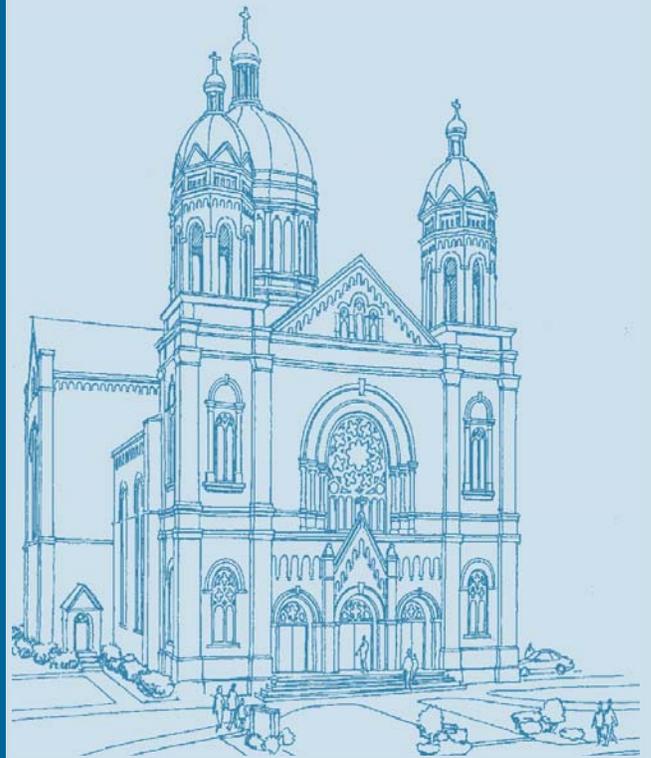


Immaculate Conception Parish

STEWARDSHIP HANDBOOK



*Stewardship is one of the Building Blocks of our Church
The Church is the Cornerstone of our Faith*

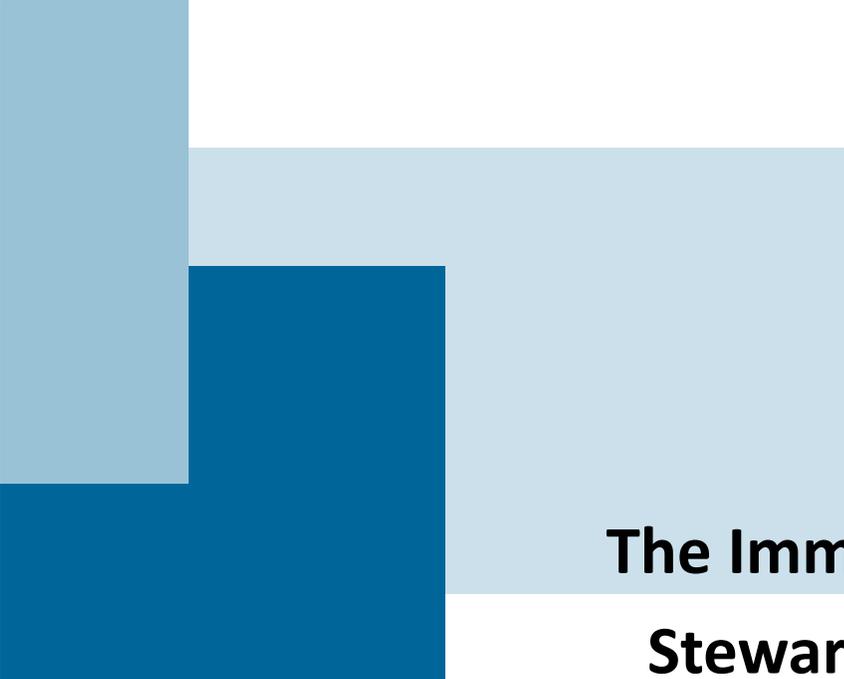
CHRIST IS RISEN



All that we are and have are gifts from God. Stewardship is using those gifts wisely and returning them to God with an increase. The time, talent, and treasures we have received are not really ours, but are entrusted to us to use and grow. As Jesus tells us in The Parable of the Talents, we will be judged by how well we manage the talents God has entrusted to us.

This booklet lists many ways we parishioners of Immaculate Conception can give back to God by giving of ourselves in service to others. By focusing on the time and talents we DO have instead of on those we DON'T have, we can use those gifts for His glory. We feel that among the opportunities listed here, every parishioner can find something of interest and value. God has given our parish all the people and resources we need to be a vibrant community of Faith that reaches out in service to others.

We already have many dedicated people serving in ministries that share the good news on a daily basis. We urge those who are currently serving to continue to do so and invite everyone to join us in experiencing the joy and satisfaction that comes from being a good steward.



**The Immaculate Conception
Stewardship Commission**

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Liturgy/Worship Ministry

Liturgy and Worship is the focal point of our Catholic Faith, where we come together as Catholics to celebrate the fundamental beliefs of our Faith. These religious experiences are enriched by the ministries listed below that are available to lay members of the parish; they provide many opportunities for the sharing of our time and talent and for giving back the gifts God has given us.

Commentator

Stewardship opportunity: To introduce the liturgy, offer petitions, and make special announcements to the assembled community during Mass.

Talent/Gift to offer: A clear speaking voice, and the ability to convey information in a natural manner.

Time commitment: Commentators undergo a brief training session prior to starting the ministry. After training, they read prepared notes at liturgies approximately once every two months. To properly prepare for scheduled liturgies, the commentators should arrive at church at least 20 minutes prior to the liturgy to familiarize themselves with what they need to read.

Treasure/Blessing received: An opportunity to actively participate in the liturgy by introducing the theme of the Mass, by giving the congregation voice through the petitions, and by informing the parish of news and announcements.

Lector

Stewardship opportunity: To proclaim the word of God to the assembled community, to read in such a way that they truly hear the Word that is to change their lives.

Talent/Gift to offer: A clear speaking voice with the ability to understand the main points of the readings for each liturgy and to express them clearly to the congregation.

Time commitment: Lectors undergo a brief training session prior to starting the ministry. After training, they read the first scripture readings for each mass approximately every two months. Lectors will receive a workbook of all the readings throughout the year to help them prepare for the ministry. Also, the lectors should arrive at church at least 20 minutes prior to the liturgy to familiarize themselves with the lectionary's version of the readings.

