



WELCOME
to
Stewardship Day
in the
Diocese of
Rochester



How Consistent, Intentional Stewardship activity equals = Thriving parishes

A photograph of a small green seedling with three leaves growing out of a mound of dark brown soil. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green and yellow, suggesting a bright, natural setting.

Presented by:

Tina Sullivan, Senior Account Executive

Sarah Shank, Associate Senior Account Executive

Today's Agenda:

- Prayer
- History of OSV
- Philanthropic Landscape
- Stewardship – An invitation to serve
- Parish opportunities to grow





Stewardship Prayer

Stewardship is...

A word cloud centered around the word 'Stewardship' in large purple letters. Other prominent words include 'giving', 'time', 'talent', 'love', 'service', 'mission', 'generosity', 'blessing', 'thank', 'treasure', 'offering', 'tithing', 'creation', 'steward', 'congregations', 'sharing', 'inviting', 'asking', 'talent', 'abundance', 'god's mission, our gifts', 'gift', 'personal', 'service', 'blessing', 'thanking', 'creation', 'steward', 'congregations', 'blessing', 'gift', 'generosity'. The background is a light yellow with faint, repeating words like 'BLESSING', 'GIVING', 'TALENT', 'OFFERING', 'STEWARDSHIP', 'GIFT', 'TITHING', 'CREATION', 'CONGREGATIONS', 'BLESSING', 'GIVING', 'TALENT', 'OFFERING', 'STEWARDSHIP', 'GIFT', 'TITHING', 'CREATION', 'CONGREGATIONS'.

...EVERYTHING we think, say, and do after we say "I believe"



OSV is Consistent, Uniquely Catholic, and has Proven Success



Founder Archbishop John Noll –
Champion of the Church

- **109 years of “Serving The Church”**
- **Catholic communication:**
Our Sunday Visitor Newspaper, Priest and Deacon Magazines, Books, Music, Gifts
- **Stewardship resources:**
Envelopes, pamphlets, Online Giving, Offertory Renewal, Campaign consulting, Vision Plan Consulting
- **Catholic Curriculum:**
Faith Formation early childhood through grade 8, Books, Bibles, Electronics, VBS.
- **Evangelization Resources:**
Transform your parish, pamphlets
- **OSV Institute:**
Provides support for Innovative ideas creating change for the Catholic Church



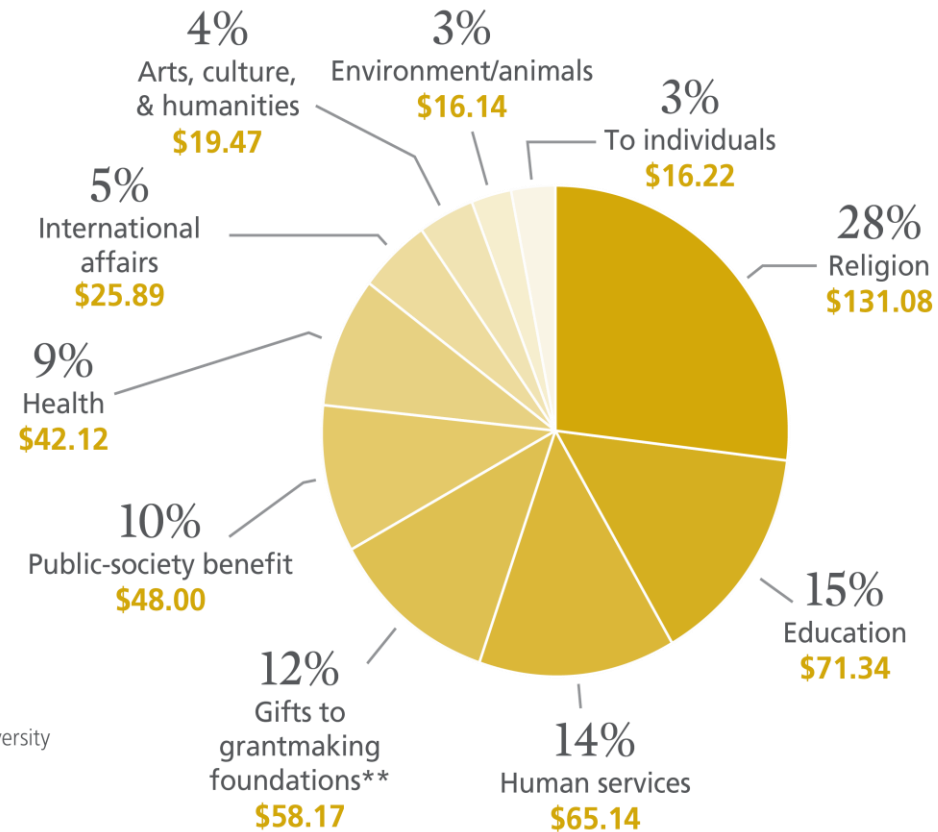
The Philanthropic Landscape





2020 Giving USA Overview

2020 contributions: \$471.44 billion by type of recipient organization*
(in billions of dollars - all figures are rounded)



