

Cover Article  
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## SEVEN SIGNS OF A STEWARDSHIP PARISH

- 1 Prayer
- 2 Hospitality
- 3 Accountability
- 4 Outreach
- 5 Renewal & Commitment
- 6 Lay Witness
- 7 Stewardship Committee

Of utmost importance in a Stewardship parish is accountability. The pastor is accountable to the staff and parishioners. The staff are accountable to the pastor and the parishioners. The parishioners are accountable to the pastor and staff.

Webster defines accountable as ,”answerable, responsible, and explicable (explainable)”. The post-Second Vatican Council parish still follows the Roman model, as opposed to our capitalist system of committee accountability. The Roman model still has the pastor as leader with a “final” say in all matters. But lay staff and parishioners have committees and/or councils to advise the pastor. Our Archdiocese has a term limit policy for most, if not all pastors at any one parish (two six year terms). Our Archdiocese tends to collaborate on assigning pastors- few are ordered to leave or ordered to serve at a particular assignment. All parishes are encouraged to have finance councils and pastoral councils, who through consensus advise the pastor.

We are blessed to have Fr. Bob Hart as our pastor. He follows the “Servant Leader” model as priest and pastor. He is open to, responsible to, and answers to his finance and pastoral councils, and to the parishioners in general. He personally supervises the staff, and is accountable to them in his actions. He is transparent in his scheduling and personal life to his staff and to parishioners. He builds confidence in his leadership by doing so.

Our staff is likewise accountable to Fr. Bob, each other, and to the parishioners. By doing so, we encourage the confidence of the parishioner, who is our immediate judge before the ultimate judgment of our God.

While the pastor will serve a determined term, and the staff is limited to a number of working years in their career, the parishioner is the continuity which is ultimately accountable or responsible to build God’s kingdom in southwest Washington and eastern Ramsey counties. We either approve of the leadership and are responsible to the pastor, or we, too often, “vote” with our feet and find another parish to worship. We must, as parishioners, accept the role as “owners” of our holy buildings and grounds, and be responsible, answerable and able to explain our unqualified support, so that

Transfiguration Church, staff, and pastor will be here for you on your best days and your worst days here on earth!