

## The Seven Signs of a Stewardship Parish By Jay McGivern

### 1 PRAYER

The sanctifying presence of Christ is a sign of stewardship, and it is manifested through prayer and the sacraments. Transfiguration should present many opportunities as possible for both community and individual prayer.

### 2 HOSPITALITY

All guests and parishioners, (new, current, or former) are welcomed and made to feel comfortable at all Transfiguration activities, including all liturgies. All need a sense that they and their time and talents are valued and worth contributing. Transfiguration needs to present an image and a reality that we are friendly and welcoming like Jesus Christ.

### 3 ACCOUNTABILITY

The pastor is accountable to the parishioners and staff. The staff is accountable to the pastor and the parishioners. All parishioners are accountable to the pastor and staff. There must be a known and visible commitment to account for a full range of parish activities and efforts which display the stewardship of what the parish has and does. The financial accountability should be transparent, regularly reported, and available for examination at all times.

### 4 OUTREACH

Stewardship parishes, like parishioners who practice “Stewardship as a Way of Life”, need to promote social justice in the long term and charity and support for the less fortunate in the short term. The more human interaction which results from our outreach to the less fortunate, the greater God’s grace is for all. Making Christ known in our world is a fundamental call of our baptism.

### 5 RENEWAL AND COMMITMENT

Stewardship is not a “program”, but a journey of faith, and spiritual way of life. Stewardship needs to be renewed at least annually. This allows parishioners to be informed, formed in the faith, and transformed in their spiritual journey.

### 6 LAY WITNESS

Personal witness by parishioner couples, families, and individuals who have experienced the conversion of “Stewardship as a Way of Life” is essential to build a parish foundation of stewardship.

### 7 STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

It is important for a group assigned the task of assuring the practice and ongoing renewal of stewardship is pursued. The committee organizes, identifies, nurtures, and provides formal gratitude to those who share their time, talent, and treasure.

I’ve been very impressed by the broad scope of Transfiguration parish’s stewardship and the beginnings of the stewardship effort at Transfiguration to teach this spirituality to its

parishioners. I will write often on subjects relating to these seven signs. If you do not pray regularly, commit to do so this summer. If you do regularly pray, why not try to attend mass daily or as often as possible. If a daily communicant, why not spend a few minutes after Mass in contemplative prayer. Pray for a greater appreciation of Jesus' gift of eternal life through His death and resurrection. Pray for a greater appreciation of God's many gifts to us (and to you). Pray that Transfiguration continues to strive to improve at building God's Kingdom here in our midst.