What is Stewardship?

Stewardship is…

…a *spirituality*

and

…a *lifestyle*

Stewardship as Spirituality

The *spirituality* of stewardship has its roots in the book of Genesis.

There, we are told that “God created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1.1).

Stewardship as Spirituality

Therefore, everything is from God and ultimately belongs to God.

Then we are told that “God created man in his own image, in the divine image he created them, male and female he created them” (Genesis 1.27).

Stewardship as Spirituality

God set man and woman over the whole world, and he provided for their well-being and benefit (Genesis 1.28-30).

He also made them stewards of his creation.

Stewardship as Spirituality

From this scriptural background, we can draw several conclusions that comprise the spirituality of stewardship.

Stewardship as Spirituality

1. Everything is from God and ultimately belongs to God, not us.
2. However God makes us stewards of all that he has created.
3. As stewards, God remains present and active in our lives.

Stewardship as Spirituality

4. God continues to bless us in many ways.

5. God has a particular purpose in all this.

Stewardship as Spirituality

That purpose is

1. To bring us to a greater awareness of God and to nurture our relationship with him.

2. To cultivate our faith, so that we will make him the priority and focus of our lives.

Stewardship as Spirituality

3. To cultivate trust, so that will submit ourselves to him with confidence that he will always provide for us and take care of us.

Stewardship as Spirituality

4. To appreciate and be satisfied with all that he gives us, and

5. To use his gifts for our own benefit prudently, for the good of others generously, and for God's glory ultimately.

Stewardship as Spirituality

The spirituality of stewardship forms the lifestyle of stewardship whereby faith, trust, gratitude and love are put into action.

Stewardship as Lifestyle

As such, stewardship becomes a lifestyle, whereby we offer to God our

- *Time*
- *Talent*
- *Treasure*

Stewardship as Lifestyle

Regarding treasure,

we return to God a portion of what God has given to us. This is called a "tithe."

The idea of tithing comes from scripture where it is mentioned 46 times.

Stewardship as Lifestyle

In tithing it is important to remember:

- Everything we have is from God and really belongs to God.

Stewardship as Lifestyle

and

- God has a purpose for blessing us with his many gifts.

Stewardship as Lifestyle

Therefore,

We are to give back to God from off the top of what we have and not from whatever is leftover.

Stewardship as Lifestyle

This shows God our genuine gratitude for His providence and our sincere trust that He will continue to provide for us.

Such giving is usually 10% of our gross income.

Stewardship as Lifestyle

In Deuteronomy 14.22, God commands:

"Set aside a tithe – a tenth of all that you produce each year. Offer your tithe that you may learn reverence for the Lord."

Stewardship as Lifestyle

Tithing then becomes

An *act of love*

and

An *act of faith*

Stewardship as Lifestyle

As an *Act of Love*…

…We serve God;

…We help others; and

…We build up God's Kingdom on earth and make a positive difference in the world God gave us.

Stewardship as Lifestyle

As an *Act of Faith*…

…We thank God for His goodness;

…We express our trust in His continued providence; and

Stewardship as Lifestyle

...We bring others to God through our witness, devotion, generosity and service.

Stewardship as Lifestyle

At Spirit of Christ, we ask all our parishioners to tithe a percentage of their income, up to 10% if possible – with at least half going to the parish and the other half to charitable causes of their own choosing.

Stewardship as Lifestyle

Each household must determine the amount of their tithe, taking into account their particular financial circumstances.

It is important to review our giving annually.

Stewardship as Lifestyle

In discerning your commitment to stewardship, please keep these scripture passages in mind:

Stewardship as Lifestyle

"Be cheerful with every gift you make, and when you tithe, do it gladly" **(Sirach 35.7-10).**

Stewardship as Lifestyle

"God will supply all your needs"
(Philippians 4.19).

Stewardship as Lifestyle

"Give and gifts will be given to you…overflowing. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you" **(Luke 6.38).**

Stewardship as Lifestyle

***"Much will be required of the person entrusted with much"* (Luke 6.38).**

Stewardship as Lifestyle

"*As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord*" (Joshua 24.15).

Stewardship as Lifestyle

Why is your tithe so important to the parish in particular?

Stewardship as Lifestyle

Your generosity,

provides Catholic education and formation to our children and youth,

provides the sacraments to thousands of people weekly,

Stewardship as Lifestyle

extends pastoral care to the ill and dying,

helps those most in need locally, nationally and internationally, and

brings Christ to all.

Importance of your tithe

This all requires critical financial support.

