers.

Contact: Jan Sitter, 701-223-3606,
jcsitter@ascensionbismarck.org

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

The Social Concerns Committee promotes the social justice concerns of our parish and reaches out to the community. Initiatives of this ministry include "The Banquet," Christmas Giving Tree, Fill the Crib, prayer blankets, and other projects.

Contacts: Mary Neigum, 701-258-5742,
mary_neigum@hotmail.com;
Joanie Schable, 701-751-0210,
pschable@hotmail.com

VOCATIONS COMMITTEE

The Vocations Committee obtains and distributes information on vocations. Committee members promote an awareness of and encourage prayer for



vocations and those serving as priests, deacons and religious.

Contacts: Mike and Julie Luger,
701-222-0382, mjluger@bis.midco.net

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA

The Catholic Daughters of America is a group of Catholic women who lend support and love to other Catholic women. Members participate in spiritual programs and activities.

Contact: Virginia Dolajak,
701-258-5379, momofsixls@yahoo.com

SERRA CLUB

The Serra Club encourages and fosters vocations to the priesthood, religious life and permanent diaconate. Members also support those already in the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.

Contact: Mike Luger, 701-222-0382,
mjluger@bis.midco.net

Faith Formation Ministries

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

A variety of Adult Faith Formation opportunities are held throughout the year, such as: Small faith sharing groups, Bible study, book discussions and more.

Contact: Beth Kathol, 701-258-5692,
bkathol@ascensionbismarck.org



FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE

The Faith Formation Committee is an advisory board for the parish Faith Formation programs. It meets only five times per year, and members serve three-year terms.

*Contact: Beth Kathol, 701-258-5692,
bkathol@ascensionbismarck.org*

FAITH FORMATION VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are needed to help serve in a variety of ways throughout the year. Volunteers can help for a single occasion or on a regular schedule. Areas include: Meal Events, traffic monitor, listen to prayers, create bulletin boards, environment and other opportunities as needed or any place you can share your talents.

*Contact: Beth Kathol, 701-258-5692,
bkathol@ascensionbismarck.org*

FAITH FORMATION CATECHIST

Faith Formation catechists have the opportunity to share and teach the Catholic Faith with children and youth in grades 1-9. Catechists help youth and children come to know Christ Jesus and the teachings of the Catholic Faith. Faith Formation sessions take place at 4:00, 5:30 and 7:00 p.m.

*Contact: Beth Kathol, 701-258-5692,
bkathol@ascensionbismarck.org*

RCIA SPONSORS

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is an initiation process for those who wish to become Catholic. RCIA teaches individuals about the Catholic Faith and Church Traditions. Parishioners are needed to volunteer as sponsors, catechists or Prayer Partners.

*Contact: Deacon Doyle Schulz,
701-223-0287, doyleschulz@yahoo.com*

Youth Ministries

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH ACTIVITIES

For High School Youth in grades 9-12 who are interested in learning and sharing about the Faith in a meaningful and fun environment. Events available for participation are Search, Diocesan High School Youth Rally, NCCY (National Catholic Youth Conference) and Steubenville.

*Contact: Beth Kathol, 701-258-5692,
bkathol@ascensionbismarck.org*

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH ACTIVITIES

For Middle School Youth in grades 6-8 who are interested in learning and sharing about the Faith in a meaningful and fun environment. Events available for participation are: Diocesan Junior High School Rally and National Middle School Youth Conference.

*Contact: Beth Kathol, 701-258-5692,
bkathol@ascensionbismarck.org*





YOUTH ADULT LEADER

Youth Adult Leaders assist with junior high and high school youth events.

Contact: Beth Kathol, 701-258-5692, bkathol@ascensionbismarck.org

Service Ministries

CHANGING MISSALETTES

Volunteers change the missalettes and songbooks when needed. Volunteers are divided into three teams, and are scheduled to assist only once per year.

Contact: Kathy Lewis, 701-223-3606, klewis@ascensionbismarck.org

FUNERAL LUNCHEONS (CALLING FOR FOOD)

Members of this ministry call parishioners to donate food for funeral luncheons.

Contact: Rita Ritter, 701-223-3606, rritter@ascensionbismarck.org

FUNERAL LUNCHEONS (PROVIDING FOOD)

Members of this ministry provide salads, bars, etc., for funeral luncheons.

Contact: Rita Ritter, 701-223-3606, rritter@ascensionbismarck.org

FUNERAL LUNCHEONS (SERVING)

Members of this ministry assist grieving families by serving food during funeral luncheons.

Contact: Rita Ritter, 701-223-3606, rritter@ascensionbismarck.org

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL #7602

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal service organization of men, founded under the principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. This organization provides men with a vehicle for building up the parish community and family life with an emphasis on family, youth, church, council, and community activities.

