

Catholic Stewardship Toolkit: January

Monthly Theme: Holy Name of Jesus, New Year, and Hospitality

Parish Leader Overview

Themes: Holy Name of Jesus, New Year, Hospitality

Stewardship Focus: Welcoming spirit, planning, spiritual renewal

Key Opportunities:

- New Year's resolutions rooted in faith
- Parish-wide hospitality initiatives
- Goal-setting for time, talent, and treasure
- Planning events for Lent
- Send out Tax Letters and End of Year Statements

Bulletin/Newsletter Content

- January Stewardship Reflection:

This month, as we honor the Holy Name of Jesus and begin a new year, we are invited to renew our commitment to living as intentional disciples. Stewardship is a daily 'yes' to Jesus—through how we spend our time, share our gifts, and open our hearts to others.

- Hospitality Focus:

Start the year by being a welcoming presence! Whether you're a greeter, usher, coffee host, or just someone who smiles and says hello—your role in building a warm and inviting parish is a powerful witness of Christ's love.

- New Year Faith Resolutions:

Invite families to pick one spiritual goal this month: attend daily Mass once a week, pray as a family each night, join a ministry, or read Scripture together.

Optional Parish Inserts & Tools

- Themes and Ideas
- Prayer for a Steward's New Year
- Bulletin insert: "5 Ways to Welcome Others at Mass"
- Printable card: 'My Stewardship Word for 2025'
- Planning page: Ministry goals worksheet for 2025

USCCB Days of Prayer and Observances

- January 1 — World Day of Peace
- January 18–25 — Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- January 22 — Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children (USA)
- Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (between January 21–27) — Sunday of the Word of God
- Last Week in January — Catholic Schools Week (USA)

JANUARY THEMES AND IDEAS

Here's a list of Catholic stewardship ideas for January, with a focus on:

The New Year / The Holy Name of Jesus (Feast Day: January 3) / Hospitality

New Year: A Fresh Start in Stewardship

"Stewardship Resolutions" Cards

- Invite parishioners to choose 1 way to grow in time, talent, or treasure this year. Provide simple cards or an online form for reflection and commitment.

"First Fruits" Offering

- Encourage a New Year giving tradition, offering the first part of the year to God through a special donation or act of service.

Blessing of Calendars & Planners

- Have a prayer of blessing over parishioners' new calendars or schedules, asking God to be present in every moment of 2025.

Family Mission Statement

- Share a template or host a gathering where families write a spiritual mission statement for the year—focused on faith, service, and love.

One Word Spiritual Focus

- Help individuals choose one word or virtue to live by in the new year (e.g., "Patience," "Courage," "Mercy") and commit to growing in that area.

The Holy Name of Jesus (January 3)

Litany of the Holy Name of Jesus

- Share this powerful devotion through prayer cards, social media, or as a group prayer at Mass or adoration.

"Jesus" Prayer Stone or Token

- Offer small cards, crosses, or stones with the name of Jesus for parishioners to keep in a pocket or prayer corner as a reminder of His presence.

"Speak His Name with Love" Campaign

- Reflect as a parish on how we use the name of Jesus—encouraging reverence, kindness in speech, and lifting His name with love.

Art or Calligraphy Activity

- Host a session for youth or adults to draw, paint, or write the name of Jesus beautifully, meditating on its power and peace.

“Acts of Kindness in His Name” Week

- Challenge the parish to do one act of love each day for a week and intentionally offer it in Jesus’ name.

Hospitality: Welcoming in the New Year

Newcomer Welcome Weekend

- Host a New Year welcome Mass or coffee hour for new parishioners or those returning after Christmas. Give a small gift or blessing card.

“Warm Winter Welcome” Greeter Campaign

- Recruit and train hospitality ministers and greeters to offer a joyful welcome at every Mass in January, especially when visitors return after the holidays.

“Invite One” Challenge

- Encourage parishioners to personally invite a friend, neighbor, or co-worker to Mass, a ministry event, or small group gathering this month.

Hospitality Ministry Spotlight

- Use the bulletin or website to highlight the faces behind your hospitality ministries—greeters, ushers, coffee hosts—and invite others to join.

Prayer for a Welcoming Heart

- Include a parish-wide prayer intention each week in January asking for hearts that are open, kind, and ready to welcome others in Christ.