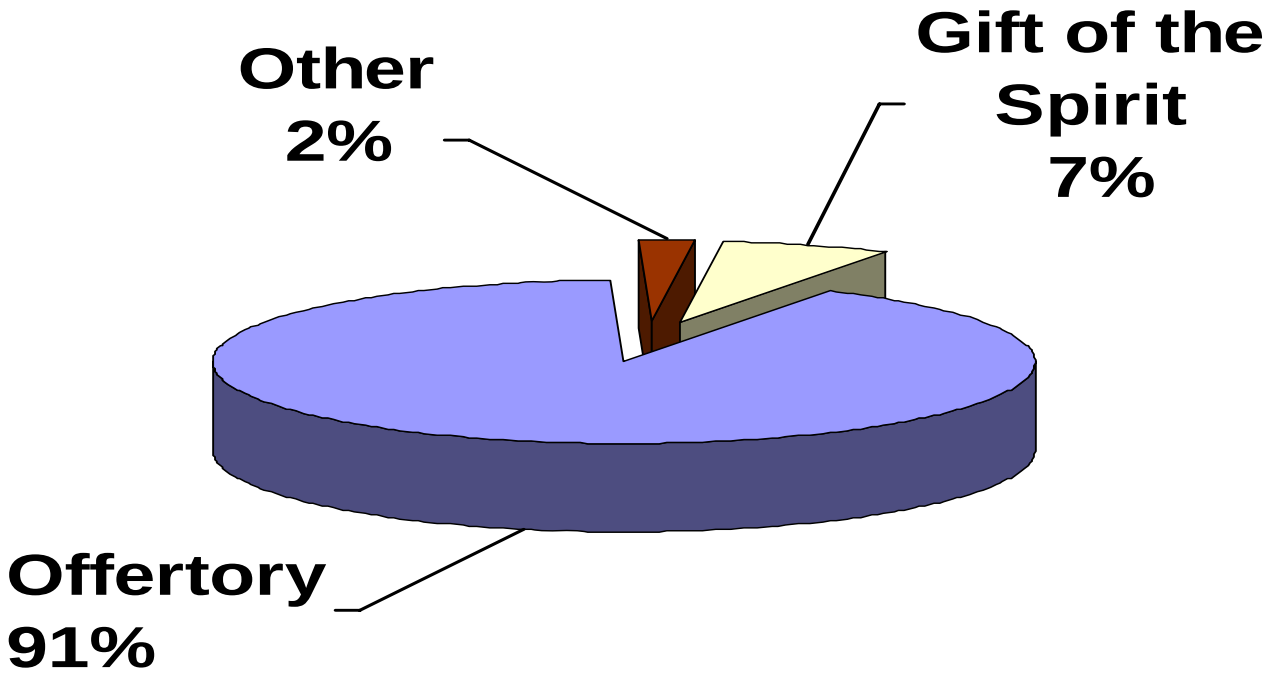
Our vast mission as a parish is reflected in our annual fiscal budget.

