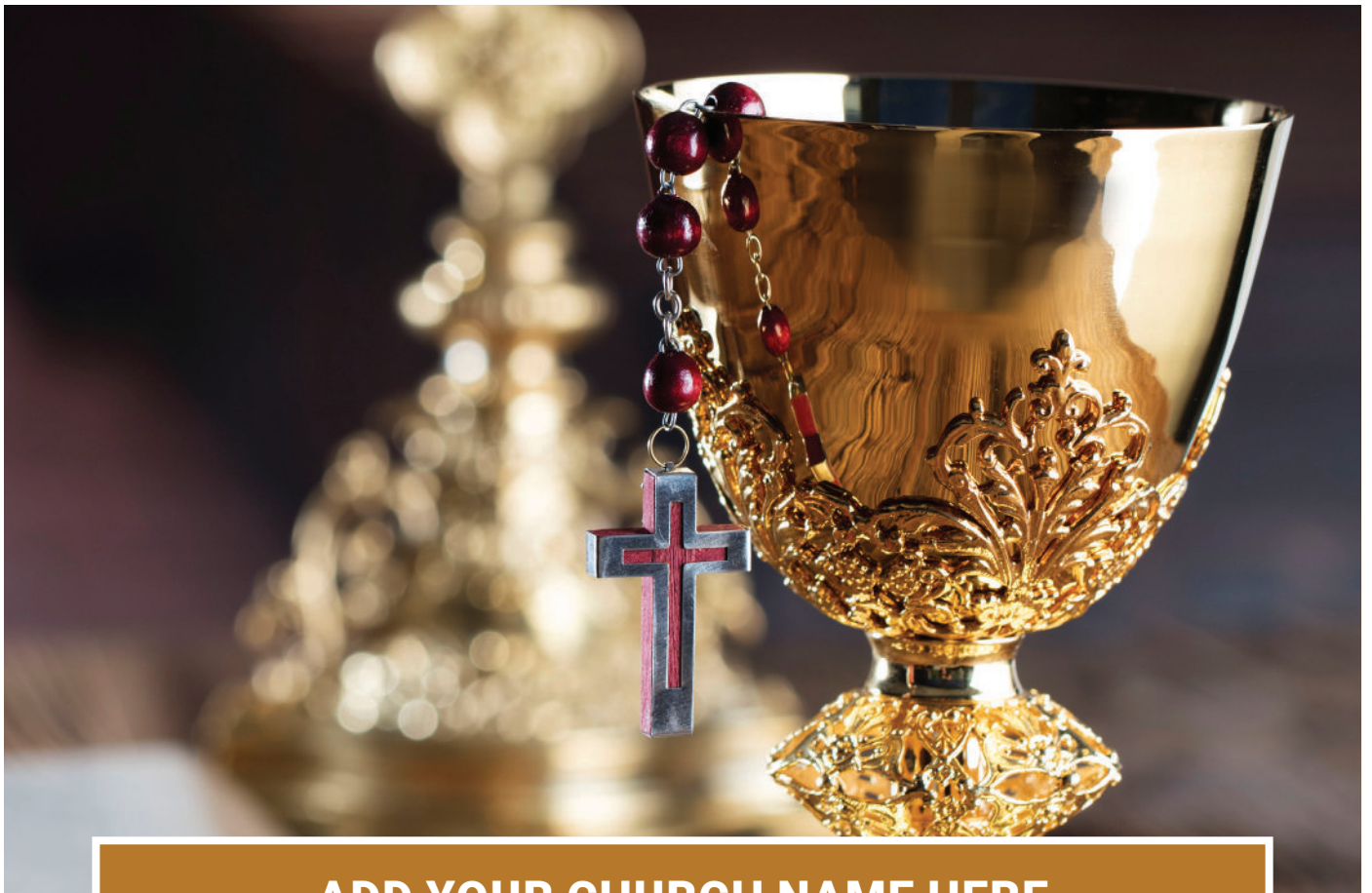


Increased Offertory Program

Shining a Light on Enhanced Generosity



ADD YOUR CHURCH NAME HERE

STEWARDSHIP
Prayer,
SERVICE &
Generosity



Spirituality of Giving

As Catholics, the spirituality of giving is rooted in our understanding of God as a loving and generous provider who calls us to share in His abundance and care for those in need.

At the heart of this spirituality is the recognition that everything we have comes from God and belongs to Him. Our possessions, time, talents, and resources are not ours to hoard or control, but rather gifts that we are called to use for the greater good of all.

Through giving, we express our gratitude to God for His blessings and acknowledge our interconnectedness with others in the Body of Christ. We recognize that we are called to be stewards, rather than owners, of the gifts that God has entrusted to us, and that our true wealth lies in our relationships with God and with one another.

Giving, then, becomes not just an act of charity or obligation, but a spiritual practice that draws us closer to God and to one another. It is a way of living out our faith in tangible ways, and of participating in the mission of the Church to bring Christ's love and healing to a hurting world.

Ultimately, the spirituality of giving is grounded in the love of God, who gave His only Son for our salvation. As we give of ourselves, we participate in this divine love and become more fully alive in Christ.



STEWARDSHIP

Prayer,
SERVICE &
Generosity

Overview of the Increased Offertory Program

In response to the significant challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, our parishes Sunday Offertory collections were deeply affected. We gather here today, understanding that many of you can relate to the struggles we all faced. Adding to the complexity, church attendance fluctuated as the pandemic persisted.

During these trying times, our diocese received numerous requests for assistance. While there are excellent professional programs available, and you will have the opportunity to meet many of them this week. I know many of them personally and they are great. Our problem was we are a Mission Diocese, and our parishes were financially strained and couldn't afford external help. Therefore, my office stepped up to become the primary point of contact for parishes in need.

