

**Commitment Weekend Homily and In-Pew Card Instructions**

Today, we gather as a community united in faith, service, stewardship, and mission. These pillars of evangelization form the foundation of our journey as followers of Christ, guiding us to live lives of purpose and meaning. As we reflect on these essential aspects of our Catholic Faith, let us open our hearts to the transformative power of God's grace and seek to deepen our understanding and commitment.

Faith is the bedrock upon which our lives as Catholics are built. It is through faith that we enter into a relationship with God, placing our trust in His infinite love and mercy. Our faith calls us to embrace the teachings of Christ, to follow His example, and to live in communion with Him. As a community united in faith, we are bound together by a common belief and a shared hope. Let us nurture our faith through prayer, reading the scriptures, and participating in the life of our Catholic community. For it is through these practices that our faith is strengthened and sustained.

Service is the natural outpouring of our faith. Inspired by the love of Christ, we are called to serve one another with humility and compassion. Service allows us to imitate Christ's example of selflessness, demonstrating that true greatness lies in serving others. As a community united in service, we recognize the dignity and worth of every person, reaching out to those in need and extending a helping hand. Let us be attentive to the opportunities for service that God places before us, knowing that in serving others, we encounter Christ Himself.

Stewardship is an essential aspect of our Catholic discipleship. It involves the responsible and generous management of the resources that God has entrusted to us. As faithful stewards, we recognize that everything we have comes from God, and we are called to use these gifts wisely and for the greater good. Our stewardship extends beyond financial contributions to include our time and talents. Each of us has been uniquely gifted by God, and it is our responsibility to employ these gifts in service to others. As a community united in stewardship, let us embrace this call to lead by Christ’s loving example, fully knowing that our actions have lasting meaning.

Mission is the driving force behind our collective efforts as a community united in faith, service, and stewardship. Our mission is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the world, to be ambassadors of His love and mercy. Just as Christ commissioned His disciples to go forth and make disciples, we too are called to actively participate in the mission of the Church. Our mission begins within our own families, workplaces, and neighborhoods, where we are called to be witnesses to the transforming power of the Gospel. Our mission extends to the broader community, as we support those in need and engage in works of justice and mercy. As a community united in mission, let us be bold in sharing the hope found in Christ, always aware that the lives of others are at stake.

My brothers and sisters, as we reflect on our identity as a community united, let us be mindful of what our Lord asks of us. It is not enough to simply believe or to offer lip service to His ideals. Our faith, service, stewardship, and mission must be lived out in practical ways. We are called to actively participate in the life of our community, offering our time and talents for the well-being of others. We are called to be generous with our resources, knowing that God blesses us when we give with a cheerful heart. We are called to be witnesses to the love of Christ, sharing His message of hope with those who have yet to encounter Him.

In light of this, I invite each one of you to prayerfully consider how you can deepen your commitment to our parish community. Please take time to reflect on your own journey and discern how God is calling you to grow.

Ask yourself

* How can I deepen my relationship with God?
* How can I serve others more selflessly?
* How can I be a better steward of the gifts entrusted to me?
* How can I actively participate in the mission of the Church?

One practical way to respond to this call is through supporting our community's initiatives and outreach programs. Your financial contributions play a vital role in supporting our efforts to spread love and kindness, care for the vulnerable, and meet the spiritual needs of those in our community. Your generosity enables us to make a positive impact and inspires others to join us in making a difference.

Let us approach this call to increased giving with joy and gratitude, recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God. Let us trust in His providence and open our hearts to the blessings that come from giving generously.

May our commitment to faith, service, stewardship, and mission be a testament to the transformative power of God's love working through us. May we continue to grow as disciples of Christ and be a source of hope to all who encounter us. And may our giving be a reflection of our gratitude for the blessings we have received and our commitment to making a difference in the lives of others.

I now invite you to take a few moments for prayer and reflection. Let us enter into a spirit of silence and turn our hearts to God.Take a deep breath, allowing yourself to be fully present in this moment. Reflect on the words you have heard and the call to deepen your commitment to our parish. Consider the questions posed earlier: How can I deepen my relationship with God? How can I serve others more selflessly? How can I be a better steward of the gifts entrusted to me? How can I actively participate in the mission of the Church?

In these next few minutes, offer your thoughts, intentions, and desires to God. Speak to Him from your heart, expressing your gratitude, seeking guidance, and asking for the strength to live out your Christian calling more fully.

Pause for 30 seconds.

As we continue this time of prayer, I invite you to complete the in-pew commitment card that has been provided. In addition to providing you with an easy way to update your Offertory commitment, it includes ample space for you to record prayers or intercessions on behalf of your loved ones. Please know that these intentions and commitments will be lifted up in prayer by our faith community.

Shortly, the ushers will come by to collect your commitment cards. Please be assured that your responses will remain confidential, and that we are collecting your replies only to assist us in planning and serving the needs of our community more effectively in the future.

Wait for ushers to pick up all cards

Let us now conclude our time with a closing prayer.

*Gracious God,*

*We humbly gather as a community united in faith, service, stewardship, and mission.*

*May our hearts overflow with generosity, as we share our blessings and talents to the betterment of others.*

*Help us embrace our role as faithful stewards, using our resources wisely and selflessly.*

*Guide us in our daily actions to embody love and compassion, strengthening the bonds that connect us all in Your grace.*

*Amen.*

Thank you for your participation. May God bless you abundantly as you continue your journey of faith.