Importance of your tithe

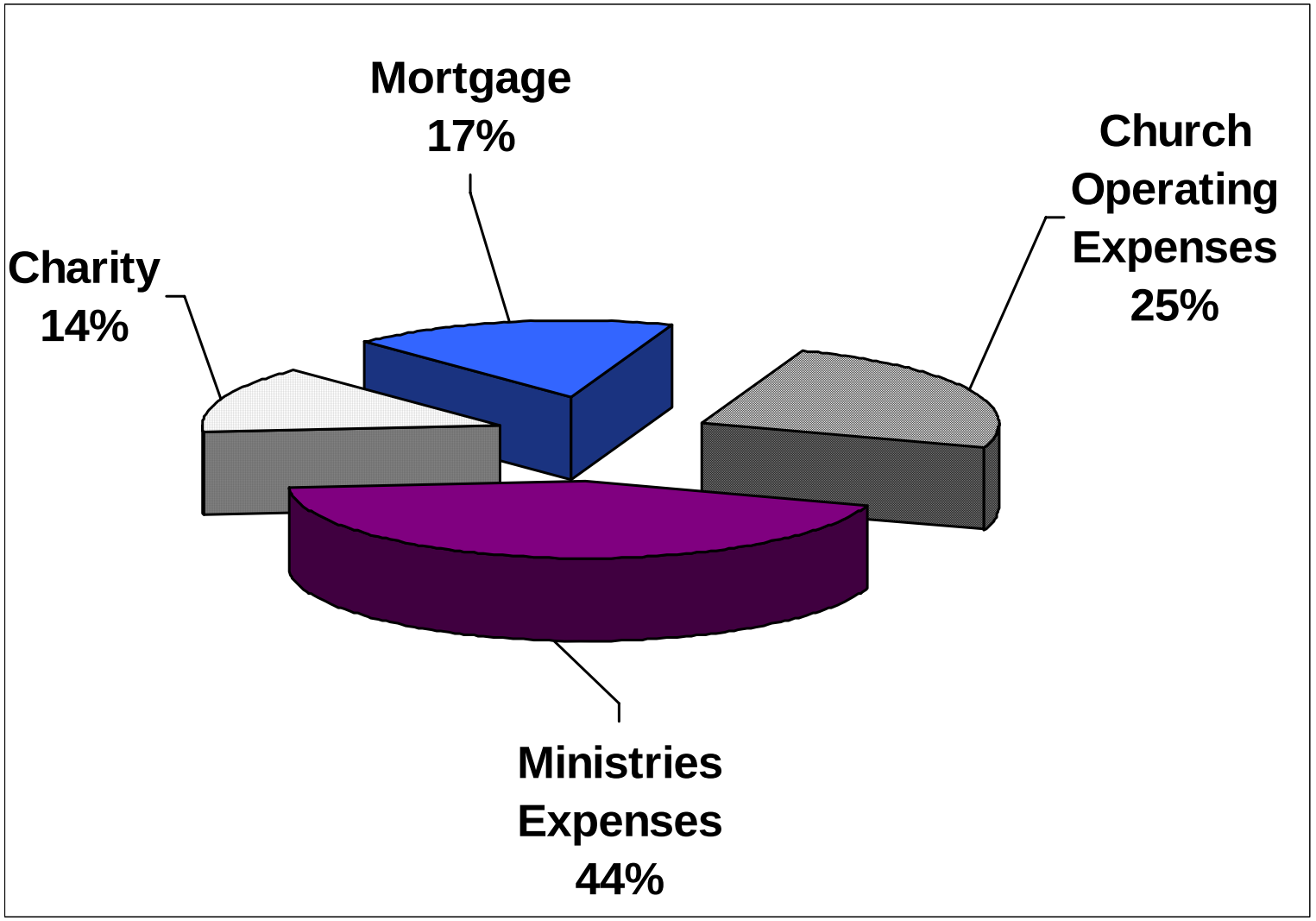
For this current fiscal year, our budget is

