Sacrificial Giving as an Offering

Sacrificial giving comes from your resources. Stewardship invites us to “give back” a percentage over and above of what we normally would as a sacrifice for the blessings that God has given us. If you are currently giving 2% of your income, prayerfully consider taking the step to 3%. Many experience the joy of giving which comes from allowing God to guide their financial decisions. As disciples, we are invited to make God a priority in all aspects of our lives – including our finances.

The following table may assist you in this discernment process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Income</th>
<th>2% Giving</th>
<th>3% Giving</th>
<th>5% Giving</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$200</td>
<td>$4</td>
<td>$6</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$400</td>
<td>$8</td>
<td>$12</td>
<td>$20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$800</td>
<td>$16</td>
<td>$24</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,000</td>
<td>$20</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,200</td>
<td>$24</td>
<td>$36</td>
<td>$60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$1,500</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2,000</td>
<td>$40</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>$60</td>
<td>$90</td>
<td>$150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An offering is the expression of a humble and grateful heart.

Thank you for your generosity to our parish.

Families who give sacrificially discover that:

1. God is never outdone in generosity and their financial goals are achievable.
2. They become more conscious of God’s love and care.
3. Discerning between a “need” and a “want” is easier.
4. There is a peace that comes from giving beyond a sense of duty or from what is “left over”. Giving becomes a true gift of self.

A moderate increase by all the families of our parish would have a tremendous impact on our ability to evangelize and support our community in its day-to-day spiritual and material needs.

Grateful Disciples

Office of Development and Stewardship
Archdiocese of Newark
171 Clifton Avenue
Newark, NJ 07104
www.rcan.org

STEWARDSHIP:
RESPONDING TO GOD’S CALL

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.”

1 Peter 4:10
"Stewardship is what you do with what you have when you believe in God."

- Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin, C.Ss.R.

- Stewardship is not a fundraising strategy. Stewardship is a way of life, which we recognize God as the Giver of all the graces and blessings we have received.

- In the sacrament of Baptism, Christians are called into discipleship.

- As disciples of Jesus, we are invited to follow and imitate Him, with a humble and grateful heart.

- Christian stewardship is an expression of love through which we thank God by giving of our time, talent, and earthly treasures.

- The grateful disciple feels a deep gratitude for God’s love. This love leads him or her to give of him/herself in service to others and to the Church out of gratitude.

If we TRUST in the Lord and are good servants, we are assured of His promise of salvation.

Our parish invites our faithful to renew their commitment to the call of service as disciples and SHARE their gifts with others. This guide can be used as an aid for reflection on your gifts and how you may use them to serve our Lord and neighbors.

“What shall I return to the Lord for all His goodness to me?” (Psalm 116:12)

God invites us to share and to give of ourselves as He did on the cross – with boundless love. This love is the fruit of a humble and grateful heart that has experienced God’s mercy. A proud heart believes that what it possesses is never enough.

Following the example of Jesus and Mary, disciples lead a life of service in accordance with their means and vocation. Christians seek to serve and not be served, like Christ.

Ways to contribute to your Parish

- Prayer for the Parish, Priests and Staff
- Participation in ministries and parish groups.
- Generosity with our treasures and material goods.

Our Prayer: Prayer is our connection with God. Our loving God is always waiting for us to speak to him through our personal prayer. Do I dedicate time to prayer? When was the last time I prayed for my pastor? Do I teach my children or family the importance of prayer?

Our Participation: As children of God, we have received talents and gifts. At the end of our lives, God will ask, “How did you make use of your time and gifts?” Sharing our time and talents through participation in different ministries and parish groups continues Jesus’ mission to save and preach to all souls. Do I do this? If not, this a great opportunity to start. One day a week or just one hour a year – God invites you to help build His Kingdom.

Our Generosity: Material goods and our financial resources are gifts from God. He asks us to steward them and to share generously for the good of our brothers and sisters in Christ.