Treasure/Blessing received: Satisfaction of taking part in the liturgy by proclaiming God's message to His people and by helping the people to understand and pray the Word.

Eucharistic Minister

Stewardship opportunity: To assist the celebrant at Sunday and/or daily Mass in the distribution of Communion and the Cup.

Talent/Gift to offer: An attitude of reverence toward the Sacrament and a willingness to help the people of God share in full communion.

Time commitment: Eucharistic Ministers undergo a brief training session prior to starting the ministry. After training, they serve approximately once a month at a scheduled liturgy. At each liturgy, one or two ministers also purify the communion vessels in the priests' sacristy after Mass.

Liturgy/Worship Ministry

Treasure/Blessing received: An opportunity to participate in offering the true presence of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ as well as fostering a reverence for the graces received in the Eucharist.

Altar Server (Youth & Adult)

Stewardship opportunity: To serve God and His people at the holy sacrifice of the Mass by helping the priest and the worshippers to praise God. Youth are trained for their duties as altar servers beginning in the fifth grade.

Talent/Gift to offer: Dependability. Reverence and an appreciation for the solemnity of the liturgy.

Time commitment: Youth are scheduled to serve at weekend Masses. Those who are able also become part of the weekday Mass schedule. Adult servers volunteer their time at funeral Masses and weekday Masses on a rotating basis.

Treasure/Blessing received: To grow closer to the Lord through the liturgy. "Serving at the Eucharistic table and at various liturgical celebrations, you draw directly from 'the wells of salvation' the strength necessary to live well today and then also face your future more energetically." (John Paul II to servers, 1980)

Gift Bearer

Stewardship opportunity: To represent the faith community sharing gifts and talents by presenting gifts of bread, wine and treasure at the Sunday Eucharist, Holy Days and Special Liturgies.

Talent/Gift to offer: Willingness to express faith in action.

Time commitment: On a rotating basis, three or four times a year.

Treasure/Blessing received: Active participation in the Eucharist that includes the whole family.

Usher/Greeter

Stewardship opportunity: To help worshippers gather in such a way as to show respect for the Christian assembly. Ushers provide assistance to those with disabilities and to the elderly, as needed, take up the weekly offering, and hand out the bulletin to people as they depart.

Talent/Gift to offer: An ability to welcome people, put people at ease, to work with others, and reliability.

Time commitment: A parish training session. Ushers serve approximately once every three months. They serve for a month at a time rotating between the four weekend masses. They should arrive 15 minutes before the liturgy begins.

Treasure/Blessing received: To represent the Lord in making His people feel welcome and at home in the church.

Confirmed High School students also serve as Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Commentator, or Usher.

Music Ministry

Music is an important part of any celebration, and the celebration of the Eucharist is no different. Listed below are several opportunities for those of us who have musical interest and talent to enhance our own worship experience as well as that of the entire congregation.

Adult Choir

Stewardship opportunity: To lead the congregation in faith-filled singing during liturgy, and encourage prayer and worship through song. Adult Choir is open to anyone who is at least in the 7th grade or older.

Talent/Gift to offer: A good singing voice with the ability to match pitch, and a good sense of rhythm. The ability to read music notation is helpful.

Time commitment: Weekly rehearsals from September to Christmas, and then from mid-January to May. Participation in 2-3 weekend liturgies per month (usually at the 9:00 or the 12:00 noon Mass) and other special holy days, holidays, and other special events. Practices are on Wednesday evenings from 7:00- 8:30 p.m. in the church choir loft.

Treasure/Blessing received: This is a great opportunity to be part of a close-knit group that strives to enhance our liturgies through music and to work with some very dedicated people.

Resurrection Choir

Stewardship opportunity: To lead the congregation in faith-filled singing for funeral liturgies, and to encourage prayer and worship through song. Resurrection Choir is open to anyone.

Talent/Gift to offer: A good singing voice with the ability to match pitch, and a good sense of rhythm. The ability to read music notation is helpful.

Time commitment: Choir members are on call to sing for all funerals that take place at the church. Weekday times are usually 10:30 a.m. Saturday funerals are at 10:00 a.m. Practices are held when needed.

Treasure/Blessing received: This is a wonderful opportunity to give hope and comfort to the bereaved thru song, and to also help families celebrate the life of the deceased through the music that we share.

Children's Choir

Stewardship opportunity: To enrich the liturgy by leading the congregation in faith-filled singing and encourage prayer and worship through song. Children's Choir is available to any child parishioner, in grades 3 through 6, who enjoys singing,—regardless of the school they attend.

Talent/Gift to offer: An ability to listen and follow directions, a good singing voice and a desire to sing in public and with a group.

Time commitment: Weekly rehearsals begin in mid-September to Christmas, and then again from late January until the first part of May. Participation in 1–2 weekend liturgies per month, other special holidays, and First Communion. Practices are on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the church choir loft.

Music Ministry

Treasure/Blessing received: Children in the Youth Choir share their gifts with each other and the assembly, but also gain a fuller appreciation for the liturgy and for church music. It is also an excellent setting for developing new friendships and for growing in mind, body, and spirit.

Teen Choir

Stewardship opportunity: To lead the congregation in faith-filled singing during liturgy and encourage prayer and worship through song. The group is open to anyone in 7th through 12th grades, who enjoys singing.

Talent/Gift to offer: A good singing voice, ability to match pitch, and a good sense of rhythm. The ability to read music notation is helpful.

Time commitment: The choir rehearses about twice a month. Currently, rehearsals are on Sunday evenings from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the church choir loft; however, times and dates vary accordingly. The choir sings 1-2 times each month for a weekend liturgy, but also for holidays and other special events.

Treasure/Blessing received: This is a great opportunity to use your voice to enrich the worship at our liturgies. It's also a wonderful way to meet other teens and develop new friendships.

Instrumentalists

Stewardship opportunity: To enrich our liturgies by sharing the gift of your instrument. High school age or older are preferred, but younger ones may be considered.

Talent/Gift to offer: Proficient with your instrument, able to read music well and be able to play with other instruments or choirs. Instruments, such as flute, clarinet, oboe, cello, violin, viola, trumpet, trombone, French horn, keyboard, guitar, drums and other percussion are most typically used during liturgies but other instruments will be considered.

Time commitment: Time involved for rehearsing and performing will vary each season throughout the year.