What initially began as a simple initiative gradually evolved over several months. Just when I believed we had a stable program, other parishes came forward with valuable suggestions for improvement. Fast forward two years, and we've developed a comprehensive nine-week program that continues to evolve.

The Increased Offertory Program is tailored to assist parishes in boosting their weekly collections. Please note, this program doesn't replace existing stewardship initiatives, nor does it serve as a substitute for a parish capital campaign. Instead, its primary focus is on addressing a parish's immediate budgetary needs and highlighting the crucial role of financial support in meeting those needs.

Here's an overview of what the program encompasses:

1. Five Letters

- The first letter provides an explanation of the program's purpose and necessity.
- The second letter introduces Lay Witness speakers who share their deep commitment to our church at weekend Masses. They emphasize the significance of generosity, and a brochure is included to offer more information.
- The third letter, sent during the fifth week of the program, contains the commitment letter and commitment card.
- The fourth letter serves as a thank-you note for those who have returned their commitment cards.
- The fifth letter is a sample message intended for those who haven't yet returned their commitment cards.

2. Petitions for Prayers of the Faithful

As we embark on this program together, we recognize the importance of spiritual support. Specific petitions for the Prayers of the Faithful during Mass are included to keep our intentions at the forefront. This way, we unite in prayer for the program's success and the well-being of our parishioners.

3. Calling Scripts for Volunteers

Our dedicated calling committee plays a vital role in the program's success. To assist these volunteers, we've

provided calling scripts that guide them through the process. These scripts not only serve as reminders for parishioners to return their commitment cards but also encourage open communication and the collection of any prayer requests from parishioners.

4. Generosity Guide Brochure

To aid in the discernment of increasing giving, we've included a Generosity Guide brochure. This resource provides valuable insights and practical tips for those considering more generous contributions. It's a helpful tool for individuals and families as they contemplate their commitment to the parish.

5. Three Bulletin Inserts

Effective communication is essential for the program's success. To streamline this aspect, we've prepared three bulletin inserts that you can customize to suit your parish's unique needs. Whether you choose to edit them or use them as-is, these inserts provide a convenient way to keep your parishioners informed and engaged.

6. Editable Commitment Card

Recognizing the uniqueness of each parish, we've included an editable Commitment Card. This flexibility allows you to tailor it to your specific parish requirements. This card serves as a tangible commitment to support your parish's financial needs.

7. Setup of Committees to Help

- Prayer Team: You can have groups to pray for the success of the program, appoint someone to make sure the petitions are added each week, and you may also add prayer cards to the pews if you wish.
- Print Team: Have a group of volunteers that will help print and mail the printed materials. Along with a group to place the bulletin inserts in your weekly bulletins.
- Communication Team: Set up volunteers that will make sure information goes into the bulletin and social media.

8. Follow-up Team

This phase involves a volunteer skilled in using Excel or a staff person. This is where you enter the commitment cards that are returned into the spreadsheet. Someone from the finance committee keeps the parish informed on how the cards are coming in and provides an updated report.

9. Calling Team

Split up the names of individuals who have not returned their commitment card and have the calling team call each household that has not returned the card. This ends up being a wonderful call, and people enjoy talking to you. You also ask if they have anyone, they would like the parish to pray for.

These enhancements to our Increased Offertory Program demonstrate our commitment to providing a

comprehensive and adaptable resource for parishes. Our goal is to foster a sense of unity, purpose, and generosity within our communities. Together, we continue to shine a light on enhanced generosity, ensuring the strength and sustainability of our beloved parishes.

Here are a few recent results:

IOP Completed

Parish	First Year Increase	Percentage	Five Year Increase
St. Joseph & Paul	\$219,200	33%	\$1,096,000
Our Lady of Lourdes	\$150,900	21%	\$ 754,500
Blessed Sacrament	\$ 38,300		
St. Joseph-CC	\$ 30,230	29%	\$ 151,150
St. Peter-Stanley	\$ 17,500	25%	\$ 87,500
	\$456,130		\$2,089,150

IOP Coming Soon

Parish	Month
Christ the King-Madisonville	October 2023
St. Stephens Cathedral	November 2023
St. Peter & Paul-Hopkinsville	January 2024

The Increased Offertory Program is designed to assist a parish wanting to increase its weekly collections. This does not replace your stewardship programs. Likewise, the Offertory Program is not usually an acceptable substitute for a parish capital campaign. The Offertory Program focuses on helping a parish meet its budgetary needs and speaks very directly about the budgetary needs of the parish.

The offertory program is conducted over a **nine-week period** and includes homily presentations by the pastor and selected parish leaders, and segmented, personalized letters to all registered households in the parish.

The Calendar of Activities for the Increased Offertory Program is as follows:

Weekend #1

START OCTOBER 14-15, 2023

Soft Roll Out

Start with a soft roll out, informing the parish **next weekend we will have a presentation on the “state of the parish”**. Let them know you are going to start an Increased Offertory Program. Details will be presented next weekend.

- **“Bulletin Insert - Issue One” in your bulletins**
- **Prayers of the Faithful**

Weekend #2

OCTOBER 21-22, 2023

Introduction

Introduce the **Increased Offertory Program** with a presentation by the pastor or parish leader at all Masses. The presentation should begin with some general observations about the parish and its health. The pastor or parish leader should give a **“state of the parish” address**. This is the optimal time to review the progress that has been made since the last such address or plans going forward.

The general remarks need to include both the **strengths of the parish** and **any significant challenges** that it is facing. Secondly, the pastor or parish leader should **speak briefly about the important ministries** and programs of the parish. These comments should highlight the impact that these ministries and programs make on the parish community.