Overall giving grew by 5% between 2019 to 2020

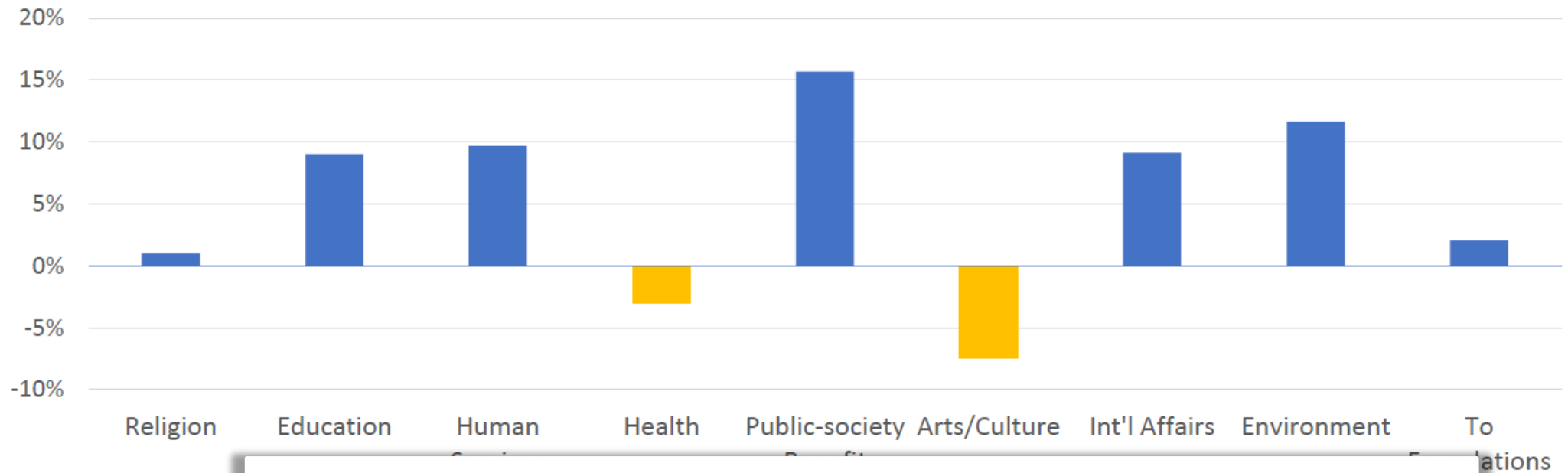
* Total includes unallocated giving, which totaled -\$22.13 billion in 2020.

** Estimates developed by the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy using data provided by Candid.



Religion Accounts for 28% of All Giving. In 1966 it was 46%!

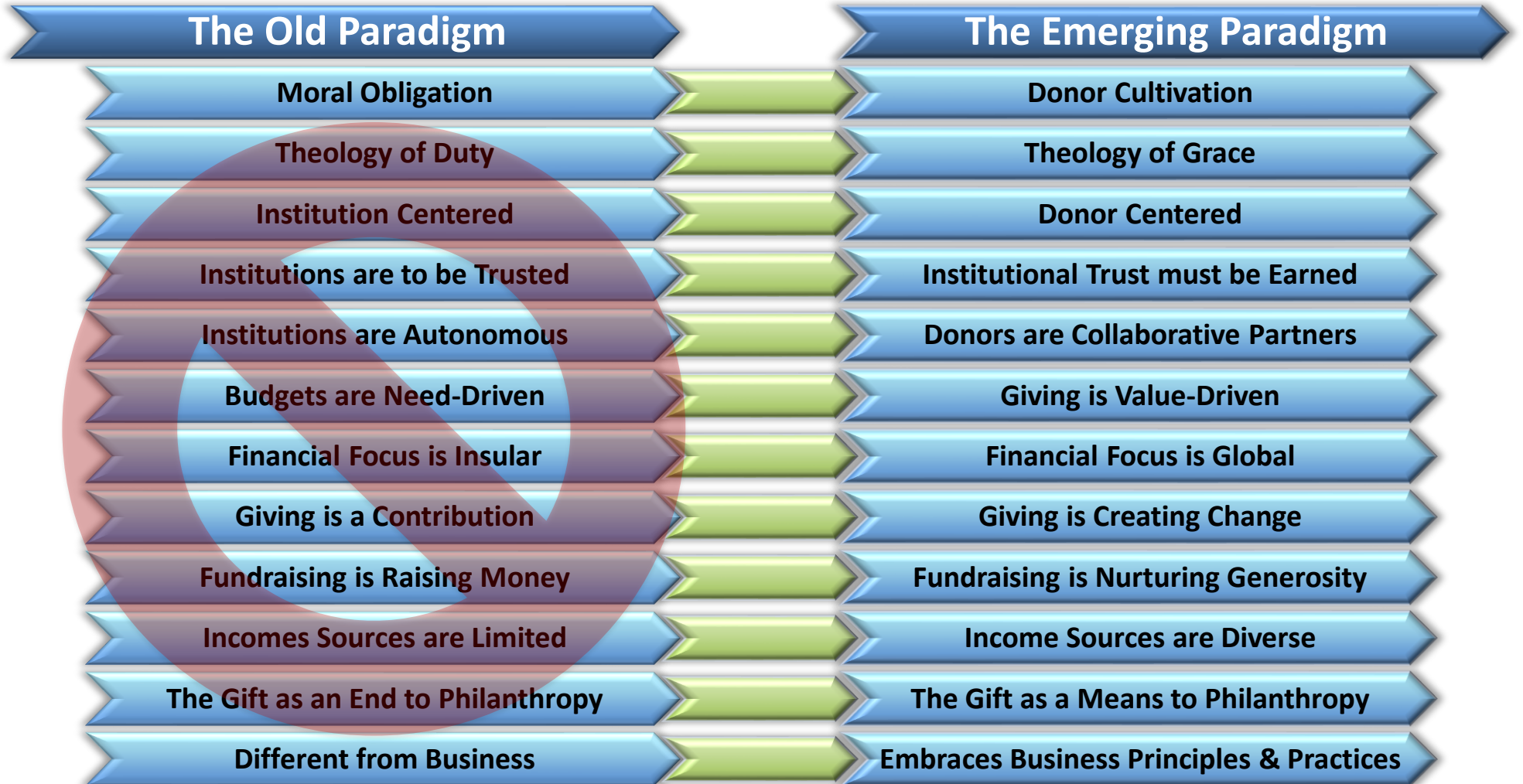
Percent change in giving to recipient categories, 2019-2020
(in current dollars)



