

# STEWARDSHIP

## A PATH TO HOLINESS



*2018 Stewardship Renewal Handbook*

## CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION





# A STEWARDSHIP PRAYER

*Almighty Father, we thank You for all the gifts You have given us: our lives, our loved ones, all that we have and all that we are. Most of all, we thank You for Jesus, Your Son and our Redeemer, who came among us to show the way to eternal life. Jesus was the perfect steward of your gifts, showing us that complete trust in You is necessary, and that giving of self is a most important part of following Him. May the offerings of our time, our talents and our material resources be made in the same spirit of sacrifice that Jesus taught us by His life and death for us. We ask this through Jesus Christ, Your Son and our Lord.*



## STEWARDSHIP, A PATH TO HOLINESS

Jesus wants us to be happy and He wants us to be holy. In fact, holiness is required of every baptized Christian. The good news is that holiness is within our reach and a holy life is a happy life — the deep and lasting kind of “happy” that only our Lord can give. So, what is this holiness we are called to attain? It is nothing less than the call to sainthood, living our whole lives in and through Christ, and reflecting His love and goodness everywhere we go. In his Apostolic Letter, *On the Call for Holiness in our Modern World*, Pope Francis encourages us by speaking of the “saints next door.” When we think of holiness we need not think only of those already-canonized saints. Rather, he says, *“I like to contemplate the holiness present in the patience of God’s people: In their daily perseverance, I see the holiness of the Church militant. A holiness found in our next-door neighbors, the middle class of holiness.”*



At Church of the Ascension, Stewardship is the path to this holiness our Lord asks of us. And our Annual Renewal is a grace-filled time to set ourselves once again on this path that will make us saints. Through a stewardship way of life, we allow Christ to permeate every aspect of our being. We invite the Holy Spirit to direct us in the use of all that the Father has given us — our Time, our Talent, and our Treasure. A stewardship way of life is a holy way of life and it leads us to the happiness we were made for.

*“Be holy because I am holy” (1 Peter 1:16).*

# STEWARSHIP OF TIME

## SACRED MOMENTS

Prayer and the sacraments are food for the journey to holiness. We simply can't be saints without them! Through them we obtain the grace and daily direction we need from our Lord for holy living. By committing Time for prayer and sacraments, we pause and give back to God a portion of this most precious gift of Time — especially now in our fast-paced world. Yet it is we who are truly blessed by the giving of this gift.

After time spent with God, my next priority of time should be for my family and friends, whom I am called to love and serve most intimately.

- Try reflecting each morning on the daily readings of the Catholic Church (found at [usccb.org/bible/readings](http://usccb.org/bible/readings)) to ask God what He wants to teach you in the day ahead.
- Take a moment to pray in your car on the way to or from work, offering your cares and your gratitude to the Lord.
- As a family, give each member a chance to say a “please,” “thank you” and “I’m sorry” prayer to God at the end of the day. End with an *Our Father* and *Hail Mary*.
- In addition to Sunday Mass, make Sunday dinner a priority as a time to reconnect with loved ones before the start of a busy week.

*“Prayer is most precious, for it nourishes a daily commitment to love.” — Pope Francis.*

# STEWARSHIP OF TALENT

*“The holiness to which the Lord calls you will grow through small gestures.”*  
— Pope Francis



## SACRED SERVICE

During this moment of Renewal, think about the talents the Lord has given you and your family. In gratitude, ask Him how you can use those talents to become the “saints next door,” loving others as He has first loved you.

- Spend some time prayerfully reading the ministry catalog to consider an area of service that will truly stretch you or an area where you can provide a real strength.
- If you are already involved in one ministry, pray about an additional way you might serve. For instance, if you are involved in assisting with the Liturgy in some way, volunteer in an outreach to the community.
- If you are not active in a prayer or faith formation group, join one to learn how to better love and follow our Lord and His teachings.

# STEWARSHIP OF TREASURE

## SACRED SPENDING

Just as Time and Talents are gifts from God, so too, are material things, or Treasure. And just as our Time and Talents are meant to be used for our growth in holiness, the way we spend our Treasure can also lead us to holiness. Anything He asks us to do is meant to make us happy in Him. Returning a portion of our treasure to the Lord teaches us to depend on Him and brings a peace and contentment the world cannot give. Will you take a leap of faith to try it and see for yourself?

- Take a look at your current budget and spending habits and assess what expenses are preventing you from giving more selflessly.
- As a means to grow in holiness, commit to giving a percentage of your income to God through the parish offertory and be faithful to this commitment, even when you attend mass elsewhere.



*“God asks everything of us, yet he also gives everything to us. He does not want to enter our lives to cripple or diminish them, but to bring them to fulfillment.”*

— Pope Francis

# MINISTRY CATALOG

## 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](mailto:doyleschulz@yahoo.com);  
*Deacon Tony Finneman*,  
701-222-8635, [finntj@bis.midco.net](mailto: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](mailto: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.

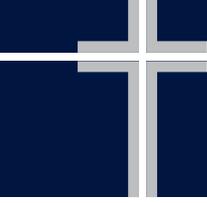
Contact: *Kathy Lewis*, 701-223-3606,  
[kewis@ascensionbismarck.org](mailto:kewis@ascensionbismarck.org)

### 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: *Rita Ritter*, 701-223-3606,  
[ritter@ascensionbismarck.org](mailto:ritter@ascensionbismarck.org)





## HOSPITALITY MINISTERS

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

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

## LECTORS

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

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

## SACRISTANS

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

*Contact: Jan Sitter, 701-223-3606, jsitter@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](mailto:klewis@ascensionbismarck.org)

## PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES

### 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](mailto:momofsixls@yahoo.com)

### 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: Beth Kathol, 701-223-3606,  
[bkathol@ascensionbismarck.org](mailto:bkathol@ascensionbismarck.org)



### PARISH SPRING DINNER

This is the parish annual turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Volunteers are needed to cook, dish-up, serve and cleanup.