Finally, the pastor or parish leader needs to firmly establish the link between the Sunday collection and the parish ministries. It may seem elementary for anyone involved in parish programs, but the fact is that many of the parishioners are not conscious of the relationship between their contribution to the Sunday collection and the parish’s ability to continue its various programs and ministries. This link between offertory and ministry has to be made crystal clear.

While this presentation is not the place for a detailed examination or debate of the parish budget, an overview

of significant budget items can be included. It may also be helpful to place a summary of the parish budget as a bulletin insert or in the pews.

- **“Bulletin Insert - Issue Two” in your bulletins**
- **Prayers of the Faithful at Mass**

Week #2

MAIL OCTOBER 16TH

Mail 1st Letter

After the presentation, every registered family should receive a personalized letter which restates the message and makes a specific request for increase in offertory support. (Samples of the letters, brochure, bulletin inserts, and commitment card are included with this booklet. You can make changes to the letters to fit your parish needs.)

Week #3

OCTOBER 28 - 29TH

Lay Witness Talk

On the third weekend, one or two parishioners are introduced by the pastor, and they give short presentations on the financial strengths and needs of the parish. The presentation should begin with some personal observations about the vitality and strength of the parish. We begin this second presentation by talking about what we (as a parish) are doing to help others. This should be a brief summary - only taking a minute or so. It's better to focus on just one or two ministries as examples of what the parish does rather than a “grocery list” of program titles.

The presentation then discusses the financial needs and goals of the parish. The speaker should be someone who is knowledgeable about these needs and goals. He/She can be a member of the Parish Pastoral or Finance Council, or a key ministry leader. The emphasis on this portion of the program needs to be on the parish's desire to better serve your members and the community. For example, “our parish realizes that it needs several new ministry programs to help keep our members active in their faith.” (or) “Our goal at the parish is to help everyone grow in their faith and their relationship with God. It's not our goal to come before you and talk about parish finances, however we are faced with having to do this today. We have serious responsibility to support our ministries, to keep our parish in good shape, and to pay our bills.”

We must be grateful to God for whatever He generously provides us and respond accordingly by giving back, because we want to, and today the parish needs us too!!! They must discuss in a frank and forthright manner the needs of the parish and why the parish is appealing for additional funds.

Specific attention needs to be paid to those items that the parish desires to undertake, but cannot afford to do with its current budget.

- **“Bulletin Insert - Issue Three” in your bulletins**
- **Prayers of the Faithful at Mass**

Week #4

MAIL LETTER & BROCHURE OCT - 25TH

Mail 2nd Letter and Brochure

During the fourth week, every registered family will receive another letter from the pastor or/and parish council. This letter will again make a specific request for increased offertory support.

The letters should still be personalized. Included with this letter you will find the Increased Offertory Brochure. Again, a sample of the letters and documents are included in the booklet.

Weekend #4

NOVEMBER 4-5

Asking every household to prayerfully discern their Blessings from God and how they can increase their Sunday Offertory.

Let everyone know to please be watching for a letter and Increased Offertory Brochure. The brochure shows examples of increases and the percentages.

- **Prayers of the Faithful at Mass**

Weekend and During the Week #5

MAIL NOVEMBER 6TH (SO THEY RECEIVE BY 11-12)

Mail 3rd Letter with Commitment Card

Let everyone know they will be receiving in the mail a 3rd letter from the pastor or parish council and this letter will contain the Commitment Card. We ask that everyone please pray and discern your generosity and decide what is possible as an individual or family for your increased giving.

- **Prayers of the Faithful at Mass**

Weekend and During Week #6

NOVEMBER 19, 2023

The Big Day is Here – Commitment Sunday

This is **Commitment Sunday**. Each parish will have its own feeling for how best to handle the filling-out and collection of the response cards during Mass. The best advice is to use what has worked in the past for other in-pew pledge opportunities. While the steps may differ, several very important things should happen regardless of the actual process for collecting the commitment cards.

Secondly, you will also want to thank those parishioners that have already turned in their Increased Offertory commitment card - even if there aren't many. There is a tremendous fear of standing out from the crowd, and if people realize that others have already turned in their responses, they will be more likely to turn theirs in as well.

Thirdly, the pastor or parish leader will want to briefly review the instructions for filling out the Increased Offertory Commitment Card. We believe that this powerful step in faith not only serves the needs of the Church in a very practical way, but it also serves our own spiritual need to respond to God's generosity by being generous ourselves. You will want to talk about the fact that each family will have to determine what is an appropriate and reasonable level of offertory support for themselves. No one else can make this decision for them. "When we choose generosity, then we not only invest in God's promise to bless us, but practically, we are investing in all of the families at our parish. If you're already giving regularly, then please look at the level of your support and discern if you are able to increase your giving. Money is a powerful force in our lives and in the life of the Church. And when we choose generosity, it can powerfully impact our faith life."

Finally, give parishioners time to fill out the cards and then collect them. They can either be included in the regular offertory or collected in an appropriate and special fashion. Once the cards have been collected, thank everyone for their support and continue with the Mass.

- **Prayers of the Faithful at Mass**

Week #7

Follow-up Committee

There are several follow-up activities that are important to a successful conclusion an Increased Offertory Program. They are:

- **Sort the cards that were mailed, dropped off and from the weekend Mass.**

Print out your parish roster and mark off names as they respond. Fax, email or mail a copy of the commitment cards to Valeria Vessels at the Diocese so she can help enter the cards into the Follow-up Report. This report will help you report back to your parish the progress of program. It's important to do this every week for about 4 weeks. If you have someone you want to do this at your parish they can email a copy of the formatted Follow-up Report to Valeria and together they can go over the report.

