



ST. BARNABAS CATHOLIC PARISH

2022 Parish Covenant Planning Guide for Individuals and Families

Covenant Renewal Timeline

Covenant Renewal
Planning Guide

Available:
February 19-20
February 26-27

Parish Annual Report

Available:
February 12-13

Covenant Renewal
Talk by Father Guy
at all Masses

March 5-6

Covenant Renewal
Speakers at all
Masses

February 26-27

Second Commitment
Weekend: Another
opportunity to bring
Covenant Renewal
Pledge to Mass

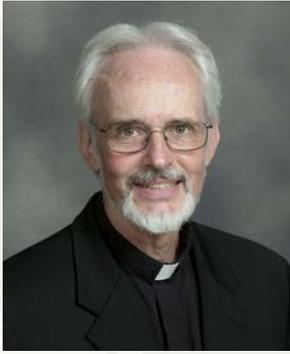
March 19-20

First Commitment
Weekend: Bring
Covenant Renewal
Pledge to Mass

March 12-13

Connecting
Parishioners to
Ministries

March-April



A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Brothers and Sisters of St. Barnabas,

Before our Lord Jesus ascended to the right hand of the Father in Heaven, He gave His Apostles the "Great Commission." This commission is given through the Apostles to the entire Church, which, of course, includes ourselves. As we think about parish stewardship, let's begin by taking a closer look at the Great Commission, which we find at the end of Matthew's Gospel:

"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age." (Mt.28:19-20)

Our mission, then, is to make disciples. If we are to make disciples, we must first be true disciples ourselves. Only then can we be successful in our mission. And as we examine the Great Commission more closely, we find it contains three directives:

1. Baptize all nations.
2. Teach them to observe all I have commanded you.
3. Know that I am with you always.

In living our lives as disciples of Jesus, and in forming disciples in His name, we come to understand what stewardship of the Church really means. "Baptism" refers to the Sacramental and prayer-life of the Church, by which God's grace is given and His people made holy.

"Teaching" means "faith formation," not only for our children, or for the uncatechized, but for each and every one of us. And to know that Jesus is with us always, until the end of time, implies communion with our Lord and with our brothers and sisters in the Faith. Jesus unites us, gives His life constantly to us, and accompanies us every step of the way in life's journey toward our everlasting home in the House of our Father in Heaven. Ultimately, "stewardship" in the Church means moving forward together, by following Jesus Christ, unto eternal life. That is the goal of stewardship.

With this goal of salvation and eternal life in mind, how will we live out the Great Commission as disciples this year through stewardship? When we hear the word "stewardship" we usually think about money. But such a minimalistic understanding can translate into simply throwing money at the parish to keep the lights on. Money is only a piece of stewardship, and so we might refer to our financial support of the parish as sacrificial giving. A sacrificial gift, or offering, is more than money; it is an act of grateful devotion to God, which comes from the heart. A sacrificial gift comes from a heart which recognizes what God has given first, and then, as an act of worship and love for God, offers it back. In this sense, sacrificial giving is a form of prayer.

Another misunderstanding of stewardship is that it is about what we are directing toward God. But being good stewards also means caring for ourselves and our loved-ones spiritually. Stewardship is about accepting, and receiving God's gifts to us in Word and Sacrament; it means being fed spiritually. God wants us in good, spiritual health, so we should take advantage of opportunities to grow spiritually this year through prayer, celebration of the Sacraments, and in some form of faith formation and catechesis. Ultimately, a disciple is a student of Jesus. Finally, stewardship means giving ourselves personally to others, by sharing the various spiritual gifts and talents God has given to each of us. This means we make a difference in our parish, and in the world around us, by stepping up, and by reaching out. Disciples are persons, and so disciples are made and sustained person to person, through the gift of self to one another.

St. Barnabas was founded as a stewardship parish, and has been a great example of stewardship since 1965. As pastor, I want to thank you in advance for your generosity to our parish through the sharing of your time, talent, and treasure. Together, let us fulfill the Great Commission by making disciples; and let us practice our own discipleship through stewardship.

Blessings,

Fr. Roberts

MAKING A PLEDGE

How do I discern my commitment to the parish covenant?

Traditionally with tithing in the Catholic Church, we are called to share 5% of our gross income with our parish. We can then share another 5% with charities of our choice making up the 10% tithe each year. Sometimes families work toward this 10% tithe over several years, but the tradition is for every parish family to tithe 5% of their gross income to St. Barnabas parish each year. With this context, consider using the following steps to guide your discernment process.