\$6 billion annually is estimated to be given by US Catholics to the Sunday Offertory which equals approx. **1.5 %** of all US philanthropic giving



The Paradigm Shift in Religious Giving

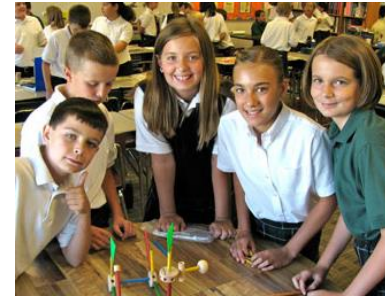




Shared Values:

- 1) They believe in the mission of the organization
- 2) They have a high regard for leadership of the organization
- 3) They believe the organization is fiscally responsible

Source: Not Your Parents' Offering Plate, J. Clif Christopher





“We are inviting you to invest yourself through the resources that God has given you - your energy, your prayers and your money - in this work to which God has called each of us.”

Henri Nouwen

“ A Spirituality of Fundraising”

“Fundraising is proclaiming what we believe in such a way that we offer other people an opportunity to participate with us in our vision and mission.”

Henri Nouwen

photo by Kevin Dwyer



What We Are Hearing in the Catholic Church

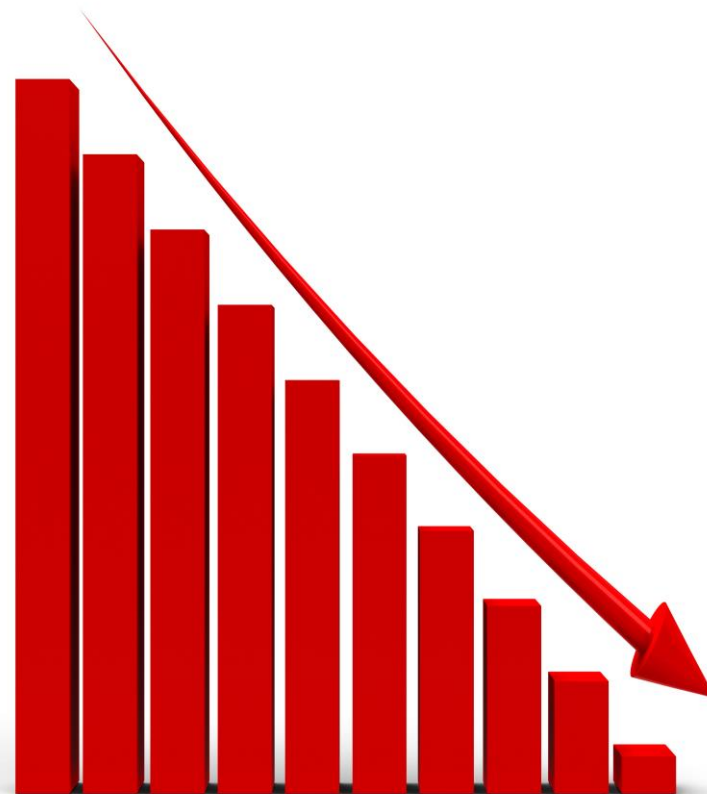
- Mass attendance at 65%- 70% of where we were a year ago,
- Parishes who had established stewardship renewal (treasure) practices in place are faring well
- Electronic giving is up but parishes are not realizing it is not equal to what Sunday offertory had been
- Cash collections are still a challenge in most cases, especially in highly Hispanic communities
- Using reserves to cover budget shortfalls due to lower offertory
- Parishes are cutting budgets for 2021/2022 to reflect 2019/2020 levels





Natural Consequences -

- Living Sunday Offertory to Sunday Offertory
- Reserves depleted
- Laying off staff
- Ministry cuts
- Outreach services halt
- Father becomes the receptionist
- Parish merged or clustered
- Churches closed



On \$1 million annual offertory = \$60,000 to \$100,000 decrease this year.



We Can't Ask Now Because ?

“No one has any more money to give”

- Most generous time in our generation
- All other philanthropic sectors, except religion, arts, and culture, are experiencing a surge in giving without even trying

“We want to wait until everyone is in the pews”

- Spring & Fall 2021 programs are stronger than previous 10 years of programs
- Response rate from parishioners strong via mail, online giving continues to grow
- What is next spring going to look like?

“We can't afford a program”

- Can you afford not to do a program?
- The program yields an average 900% ROI



Your Role As Leadership -

“Leadership is about taking people where they would not normally go.”