Treasure/Blessing received: This is a great opportunity to share your musical talent with the parish, and a great way to meet other musicians.

Cantors

Currently cantors sing within our various choirs. If you have questions or ideas about cantering, please contact our director of music.

Sacramental Assistance

The stewardship opportunities listed here assist those parishioners among us who either cannot attend mass or who need assistance to participate more fully in the sacraments and celebrations of the parish.

Communion to Homebound and Nursing Homes

Stewardship opportunity: To distribute Holy Communion to IC parish members who are sick, homebound or who reside in nursing homes or other facilities.

Talent/Gift to offer: An attitude of reverence toward the Sacrament and a willingness to assist others to receive its graces, as well as tact and cheerfulness when visiting the sick or elderly.

Time commitment: Distributors deliver communion once a week, as soon as possible after the Sunday liturgy.

Treasure/Blessing received: Satisfaction of actively fostering an appreciation of the graces associated with the Eucharist, of helping others attain those graces through reception of the sacrament, and of letting the sick or elderly know they are an important part of the church community.

Wedding Assistants

Stewardship opportunity: To assist wedding couples and their families with implementing their plans for the rite of marriage resulting in a calm, meaningful, joyful day.

Talent/Gift to offer: Volunteers to this ministry possess patience, organizational skills, a steady, soothing demeanor, problem solving life experiences and a reverence for the sacrament of marriage and Catholic traditions.

Time commitment: Wedding Assistants are present at church before, during and after the Friday rehearsal and the Saturday ceremony. They assure that the church and buildings are prepared and they coordinate the arrangements with wedding participants (wedding party, family, clergy, florist, musicians, photographer, etc....).

Treasure/Blessing received: To assure that couples who begin their married life in our beautiful I.C. church experience a sacred, memorable, happy day!

Nursery During Mass

Stewardship opportunity: To care for infants and young children, allowing their parents to participate more fully in the Sunday liturgy. This ministry is open to teens as well as adult volunteers and their older children.

Talent/Gift to offer: Love and care for children, a sense of the responsibility involved in caring for them.

Time commitment: Volunteers assigned approximately every other month during the 9 a.m. Sunday Mass, coming to the nursery in the Parish Activity Center approximately 20 minutes before Mass to be there for arriving families, and staying after Mass until all children are back with their families. VIRTUS child protection session is recommended.

Treasure/Blessing received: To help these very small children feel the love of the Lord that extends to them even beyond their own family. The chance to play with the little ones and enable parents to more prayerfully participate in the Eucharist.

Funeral/Bereavement Ministry

At the time of the loss of a loved one, the support of our faith community can be a great help to the grieving family. Several opportunities are offered to assist them through these tough times, from funeral planning to serving the funeral lunch.

Bereavement Committee

Stewardship opportunity: To assist families in mourning with the planning of the funeral liturgy for their loved one and to help the priests and parish staff organize the necessary details.

Talent/Gift to offer: Compassion, empathy/sympathy, a good listener, sensitivity to family dynamics, a prayerful attitude and a desire to help families through their time of grief.

Time commitment: The work of the committee is understandably unpredictable with flexible and short notice needed in some situations. Volunteers are asked to visit with each bereaved family and volunteers are reached on a rotating basis as equally as possible.

Treasure/Blessing received: To be a healing bridge between the grieving family and the people of Immaculate Conception and to be blessed with the gift of family memories at this meaningful time in family life.

Funeral Greeter

Stewardship opportunity: To welcome and assist bereaved families at Church on the day of the funeral for their loved one.

Talent/Gift to offer: Compassion, comforting and inviting presence, a prayerful attitude and a desire to help families in their time of grief.

Time commitment: Two hours per funeral, arriving 30 minutes before the funeral begins. Volunteers are contacted on a rotating basis.

Treasure/Blessing received: To be a caring presence that provides comfort and assurance to the grieving family and to express the prayerful concern of the Immaculate Conception family. When we give of ourselves we are bountifully blessed; God can never be outdone.

Rosary Leader

Stewardship opportunity: To come together as a group to offer a rosary in Church for those who have died and their families in mourning on the day of the funeral.

Talent/Gift to offer: A prayerful attitude, willingness to help lead the faith filled community in praying the Rosary and a desire to help families in their time of grief.

Time commitment: 15 minutes on the day of the funeral starting one half hour before the funeral begins. Men as well as women are encouraged to participate. Volunteers are contacted on a rotating basis.

Treasure/Blessing received: To be a witness of prayer that provides comfort, healing and strength to the grieving family and to express the prayerful concern of the Immaculate Conception family.

Funeral/Bereavement Ministry

Funeral Luncheons Cook, Worker, Baker

Stewardship opportunity: To help the family of deceased parishioners by providing a luncheon after the funeral liturgy as a Funeral Cook, Worker or Baker.

Talent/Gift to offer: A sense of compassion and concern for the bereaved family witnessed by your willingness to assist the cook in preparing, serving, and cleaning up for the funeral luncheon or to provide a cake.

Time commitment: Funeral Luncheon volunteers are called on to work or bake cakes as needed. This will vary according to the number of funerals, the number of volunteers and their availability when the Funeral Cook calls. The time involved working is approximately 3-4 hours per luncheon. Both men and women are welcome to this ministry.

Treasure/Blessing received: To be a healing hand extended to grieving families, and to pass along to them the love and concern of the parish in their time of need.



Prayer Ministry

Christians pray in praise, petition, and thanksgiving, and through prayer we experience a communion with God. The opportunities listed here allow all of us to join our voices together as a community of faith, expressing the needs and thoughts of the parish.

Vocation Cross

Stewardship opportunity: To pray for religious vocations to the church as priests, brothers, sisters and deacons.

Talent/Gift to offer: Abiding faith and trust in the power of prayer through which God calls forth men and women to serve the church. Time and willingness to pray.

Time commitment: Volunteers receive a vocation cross kit for a week, once every four to five months, which includes daily prayers for religious vocations.

Treasure/Blessing received: To be an active family or individual witness of prayer that encourages young men and women to consider religious life and serve the church for generations to come.

E-Mail Prayer Line

Stewardship opportunity: To pray for special needs requested by parishioners sent via e-mail. This is for those unable to participate in the telephone prayer line or who prefer on-line communication.

Talent/Gift to offer: Abiding faith and trust in the power of prayer through which God brings healing and peace. Time and willingness to pray for others.

