

My name is Becky Beck. My husband Steve and I have been parishioners since 1988. We have two children: David is a Junior at Rockhurst High School, and Rachael is an 8th grader here at St. E's. I want to thank Fr. Bruce for the opportunity to share with you about what Stewardship means to me. For me, this is best done through stories. I will warn you, I am a crier. So, I will do my best to get through this without completely embarrassing my kids.

In 1987, Steve and I were looking to buy our first home. We thought we wanted to live in Lee's Summit, until our realtor suggested Waldo. I remember her saying "there is a great parish and school in Waldo called St. Elizabeth." We bought our house at 74th and Jefferson and checked it out.

Since Steve had been interested in joining the Catholic Church, we took a leap of faith and jumped into the RCIA program, lead by Jim and Toni Walters. Their nephew, Frank Medina stepped in as Steve's sponsor. Frank and Teresa are good friends to this day, and David's God Parents.

Through Kerm & Ellen Fendler, we met another new couple to the parish – Matt & Jennifer Prusa. Jennifer and I were pregnant at the same time, and our babies were born exactly two weeks apart. Little did we know that Matt & Jennifer would someday become Rachel's God Parents as well as our close friends.

Several years ago, when Steve and I were asked to be a lead couple for engaged couples planning to be married in the church, we didn't know how to respond. Somebody must have seen something in us and thought we might

have something to offer others. So we took that “blind faith” and said ‘yes’. We have enjoyed watching some of the couples we worked with grow in their marriage and their faith right here at St. E’s, like Billie & Ryan Pichardo and their beautiful children, and Chris & Jessie Underwood and their growing brood.

When Rachael was in kindergarten, we learned that a fellow kindergarten mother had just become a widow, and her kindergartner was the oldest of three children. A food sign up list was circulated by their neighbor, Anita Hart, and I signed up. I had never met them, so I didn’t know if they would like Swedish Meatloaf with noodles and gravy, but we delivered it anyway. I’m proud to say Debbie Whittaker is a wonderful friend today, and a personal inspiration to me.

Over the years, we have met so many wonderful people through our involvement in many different aspects of the church including Ushers, Dinner for Eight and Boy Scouts. When we bought our current home 13 years ago in the “St.E’s annex” as we like to call it, we knew that we could physically live south, but spiritually, our roots were here at St. E’s.

My point in telling you all these things today is that God had a plan for us to be here at St. Elizabeth: our family, and your family, too. We are family, and as family, we do what we can for each other. We are empowering and supporting the family of God here at St. Elizabeth Church.

That's why a few years ago, when we got the call that a St. Elizabeth boy was gravely ill at Children's Mercy Hospital, and people were gathering at church to pray, it was easy to drop what I was doing and go to church. Our family needed us. The response was incredible. The result - nothing short of a miracle. That miracle is a healthy sophomore at Rockhurst High School and one heck of a basketball player.

When you look around you, here in church, and in your life, it's easier to understand why we are called to Stewardship. And, it's easier to respond to that call, whether it be the tithing request, or a call to serve on a committee or a ministry. It's just what we do for family. Thank you.