- **Thank you letters are to be sent to all who return commitment cards, regardless of amount committed.**

This includes all of those parishioners that indicated no increase. We still have to thank them for taking part in the process.

- **Continue to remind members to return their Increased Offertory Card.**

Let them know follow-up letters and calls will be made to remind everyone we need their support.

Each Week Continue Follow-up

Follow-up letters should be sent to all parish families **who have yet to respond**. This should be a gentle reminder

that their decision is important to the parish.

Send weekly thank you letters for the cards that have been returned. Continue sending copies of the pledge cards to Valeria at the diocese. She is helping us develop a spreadsheet for our parish report. Her email is valeria.vessels@pastoral.org and phone number is 270-852-8348.

Week #8

Calling Committee

Now is the time to make phone calls to those who did not return their Increased Offertory commitment card. This should be a gentle reminder that their decision is important to the parish. When calling let them know who you are and you are calling on the behalf of your parish. Ask them how they are doing and if they have a prayer request. Be prepared for anything, sometimes it's wonderful news, other times a family member may have recently passed away, found out they or someone they love has cancer, but let them know their prayer request will be given to Father for prayers.

As soon as possible after the program, a summary of the results should appear in the bulletin as well as being discussed from the pulpit. Documentation should include the number of steps taken by the parish, anticipated increase in the offertory, number of families returning a commitment card, etc.



Sample Letters for Week Two

First Letter

(Name)

(Address)

(City, State Zip)

Dear (Parishioner Name):

I have been blessed to witness firsthand the love and devotion that you have for **Add Your Parish Name**. I hope that the Church has been a source of inspiration and comfort for you and your family, just as it has been for me.

During our recent Masses, we had the opportunity to hear the "State of the Parish" during this talk we discussed-----We also talked about the need for our parish to offer this opportunity for the Increased Offertory Program. I want to take this moment to express my deep gratitude to those who have already given so generously. Your contributions enable us to fulfill our mission of spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ and serving our community in His name.

As followers of Christ, we are called to be generous with our resources. The Bible teaches us that "each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). Our financial generosity is a reflection of the gratitude we have for the blessings God has bestowed upon us.

I encourage you to reflect upon your current giving and consider increasing your contribution by one or two percent of your weekly income. This may require some sacrifice, but it is a tangible way to express your love for God and your commitment to the mission of our Church.

When we give generously, we are participating in God's work in the world. Our giving enables us to support the vital ministries of our Church, care for those who are in need, and be a witness to the love and grace of our Lord. It is also a form of worship, a way to express our gratitude for all that God has done for us.

I pray that God will bless you and guide you in your decision-making process of making an increase to your Sunday offertory. May your generosity be an example of the love and compassion that we are called to show to others. Together, we can continue to build up **Add Your Parish Name**, our community and beyond.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Pastor

Sample Letter for Week Two

Second Letter & Brochure

(Name)

(Address)

(City, State Zip)

Dear (Parishioner Name):

I pray that this letter finds you well and filled with the grace of God. Last weekend, we were blessed to hear from some of our fellow parishioners who shared with us their deep love and commitment to **Add Your Parish Name**. They spoke about how the Sunday offertory collection is essential to our parish's ability to serve our community and provide programs and ministries that reflect the will of God.

As we reflect on their words, let us remember that our financial support is not just a matter of obligation, but an expression of our devotion to God. When we give generously and consistently, we are contributing to Christ's ministry and helping to spread his message of love and compassion to those around us.

To encourage us all to reflect on the importance of our offertory contributions, **Add Your Parish Name** has decided to participate in the free Increased Offertory Program. This program invites each of us to prayerfully consider our level of support and make a conscious decision to give regularly and generously.

As we consider this invitation, let us remember that generosity is a spiritual practice that helps us grow in faith and deepen our relationship with God. It is an opportunity to express our gratitude for all the blessings that we have received and to share those blessings with others.

I invite each of you to take some time to read over the enclosed brochure and reflect on what level of support is appropriate for your family. This is a highly individualized decision, and only you can determine what is best for your current financial situation. Let us pray over this matter, discuss it with our families, and discern what level of support is most meaningful for us at this time.

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to all of you for your past and present support of **Add Your Parish Name**. Your generosity has enabled us to serve our community and spread the love of Christ to those around us. With your continued support, we can look forward to a bright future filled with hope and possibility.

May God bless and guide you as you discern through this decision-making process for increasing your Sunday offertory.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Pastor

Sample Letter for Week Five

Third Letter

(Name)

(Address)

(City, State Zip)

Dear (Parishioner Name):

It is with immense gratitude and joy in my heart that I write to you today. We are now in the *fifth* week of our Increased Offertory Program, and I am filled with hope and encouragement as I witness the generosity of our parishioners. Your willingness to re-examine your level of giving and make a commitment to support **Add Your Parish Name** is a beautiful expression of faith through the spirit of generosity.

As we embark on this journey, let us remember that giving to the parish is not just a practical matter, but an offering of faith. It is a way for us to show our love for God and our trust in His plan for our lives. Through our Increased Sunday offertory, we are able to continue to grow and offer service and ministry to our community and prepare for the future needs of our parish.

Our parish exists to serve God and provide for the spiritual welfare of all our parishioners. It is through our collective efforts that we are able to fulfill this sacred mission. For this reason, I humbly ask for your help in this effort. While I am aware that some of you may not be able to increase your Sunday offertory, there are many of us who can take this step and increase our giving. I urge you to prayerfully consider making a commitment to increase your weekly offering to our parish.

Recently, you received a letter with a brochure outlining different ways to give and examples of what your giving could look like with various levels of increase. I ask that you take the time to discern this important request and then indicate your decision by completing the Commitment Card enclosed and returning it to the parish during any one of the Masses on Commitment Weekend, XXXXXXXXXXXX.

