

Each of us is given various gifts in different amounts. These gifts take many forms such as health, our family relationships, our time and even our work.

Yes, the income that you have is a gift from God. You probably know of many people who don't work as hard as you but make much more. Likewise, you also know some who may be better educated but make less than you. Whatever your job, no matter how much or how little you make, your income is a gift from God.

God has given all of us unique personal gifts. A person who manages these gifts, or sets priorities on how they will be used, is considered a steward. The concept of "stewardship" suggests that we are given three gifts: Time, Talent and Treasure. As followers of Jesus we are called to serve others with these gifts.

When we go to Mass we are reminded of the sacrifice that Jesus made when He died for each of us. So we can respond to His sacrifice, and to show thanks for the different gifts we have been given, we are asked as good stewards to offer the first fruits of our week's labor. During the offertory the priest accepts our gifts of bread and wine, as well as our monetary gifts, to support the works of the Church.

The guide on the inside of this pamphlet will help you determine the Treasure piece of your stewardship. No one can tell you the dollar amount you should give, as everyone's income and life circumstances are different; and, there is no need to give more than you can afford. Perhaps your current needs and responsibilities do not allow you to give the scriptural tenth-part. Many Christians find themselves in this situation at varying times in their lives. The chart provides a path by which each year you can express to God, a little more fully, your appreciation for all the gifts and talents He has given you. If you continue each year to reach for the next level of giving, before you know it, you will reach your goal.

Is Stewardship Only About My Treasure?

No, not at all. We have all been given the gift of time. How much time we have available depends upon how well we manage it. Of the 168 hours each of us has been given each week, couldn't we give just one of those hours toward helping to improve our church community? We can do this in at least three ways:

- Prayer
- Learning more about our faith
- Participating in our church activities

Prayer is such an important part of our lives that we must make **time** for it in our daily lives. We need to pray in thanksgiving for our many gifts and for our church, our country and beyond.

People may feel that their religious education is complete after Confirmation or when they graduate from high school. There are religious issues in our own community, and throughout the world, where we need to be better informed. To help us continue our faith journey, we have a number of opportunities for **life-long learning**: paying closer attention during Mass; attending Bible studies; listening to Christian CDs; attending adult education class or GOF; reading local and national Christian newspapers and magazines. Another gift that one may have is special talent and most ministries are eager for more people to participate. Consider helping with GOF, Praise band, usher, greeter, reader, funeral lunches, food pantry, Confirmation or Lifeteen teacher, RCIA or Newman meals. Do not bury your God-given talents; please share them!

This is not just an appeal for more money. This is a call from the Lord for basic conversion: **giving Him first priority in our lives**. Some people have more time than cash to give. Others may have more cash than time. But this is the basic question: **Is my following of Jesus evident in the use of my time, talent and treasure?**

Stewardship Planning Guide 2010

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How to move gradually toward Sacrificial Giving

- Find your income on the chart below.
- Move across the same line to find the amount you currently give each week.
- Move straight up the chart to find what percentage of your income your current gift represents.
- Prayerfully consider your current gift and consider gifting at the next level (to the right) if possible.
- Consider setting your goal at 5%. Increasing your gift level each year will help you to achieve the 5% level at a gradual and manageable pace.

Household			1%	1.5%	2%	2.5%	3%	3.5%	4%	4.5%	5%
Income			Weekly	Weekly	Weekly	Weekly	Weekly	Weekly	Weekly	Weekly	Weekly
Weekly	Monthly	Yearly	Tithe	Tithe	Tithe	Tithe	Tithe	Tithe	Tithe	Tithe	Tithe
\$190	\$835	\$10,000	\$2.00	\$2.75	\$3.75	\$4.75	\$5.75	\$6.75	\$7.50	\$8.50	\$9.50
\$290	\$1,250	\$15,000	\$3.00	\$4.25	\$5.75	\$7.25	\$8.75	\$10.25	\$11.50	\$13.00	\$14.50
\$385	\$1,665	\$20,000	\$3.75	\$5.75	\$7.75	\$9.50	\$11.50	\$13.50	\$15.50	\$17.25	\$19.25
\$480	\$2,085	\$25,000	\$4.75	\$7.25	\$9.50	\$12.00	\$14.50	\$16.75	\$19.25	\$21.50	\$24.00
\$575	\$2,500	\$30,000	\$5.75	\$8.50	\$11.50	\$14.25	\$17.25	\$20.00	\$23.00	\$25.75	\$28.75
\$675	\$2,915	\$35,000	\$6.75	\$10.00	\$13.50	\$16.75	\$20.25	\$23.50	\$27.00	\$30.25	\$33.75
\$770	\$3,335	\$40,000	\$7.75	\$11.50	\$15.50	\$19.25	\$23.00	\$27.00	\$30.75	\$34.75	\$38.50
\$960	\$4,165	\$50,000	\$9.50	\$14.50	\$19.25	\$24.00	\$28.75	\$33.50	\$38.50	\$43.25	\$48.00
\$1,155	\$5,000	\$60,000	\$11.50	\$17.25	\$23.00	\$29.00	\$34.75	\$40.50	\$46.25	\$52.00	\$57.75
\$1,345	\$5,835	\$70,000	\$13.50	\$20.25	\$27.00	\$33.50	\$40.25	\$47.00	\$53.75	\$60.50	\$67.25
\$1,540	\$6,665	\$80,000	\$15.50	\$23.00	\$30.75	\$38.50	\$46.25	\$54.00	\$61.50	\$69.25	\$77.00
\$1,730	\$7,500	\$90,000	\$17.25	\$26.00	\$34.50	\$43.25	\$52.00	\$60.50	\$69.25	\$77.75	\$86.50
\$1,925	\$8,335	\$100,000	\$19.25	\$28.50	\$38.50	\$48.00	\$57.75	\$67.50	\$77.00	\$86.75	\$96.25