- Catholics are responsive and generous
- We cannot assume anyone’s capacity to give
- Do not take the decision-making process out of the hands of your donors



God Wants Us to:



Work from abundance, not scarcity!

We each have a responsibility to do His work in our communities:

Feed His people

Shelter His people

Form His people in the faith

Evangelize to unchurched

We are called to Bring Christ to as many people as possible!



BEST PRACTICES -

OF STEWARDSHIP PARISHES



Offertory Renewal - 2.0



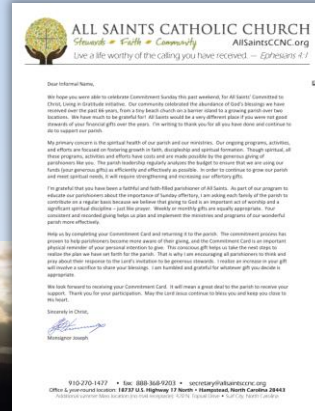


Offertory Renewal Snapshot



Weeks 1-2

- ✓ Homily Weekend (Pastor)
- ✓ Brochure Mailing with Commitment Card (Physical & Electronic versions)
- ✓ Auto Call from Father
- ✓ Commitment Sunday In Pew Weekend (Lay Witness speaker)
- ✓ Social media, bulletin announcements and website engagement



Weeks 3-4

- ✓ Thank You Mailings
- ✓ Follow-up Letter #1
- ✓ OSV Stewardship Video
- ✓ Social media, bulletin announcements and website engagement



Weeks 5-6

- ✓ Thank You Mailings
- ✓ Follow-up Letter #2
- ✓ Social media, bulletin announcements and website engagement
- ✓ Electronic "Final Note of Gratitude"



Return to Mass & the Eucharist

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

How blessed are we to be able to walk this earthly pilgrimage with one another as members of St. Joseph Parish! No matter what is happening around us — be it a pandemic, challenges in our culture, or social strife — **St. Joseph Parish is our safe haven.** It is the place where we can come together, gathered around the Eucharistic table, to worship and serve our Lord.

It is also the place where we serve one another. **Here, united in God's love, we are a visible sign of the body of Christ, and together we can accomplish amazing things.** Nourished by prayer and the sacraments, members of our parish community are journeying on the path of discipleship and growing in relationship with Jesus Christ each day. We value formation in the faith and sharing our faith with others through evangelization. We also know the importance of bringing the love of God to our neighbors through acts of charity and service. Through our many ministries, and our social and service-oriented outreach programs, we put into action the truth stated so eloquently by St. John the Apostle: "If God so loved us, we also must love one another" (1 Jn 4:11).

With this in mind, **I invite you to respond to St. Joseph Parish's new stewardship program: "God's Love Unites Us."** Please review the contents of this brochure and prayerfully consider how you and your family can play an active role in continuing the work of Jesus Christ through our parish community. Our goal is to increase our Sunday offertory contributions **in order to bring Jesus Christ to as many people as possible.** This is no easy task in today's climate, but I am confident that our dedicated parishioners are up to the challenge.

On October 2nd and 3rd, the parish will be holding a special Commitment Weekend, inviting members of our community to connect with one another and to make a financial commitment that will allow St. Joseph Parish to continue its important work. **We are counting on you!** Please participate in our "God's Love Unites Us" Program and help us respond to God's great gift of love by loving one another with the heart of His Son.

Thank you for your generosity, prayers, and commitment to St. Joseph Parish!

In Christ,


Fr. Bob

**SAINT JOSEPH
CATHOLIC CHURCH**



Connect with Us

Fr. Bob
Pastor
pastor@ourchurch.org
555-555-5555

Fr. John
Parochial Vicar
pastor@ourchurch.org
555-555-5555

Josh Smith
Business Manager
business@ourchurch.org
555-555-5555

Ways to Support & Give to Our Parish



ONLINE

Visit our website to give electronically at www.ourchurch.org/onlinegiving



MAIL

Mail to:
123 Some St.
Anytown, USA 12345



STOCK OPTIONS

Make a Stock Gift. Call the parish office at 555-555-5555

Scan this QR code with your smartphone to fill out your Commitment Card online.



www.OurChurch.org

God's Love Unites Us!



**SAINT JOSEPH
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

ANYTOWN, USA

**TO SERVE
THE CHURCH**



Focus on How we are Community



Here, united in God's love, we are a visible sign of the body of Christ and together we do great things. Nourished by prayer and the sacraments, the members of our parish community are journeying on the path of discipleship and growing in relationship with Jesus Christ daily. We value discipleship and evangelization.

1,190

Families in our parish

37
Baptisms

73
First Communion

77
Confirmations

18
Funerals

376
Children in Full-time School

203
Children in Religious Ed

32
RCIA Candidates

Love Your Parish



As we strive to love one another better, good stewardship plays a key role. Stewardship isn't a code word for financial support. Stewardship is about doing the work of Christ and engaging our many resources to further the ministry and mission of Our Lord. Remembering that everything we have is a gift from our creator.

648

Masses said in our church each year

8,760
Hours devoted to Eucharistic Adoration

3,000
Visits by Eucharistic Ministers to the homebound

250
Parishioners serve in Liturgical Ministry

48
Greeters + Ushers welcomed parishioners

Love Your Savior



We know the importance of bringing the love of God to our neighbors. Through our many ministries, and our social and service-oriented outreach programs, we put into action the truth stated so eloquently by St. John the Apostle: "If God so loved us, we also must love one another" (1 Jn 4:11).