For those of you who have never committed to a weekly offertory amount, please consider making a commitment. Your giving to the church is a form of prayer and an expression of your devotion to God. It is my hope that this program will strengthen our parish and give us each the ability to say, **Add Your Parish Name** is my spiritual home."

Above all, I pray that you will see your offertory as a matter of faith – a way to return something to the Lord in gratitude for His goodness. It is through our giving that we are able to serve God and our community. I am grateful for all that you do to make our parish a vibrant Catholic community, and you are in my prayers every day!

May the Holy Spirit guide us as we continue on this journey together.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Pastor

Sample Letter

Thank Letter You for Returning Card

(Name)

(Address)

(City, State Zip)

Dear (Parishioner Name):

I wanted to take a moment to personally express my gratitude for your participation in our Increased Offertory Program at **Add Your Parish Name**.

Your decision to return your commitment card and support our church is a powerful demonstration of your love for **Add Your Parish Name** and your commitment to the mission of Jesus Christ. Your generosity and dedication are essential to the continued success of our church and the important work we do in the community.

Through your contributions, we will be able to provide assistance to those in need, offer meaningful worship experiences, and maintain our facilities for future generations. Your gifts will make a significant impact in the lives of those around us, and I cannot thank you enough for your support.

As your Pastor, it is truly humbling to witness the love and generosity of our parish. Your contributions remind us of the abundance of blessings we have been given and our responsibility to share those blessings with others. Your actions serve as a shining example of what it means to live a life of faith and service.

Once again, thank you for your support of our Increased Offertory Program. May God bless you and your family abundantly.

With gratitude and appreciation,

Pastor

Sample Letter

Please Return Commitment Card

(Name)
(Address)
(City, State Zip)

Dear (Parishioner Name):

As a member of **Add Your Parish Name** community, I am writing to encourage you to participate in our Increased Offertory Program by completing and returning your commitment card.

Giving is an act of prayer, and your contributions play a vital role in supporting the important work we do. Your Sunday Offertory will help us provide assistance to those in need, offer meaningful worship experiences, and maintain our facilities for future generations to come.

I want to encourage you to join the others who have already returned their commitment cards and help us build the mission of Jesus Christ at **Add Your Parish Name**. Together, we can make a powerful impact in the lives of those around us and show the world the love of Jesus.

Please take a moment to prayerfully consider your commitment and return your card that we have included with this letter. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. You may drop your card into the collection basket, take it to the parish office, or mail it to.....

Thank you for your consideration, and may God bless you abundantly.

Pastor



- Can be used all year
- General intercessions
- “Prayers of the people”

Including petition for the Prayers of the Faithful can be used throughout the year.

- Lord God, we thank you for the gifts, talents and abilities you have given each of us. These are represented by the contributions we are about to collect and offer at the altar. May these gifts enable us more effectively to carry out the mission of our parish, *We pray to the Lord.*
- Lord, grant us the ability to honestly evaluate our lifestyle that it might reflect a desire to walk closer with you, *We pray to the Lord.*
- Lord, you are the giver of every gift, including the most precious and holy gift of Your Son Jesus Christ. Help us to remember how important it is for us to also be generous givers of gifts, so we can carry out Christ's mission for His Church on earth, *We pray to the Lord.*
- That as Disciple's of Christ, we may have the perseverance to follow Jesus and His teachings in all aspects of our lives. *We pray to the Lord.*
- That all of us as Christian stewards may live a life that gives witness to the fact that we are called to serve and be generous. *We pray to the Lord.*
- That we may recognize our need to give of what we have to help others and to return to God, through our parish and our diocese, a portion of what God has given to us. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For all parishioners at (**parish name**) who make intentional, planned and proportionate gifts of their time in prayer, talents in service, and generosity in giving, that our offerings will be true expressions of gratitude for all the blessings of God. *We pray to the Lord.*
- That through our stewardship of prayer, service and generosity we will continue to be channels of the living and loving presence of Christ in our world. *We pray to the Lord.*
- Lord, help us to wisely use the gifts you've entrusted to us to help our families, parish and community. *We pray to the Lord.*
- That we see God as the Giver of every gift, including the most precious and holy gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, and that God will lead us to be a generous giver of gifts, enabling us to carry out Christ's mission for His Church on earth. *We pray to the Lord.*

- That the Holy Spirit will pour into our hearts a spirit of charity and compassion for others. *We pray to the Lord.*
- That we may examine our lifestyle and be more responsive to God's will by being generous with our time in prayer, our service and our generosity. *We pray to the Lord.*
- That we use the gifts wisely that God has entrusted to us as responsible stewards. *We pray to the Lord.*
- That all of us in this family of **(parish name)** strive to do God's will, giving generously of ourselves and our gifts for the mission of the Church. *We pray to the Lord.*
- That we may be filled with thanksgiving for the blessings of God in our lives and that we may joyfully share our gifts for the good of this Catholic community of **(parish name)**. *We pray to the Lord.*
- That God will show us ways to fully embrace Jesus' teachings of love and service, making us trustworthy stewards of His many blessings. *We pray to the Lord.*
- That our gift at today's Mass truly reflects our love and thanksgiving for the many blessings God has entrusted to us. *We pray to the Lord.*
- That a deeper faith is realized by the members of **(parish name)** who, out of gratitude to God for His Grace, share their time, talent, and generosity with those in need, our parish and our diocese. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For blessings upon all members of **(parish name)** who, through their stewardship of time in prayer, service, and generosity, are eager to share their gifts with those in need, our parish and our diocese, that their faith may be deepened and their lives become further enriched. *We pray to the Lord.*
- That all ministries supported by our parish and our diocese may bring people to a deeper faith in God. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For all members of **(parish name)**, that through our stewardship of time in prayer and talent and service to God on earth, we will realize greater personal and communal faith. *We pray to the Lord.*
- For all **(parish name)** parishioners, that our stewardship of generosity to our parish will be an expression of gratitude for what God has given to us. *We pray to the Lord.*
- That we may come to a full realization of what it is to be stewards of all God has given us, and that we may share our gifts with our parish and other charities. *We pray to the Lord.*
- That all ministries supported by our parish and our diocese may bring people to a deeper faith in God. *We pray to the Lord.*
- That we may share our financial resources given as a sacred trust from God with all in need, especially the poor. *We pray to the Lord.*

Increased Offertory Calling Script

YOU: Good morning/afternoon/evening, [Name of who you are talking to]. This is [Your Name] from **Add Your Parish Name**. How are you doing today?

