



WEEK THREE

SPF: Say Prayers Frequently

This week, offer this prayer daily as you and your family explore how you can become better stewards of God's gifts.

O God, we thank You for assigning us the significant role of stewards in Your kingdom. Help us to be good stewards of all You have placed in our care.

We thank You for a daily allotment of time without which we could do nothing. Help us to use all our hours in ways that are in line with Your will.

We thank You for the ability to do and to learn to do literally millions of marvelous tasks. Help us to develop and use our varied skills in accord with the counsels of Christ.

We thank You for money and for all to which it serves as a key. Grant that all our earning and spending, all our investing and giving, may be acceptable in Your sight.

We thank You for all the resources with which the world has been supplied. Grant that we may so use the soil, the air, the water—all of nature's bounty—that future generations may not be robbed by our irresponsibility.

We thank You for the gifts of freedom and influence. Help us to use whatever freedom and influence we have for worthy objectives and purposes.

We thank You for healthy bodies and sound minds. Grant that we may shun all habits and practices that unnecessarily reduce our physical or mental well-being.

We thank You for the priceless privilege of children. May we never betray so great a trust.

We thank You for the glorious gospel of Christ.
Help us to live according to the light Jesus has given us,
and guide us in sharing this light with others.

—Litany of Stewardship Sunday

Dive In: Thine Own of Thine Own

In the Divine Liturgy, right before the Consecration, the priest holds up the gifts and prays, “Thine own of Thine own, we offer to you, on behalf of all and for all.” In other words, we offer back to God the gifts he gave us. Everything we have is a gift from God—our money, our family, our homes, our talents, etc. We are called to be good stewards of these gifts and offer them back to God for the good of all of His children.

As a family read the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14–30).

Create something to physically represent the talents given by the master—use paper, rocks, whatever you like. As a family and as individuals, write what our Heavenly Master has blessed us with—think time, talents, and treasures.

Now consider how you can use these to offer back to God what has been bestowed upon you. Make a commitment as a family and as individuals as to how you will do this. Use the physical gifts you made to make some sort of collage of your family gifts and work in how you will offer them back. Be creative, be committed, and have fun!

Take pictures, and don't forget to share with us!
#soakuptheSON

Vitamin D: Whole-hearted Stewardship

In this 20-minute podcast, *Raising Saints*, Elissa Bjeletich reminds us that good stewardship heals our relationship to money and other possessions. Listen here:

http://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/raisingsaints/whole_hearted_stewardship

Let everyone bring to God what fruits he can, at all times, at every turn of life and its events, to the measure of his ability according to the gifts he has been given.
—St. Gregory the Theologian

How can we offer the first fruits of our harvest as a family?

How can this help us in our journey toward the kingdom of heaven?