Contact: Margie Frank, 701-258-2974

### 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,  
[mnjluger@bis.midco.net](mailto:mnjluger@bis.midco.net)

### 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, prayer blankets, and other projects.

Contacts: Mary Neigum, 701-258-5742,  
[mary\\_neigum@hotmail.com](mailto:mary_neigum@hotmail.com);  
Joanie Schable, 701-751-0210,  
[pschable@hotmail.com](mailto: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, mnjluger@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: Jessica Mattson, 701-258-5692, jmattson@ascensionbismarck.org*

## FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE

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

*Contact: Jessica Mattson, 701-258-5692, jmattson@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, hall monitor, create bulletin boards, environment and other opportunities as needed or any place you can share your talents. \*Requires background check in accordance with the diocesan policy on Safe Environments.

*Contact: Jessica Mattson, 701-258-5692, jmattson@ascensionbismarck.org*



## FAITH FORMATION CATECHIST

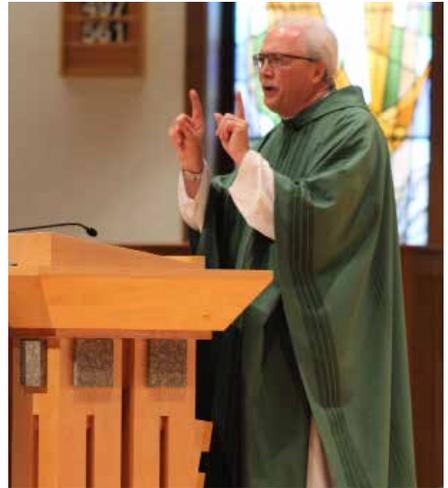
Faith Formation catechists have the opportunity to share and teach the Catholic Faith with children and youth in grades 1-9. Catechists help youth and children come to know Christ Jesus and the teachings of the Catholic Faith. Faith Formation sessions take place at 4:00, 5:30 and 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday evenings during the school year. \*Requires background check in accordance with the diocesan policy on Safe Environments.

*Contact: Jessica Mattson, 701-258-5692, [jmattson@ascensionbismarck.org](mailto:jmattson@ascensionbismarck.org)*

## RCIA PARTICIPANT

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is the process in which adults become full, active, participating members of the Catholic Church. RCIA helps us to grow in our relationship with God, become familiar with Catholic teachings and practices, get acquainted with people in the community and get involved in service with the community. The process is open to non-Catholics, Catholics who have been baptized but not Confirmed and Catholics who are Confirmed but wish to learn more about their faith. Classes go from September to May.

*Contact: Deacon Doyle Schulz, 701-223-0287, [doyleschulz@yahoo.com](mailto:doyleschulz@yahoo.com)*



## RCIA SPONSORS

RCIA teaches individuals about the Catholic Faith and Church Traditions. Parishioners are needed to volunteer as sponsors, catechists or prayer partners for those who wish to become Catholic.

*Contact: Deacon Doyle Schulz, 701-223-0287, [doyleschulz@yahoo.com](mailto: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, NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference) and Steubenville.

*Contact: Jessica Mattson, 701-258-5692, [jmattson@ascensionbismarck.org](mailto:jmattson@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 the Diocesan Junior High School Rally and National Middle School Youth Conference.

*Contact: Jessica Mattson, 701-258-5692, [jmattson@ascensionbismarck.org](mailto:jmattson@ascensionbismarck.org)*

## YOUTH ADULT LEADER

Youth Adult Leaders assist with junior high and high school youth events. \*Requires background check in accordance with the diocesan policy on Safe Environments.

*Contact: Jessica Mattson, 701-258-5692, [jmattson@ascensionbismarck.org](mailto:jmattson@ascensionbismarck.org)*

## SERVICE MINISTRIES

### 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:mike.kraft@bektel.com)

## 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,  
[rmritter@bis.midco.net](mailto:rmritter@bis.midco.net)

## OFFICE HELPER

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

Contact: Rita Ritter, 701-223-3606,  
[ritter@ascensionbismarck.org](mailto:ritter@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,  
[jobbraaten3@ascensionbismarck.org](mailto:jobbraaten3@ascensionbismarck.org)

### MARRIAGE PREPARATION SPONSORING COUPLES

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](mailto:finntj@bis.midco.net)

### PRE-BAPTISM PROGRAM INSTRUCTORS

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](mailto:finntj@bis.midco.net)



## OUTREACH MINISTRY

### 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. Many volunteers are needed to help setup, cook, dish, serve, and cleanup the meal. Additional volunteers are needed to help pass out gifts, treat bags, and provide music.

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

### CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

This is a support group for women who have 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*

### ST. MARY'S CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL CARNIVAL

This annual event raises funds for Catholic education in Catholic schools and parish religious education programs. It is a three-day event and includes: meals, Midway games, bingo, live and silent auctions and a raffle. Each parish is responsible for coordinating volunteers to operate specific activities or booths in the midway.

*Contact: Troy & Deb Schon, 250-4859,  
jstand6@gmail.com*

### 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 2-3 times a year.

*Contact: Mary Neigum, 701-258-5742,  
mary\_neigum@hotmail.com*

### PASTORAL LEADERSHIP MINISTRIES

#### 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.

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

### PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Pastoral Council serves as 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. Council members serve three-year terms.

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*





# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

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