

Bulletin Inserts



Your parish name here

God's Generosity Multiplying Our Gifts

What is God calling me to give? Where does God want to send me to find the hungry and the suffering? Who needs to hear me witness about my faith? What would it take for me to really surrender my time, treasure, and talents to His service?

It does not take much to do good, to relieve suffering, or to show love. Consider the example of St. Teresa of Calcutta. When she began her ministry among the poor, she had nothing. She started her order with no master plan or endowment. Rather, she walked the streets, feeding the hungry, and caring for the sick with whatever resources she could muster. She gave the little she had, and through her generosity and holiness, she touched hearts and changed lives.

One day, she came upon a homeless man dying in the gutter. With the help of some men, she brought him to her home. There she washed him, prepared a small meal for him, and prayed. For three hours she did nothing but sit with him. He looked up at her and said, "My whole life I have been treated like an animal, now I will die like an angel." She could not give him much - just her time and her love - but it meant that, in his final hours on earth, instead of dying in the streets, he could die in the arms of a saint.

In the Gospels, Jesus never turns away those in need. Whether they have a question, whether they need healing or whether they are hungry, He gives them what He has, and it never fails to satisfy. The Gospel story about the multiplication of the loaves and fish is a case in point. The five barley loaves and two fish would not have been enough to feed the apostles, never mind a throng of five thousand. Yet Jesus refused to keep the food to Himself. Rather He took it, blessed it, and gave it away. That small act of generosity was enough to satisfy a hungry mass of people with plenty left over.

It is a spiritual law that God uses those who have the least ability to do His work. We often say, "If you want to get something done, ask a busy person." Well, when God wants to get something done, He asks a poor person. By choosing those who are weak, deprived and even sinful, our Heavenly Father makes it clear that it is He who is at work. Otherwise, we might chalk the good deeds up to the cleverness or resourcefulness of those who do them rather than the God who makes all things possible.

God wants to do great things in our families, parishes, and communities. He wants to feed the hungry, He wants to console the suffering, and He wants to change hardened hearts. But He needs us to help Him. He needs us to give even when we think we have too little, to work even when we feel exhausted, and to open our mouths even when we think we have nothing to say. We need to take risks as St. Teresa of Calcutta did by ministering to those dying on the streets and as the boy in the Gospel did who gave his basket of food to Jesus. When we do that, when we step outside our comfort zone in faith, God will take care of the rest.

Dear Jesus,

Help us to spread your fragrance wherever we go. Flood our souls with your Spirit and Life.

Penetrate and possess our whole being so utterly that our lives may only be a radiance of yours.

Shine through us and be so in us

That every soul we come in contact with may feel your presence in our souls.

Let them look up, and see no longer us but you, Jesus.

Stay with us and then we shall begin to shine as you shine,

So, to shine as to be a light to others. The light, O Jesus, will be all from you; none of it will be ours.

It will be you, shining on others through us.

Let us thus praise you in the way you love best by shining on those around us.

Let us preach you without preaching, not by words but by example,

By the catching force,

The sympathetic influence of what we do,

The evident fullness of the love our hearts bear for you.

Amen.

By St. John Henry Newman

PARISH NAME HERE

God's Generosity Multiplying Our Gifts

Issue 1





Your parish name here

How Much Should I Give?

You may say “I understand the need to be generous and give to God and his Church. But how much should I give?”

We have all heard the word “tithing.” But what does it mean? The word tithe literally means “tenth.” A tithe was a rule from the law of Moses requiring 10% of an Israelite’s first fruits be given in offertory. Because God provided the harvest, this first part was returned to Him. It was a reminder that all things we have are His. It is a show of thankfulness for His blessings. It also provided for the Levitical priesthood, festivals, and the needy.

In Genesis, Jacob vowed ... “Of everything you give me, I will return a tenth part to you without fail.” (Genesis 28:22)

Read ahead to the New Testament and we learn that throughout Jesus’ teaching on giving, He does not undermine the principle of the tithe but encourages people to practice their giving in meaningful ways.