Time commitment: When a prayer request is submitted, it is sent via e-mail. This service is available Monday – Friday, involving 10 to 20 minutes of prayer daily.

Treasure/Blessing received: To be a witness of prayer that provides comfort, healing and strength to those in need and to express the prayerful concern of the Immaculate Conception family.

Telephone Prayer Line

Stewardship opportunity: To support sick and suffering members of the parish family through prayer.

Talent/Gift to offer: Compassion and a commitment to offer sincere prayers for all who need them.

Time commitment: Members of the prayer chain are asked, by telephone, to pray daily for those in need. They will be contacted by other members, and then are asked to call others to this sacred responsibility.

Treasure/Blessing received: To minister to those families who need extra love and support in their time of need. To grow closer to the Lord through prayer.

Prayer Ministry

Eucharistic Adoration

Stewardship opportunity: To draw near to the Lord in silent reprieve from distractions of the world. To bring prayers of thanks and intercession to the foot of the cross.

Talent/Gift to offer: Prioritizing Christ over the hustle and bustle of a hectic life. Commitment of time to prayer.

Time commitment: Time slots for adoration are at ½ hour increments between 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. on the 1st Friday of every month as your schedule permits.

Treasure/Blessing received: The opportunity for peace and silent time with God away from commitments and daily life.

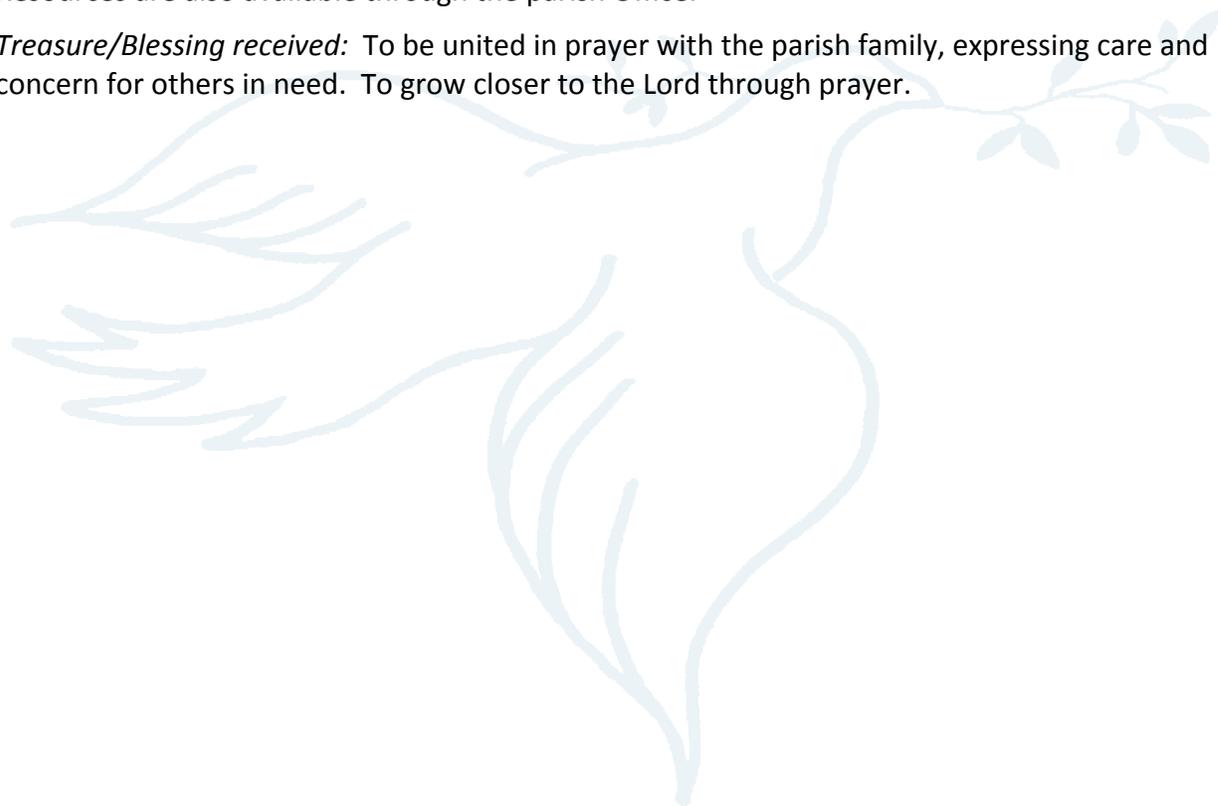
Prayer Ministry

Stewardship opportunity: To pray for the needs of the world, the church and our local community, especially the sick and the suffering.

Talent/Gift to offer: Compassion and a commitment to offer sincere prayers for all who need them.

Time commitment: Parishioners, including the elderly and homebound, are encouraged to set a regular schedule to pray for those in need. Parishioners often choose the prayers to offer. Resources are also available through the parish Office.

Treasure/Blessing received: To be united in prayer with the parish family, expressing care and concern for others in need. To grow closer to the Lord through prayer.



Youth Ministry

Our youth are not only the future of the parish, but also a vital element of its present. Listed here are many opportunities for the youth of IC to join together and live our faith in rewarding and enjoyable activities

Altar Server—(See Liturgy)

Youth and Teen Choir—(See Music)

Nursery Helper—(See Sacramental Assistance)

Confirmed High School students also serve as Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Commentator, or Usher. – Under Liturgy

Youth Ministries

Stewardship opportunity: ICY is a church-wide ministry which strives to provide a variety of opportunities and experiences to draw teens into active, responsible participation in the life, mission, and work of the faith community and the greater church.

Talent/Gift to offer: All talents are welcomed as we are creating an environment where every young person, no matter their past, hair color, or their level of faith, can be involved and feel a touch of the unconditional love of Christ at IC.

Time commitment: ICY meets the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 7 PM in the Youth Room, which we may adjust to meet everyone's schedule as needed. Meeting dates and times are announced in the church bulletin and will be posted on the Parish website calendar.

Treasure/Blessing received: To have fun, grow your faith, and develop new friends, usually with a little food added to keep our engine going! Find your connection in the IC family.



ICY Immaculate Conception Youth

Youth Ministries – Adult Volunteers

Stewardship opportunity: Interface with the youth of Immaculate Conception parish on their faith journey.