MEMBER: [RESPONSE]

YOU: [I’m glad or sad] to hear that. By the way, before we proceed, I wanted to let you know that if you or anyone you know is facing any challenges such as illness, loss of a loved one, or struggling with addiction, please let me know. Our church community believes in the power of prayer, and we can add their names to our prayer list.

MEMBER:

YOU: You’re most welcome. My call today is to kindly remind you about the Increased Offertory Commitment Card that was recently mailed to your home. We greatly value your ongoing support and commitment to the mission of **Add Your Parish Name**.

MEMBER:

YOU: [That’s wonderful to hear]. Your participation in the Increased Offertory program helps us continue the various ministries, outreach programs, and services we provide to our parishioners and the wider community. We encourage you to prayerfully consider increasing your contribution if you are able.

MEMBER:

YOU: Thank you for your openness. To complete the process, you can simply mail back the commitment card to our parish office at **Add Your Address Here** or drop it in the collection basket during Mass. Your timely response will assist us in planning and ministries for the upcoming year.

MEMBER:

YOU: Great! We genuinely appreciate your dedication and support. Is there anything else you would like to discuss or any concerns you'd like to share with me?

MEMBER:

YOU: Alright then. Once again, thank you for your time, [Member's Name]. It was wonderful speaking with you. We look forward to seeing you at Mass and witnessing your continued presence in our parish community.

MEMBER:

YOU: I pray you have a blessed day.

How much should I be giving?

That's a question that people ask every day. There is not a "magic" formula that would give every family of our parish the right amount. The way to start is with an evaluation of what you're giving right now.

Most of us are a little surprised when we discover how little it really is. The question to ask is not "what percentage do I need to give?" but rather, "Does what I'm giving adequately reflect my gratitude to God?"

Although many people use the biblical tithe (or tenth) as the norm for giving to charitable causes, this can often be a goal that takes several years to work up to. Don't let the fact that you're only giving one or two percent right now discourage you from the concept of stewardship. By taking a series of small "progress steps" over a period of time, almost everyone can increase the amount they give back to God.

It is common practice among those who have adopted a stewardship attitude to divide their gifts between their home parish and other charitable organizations.

Sacrificial giving is one of the ways that we have of following in the footsteps of the Lord.

Jesus sacrificed everything so that we might have life.

By making our support of our parish a priority in our lives, we can give up something of ourselves in order that our faith might continue to grow.



Increased Offerstory

YOUR CHURCH NAME HERE



... No one shall appear before the Lord empty-handed, but each of you with as much as he can give, in proportion to the blessings which the Lord, your God, has bestowed on you.

Dt. 16:16-17

Prayerfully Plan Your Generosity by Giving with Gratitude

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on A Percentage Increase

We ask you and your family to please prayerfully discuss your giving to the church and see what increases you could make.



Any increase in your giving will involve both a sharing of your blessings and a sacrifice. We appeal to your generosity, and will be grateful for whatever gift you decide is appropriate.

RATE OF INCREASE

Weekly Offertory	25%	30%	40%
\$5.00	\$6.25	\$6.50	\$7.00
\$10.00	\$12.50	\$13.00	\$14.00
\$15.00	\$18.70	\$19.50	\$21.00
\$20.00	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$28.00
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\$100.00	\$125.00	\$130.00	\$140.00
\$150.00	\$187.50	\$195.00	\$210.00
\$200.00	\$250.00	\$260.00	\$280.00
\$300.00	\$375.00	\$390.00	\$420.00
\$400.00	\$500.00	\$520.00	\$560.00
\$500.00	\$625.50	\$650.00	\$840.00

Ways to Give as well as cash or credit cards

Gifts of Appreciated Assets

Gifts of appreciated securities, such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds, offer an easy and tax-smart way to support the work of your Church. In most cases you will be able to avoid capital gains tax on the appreciation, and you may be able to obtain a charitable deduction for the full market value of the gift.

Giving from your 401(k), 403(b) or IRA 401(k), 403(b) or Individual Retirement Account (IRA) you could use those funds for Sunday giving or any other donation to your church.

Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) – Federal law requires you to start taking at age 72. Your RMD can push you into a higher tax bracket. Instead of giving your Sunday giving from your bank account you can have a portion or all your RMD sent directly to your church. By doing this you do not have to claim your RMD as income, this can help lower your taxable income, and not use your cash for Sunday giving.

IRA owners 70% and older can make Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) of up to \$100,000 per year. These distributions are not subject to income taxes because the withdrawal goes directly to the church and NOT TO you.

Will, Living Trust, or other Estate Plan

You can also support your church through your *will, living trust, or other estate plan*. Make sure to discuss options with your financial advisor and thank you for keeping the church in your prayers.



