

Offertory Envelopes for Children

“Stewardship for Young People”



Why Do We Need To Teach Children To Give?

Stewardship is not just for adults. It is important that young people also learn that they are greatly blessed by God and that God, in turn, expects them to share their blessings. Due to the extraordinary emphasis on commercialism and materialism in our society today, there is an increased awareness within charitable organizations across the country, including parishes, that we must teach our children the importance of giving while they are young and before they are caught up in a culture that teaches them to constantly strive for more and better material possessions for themselves.

Stewardship Is Good for Children

Just as the stewardship way of life is a fulfilling and joyful lifestyle for adults, it is also a very good lifestyle to teach our children. Consider the benefits:

- **Stewardship can help build self-esteem.**
Children need to hear that God has blessed them with all the gifts and talents that they will need. In fact, God has given them an abundance of good things and they have enough to share.
Nothing that they can buy can compare to God’s blessings.
- **Stewardship can make children happier.** Unfortunately, in today’s world, children are bombarded with materialistic messages that often lead to a sense of entitlement and to frustration and dissatisfaction with life. In contrast, stewardship encourages an attitude of gratitude. They will either develop an entitlement attitude – *“The world owes me.”* *“I don’t have enough.”* Or a stewardship attitude – *“I have been blessed.”* *“I am happy to share.”* It is impossible to be grateful and unhappy at the same time. As we count our blessings we naturally find a sense of peace and contentment.

- **Stewardship helps children set priorities.** As children learn that they are called to give back something to God they also learn that they must let go of some of their own wants. Stewardship teaches children the difference between needs and wants. Children learn to concentrate on their blessings rather than on what they want.
- **Stewardship prepares children for their adult role in the Church.** Children need to learn that stewardship is not just a service project that they must do before they can be confirmed or graduate. Stewardship is a way of life. It is the way a faithful Christian lives every day of every year.



How can you help teach your child the importance and the joy of giving? Consider adding any of the following activities to your regular parish stewardship activities.

Best Practices for Children's Offertory Envelopes

One of the best ways to teach children the habit of giving is to offer them the opportunity to place their own contribution in the Offertory basket each week. Whether you are just introducing your child/children to using their own envelopes or have used them for years, here are some suggestions for making the practice successful.

- Giving out of their own money, even if is in change, is better than taking the money from mom or dad's wallet.
- Be sure to let your child know how much he or she has given after a period of time.
- Children can also share their thoughts and prayers by adding a note in the envelope. A love letter to Jesus is just enough!!!

REMEMBER THAT IT IS IN GIVING THAT WE REVEIVE!!

PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

