

Frequently Asked Questions about Stewardship of Treasure

- **What is the difference between ordinary and extraordinary stewardship?** Ordinary income is what each parish needs to plan and implement its annual operating budget. Extraordinary income reflects our parish's call to support the Archdiocese, the Vatican, and other charities that are part of our local and universal Church.
- **What is the purpose of stewardship of treasure?** Although we need funds to provide essential services, stewardship of treasure is far more than giving money. As faith-filled people, it helps us remember that everything we have is a gift from God, and as such, we are called to responsibly take care of our gifts, to cultivate them, to generously share them, and to return them with interest to God.
- **What is tithing?** Tithing is a scripture based call for all of us to share our "first fruits." Historically, it reflects the giving of 10% of our gross income. 5% is to be given to our parish and the remaining 5% is to be provided to other causes that support the needs of others.
- **I can't contribute 10% of my income, so how should I respond?** Your treasure pledge card asks for only 2-5% of your gross income based on the amount you earn each year. By beginning with a smaller amount, you are able to both contribute to support our parish and also to develop a deeper understanding of how blessed we are by God and our call to share our gifts with others.
- **What is our parish's annual ordinary income?** For the 2018-2019 fiscal year, our operating budget is \$1,149,725, which is mostly funded through our parishioners' pledges or commitments for stewardship of treasure. Every week's bulletin provides us with ongoing data from our monthly collections and its alignment with this fiscal year's budget.
- **How are my donations used by the parish?** Collections cover basic expenses that keep the lights on, maintain our facilities, offer Sunday and weekday Masses, provide for the faith formation of all age groups, reach out to those requiring our care and support, and to support the needs of our parish community. Because we are a stewardship parish, our staff members are most grateful to be of service and are diligent about being good stewards of how our funds are spent on different ministries.
- **We have paid off the mortgage for our parish, so why are we still being asked to donate to the parish?** Even though the buildings have been paid for, they still need to be maintained and funds reserved for future capital needs. Additional funds have now allowed the parish to pay our staff a salary aligned with archdiocesan standards that provide a just wage. They also are being used to build an exciting and necessary ministry for social outreach and advocacy that reflects our call to take care of the marginalized and those most needing us to be the "hands and feet of Christ".
- **Why are we asked to pay fees for faith formation programs?** Our parish subsidizes most of the costs for education, in fact the LifeTeen program has no fees. The charges for children and sacramental preparation are nominal and help encourage participants to routinely attend scheduled classes. Please know that fees can be waived as needed for family finances.
- **Do some ministries get covered by more than one collection?** Yes. The parish's ordinary income also includes assessments for the Archdiocese, Hispanic Ministry and Criminal Justice Ministry. Priests receive support from parish funds for their salary, housing and travel. The Annual Appeal, a special collection each year, and our new capital campaign, *Called to Serve as Christ* help support their retirement.
- **Why do we suddenly need to provide so much for the capital campaign, "Called to Serve as Christ"?** As more of our priests reach retirement age, the amount needed to support their pensions and medical care has exceeded previous expectations with long-term budget planning. This fund also provides resources for women religious who have served our Archdiocese and will return 15% of the monies raised by each parish to use with their particular needs.