

## **A YEAR ROUND STEWARDSHIP FORMATION & PROGRAM MATRIX**

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*For more information see [dotstewards.blogspot.com](http://dotstewards.blogspot.com)*

This is a matrix designed to set a framework for Year Round Stewardship Formation and Programming. The Matrix is designed in a spreadsheet format to allow for customization by the end-user. Tailoring a resource to fit the needs and resources of a particular congregation are the intent. It is designed to be accessible to large and small congregations and anything in between. Some parishes may chose to do 3-4 components each month, but the Gratitude Component should always be executed monthly. If all components are not utilized each month a rotation equally distributing the components should be employed throughout the Matrix calendar.

The Matrix is based on the Church Year and seeks to focus themes around the Church Season and/or Cultural Seasons. These foci offer a deep richness in norms that are already present in the life of the congregation and build upon them, bolstering the effectiveness of the communication of the Stewardship message.

The Matrix is structured with Action Foci, Resources Available, Ministries to be involved, and a Publicity Plan for each of the Components of Stewardship each month. It is designed to assist in the comprehensive execution of Stewardship Formation across the gamut of the congregation. The Components included are Spirituality, Ministry, Finance, Environment, Outreach, and Gratitude.

Please note, the MATRIX follows this detailed description and a full SAMPLE MATRIX with the Action Focus filled in is offered, too, for an example. The SAMPLE MATRIX is helpful to view as the description is read.

**The Spirituality Component** Action-Focus centers on a teaching focus and/or tool to be utilized that month. Stewardship is a spiritual issue; and keeping Sabbath is a key element in understanding God's abundance. A focus on the stewardship and cultivation of our spiritual life communicates the deep connection between faithful stewardship and a healthy spiritual life.

**The Ministry Component** Action-Focus centers on a Ministry that is spotlighted with a specific teaching point emphasized or a particular ministry event that gives an opportunity to teach stewardship. For example, a spotlight on the Children's Ministry can be highlighted as Stewardship of the Christ Child. Or this may be a specific Stewardship Ministry event like running the Share Save Spend program for the parishioners or the Halloween Candy Tithe with the candy proceeds going to a community children's crisis center.

**The Finance Component** features a particular opportunity for an appeal, focus on fiscal responsibility or financial ministry offering. Some of these specific activities can be used to communicate the leadership's good stewardship of the congregation's assets. For instance, a Parish Debt Management Task Force or a Power Use Audit could be an opportunity to ask for parishioners to help with this stewardship response. This invitation lets the parish know the leadership is practicing good stewardship.

**The Environment Component** is an imperative element of any stewardship formation, especially with those parishioners born after 1960. This component is used to plan Environmental/Creation Stewardship education programs and conservation/protection programs.