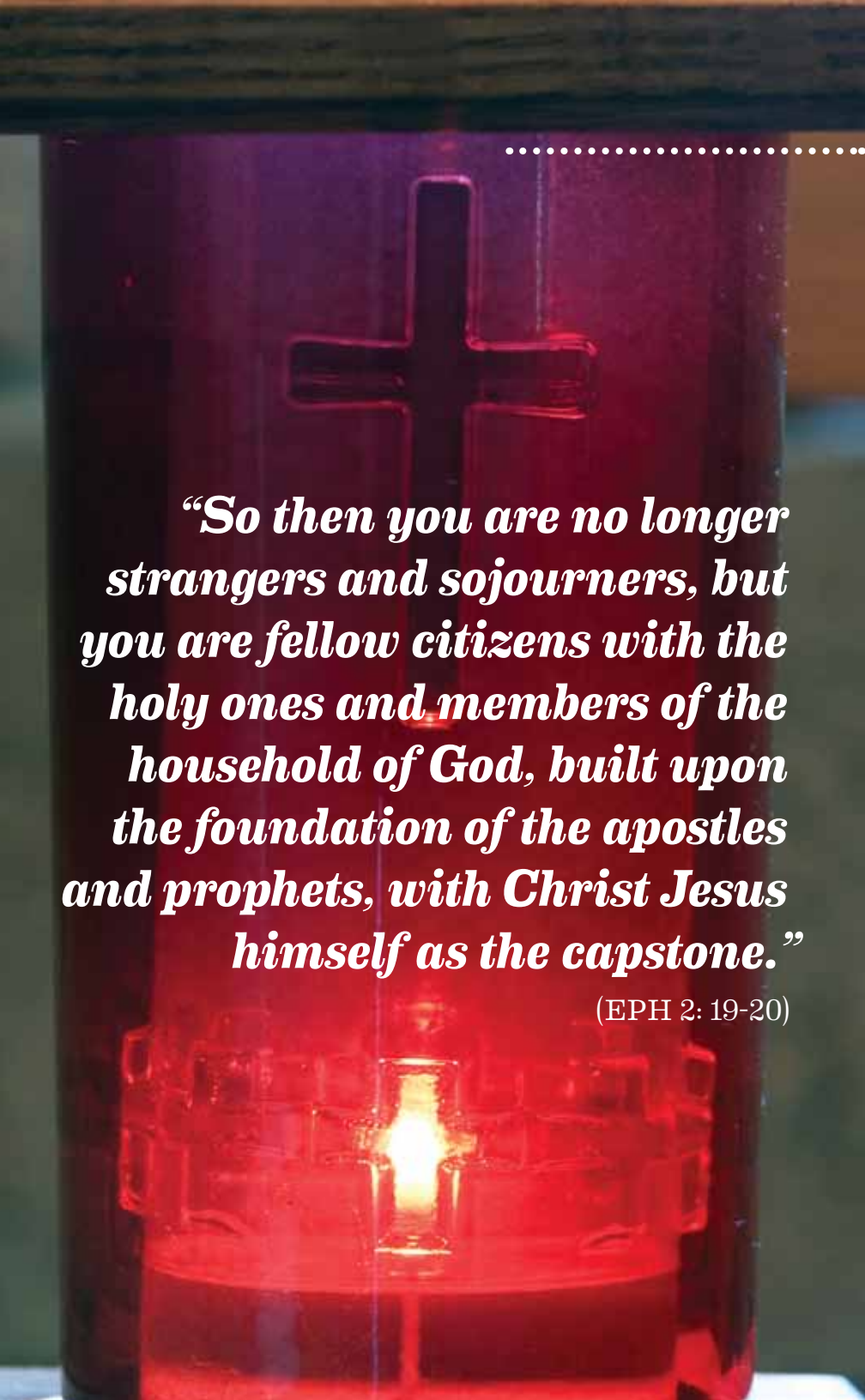




*strangers  
no longer*

SPIRIT OF LIFE CATHOLIC CHURCH

A red glass candle holder with a cross cutout and a lit candle inside. The candle is lit, and the light is visible through the glass. The background is dark and out of focus.