Other Family & Ministry Activities

- Create a ‘Family Mission Statement’ and hang it near your prayer space.
- Host a New Year’s blessing of calendars or planners after Mass.
- Ministry leaders: Set stewardship goals and host a visioning night.
- Launch a “Welcome Back” weekend with nametags and hospitality tables.
- Start a ‘One Word’ campaign – each family picks a spiritual focus word for the year.

A Steward's Prayer for the New Year

Gracious and loving God,
As we step into this new year of grace,
we are filled with wonder at the promise of new beginnings—
fresh starts, renewed hope, and unfolding possibilities.

You, O Lord, are the author of time,
the giver of every moment we hold.
While we may carry our own plans and desires,
we surrender this year to your will,
trusting in your wisdom,
and your boundless love that guides our path.

Thank you for the days and weeks ahead—
a sacred trust, a stewardship of time.
Teach us to live them wisely and well,
with hearts rooted in gratitude,
and lives centered in you.

Help us to be faithful stewards of your gifts—
attentive to the needs of others,
generous in spirit,
compassionate to the poor,
and open to the cries of a hurting world.

May every decision we make
and every action we take
reflect your goodness and mercy.

We ask this through Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever. Amen.

5 Ways to Welcome Others at Mass

Here are 5 simple and meaningful ways to welcome others at Mass, whether you're a parishioner, usher, greeter, or simply someone who wants to share the love of Christ with others:

1. Offer a Warm Greeting

A genuine smile, eye contact, and a kind "Good morning" or "Welcome" can go a long way.

If you recognize someone new, consider saying, "I don't think we've met before—welcome!"

2. Be Attentive to Visitors

Help guests find seats, especially families or the elderly.

Offer assistance with hymnals, worship aids, or directions to restrooms or the cry room.

If someone seems unsure, gently ask, "Can I help you find anything?"

3. Introduce Yourself

After Mass, take a moment to introduce yourself to someone you don't know.

You might say, "Hi, I'm [Name]—how long have you been coming to [Parish Name]?"

4. Invite and Include

Invite newcomers or those sitting alone to parish events, coffee and donuts, or small groups.

Let them know about ministries they can join or ways to get involved.

5. Practice Hospitality Beyond the Doors

Hospitality isn't just for greeters—every parishioner plays a role.

Smile, make room in your pew, offer a handshake at the Sign of Peace with warmth and sincerity.

Be the reason someone feels like they belong at church.

Ministry Goal Worksheet for the New Year

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed." – Proverbs 16:3

Ministry Name: _____

Leader(s): _____

Date: _____

1. Reflect on the Past Year

What were three key successes or blessings from last year?

What were some challenges or areas for improvement?

2. Ministry Vision for the New Year

In one sentence, describe your vision for this ministry in the coming year:

How does this ministry support the mission of our parish and the call to discipleship?

3. Set SMART Goals

(Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound)

Goal 1:

Description: _____

Why this matters: _____

Target date: _____

Who will lead/support: _____

Goal 2:

Description: _____

Why this matters: _____

Target date: _____

Who will lead/support: _____

(Add more goals if needed)

4. Stewardship Focus

(How will this ministry promote stewardship through prayer, service, hospitality, and/or giving?)

5. Spiritual Foundation

Scripture or saint that inspires your ministry this year:

How will you incorporate prayer and spiritual growth into your ministry work?

6. Support & Resources Needed

What support, training, or resources do you need from the parish?

7. Closing Prayer

Write a short prayer or choose one to dedicate your ministry efforts to God.



My Stewardship Word of the Year

"Let each of you use whatever gift you have received to serve others."—1 Peter 4:10

My Word: _____

Why I chose this word:

How I will live it out this year:

*Time, Talent or Treasure
through Prayer, Service, Hospitality, Generosity*



How to choose your Stewardship Word of the Year

- Pray – Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your heart.
- Reflect – Think about how God may be calling you to grow this year in prayer, service, hospitality, or generosity.
- Listen – What word keeps coming to mind? A virtue? A reminder? A challenge?
- Choose – Pick one word that inspires you to live as a faithful steward this year.
- Live It – Write it down, pray with it, and let it shape your choices and mindset.

Living Stewardship Daily

Lord, help me to live this word intentionally—
to reflect your love through my actions, and to grow as a
faithful steward of all you've entrusted to me. Amen.