Contact: Mike Kraft, 701-221-7745, mike.kraft@bektel.com

LADIES OF ASCENSION

All registered women parishioners are considered members of the Ladies of Ascension. This organization offers all women in the parish the opportunity to participate in apostolic works. In addition, the organization hosts a bake sale twice a year.

Contact: Rita Ritter, 701-258-9141, rritter@bis.midco.net



OFFICE HELPER

Occasionally, the office staff needs volunteers to help stuff envelopes, assemble bulletins, and prepare the monthly newsletters for mailing and other miscellaneous office duties.

Contact: Rita Ritter, 701-223-3606, rritter@ascensionbismarck.org

Sacramental Ministries

DIACONATE

Permanent deacons are ordained ministers of the Church. Diaconate candidates go through a five-year formation process, which is made up of a two-year Aspirancy Program and three years of formation.

Contact: Msgr. Jim Braaten, 701-223-3606, jbbraaten3@ascensionbismarck.org

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

Married couples meet with engaged couples before the wedding. They administer the FOCCUS inventory and review the results with the engaged couple.

Contact: Deacon Tony Finneman, 701-222-8635, finntj@bis.midco.net

PRE-BAPTISM PROGRAM

This is a program that explains the Sacrament of Baptism, as well as the roles of parents and godparents in the faith formation of their child.

Contact: Deacon Tony Finneman, 701-222-8635, finntj@bis.midco.net

PRE-MARRIAGE PROGRAM

Couples work with other members of a team three weekends a year, preparing engaged couples for the Sacrament of Marriage.

Contact: Msgr. Jim Braaten, 701-223-3606, jbbraaten3@ascensionbismarck.org

Outreach Ministry

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

This is a support group for anyone who has lost a loved one. They meet the first Thursday of the month for lunch.

Contact: Lil Krance, 701-255-7610

COMPASSION MINISTRY

Teams of four to five families dedicated to provide assistance to grieving families.

Contact: Tammie Johnson, 701-258-5380, tmjohnson@bis.midco.net

PRAYER LINE

Members of Prayer Line pray for those in the parish with serious illnesses or injury as well as for the needs and concerns of the community at large.

Contact: Pauline Mueller, 701-226-9471

THE BANQUET

An ecumenical outreach to the poor and homeless. It consists of a hosted and served meal that takes place at Trinity Lutheran Church. Our parish is involved once a year.

Contact: Mary Neigum, 701-258-5742, mary_neigum@hotmail.com

CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER

This dinner is held on Christmas Eve at Ascension. It is for those who are alone or have nowhere to go for Christmas.

*Contact: Sahlenia Braun,
701-223-8666, sahleniab1@yahoo.com*

Pastoral Leadership Ministries

BACEF (BISMARCK AREA CATHOLIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION)

The parish representative is part of an advisory board that oversees the Bismarck Area Catholic Education Foundation. Members serve three year terms. Time Commitment: One hour monthly; Talent: Individuals must possess a desire to support Catholic education.

*Contact: Msgr. Jim Braaten, 701-223-3606,
jbbraaten3@ascensionbismarck.org*

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

The Finance Council is consultative and assists the pastor in all aspects of the parish's financial administration, and is accountable to the pastor and parishioners for the financial integrity of the parish and all the financial dealings conducted by the parish. Members serve five-year terms. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 12 p.m. Time Commitment: one to two hours monthly; Talent: Individuals should possess knowledge of financial

matters, and have a willingness to advise the pastor.

*Contact: Les Gasal, 402-762-5562,
lesgasal@midco.net*

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Pastoral Council serves a consultative board to the pastor. The council strives to discern the needs of the parish and offer guidance and help in following its mission to share the message of Christ with others. New members are elected or appointed each December and take office in January. Council members serve three-year terms. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month, September to May. Time Commitment: one to two hours monthly; Talent: Individuals must possess a willingness to serve and advise the pastor.

*Contact: Bobbi Grassel, 701-222-8536,
bbgrassel@gmail.com*

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Stewardship Committee studies the meaning of stewardship, and formulates ideas and ways of promoting stewardship, including ways in which parishioners can offer the first fruits of their time, talent and treasure to the Lord and the parish community.

*Contact: Eric Miller, 701-527-1878,
emiller@ae-solutions.com*

ST. MARY'S CEMETERY BOARD

Parish representatives serve on a board that oversees the maintenance and support of St. Mary's Cemetery.

*Contact: Jan Sitter, 701-223-3606,
jcsitter@ascensionbismarck.org*





Church of the Ascension

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