\$40,000

Contributed to St. Vincent de Paul

450
Families received Food Assistance

35
Families received Utilities Assistance

47
Funeral Lunches prepared + served

60
Volunteers to keep our parish clean

Love Your Neighbor

Financial Snapshot: 2020/2021 Fiscal Year

Operating Income

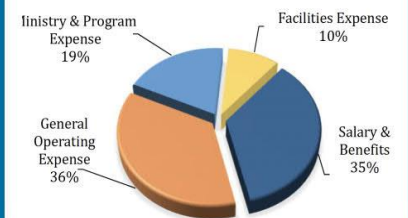
Offertory	\$410,970.00
Ministry & Program Income	\$39,914.00
Other Operating Income	\$124,994.00
Total Operating Income	\$575,878.00



Operating Expenses

Salary & Benefits	\$206,623.00
General Operating Expense	\$209,116.00
Ministry & Program Expense	\$113,428.00
Facilities Expense	\$56,850.00
Total Operating Expense	\$586,017.00

Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit) (\$10,139.00)





The Invitation for Support

COMMITMENT CARD



Yes, I prayerfully intend to support my parish as follows: *(please complete all check boxes below that apply)*

- 1 I want to renew my **Sunday Offertory** commitment to my parish.
 My current gift \$ _____ My new gift \$ _____
 Weekly *Monthly* *Annually* *Weekly* *Monthly* *Annually*

- 2 I want to help my parish by offering a one-time gift of \$ _____

Church Name
City, State

Name _____

Street Address _____

- 3 I want to give electronically. Please send instructions via email.
- I give electronically and will update my gift online.
- Contact me about including the parish in my estate planning.
- I am new to the parish. Please send registration information.
- I will be praying for my parish.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Your parish is here for you. *How can we serve you?*

All Prayer Intentions will be prayed for collectively over the next few weeks.

- I would like to speak to a priest. Please contact me at:

(Phone)



Offertory Renewal - 2.0

Proven Process

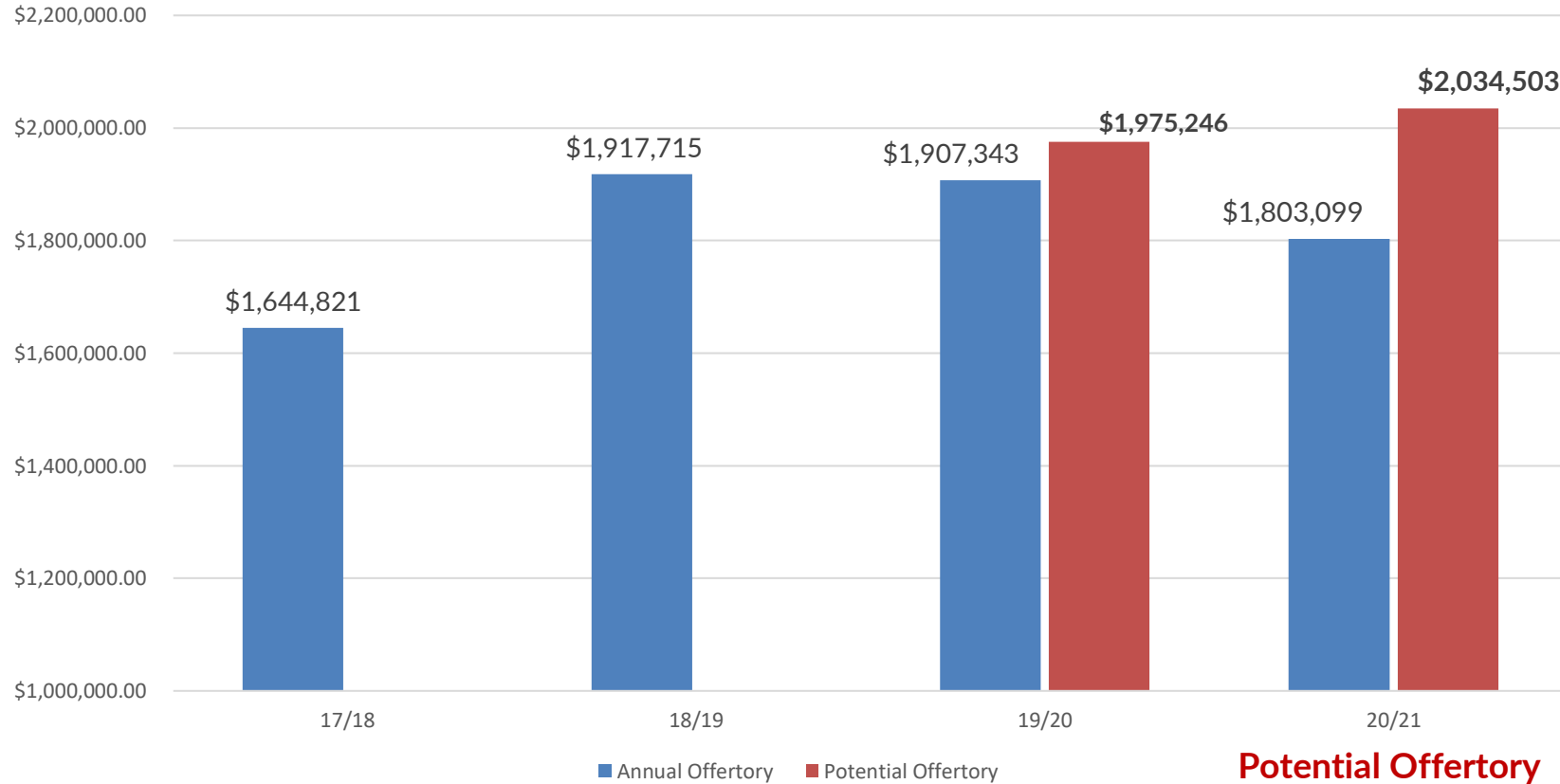
- All - inclusive service
- Six-week initiative
- Homily Weekend with a mailed, full color program newsletter
- In - Pew Commitment Sunday
- Follow-Up letters
- Recording of commitments and status reporting weekly
- Thank You letters mailed weekly
- All mailings mailed First Class by the parish, so the postmark is local
- Available in multiple languages format

