Dear Parishioner:

This letter is the third in a series about strengthening our relationship with God and His Church. Please re-read the first two letters to refresh your memory. All of these letters will be archived on our website, www.stmarypawtucket.org, on the Stewardship page of the Ministries section.

In the previous two letters, several thought-provoking questions have been presented for your consideration including “what is Our Lord’s purpose in establishing His Church”. Our Salvation (saving of our soul) must be a primary concern in this life to ensure our eternal life with God!

*Each of us is saved by faith (belief without explicit proof) through Grace (a gift of God not a reward). “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God” (Ephesians 2:8-9) but it must be a living faith manifested by good works, “for faith without work is dead” (James 2:17).*

To live our faith, we must fulfill Our Lord’s purpose in His Church by: first, attending Divine Liturgy, second, participating in the Sacraments and third, manifest good works by being good stewards. (*A steward is a parishioner who humbly offers their time, talent, and treasure in service to God and our ministries acknowledging His love.*)

As we reflect upon being stewards at St. Mary, let us be reminded that all that is offered to the Father (time, talent, and treasure) is already His. “Thine Own of Thine Own we offer unto thee, in behalf of all, and for all” (Holy Liturgy). We offer back to Our Lord what he has given us. The psalmist (116:3-4) wrote: “What shall I render to the Lord for all that he has given me? I will take up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord.”

*Please save this letter and also share it with your family.*
Amen.

This is the third message in a series of communications aimed at strengthening our relationship with our Lord and His Church.

We hope you have read the first two messages to refresh your memory.

All these messages will be available on our website (www.stmarypawtucket.org) under the title "Ministries/Stewardship".

In the previous two messages, we posed several thought-provoking questions, such as "What is our Lord's purpose in establishing His Church?" It is important for us to reflect on this question, as it relates directly to our eternal life with God!

We all are saved by faith (faith that is not visible) as a gift from God (not as a reward) "you are saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8-9).

But this faith must be active and expressed through good works. "For faith, if it is without works, is dead, being able to save souls" (James 2:17).

So, let us complete our Lord's purpose for establishing His Church: first, by participating in the liturgy, second, by participating in the other sacraments and prayers, and third, by being godly workers, "The servants are those who are faithful in the handling of others' property. The one who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much" (Luke 16:10).

When we think about ourselves as workers in our Church, the Church of the Virgin Mary, we should remember that all that we offer to the Father (in time and talents) is originally His. "What is given in my name is given to me; and what I have given in your name, you have given to me" (John 13:20).

I hope you will keep this message and share it with your family.

Stewardship Ministry

Dear members,

This is the third message in a series of communications aimed at strengthening our relationship with our Lord and His Church.

We hope you have read the first two messages to refresh your memory.

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