***“So then you are no longer  
strangers and sojourners, but  
you are fellow citizens with the  
holy ones and members of the  
household of God, built upon  
the foundation of the apostles  
and prophets, with Christ Jesus  
himself as the capstone.”***

(EPH 2: 19-20)

# *strangers no longer*

From the Church's earliest beginnings, Christians have strived to build tight-knit communities. In the early Church, *koinonia*, or community, was a word with enormous significance. It evoked strong feelings of hospitality and belonging between those who had committed themselves to live as Disciples of Christ.

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# *A Core Christian Value*

The dictionary defines “hospitality” as “the quality or disposition of receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, generous way.” From the standpoint of a Christian worldview, hospitality can be referred to as Christian kindness. Here at Spirit of Life, we want to make every individual feel a sense of trust, a sense of comfort, and a sense that they truly belong. When they are welcomed, they cease to be guests and strangers. Rather, they become one of us, part of our community.

For Christians, the presence of hospitality can make a newcomer — or even a long-time parishioner who may have been inactive, but who now is coming back to church — feel at home. Friends are welcomed with open arms and warm smiles. Brothers and sisters feel the genuine love present in a hearty “Welcome!” Family members do not visit; they belong.

In Matthew’s Gospel, Christ reveals a profound truth about hospitality. “When I was a stranger, you welcomed me...” In other words, “I used to be a stranger, but you fixed that when you made me feel comfortable and made me feel I belonged.” It’s a classic example of before and after. A transformation made possible through hospitality.



In terms of stewardship, hospitality is an immensely important concept. Remember the “three Ts” of stewardship: time, talent and treasure? Well, there are also “four Ps,” the four pillars of stewardship – hospitality, prayer, formation and service. Why is hospitality mentioned first? Without hospitality, none of the other pillars will ever take hold. It opens the door to a person’s heart and allows them to receive joy, grace and love. For Spirit of Life Catholic Church to continue to grow as a stewardship community, we must make everyone who walks through our doors feel like they truly have come home. We must make hospitality a cornerstone.



# time

At Spirit of Life, we are encouraging one another to be good stewards of our time, especially when it comes to spending time in prayer. Of most importance is our effort to join with our parish family to praise and thank God each weekend. We hope you make this a weekly goal. Everyone's schedule is packed. Stewardship asks us to start with God as we plan our week. How much time can I give God this week? Your Commitment Card offers several suggestions for making prayer a regular part of your life.

## **A Healthy Prayer Life Includes:**

- **Celebrating the Eucharist with our parish family**
- **Praying with your family and loved ones**
- **Making time for personal prayer each day**





## Reasons to Get Involved:

- To serve others in need
- To study our Faith
- To pray with other parishioners
- To have fun with our parish family

At the end of Mass, the deacon or priest says, “The Mass is ended, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.” The implication is that Mass is only the beginning; being an active Catholic isn’t fulfilled with one hour on Sunday morning. Instead, we are told to “go forth” and bring Christ to our city and in our world.

Spirit of Life’s offers a wide variety of activities and organizations to which you can belong. Whether you’re a talented baker or organizer – or anything in between – there is a group that would love your help. Our parish simply isn’t the same without your involvement. Mass is only the beginning! Let’s continue to “go forth” to serve God and each other.

Stewardship isn't all about money, but it does have a financial component — and we shouldn't be embarrassed to talk about it. After all, Jesus asks us to give Him our hearts; why should it be harder to give Him our dollars?

Spirit of Life's has a history of excellent financial stewardship, but many of us still need to work on living up to the scriptural tithe. Parish members are asked to give half of the tithe — five percent of your income — to our normal weekly offertory. Review your finances and challenge yourself — are you giving to God in proportion to how He has blessed you?



## **Putting God First in Finances:**

- **Strive to give 5% to Spirit of Life, 1% to the diocese, and 4% to other charities**
- **Commit to a specific gift each week or month**
- **Use your offertory envelopes**

# ...ministry catalogue.....

## **Liturgy**

### **ALTAR SERVERS**

Altar Servers assist the priest at Mass performing such duties as carrying the processional cross, preparation of the altar and holding the Sacramentary (the big red book) for the presider. Training sessions are conducted periodically.

