

REGISTERED STEWARDSHIP MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH

We at Good Shepherd Catholic Community are honored to serve the pastoral and spiritual needs of many families. To do so adequately we must be able to determine that each family on record is a registered stewardship member of our parish alone. When our online database indicates that a family's stewardship has become inactive, communication with the family is needed to inquire whether there are extenuating circumstances. We offer families in financial distress assistance through our partnership with Catholic Charities. If there are no extenuating circumstances in the family that would prevent stewardship giving to our parish and the family is living outside of our Parish Boundaries, their family name no longer appears as registered at our parish. We ask your assistance in keeping the census of our parish updated and accurate.

Each family's Stewardship is essential to provide services in our parish. We face cost realities that Good Shepherd cannot afford to ignore. The cost of air conditioning, heating and utilities each month are staggeringly high. There are also recurring costs of the wine and hosts for Mass, materials for parish music and education, and weekly salaries. All of this and much more require a monetary outlay. The cost of sending out stewardship envelopes each month that are not used is expensive and wasteful. We all need to be aware that each parish is also financially assessed by our Diocese each year according to the number of its families. As a result the number of inactive stewardship families who live outside of our Parish Boundaries artificially inflates our numbers and our annual assessment. How can we determine who is a Registered Stewardship Member?

Since Good Shepherd is a stewardship parish as set forth in the Mission Statement of our parish, the expectation is that all registered members use envelopes, checks or, most preferably, online Faith Direct. Information is kept so confidential that not even I know how much anyone gives. Stewardship is not a matter of cash-in-the-basket almsgiving. Rather Stewardship is one of the five precepts of the Catholic Church that I have explained in my article "**Faithful and Prudent Stewards.**" See also the USCC Bishops' Pastoral Letter **Stewardship: A Disciple's Response**. In an age of individualism, materialism and consumerism, everyone needs to make sacrifices.

When Stewardship to Good Shepherd is not **visible and consistent**, the person is no longer on the parish rolls as a registered member. If this is in error or there are extenuating circumstances, Ms. Michael Vinez should be contacted immediately at 817-421-1387, Ext. 4043 and our parish will correct your record with accurate information regarding stewardship, family names, phone numbers, address and emails. If a person's address places them outside of our Parish Boundaries of Good Shepherd and their Stewardship is not fully active, they cannot be considered Registered Stewardship Members of Good Shepherd. There are no dual registrations with any other parish.

As a courtesy, Good Shepherd will register those families living outside of its Parish Boundaries provided that their stewardship is **visible and consistent**. Otherwise, persons need to attend the church within their own Parish Boundaries where their canonical pastor is responsible for the pastoral care of their family. For those choosing to register in another parish, it is only fair that they respect the jurisdiction of their own pastor in regards to full stewardship of time, talent and treasure. Of course, we at Good Shepherd always welcome visitors who put cash-in-the-basket to our parish, but visitors are not considered registered stewardship members of our parish. For those choosing to be members of our parish, more is expected! Thank you, Father Richard