2021 Enhancements

- One-time gift opportunity on the Commitment Card
- Recording of Father's Homily
- Recording of Lay Witness testimony
- Automated Call from Pastor
- Updated Bulletin/In Mass Announcements
- Media Graphics Package
- Stewardship Video provided
- Electronic Commitment Card
- Materials/Content Focus on the Eucharist and Welcome return to Mass message



Impact of Renewal to Offertory trend

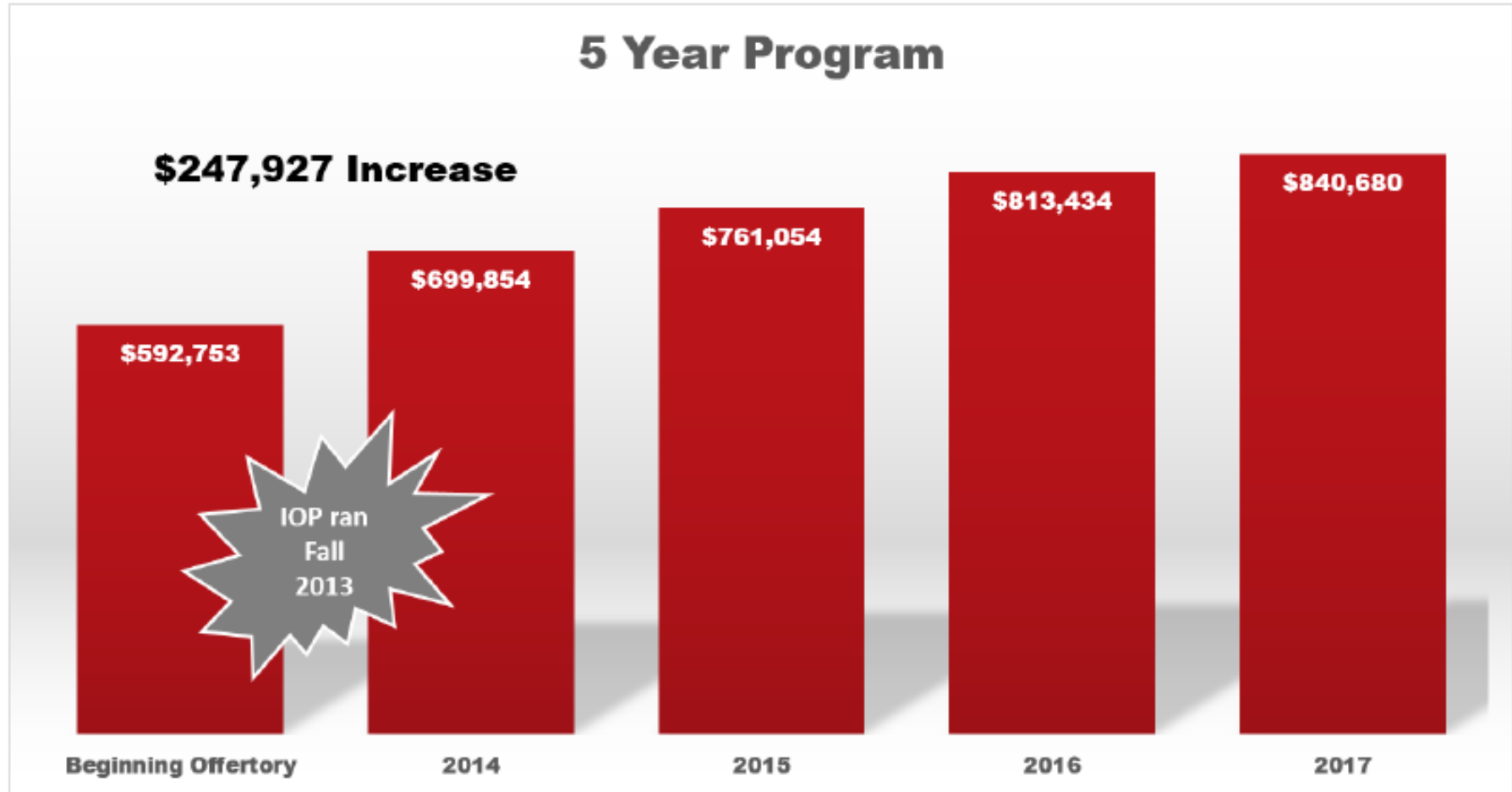


Potential Offertory

**\$299,307
lost offertory**



Renew Each Year





Program Results for Churches < 1000 households or less

548 Households
March Program Date
56% Resp rate
\$76,605 Committed Increase

900 Households mailed
May Program Date
65% Response rate
\$68,394 Committed Increase
\$15,385 from one-time gifts

890 Households
March Program Date
48% Response Rate
92,737 Committed Increase

700 Households mailed
March Program Date
51% Response Rate
\$65,748 Committed Increase



Parish results > 1000

- Fall 2019
 - 2500 HH
 - 46% Response Rate
 - 42% Increase
 - \$265.2 committed in new giving
- Fall 2020
 - 2400 HH
 - 38% Response Rate
 - 28% Increase + \$ 13.2 in 1 time gifts
 - \$ 140.5 committed in new giving