STEP 1

Place yourself in the presence of God. Remind yourself that God is with you in this moment and in this process.

STEP 2

Spend some time thinking about the blessings that God has given you in your life. Thank God for one or two ways that he has blessed you through the St. Barnabas parish community.

STEP 3

Speak to God about the options that are available at St. Barnabas to practice Stewardship through prayer, formation, service, and hospitality as well as through sacrificial giving.

STEP 4

Ask God to show you how the different aspects of stewardship are already part of your life. What types of personal or communal prayer, ways of educating yourself about your faith, service projects, or opportunities to be hospitable have led you to greater faith, hope and love in your life in the past? Invite the Holy Spirit to bring to light any areas you might have overlooked.



STEP 5

Ask the Lord to help you to see how your pledge will affect the people involved – yourself, your family, and the wider parish community. How will your commitment help others?

STEP 6

Pray that God will show you your emotions regarding this commitment, especially any that you've not yet acknowledged. Do these emotions come from a part of you that is in sync with God or from the part of you that is running from God?

STEP 7

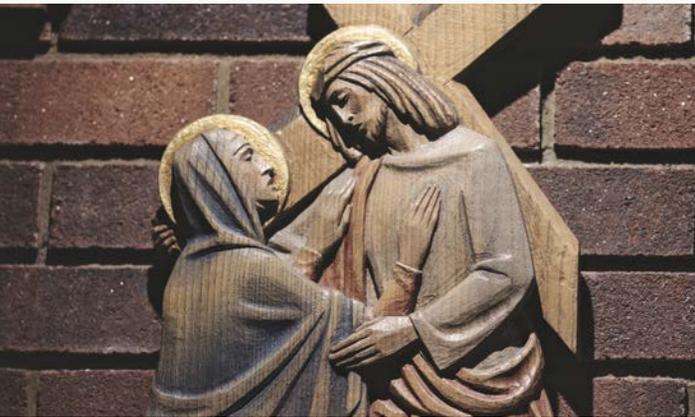
Surrender everything to God, saying, "Thy will be done, Lord. Jesus, I trust in You." Ask God to give you a sense of peace with your commitments.

STEP 8

If you feel called to make a commitment right now, place that commitment before God and ask God to make good come from that pledge. If you feel called to continue discerning for a while longer, ask God for the patience to wait for God's call. Take note of the direction that God seems to be leading you right now, and whether or not this seems to be how God has been nudging you for awhile now.

STEP 9

Close your prayer by filling out your pledge card, remembering to bring it to Mass with you to turn in on March 12/13 or March 19/20. Recall your prayer of surrender, "Thy will be done, Lord. Jesus, I trust in You." Amen.



WHAT COVENANT MEANS...

FOR YOU...

The four pillars of life in Christ are Hospitality, Prayer, Formation and Service

1. HOSPITALITY: I will seek to be a welcoming presence to all people.
2. PRAYER: I commit to growing closer to God through Liturgy, the Sacraments, prayer and action.
3. FORMATION: I will develop and share the gifts and talents I possess with St. Barnabas parish and school.
4. SERVICE: I will take my place in the parish community through meaningful involvement in at least one parish ministry.
5. STEWARDSHIP: I will put God first by giving a planned portion of my income on a regular basis to support St. Barnabas.

FOR ST. BARNABAS PARISH...

We are one Christ-centered community that is grateful for our joyful past as well as our bright future

1. HOSPITALITY: St. Barnabas will welcome all people and continue to celebrate diversity.
2. PRAYER: St. Barnabas will continue to be a Christ centered community that provides the Liturgy, Sacraments, and prayer.
3. FORMATION: St. Barnabas will provide opportunities to learn about their faith in ways that bring them closer to Christ.
4. SERVICE: St. Barnabas will connect parishioners with the opportunities for service which they have indicated on their Covenant Pledge card.
5. STEWARDSHIP: St. Barnabas will be a good steward of parishioners' financial gifts, be transparent with finances, and be accountable to parishioners through periodic reports no less than once a year.

FINAL INSTRUCTIONS...

Fr. Guy is asking everyone to bring their Covenant Pledge card to either the First Commitment Weekend March 12-13 or the Second Commitment Weekend March 19-20 so that a member of the family can bring forth the pledge card to the altar and place it in the basket during the Mass.

Thank you for taking the time to prayerfully consider how you are called to be generous to the St. Barnabas community this year!

