

Good morning, my name is Josh Brewster. My wife Sarah and I are parishioners here at St. Elizabeth, along with our two young children - Francie and Luke. Both of whom can't seem to keep their traps shut during Mass, so I know the value of keeping things short and sweet.

With that in mind, I was asked to share a few brief words about the importance of stewardship and giving back to St. Elizabeth with our own time, talent and treasure.

So...here's my sappy explanation of what stewardship at St. Elizabeth means to me:

- To me it means believing in this neighborhood and this community, and I believe that St. Elizabeth is the foundation on which our community thrives. It is certainly a foundation for my family and I to lean on.
- The St. E community helped raise me. And now it helps raise our own children (seriously, if any babysitters would like to *really* help raise them, preferably on a Friday or Saturday night so my wife and I can have a night out, please see me after mass.)
- Growing up and going to school here...and eating Gretel the lunch lady's mashed potatoes here, this place meant the world to me. It still does, and I believe that is because the spirit of stewardship is alive and well across this parish and in each of us.

- There are so many volunteers, so many generous people, and so many friendly and loving faces. People here seem like family to me. Maybe that's because I see my parents here at mass every Sunday, along with my sister and her family.
- Or maybe it's because I also see some of my old teachers from St. E and Rockhurst, and countless family friends and neighbors in the pews and after Mass.
- I've forged lifelong friendships here, as both a child and an adult. A handful of my old St. E classmates are here at Mass each Sunday with their own young families. I think that's pretty cool. Pretty difficult to imagine us all being so old... I didn't see that coming. But it's still pretty cool.
- Most importantly, because of stewardship, our children will be able to:
 - experience the same sense of community that we've been blessed with
 - develop a strong faith in God
 - understand the importance of family and friendship
 - and experience that awesome feeling that comes with being part of something bigger than ourselves.

I know each of us has our own reasons for giving back to St. Elizabeth, and each of us has our own ways of doing so. I think that's what makes Stewardship so powerful.

St. Elizabeth is a proud parish. Each of our contributions is important to ensure that the great things we have going here at St. E remain for generations to come.

Thank you for helping build that sense of community. And thank you for your time, talent and treasure.