In Mark we hear the story of the widow and her gift.

“He sat down opposite the treasury and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents. Calling his disciples to Himself, He said to them, “Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood.” (Mark 12:41–44)

This is a beautiful picture of the widow’s trust in God. What beautiful trust that God will take care of her.

And Christ's response to the widow's act of faith demonstrates God's feelings toward our sacrifice and generosity. It is also interesting to note that Jesus took time to sit and watch people give their offerings. God's interest in our giving is sincere. He recognizes more than we do how **our faith is revealed in our habits of giving.**

The widow's story also reminds us that we should give in proportion to the many blessings – our very lives, the food we eat, the air we breathe, our families, our faith – we have received from God. And through our employment, he provides us with financial means to give. As you consider how much to give, Paul reminds us in Corinthians.

"Consider this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver.** Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:6–8)



But still, you may ask "**how much am I expected to give?**" Only you can answer that question. And it will come to you after prayer with God. A tithe might be the place to start. Or 10% might strain your budget. God expects us to grow in our faith. **Our gifts will grow as our faith grows. Start with an amount that works for your budget and faithfully share that each week or month.** Next year, evaluate your giving, and increase your offertory gift if you can. After a few short years, you may be giving 10% or more.

How much? Only you can answer this after you prayerfully consider your family's financial situation. With God's guidance you will make a decision appropriate for you and your family. As our blessings – i.e., Income – increase, so should our giving.



"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

Luke 6:38

PARISH NAME HERE

How Much Should I Give?

Issue 2



Your parish name here

Benefits of Online Giving

What is online giving?

What are the benefits of online giving? For me? For my parish?

How do I do this? On my phone or tablet?

Should I put my offertory gift in the basket at Mass? Oops, I forgot my envelope.

Online giving is the act of making a gift online for our parish. It can be done by accessing a website from your phone, your tablet or your home computer. Like buying online, you enter your credit card information. Or if you prefer, you can enter your bank account information with, often, less expensive fees for the parish. When you complete the form and submit it, your gift is transferred directly to the parish's bank account. You will have the option of setting it up to happen regularly – weekly, monthly, or annually.



Benefits for our parish – Online giving offers numerous benefits for our parish.

- Streamlines the donation process, reducing administrative work and processing time.
- Reduces administrative costs to record check, deposit check and less worry about cash handling procedures.
- More secure since there is less access to loose cash and temptation for theft.
- Your gift goes directly from your bank account to the parish account.
- Your gift helps create a steady stream of income for our parish.

Benefits for Donors

- Convenient and accessible anytime.
- You can use a debit card, credit card or directly from your bank account.
- Set it up once and you are done. (If your situation changes, your donation can be evaluated and changed anytime you wish.)
- At Mass, no need to worry if you forget your envelope or your checkbook – no worries, your gift is being electronically transferred.
- “Peace of mind” – “You know that every week or month (your choice) your gift will be delivered into the parish bank account. You can smile as the offertory basket passes by, and smile when you are on vacation knowing your local parish is still benefiting from your gift. Every month, you will be making a real and lasting difference – one gift at a time.



Will I be the only person who gives online?

- Online giving is growing in popularity.
- One parishioner worked months to convince her parish to set up online giving. That is the only way she wants to pay bills.
- We recently learned of a parish that receives up to 75% of their contributions online. Only about 25% of gifts are dropped in the offertory basket. The parish “money counters” are spending less and less time counting.

All this is good, but **“I think it is important that my family/fellow parishioners see me put an envelope in the basket at Mass.”** Easy solution would be to put a note in your envelope with a note saying, “I gave online.”

Here is the website to give online to our parish [enter link to online giving portal] **or** scan this code. Check our parish website for more details.

Enter **QR**
code



PARISH NAME HERE

Benefits of Online giving

Issue 3