

# THE GOOD STEWARD

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For the Members of St. Jude Catholic Church

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## PLANNED GIVING FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR COMMUNITY

When we plan for events in our lives, we usually experience more success. We are more at peace when we have thought things through in our minds before we take action. As we enter into this new year, I would like to encourage us all to be “planned givers” for the benefit of our St. Jude Community.

What does becoming a “planned giver” entail? The process begins with reflection. Why are we giving? When we reflect upon the many Blessings the Lord has bestowed upon us, it creates in us a spirit of gratitude. When our motivation to give is out of Thanksgiving, it recognizes our consideration of the beautiful gifts we have received from God.

Another important aspect of “planned giving” is PRAYER. The spiritual mission of St. Jude relies upon a prayerful response from every parishioner and family to the call of stewardship. When we spend time in prayer it enables us to see how God is truly connected to every aspect of our lives, and helps us put the material things in their proper perspective. God’s calling for us is to put Him and the things of “eternal value” first, as we prayerfully measure everything of value in our lives. Luke 12: 22-24 reminds us that material things have a spiritual perspective:

*“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life and what you will eat, or about your body and what you will wear. For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. Notice the ravens; they do not sow or reap; they have neither storehouses nor barn, yet God feeds them. How much more important are you than birds!”*

The St. Jude Community is able to fulfill its mission and vision because of the generosity and financial gifts given by the “planned givers” of St. Jude. And while financial stewardship is extremely valuable, the gift of time we give to our St. Jude community and the sharing of our talents is an extremely important component of being a “planned giver.” It helps our community of St. Jude change people’s lives and, in small ways, transforms the world. We promote the Gospel when we share all of our blessings.

I want to thank you for your prayerful consideration for your stewardship commitment for the year 2017. I pray that you will be at peace knowing that you opened yourselves up to God’s promptings as you made your response of “planned giving.” Let us trust God that he will provide for us as we continue to strive to build up the kingdom of God.

*Fr. Andrew Sankar*