



## SAINT JOHN FISHER PARISH

October 15, 2019

Dear Parishioners:

November is the month in which we focus on stewardship as a way of discipleship. According to the U.S. Bishops in their pastoral, *Stewardship, a Disciple's Response*, a steward is "One who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in love and justice with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord." This means giving to the Lord the first portion of their time, talent, and treasure. On the weekend of November 2-3, your fellow parishioners will share how they have strived to live out stewardship in their lives. On the following weekend I will be asking all households to make their time, talent and treasure commitment for the next year. It should be done in the spirit of prayer and gratitude.

During Mass, the gifts being prepared are the bread and wine together with your monetary donation. Placing your offering in the basket is your way of participation in the preparation of the gifts. You will notice that the donations are placed in one basket, and parishioners present the gifts to the priest: the basket, the bread, and the wine. The General Instruction (#73) says: "At the beginning of the Liturgy of the Eucharist the gifts which will become Christ's Body and Blood are brought to the altar. Even though the faithful no longer bring from their own possessions the bread and wine intended for the liturgy as was once the case, nevertheless the rite of carrying up the offerings still keeps its spiritual efficacy and significance." As gifts of bread and wine are transformed into the body of Christ, so are you and your gift.

November is also the month in which we remember those who have died. On Monday evening, November 4, at 7:30 we will have a special Mass of Remembrance for all those who have died this past year. It has always been a very moving celebration for those present, especially those who have lost their loved ones.

Enclosed with your coupons is an "All Souls" envelope. Throughout the month of November we will be offering one of the Masses each day for those whose names are mentioned in these envelopes. Please return the envelope as soon as possible, either to the Parish Office or in the collection basket, so that we can place it on the altar throughout the month. As Catholics we believe that the Communion of Saints includes the faithful on earth, the blessed in heaven, and the souls in purgatory.

Let us pray for one another.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. David A. Sork  
Pastor