YOUR CHURCH NAME HERE

God's Generosity

Multiplying Our Surrendered Gifts

What is God calling me to give? Where does He 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 was not able to 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. Today's 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



YOUR CHURCH NAME HERE

Walking with God

Holiness ... kind of an intimidating word, right? Did you know the Church teaches that we are all called to holiness? What does holiness mean, anyway? According to a child, holiness is being best friends with God. How do we befriend God?

Use these five spiritual practices to get started:

1. Come, Let Us Adore Him

Pope Benedict XVI said, "In a world where there is so much noise, so much bewilderment, there is a need for silent adoration of Jesus concealed in the Host." Have you ever been to Adoration? Adoration is when we spend quiet time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Try making it to Adoration once a month.

Here's some great inspiration from one of my favorite saints, St. Thérèse the Little Flower, to help you get there:

"Do you realize that Jesus is there in the tabernacle

expressly for you — for you alone? He burns with the desire to come into your heart ... don't listen to the demon, laugh at him, and go without fear to receive the Jesus of peace and love."

2. Up the Ante

Make a spiritual practice to not give people what they deserve. Bear with me here. You know that snarky e-mail you got? The one to which an equally snarky reply would be totally justified? Well, what about replying to it with kindness? Remember that person who said that awful

thing about you to your colleagues or friends? What if, instead of blasting them for being a gossip (and other less polite words), you made a point of saying something charitable (and true!) about them to others? The point is: make a daily practice of giving better than you get. It's about cultivating mercy and forgiveness in your heart. Every time you're presented with the opportunity to show love and mercy in the face of nastiness and gall, remember the love and mercy that are yours from Christ.

As St. Peter put it:

"Do not return evil for evil, or insult for insult; but, on the contrary, a blessing, because to this you were called, that you might inherit a blessing." (1 Peter 3:9)

3. Pray the Rosary

I know daily rosary can seem daunting, but give it an honest try! There's nothing like the rosary to draw our minds to the truth of the faith, to draw our hearts to Our Blessed Mother, and to draw our souls closer to God. Hard to find time in your day?

Here's some holy advice from St. Josemaría Escrivá:

"You always leave the Rosary for later, and you end up not saying it at all because you are sleepy. If there is no other time, say it in the street without letting anybody notice it. It will, moreover, help you to have presence of God."

4. Heed the Siren's Call

Develop a little practice when you hear a siren at home or anywhere say a "Hail Mary" for those in trouble and those speeding to their aid. Taking a minute to stop our day to pray for someone in crisis reminds us to let the needs of others penetrate our hearts.

St. Vincent de Paul describes it this way:

"We should strive to keep our hearts open to the sufferings and wretchedness of other people, and pray continually that God may grant us that spirit of compassion which is truly the spirit of God."



5. The Heart Diet

No, it has nothing to do with cutting down on your cholesterol, this is thinking about how what we consume with our eyes and ears affects our spiritual well-being. Does the music blasting from your AirPods on your way to work lift up your heart and mind to God? Does the website you're browsing encourage you to think charitably and respectfully about others? Does the TV show you're watching before bed help you unwind, or does it wind up? Making a daily habit of asking ourselves these kinds of questions can help us maintain a healthy diet for our hearts and souls.

St. Paul said it best:

"Finally, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." (Philippians 4:8)



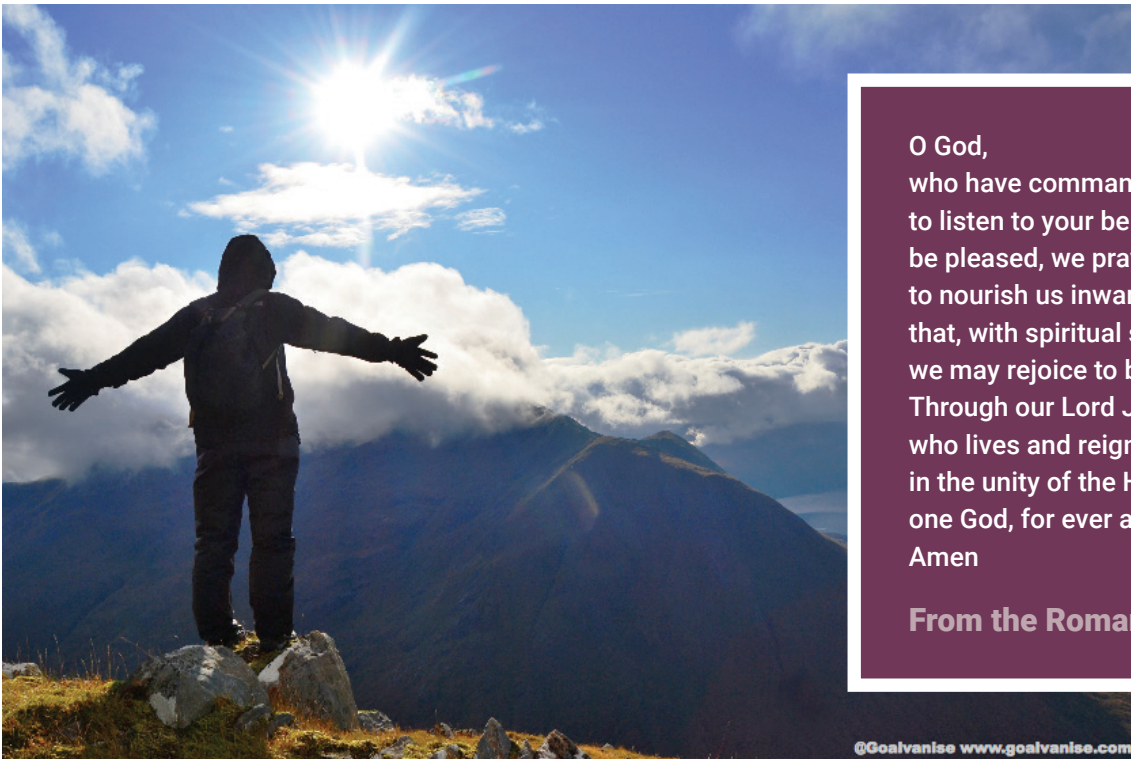
YOUR CHURCH NAME HERE

We Must Come Down the Mountain

The story of the Transfiguration maps out some steps we need to take in our journey of prayer. First, we must climb the mountain; second, we must look upon Jesus; and third, we must go back down the mountain to tell others what we have seen.