Talent/Gift to offer: Adult involvement is open to all members of the parish of the appropriate age who wish to help youth grow in their Christian life. Any and all gifts will be put to good use.

Time commitment: Commitment varies depending on the activity. Drivers are always needed, as are chaperones for overnight activities, bakers for snacks, helpers with mission work. Volunteers must also complete a background check and VIRTUS child protection session .

Treasure/Blessing received: Having fun, working, listening and sharing with the youth of Immaculate Conception parish and the surrounding parishes.

Youth Ministry

CYO Ministry

Stewardship opportunity: CYO is a way for youth to use their God-given talents to play sports, while at the same time carrying out the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Talent/Gift to offer: All youth interested in healthy and enjoyable competition through sports activities.

Time commitment: Commitment varies depending on the activity.

Treasure/Blessing received: CYO is a way for youth to grow in their relationship with God, to better understand themselves and the Catholic faith.

CYO Ministry – Adult Volunteers

Stewardship opportunity: Connecting with the youth through healthy and enjoyable competitive sports while instilling values of faith and aiding positive character development.

Talent/Gift to offer: Adult leaders willing to carry out the ministry of Jesus Christ by sharing gospel values through coaching and refereeing sports activities.

Time commitment: Commitment varies depending on the activity. Volunteers must also complete a background check and VIRTUS child protection session .

Treasure/Blessing received: Fulfillment through the chance to encourage young people to recognize, appreciate and grow the gifts they possess and challenge them to share these gifts with their community.

Venture Crew

Stewardship opportunity: To help boys and girls ages 14 - 21 grow in strength, knowledge and responsibility through community service projects, fundraiser events, Venture program projects and foster the family unit.

Talent/Gift to offer: An understanding of girls and boys and a commitment to helping them grow into responsible, morally disciplined young men and women. A desire to instill positive relationships between youth.

Time commitment: Venture leaders meet depending on availability but typically strive to meet every Sunday evening for a 1-1/2 hour session. Adult leaders are required to complete a background check, youth protection classes and one weekend training session every two years. Adult leaders may be asked for additional training completion specific to the various Venture projects.

Treasure/Blessing received: To spend time with youth and to help shape the future for them through positive and faith-filled experiences. To help create the good role model foundation throughout the maturity process.

Youth Ministry

Cub Scouts

Stewardship opportunity: To help boys ages 7-10 grow in strength, knowledge and responsibility through community service projects, fundraiser events, scout program projects and foster the family unit.

Talent/Gift to offer: An understanding of boys and a commitment to helping them grow into responsible, morally disciplined young men. A willingness to teach a scout trades that can be utilized in possible career opportunities throughout their adult lives.

Time commitment: Cub Scout dens meet weekly. Adult leaders are required to complete a background check, youth protection classes and one weekend training session every two years. Adult leaders may be asked for additional training completion specific to the various Scout projects.

Treasure/Blessing received: To spend time with boys and to help shape the future for them through positive and faith-filled experiences. To help create the good role model foundation.

Boy Scouts

Stewardship opportunity: To help boys ages 10 -18 grow in strength, knowledge and responsibility through community service projects, fundraiser events, scout program projects, and foster the family unit.

Talent/Gift to offer: An understanding of boys and a commitment to helping them grow into responsible, morally disciplined young men. A willingness to teach a scout trades that can be utilized in possible career opportunities throughout their adult lives. (i.e. welding, aviation, woodworking, etc.)

Time commitment: Boy Scout troop meets weekly. Adult leaders are required to complete a background check, youth protection classes and one weekend training session every two years. Adult leaders may be asked for additional training completion specific to the various Scout projects.

Treasure/Blessing received: To spend time with boys and to help shape the future for them through positive and faith-filled experiences. To help create the good role model foundation throughout the maturity process.

Girl Scouts (Available in the local community)

Religious Education

Learning about the foundations of our faith and passing on that knowledge are the most important things we can do for future generations. Listed here are several opportunities both to learn more about our Church's teachings and scripture and to assist in helping younger parishioners understand and appreciate that heritage.

Religious Education Commission

Stewardship opportunity: To enhance and strengthen faith formation through religious education programs for both children and adults. The Religious Education Commission (REC) develops and defines policies and acts as a resource for the parish in all areas of faith formation/religious education.

Talent/Gift to offer: An REC member possesses a strong desire to share one's faith with the IC community. Has skills to share ideas, listen to others, an understanding of educational issues and can work with a team. Has the ability to provide influence and understanding through open dialogue for expanding opportunities of improvement and growth in current and new religious educational programs.

Time commitment: REC meets approximately six times per year during the school year with religious education administrators and parish representatives. Commission members are appointed by the Pastoral Council and are asked to commit 3 years to the commission.

Treasure/Blessing received: Providing leadership for all religious education programs at Immaculate Conception Parish by promoting the implementation of existing and new programs which are essential to the faith formation of all members of the church community.

Religious Education Opportunities

Stewardship opportunity: IC provides a variety of faith formation and religious education opportunities for the parish. These opportunities include but are not limited to: CCD programs for children and teens, preparation for sacraments, adult discussion and faith formation groups.

Talent/Gifts to offer: A desire to learn more about Catholic faith, teachings and traditions. Parents who enroll their children in CCD programs provide support and encouragement for their children's formation.

Time commitment: CCD programs are offered for children on Wednesday evenings during the school year. Times and days vary for confirmation preparation and other programs.

Treasure/Blessing received: The satisfaction of learning more about your Catholic faith, teaching and traditions. Growing closer to the Lord through increased knowledge and understanding.

Religious Education

Religious Education Teachers, Assistants, Substitutes

Stewardship opportunity: To share your knowledge of Catholic faith, teachings and traditions with children, youth or adults.

Talent/Gifts to offer: Volunteers to the IC religious education program are deeply committed in their Catholic faith, tuned into parish life through the sacraments and have the desire to share that faith through a wide variety of programs and opportunities. Gifts desired include teaching abilities or willingness to support teachers, patience, communication, group leadership, creativity and willingness to learn.

Time commitment: Religious education classes are offered to the children of the parish on Wednesday evenings throughout the school year. Confirmation is offered on Sunday mornings. Adult faith formation and other activities will be scheduled at the decision of those leaders and participants. All volunteers who serve children are required to attend a VIRTUS child protection session.

