

There's Nothing 'Routine' About Being Catholic

We Wake. We Eat.
We Work. We Live.

Parish Stewardship Education

Our daily routines say so much about us. The more others know about our routines, the more they know about us. We fill each day with thoughts and activities. We perform different rituals. Sometimes we make plans for the day and follow through with them, but oftentimes we get swept up in daily routines that seem chosen for us by others!

Not only is this true in our personal lives, but this can also happen in our faith community.

Our annual parish process of stewardship education teaches us to evaluate our attitudes and routines. We are asked to do this individually, and as a parish community.

Our daily routines can serve our family and the community around us in many ways. We should celebrate the many ways we—as individuals, neighbors, spouses, parents and friends—answer the call to serve God by serving other people. Stewardship also calls us to examine those ways in which our routines are too busy, or filled with activities that hurt others, and separate us from our Catholic faith.

Do we have our priorities straight? Where do Christ and the Church fit into our daily routines? Do we try to take time for prayer each day, or spend time as a family in prayer? Do we make room in our routines to serve our parish community?

Do our activities and recreations draw us closer to our families, to our faith community? Are there ways we can help to create peace and harmony in our environment, in our town?

The leaders of our parish are called to ask similar questions. Does the routine of our parish give first priority to the teachings of Christ? Do we continue to minister to each other, or is our parish routine simply an inherited habit?

In 1992, Pope John Paul II said that one of the great challenges of Catholic adults is that we become transformed “from a faith based on habit...[to a] faith based on personal choice. A choice that is enlightened, convinced and testified to.”

Our routines are subject to our control. Time spent each day adds up to a lifetime; whether the time is well spent is up to us. We have a lot of freedom to choose the type of people we want to become.

Parish stewardship education gives us an opportunity to look at our routines and attitudes. Let's make our Catholic faith something more than routine. Let us open our lives and daily routines to the influence of Christ.