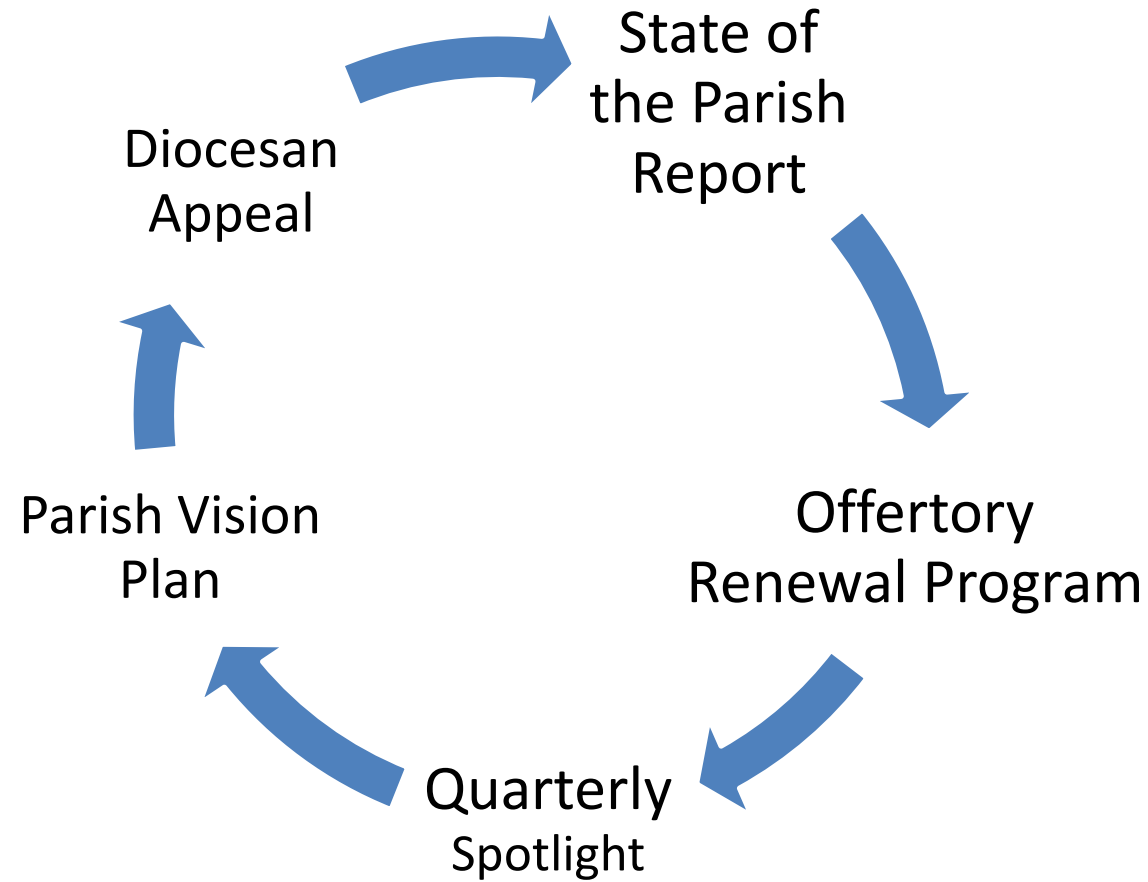


Example Offertory/Stewardship Renewal Timeline Winter 2022

November/December 2021	Sign Agreement and submit it by fax or email
January/February 2022	Parish Planning Meetings - State of the Parish Materials Due
February 14, 2022	Offertory Initial Materials Due
February 22, 2022 February 25, 2022	State of the Parish Report Mailed Finalize Content and Data – Final Proof
March 11, 2022	Send out Announcement Mailing
March 12-13, 2022	Announcement Weekend
March 19-20, 2022	In Pew Commitment Sunday
March 25, 2022	Follow Up reminder sent to parishioners
April 1, 2022	Final reminder sent to parishioners
May 2022	Electronic note of gratitude