Treasure/Blessing received: To do the Lord's important work of passing along his Word to the children and young people of the parish. To share your faith with other adults in the parish and support others in their growth and understanding of the Catholic faith.

Vacation Bible School

Stewardship opportunity: To share faith and fun learning experiences with children in preschool through fifth grade

Talent/Gift to offer: A love of children, a commitment to spreading the faith, patience, discipline, a willingness to learn and have fun. Helpers/volunteers 11 to 99 years of age.

Time commitment: Monday through Thursday, one week a year, usually in June, for 3 to 3½ hours a day. All volunteers must complete a background check and VIRTUS child protection session.

Treasure/Blessing received: To joyfully share the gift of faith with children, encouraging them as they grow closer.

Sunday School Teachers for Preschoolers

Stewardship opportunity: To teach and embody God's love to children ages 3-5 and kindergarten.

Talent/Gift to offer: A love of children, a creative and caring way of expressing God's love, patience and a willingness to get a little sticky from time to time.

Time commitment: The preschool Sunday school is held during the 9 a.m. mass from October through mid-April. Teachers plan the lessons and have one to two helpers in the classroom. All volunteers must complete a background check and VIRTUS child protection session.

Treasure/Blessing received: To spread God's message to some of His littlest people.

Religious Education

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Stewardship opportunity: To share faith and help those who are not yet full members of the Church to continue their faith journey, to learn more about the faith and to continue to discern their place in God's family.

Talent/Gift to offer: An open heart, a questioning spirit and a familiarity with the Catholic faith.

Time commitment: RCIA begins in August and continues through Tuesday after Easter. RCIA classes are held on Tuesday evenings at the parish, and may include some Sunday liturgies.

Treasure/Blessing received: To sense the richness of the faith, to be woven into the tapestry that is our Church.

Bible Study

Stewardship opportunity: To deepen understanding and appreciation of sacred scripture.

Talent/gift to offer: A desire to discover more about the Word of God and to share those discoveries with others through prayer and discussion.

Time commitment: Scripture study sessions usually last from an hour to an hour and a half, one day a week. Past sessions have been offered during the seasons of Advent and Lent, but other times and dates may be added if the need or occasion arises.

Treasure/Blessing received: The satisfaction of learning more about the Bible and its place in history as well as its place in our daily lives as a blueprint for Catholic living.

Adult Faith Formation

Stewardship opportunity: To deepen understanding of Catholic faith.

Talent/Gift to offer: An interest in expanding understanding of the Catholic Faith and to allow that understanding to grow through prayer, personal contemplation, and group discussion.

Time commitment: Days and times will vary for each program offered.

Treasure/Blessing received: An enriched understanding of the truths of our faith that can lead to a more Christian way of living.

IC School

For over 135 years, IC Parish has offered a values-based education to the children of the parish. This mission requires much support from parents, dedicated volunteers, and the parish as a whole. Listed here are several ways we can become even more active in the future and growth of IC School.

PTO

Stewardship opportunity: To build relationships between the faculty and staff at Immaculate Conception School and school families; to raise funds to help with school projects; to sponsor events that enrich the school atmosphere.

Talent/Gift to offer: All gifts and talents are welcomed and appreciated.

Time commitment: Membership is open to all Immaculate Conception School families. The PTO meets quarterly on Monday evenings and needs many volunteers at fundraising events throughout the school year.

Treasure/Blessing received: To develop relationships between clergy, school faculty, and parents to help further the mission of the school to provide a Catholic education to our youth.

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School Marketing & Enrollment Committee

Stewardship opportunity: Work to promote IC School and what it can offer to those in the community. The committee works toward maintaining and increasing current school enrollment.

Talent/Gift to offer: A strong commitment and love for IC School. The gift of time is the most valuable. Marketing and graphic art experience is always welcome.

Time commitment: 2 hours per month for meetings. Additional time to assist with various events throughout the year to help promote the school.

Treasure/Blessing received: The satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to maintain a long term tradition of Catholic Education. Meeting new people and friendships that are made. Getting new families to enroll in the school and knowing you helped this happen.

School Fundraising Committee

Stewardship opportunity: To help to raise funds for the school.

Talent/Gift to offer: A strong commitment and love for IC School. An accounting background is helpful. Parishioners with creative ideas and a willingness to help raise funds for the school are always needed.

Time commitment: Attendance at meetings, volunteering to coordinate, and help at various fund raising events.

Treasure/Blessing received: Knowing you helped the school to be on “strong financial footing”. Knowing you enabled more students to receive a quality Catholic education.

IC School

School Cafeteria Volunteer

Stewardship opportunity: To assist in serving lunch to the elementary students at Immaculate Conception. Volunteers will provide a model for stewardship to the students. The volunteers will also have the opportunity to share their faith by action: helping others.

Talent/Gift to offer: A love for children and an interest in making sure all students eat a healthy meal.

Time commitment: 1 hour each time you volunteer. All volunteers who serve children are required to attend a VIRTUS child protection session.

Treasure/Blessing received: The smiles and thank-you's from the students will be a wonderful blessing. The opportunity to meet other parishioners. The feeling of making sure that Immaculate Conception School stays alive and successful.

School Volunteer

Stewardship opportunity: To help the faculty and staff of Immaculate Conception School in various capacities. Current volunteer opportunities include: assisting individual students, helping in the library, reading various words of wisdom on the announcements, helping in computer class, organizing and implementing a special interest lunch club, collecting and organizing boxtops and Capri sun pouches, and coaching various teams.

Talent/Gift to offer: An interest and love for children is the primary gift required. An educational background or being a parent are helpful. Special talents or skills to share with special interest groups for older students are welcomed. The knowledge of a sport to help coach a team.

Time commitment: The time is determined by the area chosen by the volunteer and the volunteer's schedule. All volunteers who serve children are required to attend a VIRTUS child protection session.

Treasure/Blessing received: Watching the children progress and learn new skills. The smiles and hugs are given often. Knowing that you are helping to provide a faith based education to children. Introducing new areas of interest to students and see students acquire new skills and talents.

*We Are God's Holy Boys and Girls—
One, Big Happy Family*

Outreach Ministry

To help move IC Parish forward in its mission, we must extend our services and activities beyond the church building and liturgical celebrations. Many opportunities exist through which we can offer our time to “reach out” to the community and at the same time enhance our own parish social relationships.