*Contact: Tony Ternes, 663-1660*

### **ART & ENVIRONMENT HELPER**

Art & Environment volunteers ensure that our beautiful church is appropriately decorated for the liturgical season. The aim is to draw us into worship and to remind us of the facets of Christ's life, death and resurrection that are being celebrated in particular liturgies in the Church calendar.

*Contact: Linda Schwartzbauer, 663-1660*

### **CHRISTMAS CHOIR MEMBER**

Those who have been blessed with the gift of a musical voice or ability to play an instrument are encouraged to share that gift with the parish family by joining our Christmas choir.

*Contact: Dan Weigel, 663-1660*

## **COMMUNION MINISTER**

Communion Ministers have the special responsibility of helping priests and deacons to distribute the Body & Blood of Christ at Mass.

*Contact: Bonnie Volk, 663-1660*

## **GUITARIST, PIANIST OR INSTRUMENTALIST**

Musicians in our parish are needed to accompany our singing groups with guitar, piano or other instruments. An audition is required.

*Contact: Dan Weigel, 663-1660*

## **HOSPITALITY MINISTER/ USHER**

These volunteers greet people before Mass, help them find seating, take up the Offertory Collection, and distribute bulletins after Mass.

*Contact: Clayton Marcellais, 663-1660*

## **LECTOR/READER**

Lectors proclaim the Word of God at Mass in an inspiring and meaningful way. They carefully review the Scripture passages and practice reading them aloud before coming to church. Training is provided.

*Contact: Clayton Marcellais, 663-1660*

## **NURSERY**

A warm, safe, and comfortable environment for children, ages six weeks to three years, is provided for parishioners while they attend designated church functions and Masses. Adult and teen volunteers are needed.

*Contact: Sue Helm, 663-1660*

## **SINGERS**

These individuals assist in leading the singing at weekend Masses and on Holy Days. Training is provided as needed and scheduling is flexible.

*Contact: Dan Weigel, 663-1660*

## **Religious Education**

### **CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD**

To make the Scriptures more accessible to young listeners, the parish offers a separate Liturgy of the Word for pre-school through 2nd grade children at the 9:00 and 11:00 am Sunday Masses. The children process out of the church to attend a kid-centered teaching of the Sunday Scriptures, returning at the offertory. Adult and high-school aged facilitators are needed.

*Contact: Sue Helm, 663-1660*

### **1ST RECONCILIATION AND 1ST COMMUNION**

For children 2nd Grade age and older, this program prepares children to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation

and Holy Eucharist. Volunteers are needed to lead small groups with the children.

*Contact: Sue Helm, 663-1660*

### **JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP**

The Junior High youth ministry is for early adolescents in grades 7th and 8th. It is designed to meet the catechetical, educational, spiritual, emotional and social needs of young adolescents. We approach catechesis to middle-school youth using the Life Teen model. Middle-school youth are removed from behind classroom desks and brought into a large-group environment for gathering activities, teachings and prayer. In small groups, they break open the teachings and build solid, Christ-centered relationships that allow them to comfortably explore their Catholic faith and make it relevant to their everyday lives. This helps build safe relationships during some of the most formative years of a teen's life. Meetings are held one Wednesday evening a month, September through May.

*Contact: Sue Helm, 663-1660*

### **CONFIRMATION**

For those entering the sophomore year of high school. The goal of our confirmation program is to help participants better understand the Catholic faith and the role of Confirmation in the life of

a Catholic today. We meet approximately twice a month on Wednesday evenings throughout the school year as well as 2 retreats held on Sunday afternoons. The encouragement and support of parents and other adults willing to lead small groups is vital to the faith-formation of our candidates. Volunteers are needed to assist with this program.

*Contact: Tony Ternes, 663-1660*

### **SENIOR HIGH LIFE TEEN MINISTRY**

Life Teen, simply put, helps teens develop individual relationships with God. During the Life Teen Mass on Sunday evenings, teens and their parents experience a liturgy geared toward their spiritual needs. During meetings following Mass, the Life Teen Program teaches through creative Bible studies, discussions, and personal experience in an atmosphere that is open and loving! LIFE TEEN provides an atmosphere where teens can express their feelings and experience the unconditional love of Christ. Finally, the program helps teens become part of a community where everyone is invited to experience the fullness of LIFE through fun and exciting activities. Adult volunteers are needed for the success of this ministry.

