

“To assist our planning for all of the financial support requirements facing our Parish, we kindly ask that you complete the Sacrificial Giving Intention Card on the other side of this page and return it to the Parish.”

*Thank You
The Stewardship Commission*

Common Questions :

What difference will it make in my life if I am a Sacrificial Giver?

You will have the opportunity to experience a certain peacefulness about money...an awareness of the needs of poor people in our own communities and throughout the world. As we prepare for the new millennium, you will find a growing personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and a need to become a sharer of time and talent. You will be surprised how easily one can do with a little less after the Church and charity have been taken care of.

What is different about Sacrificial Giving?

The difference lies primarily in the motivation for giving. Many parishes have fund-raisers or fund drives for specific requests, sometimes referred to as *needs base* giving. Sacrificial Giving, on the other hand, is an extension of our spiritual life whereby we give a healthy percentage of our income (after-tax) to the Church and to charity. This is done in thanksgiving to God for what we have received. People who practice Sacrificial Giving find that they are filled with joy and peace, and that they grow spiritually with a deepened faith.

Doesn't our parish have all it needs?

No. We need to maintain our employment of professionals to continuously improve Parish worship, quality education for adults, youth and children, and to minister to the sick and elderly. And, until the poor are fed, the naked clothed and the Gospel preached to the ends of the world, the Church will need financial support from each of us.

More Common Questions :

Why should I use offertory envelopes?

Using an envelope benefits both you and the Parish.

1. It helps us to make a conscious decision about what we are going to contribute.
2. Its use communicates to your children that giving to the Church is a priority for you.
3. It makes the ongoing budgeting process easier for the Parish, and becomes a “budget” item for you.
4. It is an expression of giving of ourselves in the offering of the Mass.

What if I am laid off, or my income decreases?

If you are presently a Sacrificial Giver and give a defined percentage of your income to the Church and to charity and an event causes your income to decrease, the amount of your contribution would also decrease. Conversely, if your income increases, your contribution would increase accordingly.

Should our children become Sacrificial Givers?

By all means...and the practice should begin when they are little tots. We should teach our youth the meaning of giving. Have you ever wondered why so many young people leave the Church? Maybe it's because we have not asked enough of them. We should teach them to return to God a percentage of their allowance or income by putting their envelope into the collection basket.

Church of the Holy Family



**Stewardship
and
Sacrificial Giving**

Stewardship is a way of life embracing all areas of life. It is a central theme of the Bible, which tells us that we are accountable to God for all the gifts of time, talent and treasure that God entrusts to us for our lifetime.

Sacrificial Giving is a spiritually motivated way for us to carry out the stewardship of our treasure.

Stewardship has far reaching implications for people of faith. It is a deliberate decision which recognizes one's need to give and the ability to do so, as an act of gratitude to God. As stewards of God's gifts, we have the responsibility to share those gifts with others. This is particularly true within our parish and the extended family it serves. When we support our parish, we help build the kingdom of the Lord in our community.

Small children who carefully drop money into the collection basket often smile proudly as they settle back into their seats. Older parishioners should likewise feel satisfied when they support their parish's work. These sacrificial giving donations reap untold benefits for both the community and the individual. Financial gifts do much more than support the physical plant of a parish, although such funding is vital to maintain our church, activity center, family center, classrooms, and offices.. Financial support is critical to our Parish staff as they see to the day to day operations and needs of our immediate and extended families.

Our offertory gifts help the parish bring Christ's healing embrace to children, the elderly, the sick and the poor of our community. The upcoming sharing with Sponsor-a-Family at Christmas and the hosting of the homeless shelter are two examples of reaching out to our extended family.

As good stewards, we plan our Church giving carefully. We prayerfully examine what we are doing for our parish. Is our financial support what it should be? Has it kept pace with our increased income? Are we giving an amount that we feel would be acceptable to God? Is our financial support proportionate to our ability to give?

Good managers regularly re-evaluate their businesses. This is important, whether running a "Fortune 500" corporation, a smaller business, or if we are the owner of the business. We must also do this for our "personal" business, keeping an eye on progress, efficiency and use of resources. Otherwise, the business will not succeed.

Regardless of our profession, we each must manage the gifts God has blessed us with. As Christian stewards, we are each accountable to God for how we use those gifts.

Our offertory donations should be planned carefully rather than just an impulse or a once a year type of gift. Our planned, regular financial donation should be a priority in our budget. It deserves an important position due to our responsibilities towards God.

Stewardship is *planned* giving. We should respond generously to our parish's offertory collection because we know God is calling us to be a loving community of faith.

Remember Sacrificial Giving is a spiritually motivated way for us to carry out the stewardship of our treasure (our money) based on the following principles:

- In gratitude to God, we return a first portion of our income.
- Our gift should be a sacrifice.
- We should give on a planned basis using envelopes.

Church of the Holy Family Sacrificial Giving Intention Card

After prayerful consideration of God's many gifts to us, we intend to return \$_____ weekly
or \$_____ monthly to His Church through our sacrificial giving program.
Please do not include your Catholic Services Appeal (C.S.A.) offering in this intention.

Name _____ Signature _____

Address _____ Date _____

(This is not a legally binding contract)

Would you be interested in using electronic funds transfer from your checking account? Yes No