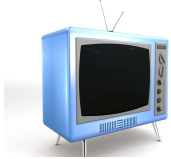


For Parents....



How Americans Spend Their Time

It has been reported that by the time the average American reaches 50 years of age, he or she will have spent a full 10 of those years in front of the television set. Other recent studies reveal sobering insights into how the average American chooses to spend the forty hours of "free" time he or she has each week



1. Television viewing	12 hours
2. Socializing and eating out	6 hours
3. Shopping	5 hours
4. Movies and reading	4 hours
5. Hobbies	3 hours
6. Sports and exercise	2 hours
7. Religious activities and volunteering	1 hour
8. Other activities	7 hours

American Spending Priorities



Consider how the average American spends his or her extra income. According to studies completed within the last ten years, Americans spend their extra income in some of the following ways:

- \$44 billion a year on soft drinks
- \$35 billion a year on sports activities
- \$29 billion a year on diets
- \$19.5 billion on state lottery tickets
- \$12 billion a year on candy
- \$ 8 billion a year on pets
- \$5.5 billion a year on pinball machines and video games
- \$3.5 billion a year on cut flowers
- \$2.2 billion for church activities
- \$1.5 billion on fingernails

This list is a reflection of our culture's priorities. Our culture defines the above list of spending habits as normal. The question that challenges us is:

What does the above list suggest about our patterns of spending?

How can we live more simply so that others can simply live?

Ministry in Motion Fair

For Parents...

As part of Faith Formation, all children enrolled in weekly classes are required to attend the Ministry in Motion Fair which will be held next weekend (October 17th & 18th) after all the Masses.

This fair will highlight all the ministries that are available at Sacred Heart and will help the children to understand that Jesus has called each of us, including children, into a life of stewardship.

It is our responsibility to help our children express their gratitude for the gifts entrusted to them by God. Attending the Ministry in Motion Fair help them to see how many in our faith community return a portion of their gifts of time, talent, and treasure in service to others.

As parents and a faith community, it is important that we help our children recognize and nurture their God-given talents. When we model a life of stewardship by giving of our time, talents, and treasure for the good of others, we demonstrate how we each make a difference when we share our gifts.