*Contact: Tony Ternes, 663-1660*

### **3RD - 6TH GRADE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

This program strives to provide quality religious education which enables its students in grades 3 - 6 to grow in their faith and develop a better understanding of the message of Christ. Teachers and assistants are vital to the success of this program which meets on Wednesday evenings from September to May.

*Contact: Sue Helm, 663-1660*



## **MARRIAGE PREPARATION SPONSOR COUPLE**

Experienced married couples are needed to assist engaged couples preparing for marriage. Married couples are trained in the use of the FOCCUS evaluation and walk engaged couples through the results of their FOCCUS. Married couples are given the opportunity to share with couples preparing for marriage the wisdom they have gained over the course of their married life.

*Contact: Tammi and Jim Winbauer, 663-1660*

## **RCIA TEAM**

A team of dedicated and knowledgeable Catholics assist adults who are interested in becoming Catholic by providing education, hospitality, support, and facilitation of the meetings.

*Contact: Tony Ternes, 663-1660*



## **Parish Life**

### **HOSPITALITY SUNDAY**

On the second Sunday of each month, the parish provides coffee and doughnuts in the Activity Center for all at the conclusion of the 9:00 am and 11:00 am Masses. Volunteers are needed to serve the coffee and doughnuts and to straighten up at the conclusion of the event.

*Contact: Deb Rath, 663-1660*

### **Spiritual Life**

#### **ANGEL BABIES: INFANT LOSS SUPPORT GROUP**

This ministry provides mothers, fathers, and family who have experienced the loss of a child with spiritual support and fellowship. Participants learn about the stages of grief and share with others who have undergone similar experiences. They meet on the second Thursday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.

*Contact: Jenn Grabar, 221-1179 or Alison Krumm, 663-1660*

#### **HOPE AND HEALING SPIRITUAL SUPPORT GROUP**

Members of this group and their family and friends come together to support those who struggle with Depression, Anxiety, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, OCD, and Bi-polar. They meet on Tuesday at 7:00pm, at either Spirit of Life, or at New Song Community Church.

*Contact: Alison Krumm, 663-1660 or LaVonne, 255-0869*

## **INTERCESSORY PRAYER MINISTRY**

This group prays for our priest, parishioners, and local community, as well as the concerns of our nation and our world.

*Contact: Char Dukart, 255-2564*

## **PRAISE NIGHT**

This group meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the church for an evening of praise, worship and teaching.

*Contact: Dan Weigel, 663-1660*

## **PRAYER LINE**

A network of parishioners prays for intentions requested by fellow parishioners. Each prayer request is prayerfully passed to dozens of parishioners via telephone or email.

*Contact: Char Dukart, 663-1660*

## **ST. PEREGRINE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**

This group provides a spiritual support to help cancer patients and their adult loved ones at a time when they need it most. They meet on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 pm.

*Contact: Carolyn Larson,  
663-8593 or Rosemary Ciavarella,  
663-5726*

## **Outreach**

### **COMMUNITY CARE-N- SHARE (CHRISTMAS BASKETS)**

Parishioners volunteer to prepare a basket from items donated to our annual Christmas Basket drive for those in need. Help is needed to collect basket items and to distribute baskets to the needy in the Mandan area. This is a ministry opportunity for the entire family.

*Contact: Alison Krumm, 663-1660*

### **FUNERAL MEALS**

As a service to the family who is grieving, our parish provides a meal following the funeral service. Often these luncheons can be quite large, so many volunteers are needed to donate salads, casseroles and bars, or to set up and serve the meal the day of the funeral.

*Contact: Mari Jo Sigl, 663-1660*



## **SOUP KITCHEN/ FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON**

The Soup Kitchen works to provide a meal, fellowship and encouragement to those in need. It involves a commitment on a rotating 7 week schedule of about four Thursday mornings from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm between mid-September and mid-May. Men, women, and couples of all ages make up our volunteer base.

*Contact: Mari Jo Sigl, 663-1660.*

## **VISITATION MINISTRY**

This ministry involves bringing the Eucharist to members of the Spirit of Life community who are unable to attend Mass due to age, illness, or other circumstances. We also visit members from our parish who are in hospital or nursing home facilities.