Bingo Workers

Stewardship opportunity: Assist the parish in raising funds through twice weekly nights of bingo.

Talent/Gifts to offer: Open to all adults of the parish who are called to be part of a team.

Time commitment: Bingo volunteers are assigned to a crew that works once every two months approximately. Volunteers sign up for either Sunday or Tuesday night or both.

Treasure/Blessing received: Great opportunity to meet new friends and help raise much needed funds for the Church.

Parish Festival

Stewardship opportunity: To organize and support an annual festival that is used to raise funds for the parish and its school. A great way to unite with our church family, meet new faces and break the unknown barrier for new parish members.

Talent/Gifts to offer: The size and scope of the festival are such that all gifts are welcomed. There are many, many volunteer opportunities before and during the festival, and all hands are needed and welcomed.

Time commitment: Many parishioners volunteer for shifts in the various festival booths. Others head up committees or help set up or tear down the festival.

Treasure/Blessing received: To foster and grow the social life of the parish through this lively and successful festival; to raise funds that will help further God’s work.

Sewing Circle

Stewardship opportunity: To work with others in finishing quilts, in an atmosphere of acceptance and fellowship.

Talent/Gifts to offer: Knowledge of sewing is helpful, but new volunteers with no experience will be welcomed and taught to quilt.

Time commitment: The Sewing Circle meets twice weekly, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons during the school year at IC School. Members attend as their own schedule permits.

Treasure/Blessing received: To see the work of your hands become a one-of-a-kind completed project. To visit with others in the parish family in an atmosphere of warmth and peace.

Outreach Ministry

Church Tour Guide

Stewardship opportunity: To share with others the beauty and history of the Immaculate Conception Church building and furnishings.

Talent/Gifts to offer: An interest in history, architecture and religious art. An ability to remember facts and relate them to an audience in an engaging way.

Time commitment: Tours of the church are offered to groups and individuals as needed. The time commitment to this ministry varies depending on requests for tours.

Treasure/Blessing received: To personally gain and share with others a respect for the commitment of our ancestors by learning and telling about the church they built.

Transportation

Stewardship opportunity: To provide parishioners and others unable to drive with safe transportation to church or other important locations.

Talent/Gifts to offer: Care and concern for others, dependability and safe driving skills.

Time commitment: Some volunteers provide weekly transportation to Sunday Mass. Others provide transportation as needed, once every three or four months.

Treasure/Blessing received: To be a caring presence that helps others participate in the Eucharist, fulfill important medical appointments or provide for basic needs.

Parish Mailings/Phone Call Helper

Stewardship opportunity: To assist the Parish Office prepare large mailings by stuffing envelopes and/or making phone calls.

Talent/Gifts to offer: Time, basic organizational skills and enjoying the company of others.

Time commitment: Two to three hours during a weekday approximately four or five times a year.

Treasure/Blessing received: To help the Parish communicate important matters to parishioners on a timely basis and save the parish money.

Environment

We parishioners of IC are rightfully proud of our beautiful church and the parish grounds as a whole. But to maintain and decorate it takes planning and time. Listed here are several ways that we can assist in keeping it beautiful, both decorating for special occasions in church and maintaining the parish campus.

Sacristy Cleaning

Stewardship opportunity: To enhance the worship experience at IC by keeping the sacristy and sacramentals used for worship at their best.

Talent/Gifts to offer: A reverence for the sacred space of the sacristy and ability to perform the cleaning tasks.

Time commitment: Each two-person team works 1-2 hrs. every 6-7 weeks.

Treasure/Blessing received: To feel the presence of the Lord in the quiet church as the chores are carried out and to enhance the appearance of the church.

Church Decorating

Stewardship opportunity: To decorate the church appropriately, following the liturgical calendar. The group works together to make the church beautiful during the special seasons of the year.

Talent/Gift to offer: There are tasks and jobs for all ages, a great opportunity for a family to share their talents. Parishioners able to use simple tools or with floral experience are always helpful.

Time commitment: 4 to 5 hours per year

Treasure/Blessing received: The wonderful feeling of sitting in the church and knowing that you helped to make the place of worship extra special. Meeting other parishioners.

Parish Landscaping

Stewardship opportunity: To care for the grounds surrounding the church and parish buildings, to maintain the landscape in such a way that it provides a welcoming environment for the people of the parish and the larger community, and serves as a palette of God's natural beauty.

Talent/Gift to offer: Love of working outdoors. Some knowledge of horticulture/landscaping is helpful, but not necessary — there are chores for all skill levels.

Time commitment: Volunteers are asked to meet as a group for six scheduled dates during the growing months, two hours each session, as their own schedules permit, to help groom the grounds. They are asked to bring their own tools, gloves, etc.

Treasure/Blessing received: The chance to work outdoors, among God's creation and with His people, to beautify the area around the church and parish buildings. Often families volunteer together for this ministry, since it is open to volunteers of all ages.

Environment

Maintenance Committee

Stewardship opportunity: To ensure that parish buildings and grounds are in good working order; to enhance the worship and social experiences of the people of Immaculate Conception with safe and well-maintained buildings and grounds.

Talent/Gift to offer: Knowledge of and hands-on experience with building/construction trades, including plumbing and electricity; a sense of how the church space can be put to use by its people.

Time commitment: Members meet as needed (usually 2 to 3 times a year) to deal with maintenance issues facing the parish, its buildings and grounds.

Treasure/Blessing received: The pride and sense of reward that comes from well-maintained facilities that are utilized; the knowledge that the parish buildings and grounds are safe and sound.

Cemetery Board

Stewardship opportunity: To maintain and plan for the future of the final resting place of Immaculate Conception parishioners.

Talent/Gift to offer: The ability to plan for the future, a commitment to care for the cemetery.

Time commitment: Periodic landscaping needs and board representation.

Treasure/Blessing received: The rewarding sense of taking care of a sacred trust, the knowledge that the church cemetery is receiving good care from faithful stewards.

with
God ...
all things
are possible

Organizations

One sign of the vitality of a parish is all the activity of the organizations that assist the parish in its mission. Listed here are many opportunities to do just that. There are groups for all of us, depending on our interests.

St Vincent de Paul Society

Stewardship opportunity: To reach out to the marginalized of our society – the poor, the hurting, and the lonely – and to bring to them the love of Christ.