First, we must climb the mountain. Before revealing his glory to Peter, James, and John, Jesus leads them up a high mountain. Climbing a mountain takes a good deal of effort. There's always the danger of falling off a cliff or running into a wild animal. Also, the higher one climbs, the thinner the air is and the harder it becomes to breathe.

The apostles' experience teaches us something profound about the spiritual life. God often does not reveal himself until we are willing to make the hard journey up the mountain. That mountain could be a sin that we have to overcome, an unhealthy relationship, or sickness. Every challenge we experience is an invitation from God to climb the mountain so that He can reveal His glory to us. We may not understand why God has put those obstacles in our path and made things so hard for us. However, if we ask Him, He will give us the strength to endure whatever may come. And, with time, we will see and be amazed by God's mercy.



O God,
who have commanded us
to listen to your beloved Son,
be pleased, we pray,
to nourish us inwardly by your word,
that, with spiritual sight made pure,
we may rejoice to behold your glory.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen

From the Roman Missal

@Goalvanise www.goalvanise.com

The second truth of the spiritual life which the Transfiguration teaches us is that we are meant to see the vision of God. Unlike the apostles, we do not see Jesus face to face. How, then, do we get a glimpse of him in all his glory? The central and most important way is in the Mass. At every Eucharist, the Risen Lord is truly present in our midst. When the readings are proclaimed, it is Jesus' voice that we hear. When we receive the Eucharist, we touch the body of the Risen Lord just as the apostles did, and we are transformed by him.

For that reason, Mass is an indispensable part of our Christian life and spirituality. While it is important to read the Bible and pray the rosary, nothing compares with the gift offered us in the Eucharist. While those activities can give us insight into Jesus and his love, they cannot actually **give us Jesus himself** as the Eucharist does. There is no substitute for the real, life-changing encounter we have with the Risen Lord in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood which we receive at Mass.

The third truth of the spiritual life is that we cannot stay on the mountain. We have to go back down to witness

to others the Jesus we have come to know.

The experience the apostles had of Jesus was overwhelming. It filled them both with awe and fear. Understandably, Peter does not want it to end. He wants to stay there, camping out with Jesus, Elijah, and Moses forever. But Jesus does not allow it. The vision of his glory comes to an abrupt end, and he leads them back down the mountain to continue preaching the good news and healing the sick.

Many times, when we are praying and feeling God's presence all around us, we do not want it to end. We want to stay basking in the warmth of God's love. That is entirely natural because we were created to praise God and never feel so much "at home" as when we are praying. But it is not enough. The spiritual life is never just a private affair. From worship, we must go into service. We must come down the mountain and point out the way to encounter God to others so that they may share our joy.

PARISH NAME HERE

Please check one: ☐ Mr. and Mrs. ☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms.

PLEASE PRINT BELOW:

First name	Spouse name	Last name	
Address	City	State	Zip
Phone	Email		

My/our new amount for Sunday Collection to my parish will be \$_____

[] weekly [] monthly [] annual

*Thank you
for your
generosity!*

Please remit to: [Insert Parish Address] or place in the collection

2023 Increased Offertory

**Suggested weekly contribution
based on a percentage increase**

Weekly Offertory	POSSIBLE INCREASE		
	25%	30%	40%
\$5.00	\$6.25	\$6.50	\$7.00
\$10.00	\$12.50	\$13.00	\$14.00
\$15.00	\$18.70	\$19.50	\$21.00
\$20.00	\$25.00	\$26.00	\$28.00
\$25.00	\$31.25	\$32.50	\$35.00
\$30.00	\$37.50	\$39.00	\$42.00
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Increased Offertory Report

Church Name

FOLLOW-UP REPORT

Member's Name	2021-2022 Prior Year	2022-2023 Pledge	% of Increase	Yearly Increase
	\$1,200.00	\$1,260.00	5.0%	\$60.00
	\$280.00	\$1,040.00	271.4%	\$760.00
	\$1,190.00	\$2,700.00	126.9%	\$1,510.00
	\$2,565.00	\$2,860.00	11.5%	\$295.00
		\$2,400.00	100%	\$2,400.00
	\$1,380.00	\$1,380.00	0%	
	\$46,100.00	\$57,200.00	24.1%	\$11,100.00
	\$985.00	\$985.00	0%	
	\$935.00	\$1,625.00	73.8%	\$690.00
	\$3,150.00	\$3,420.00	8.6%	\$270.00
	\$700.00	\$1,000.00	42.9%	\$300.00
		\$1,200.00	100%	\$1,200.00
	\$650.00	\$1,300.00	100%	\$650.00
	\$7,945.00	\$7,945.00	0%	
	\$5,130.00	\$6,000.00	17%	\$870.00
	\$845.00	\$2,080.00	146.2%	\$1,235.00
	\$68.00	\$1,300.00	1,811.8%	\$1,232.00
	\$3,348.00	\$3,348.00	0%	
	\$5,610.00	\$7,800.00	39%	\$2190.00
	\$330.00	\$330.00	0%	
	\$2,050.00	\$2,160.00	5.4%	\$110.00
	\$2,815.00	\$3,420.00	21.5%	\$605.00
	\$170.00	\$1,040.00	511.8%	\$870.00

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