

October 22, 2020

My Fellow Parishioners,

As we know, Covid 19 has changed our lives completely...from our daily living, to our interaction with others, to the way we manage our finances, to how the parish offers Mass, to maintaining the level of parish ministries...it has definitely been a challenging time. We will continue to pray and support one another as we move forward together, living out our faith in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Two years ago, we instituted the Parish Offertory Program to help our parish predict its income more accurately, and to encourage all of us to reflect on our giving. Many parishioners completed annual commitment forms and honored their commitments. I am deeply grateful to all who prayerfully heeded the call to examine their weekly giving, then responded accordingly. Your support will assist us to continue serving, providing ministries, and reaching out to our parishioners, while retaining our current parish staff at full capacity.

The Finance Committee members and I again are asking our parishioners to reflect on their commitments for the coming year. At all Masses next weekend, including those participating through live-streaming, we will ask each parish household to make a specific commitment to weekly offertory giving. The activities on that weekend, and the follow-up process to contact those who do not respond, will stress the necessity of having every parishioner contribute regularly, using envelopes or by signing up for Online Giving.

This annual process asks each of us to consider **all** the gifts that God has given to us, not just the financial gifts, but also our lives, our families, all that we are and all that we have. Please consider the ministries and services that our parish provides, since these are how your contributions are used.

Then, each of us must decide if what we return each weekend is enough, too much or not enough to express our gratitude to our God. Based on that prayerful reflection, each of us should then decide whether to increase, decrease or continue the commitment we are currently making. **Please begin giving your new gift the first Sunday of Advent, November 29, 2020.**

I hope that each of you will welcome this request and accept the call to prayerfully reflect upon whether your financial gifts represent an adequate thanksgiving for the many blessings God has bestowed upon you.

In the event that you have any questions about this program or the parish budget, please call the parish office and I will be more than happy to answer them. Then, please respond to this request with charity and love.

Prayerfully yours,

Rev. R. Rex Hays, C.M.
Pastor

CURRENT OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

Envelopes are sent out to 554 households each month. Throughout the year, approximately 210 households use envelopes or checks and 66 households are Online Givers. With the Covid-19 virus, and the subsequent closure of our church, our parish has seen a significant drop in offertory giving.

The following are giving pattern results for our parish during the closure of our church:

- January of this year was the last month that showed an offertory increase when compared to the same time in 2019 (monthly increase of \$1,332 or 3.6 percent).
- Our largest drop in offertory was in April of this year, which saw a decrease of \$16,148 or a 42 percent loss when compared to April of 2019.
- Offertory dropped every month from February through September compared to the same months in 2019.
- The average use of offertory envelopes and checks dropped approximately 70 percent beginning in March.
- On a positive note, there has been an increase in parishioners who have signed up for Online Giving. As of September, there are 66 online givers compared with 28 in February.

REFLECT ON YOUR GIFTS

This year, you are asked to spend some time in prayerful reflection about the fact that everything you have God has given to you.

This is not an easy reflection. The human mind has a difficult time grasping the enormity of what our God gives to us. From birth to death, God gives us everything. As the hymn says, "all that we are and all that we have." None of us are self-made. God's blessings help us all the time.

Please reflect on these questions:

- What has God given me?
- How grateful am I for these gifts?
- How often do I take the time to say a prayer of gratitude?
- Since offertory giving is one way to show that gratitude, how much should my weekly gift be?
- Next weekend, when I make my commitment of my weekly offertory gift, will it increase, decrease or stay the same?

**SACRED HEART PARISH
FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020
(July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020)**

REVENUE

Collections (Sundays and Holy Days)	\$ 483,278
Offerings (sacramental offerings; religions ed. & RCIA/Adult Ed., youth & Hispanic ministries; candles/religious articles)	\$ 53,789
Fundraising	\$ 17,479
Donations (altar, hospitality, ministries & celebrations)	\$ 25,708
St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store	\$ 93,870
Lopes Orchards De Paul Center	\$ 120,469
Other (Diocesan Service Fee, interest, refunds/credits, facility use fees)	<u>\$ 25,830</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 820,423

EXPENSES

Ministry Programs (liturgy, religious education, other ministries, parish activities)	\$ 48,900
Operations (utilities, property & liability insurance, ordinary repairs and maintenance, property taxes)	\$ 79,053
Wages/Salaries and Benefits (clergy and lay salaries, auto, payroll taxes, health insurance, retirement)	\$ 388,194
Capital Expenditures, Fundraising Expenses	\$ 18,654
Administration Expenses (supplies, printing, office, Diocesan assessment)	\$ 50,830
St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store	\$ 94,199
Lopes Orchards De Paul Center	<u>\$ 139,966</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 819,796
Net Income	<u>\$ 627</u>

(Operating Revenue and Expenses do not include Sacred Heart Catholic School.)

COMMITMENT WEEKEND

At all masses this weekend you will be asked to indicate the amount that you wish to give weekly. If you give monthly, quarterly, etc., please indicate the average weekly amount of that gift. A sample of the offertory commitment card is shown at the bottom of this page.

Please carefully consider the gifts that God has given you and contribute part of them to help with the work of the parish. Come prepared to complete the commitment card that will be provided. **Please begin giving the new amount on November 29, 2020.**

HOW MUCH SHOULD WE GIVE?

Many people ask whether or not there is a standard for giving. Each person, or family, must arrive at that conclusion independently. However, the following scale is provided in order to serve as a guide for those that are interested in using it.

**Suggested Weekly Offering
(Note: Amounts are rounded upward)**

Annual Family Income	10%	5.0%	4.0%	3.0%	2.0%
\$10,000	\$20.00	\$10.00	\$7.00	\$5.00	\$4.00
\$15,000	\$29.00	\$15.00	\$11.00	\$8.00	\$6.00
\$20,000	\$38.00	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$11.00	\$8.00
\$25,000	\$48.00	\$24.00	\$19.00	\$14.00	\$10.00
\$30,000	\$58.00	\$29.00	\$23.00	\$17.00	\$12.00
\$40,000	\$77.00	\$39.00	\$31.00	\$23.00	\$15.00
\$50,000	\$97.00	\$48.00	\$38.00	\$29.00	\$19.00

The following is a **sample** of the card you will receive at Mass this weekend. Please determine which member of your household will complete the card and what your commitment will be before coming to church.

Sample Offertory Commitment Card

Commitment of Treasure

"GIVE TO THE MOST HIGH AS HE HAS GIVEN TO YOU, GENEROUSLY, ACCORDING TO YOUR MEANS, FOR THE LORD IS ONE WHO ALWAYS REPAYS, AND HE WILL GIVE BACK TO YOU SEVENFOLD." SIRACH 35:9-10

I understand that Sacred Heart Church is asking all parishioners to review the amount that they give to the parish offertory and to determine whether that amount is enough, too much, or not enough. My/Our new average commitment per week for the next 12 months is:

\$125.00 \$100.00 \$75.00 \$50.00 \$40.00 \$35.00 \$30.00 Other \$ _____

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\$125.00 \$100.00 \$75.00 \$50.00 \$40.00 \$35.00 \$30.00 Other \$ _____

Name: _____ Address: _____

P.O. Box or Apartment Number (if any): _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail Address: _____