Talent/Gifts to offer: Compassion and commitment.

Time commitment: Members meet as needed to plan their activities. Members are also called on to perform the works of charity that are funded by the group, such as delivering flowers to the homebound and to nursing homes, writing cards to the sick, and other gestures of caring and concern.

Treasure/Blessing received: To be a hands-on part of Christ's compassion, to extend His work on earth to those who need it most.

Altar-Rosary Society

Stewardship opportunity: To provide social and spiritual opportunities for all women of the parish; to maintain the beauty of the Church by keeping the altars and sanctuaries clean and well-equipped; to participate in activities that raise funds for the physical needs of the Church; to help lead the praying of the Rosary at various times; to utilize talents, such as sewing and stitching, to provide sacramentals that enrich the experience of the sacraments for the people of Immaculate Conception Church.

Talent/Gift to offer: Membership includes all women of the parish; a generous spirit to contribute time to the care of the Church interior and its furnishings; a willingness to offer hospitality and support to family and friends of the parish at important moments in their lives.

Time commitment: Monthly meetings on the first Monday following the third Sunday of the month, except summer months; volunteer, as needed, for a variety of social and spiritual activities.

Treasure/Blessing received: Forming bonds of friendship and support with other women of the parish; feeling a sense of fulfillment and wholesome pride by helping maintain the beauty of the Church facility; developing an inner joy when serving others in times of need.

Ladies Auxiliary-Knights of St. John

Stewardship opportunity: To be a part of a traditional Catholic organization that provides spiritual, social, and charitable opportunities for women.

Talent/Gifts to offer: All women of the parish, age 18 and over, who have a desire to support the parish and those in need in our community, are invited to be part of this organization.

Time commitment: The auxiliary meets in the Parish Activity Center on the 4th Monday of each month, September to June. Other meeting times may be scheduled for social opportunities, or business needs. Member may volunteer to perform acts of charity such as playing bingo at the county home or baking pies for K of C Lenten dinners, as needed.

Treasure/Blessing received: To support the needs of the parish, the larger church and the local community. To provide an opportunity for women of the parish to socialize, get to know and support each other in their faith and lives.

Organizations

Knights of Columbus Council 1800

Stewardship opportunity: To be a part of a Catholic organization that provides spiritual, social, and charitable opportunities for men.

Talent/Gifts to offer: A willingness to work with other members to promote Christian charity in our organization, church, and community. The scope and size of the organization is such that every gift is welcome.

Time commitment: The K of C holds monthly meetings which members are encouraged to attend; in addition, members are asked to participate in many fundraising, social, and parish events each year. The amount of time committed by each member depends upon their level of involvement and interest. Also, new members participate in an initiation rite.

Treasure/Blessing received: To foster Christian charity through various programs, to come to know brother knights and to see in them examples of Christian living, and to promote ideals held important by our Catholic faith.

Pastoral Council

The pastoral council is made up of three men and three women who are elected by the adults of the parish, joined by members of the parish staff, to help direct the work, worship and mission of Immaculate Conception Parish.

Stewardship opportunity: To share responsibility with the pastor for the life and mission of the Church in the parish; to listen for the needs of the parish and to be a representative voice of the parish; to provide leadership for the parish.

Talent/Gift to offer: Leadership and organizational skills, a broad vision of the parish and a real sense of the needs of its people. An ability to look long-term and envision the future.

Time commitment: Pastoral Council meets monthly except in July and December. Members, who are elected by the adult members of the parish during voting on the fourth Sunday of March, serve staggered three-year terms. Members may be asked to take on additional projects.

Treasure/Blessing received: To become more involved, to witness inspirational leadership, to gain a larger perspective on parish functions and resources, to grow in leadership skills and to help guide the parish along the right path.

Liturgy Commission

Stewardship opportunity: To be part of planning liturgies throughout the church year.

Talent/Gift to offer: A faith-filled imagination, a working knowledge of the liturgy and an appreciation for its importance in the life of the parish.

Time commitment: The liturgy committee meets as needed.

Treasure/Blessing received: To praise the Lord with meaningful liturgies, to become closely involved with the Eucharist.

Organizations

Stewardship Commission

Stewardship opportunity: To instill stewardship as a way of life in the parish.

Talent/Gift offered: Share the joy of ministry by creating awareness of the many avenues of stewardship available to the members of the Parish with a willingness to promote and invite participation in the various Church Ministries.

Time commitment: Monthly meeting.

Treasure/Blessing received: There is a deep joy and satisfaction that comes from touching the lives of people in profound ways.

Sunday Night Men's Group

Stewardship opportunity: Explore the teachings of the Catholic Church to improve your understanding. Grow your faith through open discussions about experiences and current issues.

Talent/Gift to offer: Willingness to listen and share with fellow men on a wide range of topics from current events to Catholic Doctrine.

Time commitment: A couple of hours each Sunday night, as schedules permit.

Treasure/Blessing received: To have fun, develop new friends and deepen your Catholic faith. To find your connection with other Catholic men within the IC family.

Parish Life Commission

Fall Festival, Mardi Gras, Parish Coffee, Fat Tuesday, Christmas Bazaar, Newcomer Visitation, Casseroles & Kindness, and other special receptions.

Stewardship opportunity: To enrich the lives of the people of Immaculate Conception through activities and programs that strengthen the community spirit of the members of the parish.

Talent/Gifts to Offer: Individuals willing to help plan and carry out the social aspects of the parish through the social events held.

Time commitment: A willingness to donate time in event preparation, participation and food donations. Individuals generally contribute two hours per event which may fluctuate.

Treasure/Blessing received: To develop new and enrich existing relationships among parishioners and to create a family feeling among Immaculate Conception parishioners that extends beyond the Sunday liturgy. The opportunity to be an integral part of the life of the church.

Mission Commission

Stewardship opportunity: To provide parishioners with mission experiences in the local community and abroad.

Talent/Gifts to offer: A missionary heart and generous spirit that can see beyond our own parish borders to the broader needs of those in our local community, in our country and in our world.

Time commitment: Monthly meetings, 3 to 4 mission fundraisers and events per year.

Treasure/Blessing received: Being in mutual relationship with our brothers and sisters, offering talents and resources (treasure) as well as being enriched by the gifts and resources of another culture. A rewarding experience that you are being Christ to special people in need.