$2,308,023.00

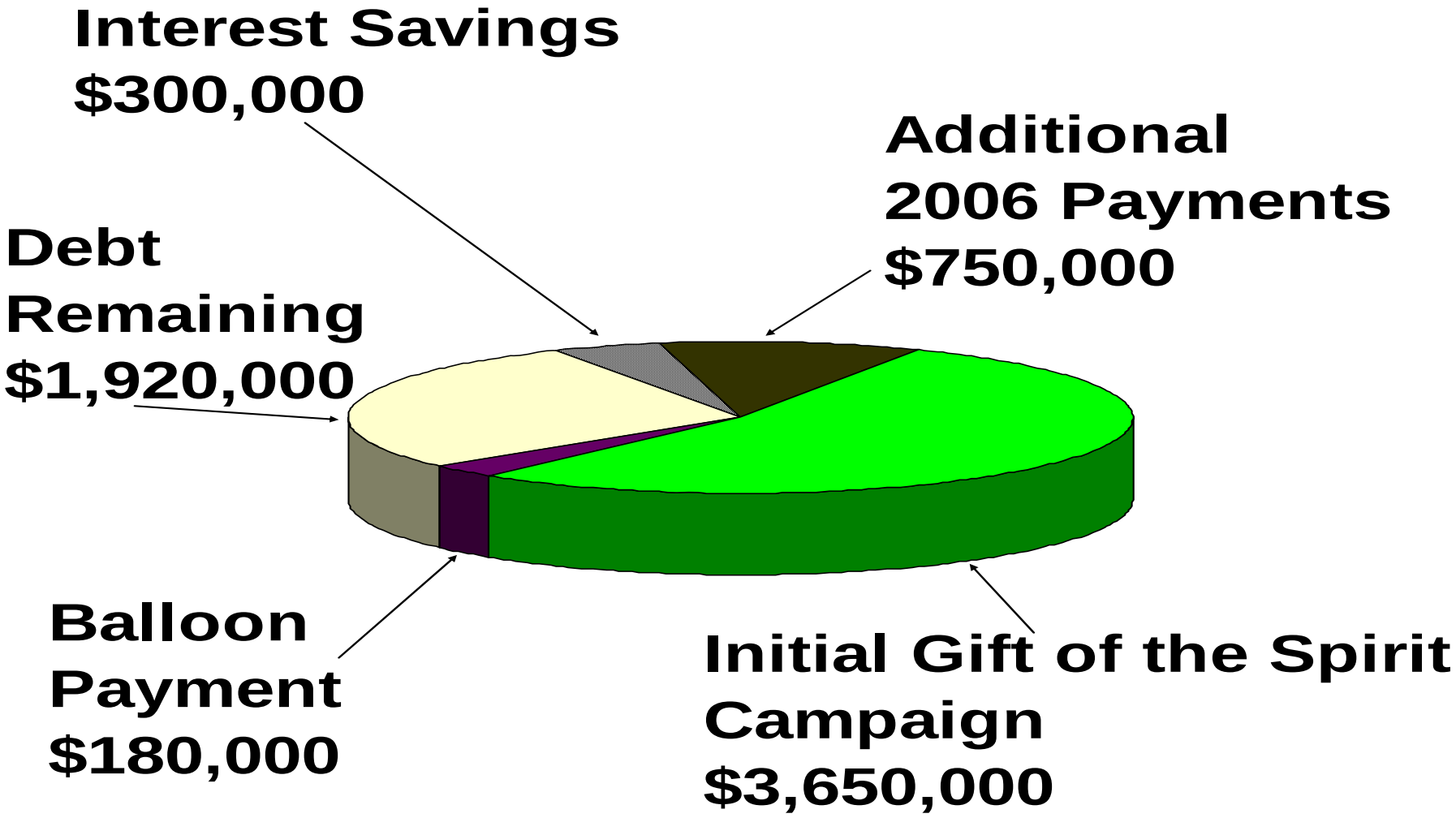
Sources of Income



Expenses Summary



Building Debt



Importance of your tithe

Thank you for your ongoing generosity to the “Gift in the Spirit” fund by using your building envelopes as well as your offertory envelopes.

You are making a difference!

Importance of time & talent

Offering Time and Talent are also important.

At Spirit of Christ we have nearly 80 active ministries that serve nearly 3,600 parish households, or close to 12,000 parishioners;

Importance of time & talent

As well, we help thousands of people through our outreach efforts.

Importance of time & talent

We can always use more volunteers, but

we also need people to participate in our activities and events – this too is a form of stewardship because it supports the parish's mission.

Importance of time & talent

The staff and our volunteers work hard to provide creative and ongoing ways to help everyone grow in our treasured Catholic faith;

Your participation encourages our efforts, and it is valued.

Benefits of Stewardship

Finally, what are the benefits of stewardship?

Benefits of Stewardship

- We grow stronger in our personal faith;
- We have the satisfaction of helping others;
- We expand our potential and capacity for good;

Benefits of Stewardship

- We build up the Kingdom of God; and
- We invest in the mission and life of the parish, keeping our community vibrant, strong and effective.

Benefits of Stewardship

A guarantee:

If you *faithfully* practice stewardship as a spirituality and lifestyle, you will know greater joy and peace in your life.

Benefits of Stewardship

This does not mean that you will never have a trouble-free life,

but it does mean that…

Benefits of Stewardship

...you will not be overwhelmed or defeated by anxiety, fear, dread or despair,

because you know you have comfort, courage, strength and hope from God.

An Invitation

To those yet to embrace stewardship:

Please give *prayerful* consideration to your giving of time, talent and treasure.

Your Response

Then offer your commitment to God

and

begin practicing stewardship right away.

Your Response

After awhile, reflect back and acknowledge how your spirituality and lifestyle have been enriched.

In Gratitude

To those who already practice stewardship –

Thank you!!!

We all benefit!

All that we have as a parish and all that we are able to do as a community is because of the Lord’s generosity and yours!

In prayer

This prompts us to conclude by echoing the words of Psalm 100 together:

In prayer

"Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands;

serve the Lord with gladness;

come before him with joyful song.

In prayer

Know that the Lord is God,

he made us, his we are;

his people, the flock he tends.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,

his courts with praise;

In prayer

Give thanks to him; bless his name, for he is good:

the Lord, whose kindness endures forever,

and his faithfulness, to all generations.”

In prayer

Come let us kneel down in worship;

let us kneel before the Lord who made us.

For he is our God,

In prayer

and we are the people he shepherds,

the flock he guides.”