*Contact: Mari Jo Sigl, 663-1660*

## **Parish Committees**

### **PARISH COUNCIL**

The Parish Council is an advisory group for the pastor. It seeks to foster parish unity, assess parish needs, develop parish programs, coordinate parish activities, encourage parish participation in spiritual and apostolic life, and provide a forum for parish dialogue.

*Contact: Fr. Chad Gion, 663-1660*

### **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

The Stewardship Committee is responsible for developing Stewardship as a way of life at Spirit of Life. They evaluate the Stewardship efforts of the parish, assist with the Stewardship Renewal, and follow up with leaders concerning ministry participation.

*Contact: Jim Doll, 663-1660*





## **Administration**

### **BUILDING AND GROUNDS HELPERS**

The main function of these volunteers is to perform needed maintenance and other physical tasks around the parish's physical plant and grounds. Tasks that members carry out are cleaning, carpentry, painting, electrical work, plumbing, outdoor yard work/raking, etc. No special skills are needed to help in this area.

*Contact: Cheryl Hansen, 663-1660*

### **OFFICE HELPERS**

Volunteers are periodically needed in the parish office to perform a variety of tasks, including receptionist fill-in, phone calling, preparing mailings and stuffing envelopes.

*Contact: Sandy Marcellais or Kathy Volesky, 663-1660*

### **OTHER OCCUPATIONAL TALENTS**

Periodically, the parish needs help with special projects that require certain occupational talents such as: Sewing, Photography, Video Production, Graphic Design, Computer repair and accounting, to name a few.

*Contact: Cheryl Hansen, 663-1660*

By returning our card, we acknowledge that we are in agreement with the goals of this parish. In a very tangible way, we confirm that we want to be a part of this Body. We are not spectators; we are participants; we want to belong. Our pledge makes a tangible statement about our own dependence on the Lord for everything.

*commit*

**time**

**talent**

get involved; use your talents

**treasure**

financially support the parish

Stewardship begins in the heart. It is not about me; it is about God. Here are a few of the following ways you can be a steward:

Check all that apply:

- Attend Mass every Sunday
- Attend weekday Mass
- Attend Adoration for one hour
- Spend 15 minutes a day in prayer
- Pray together with my family
- Read the Bible for one hour
- Pray the Rosary at least once a day
- Go to confession every one to two months
- Schedule time for a spiritual director

The level of my time and talent commitment is:

- When I can no longer make a quality or quantity of my commitment.
- When I can honestly state that I am being sacrificial as I offer them to God.
- When I can honestly state that my commitments, I am being honest with myself.



*strangers  
no longer*

**Spirit of Life Catholic Church**

**2011 Stewardship Renewal  
Commitment Card**

First & Last Name (One card per family)

Street Address

City State ZIP

Telephone (important)

Email

Please bring this card to Mass on **April 9th or 10th**, or mail using the envelope provided. Thanks and God bless you!

these programs in our parish. After you sign this card, we will contact you with more information.

*Family member who wishes to join the ministry.*

Same of Family Member  
Currently Active Wishes to Join

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In thanksgiving for God's gifts, each household at Spirit of Life is asked to give a percentage of income based on the biblical tithe:

**5% to Spirit of Life**  
**1% to the diocese**  
**4% to other charities**

**My Offertory pledge to Spirit of Life**

Please complete either a Weekly or Monthly offertory gift:

Weekly gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_ x 52 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ annually

or

Monthly gift \$ \_\_\_\_\_ x 12 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ annually

**Weekly giving based on proportion of income.**

At Spirit of Life, each household is asked to work toward giving 5% of their income to the parish. Some families may have difficulty reaching this goal at first. If so, try increasing your weekly gift incrementally until you reach an amount that you know is right for you.

**Weekly Giving Chart**

% of Household Income	10%	5%	4%	1%
\$30,000	\$38	\$29	\$23	\$6
\$50,000	96	48	38	10
\$70,000	135	67	54	14
\$100,000	192	96	78	19

Please bring your card to Mass on Commitment Weekend, **April 9th or 10th**. Or simply mail your card using the envelope provided.

PLEASE KEEP UNTIL WINTER 2012

**Spirit of Life Catholic Church**

801 1st Street SE Mandan, ND 58554

701-663-1660 [myspiritoflife.com](http://myspiritoflife.com)