Annual Stewardship Calendar







Tools to support Engagement and Giving



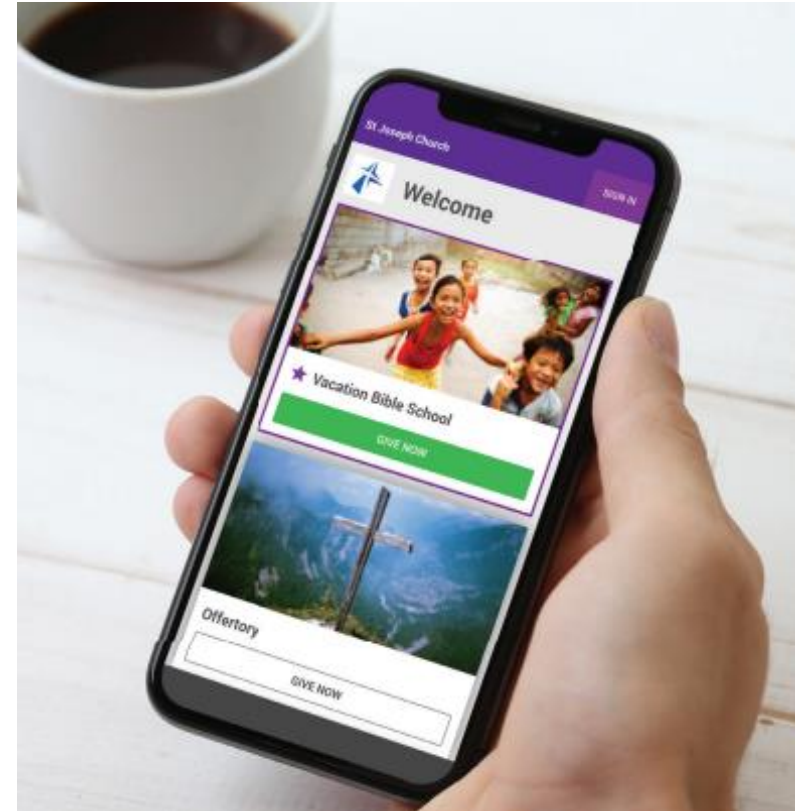
ENVELOPE
SOLUTIONS



WEBSITES



ONLINE
GIVING





Enhancing the Mission

1 Photo with Gradient



THE BASILICA OF SAINT MARY
Founded 1795 - Alexandria, Virginia

313 DUKE ST.
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314
703.836.4100
WWW.STMARYOLDTOWN.ORG



Photo/Logo/Church color bars




SAN JUAN DEL RIO CATHOLIC CHURCH
FAITH • FAMILY • FELLOWSHIP
1718 State Road 13 | St. Johns, FL 32259
www.sjdrparish.org

New Building/Digital Renderings

Coming Soon...



ST. MICHAEL CHURCH 9101 S. 78th Street | Lincoln, NE 68516



1 Photo/Logo/Welcome




4600 PRESERVE PARKWAY | HOOVER, AL 35226

All are Welcome



Easily Support Priorities

Catholic School Education

*Academics.
Service.
Values.
Faith.*

Teaching Children to Lead the Way.

www.hopeforfuture.org



for the Future is to give all children the excellent Catholic School Education.

Donate online at www.hopeforfuture.org



\$ _____



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- I wish to establish a new pledge to the capital campaign of \$ _____ to be paid over _____ months.
- Enclosed is my pledge payment for the capital campaign. \$ _____
- Enclosed is a one-time gift to the capital campaign. \$ _____



ON the WAY
¡ÁNDALE!

A CAMPAIGN OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAN ANTONIO
www.ontheway-andale.org



Faith in Action Websites











Features:

- Unlimited Pages
- Calendars
- Podcasts
- Photo galleries
- Ready for Social Media integration






Online Giving

 Sunday Weekly Envelope GIVE NOW	 Gifts & Bequests Not Restricted GIVE NOW	 Easter April 12 GIVE NOW	 St. Matthew Parishioners In-Need GIVE NOW
 Easter Flowers March 1st GIVE NOW	 Recreation Life Center Capital Campaign GIVE NOW	 Holy Land Good Friday April 10 GIVE NOW	 Ascension Thursday May 21 GIVE NOW

St. Matthew Parishioners In-Need

[SHOW TRANSACTIONS](#)

<p>Source</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Web \$2,405.00 	<p>Donor Types</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Account \$1,505.00 Guest \$900.00 	<p>Payment Methods</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visa \$1,040.00 MasterCard \$700.00 Checking \$665.00 	<table border="1"> <tr><td>Total Gifts</td><td>19</td></tr> <tr><td>Total Amount</td><td>\$2,405.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Refunds</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Rejections</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>Corrections</td><td>0</td></tr> </table>	Total Gifts	19	Total Amount	\$2,405.00	Refunds	0	Rejections	0	Corrections	0
Total Gifts	19												
Total Amount	\$2,405.00												
Refunds	0												
Rejections	0												
Corrections	0												



St. Matthew Parishioners In-Need

[GIVE NOW](#)

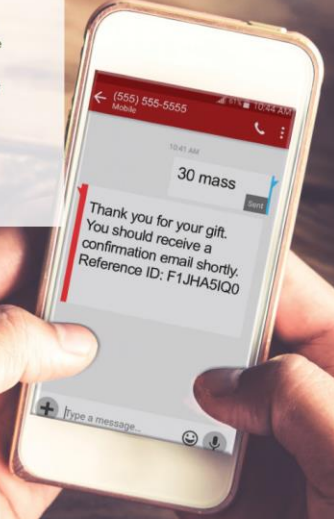
Many families in the Parish are struggling with making ends meet during COVID-19 (Coronavirus). We are asking for your help to support parishioners in real need.

I'm pledging the first donation of \$250.00. Our Patron Saint reminds us, "Whatever you do, do it to me."

Grateful for all you do. In His Love...Msgr. Walter C. Orlowski, P

Make giving easy for:

- Weekly offertory
- Special collections
- Holiday attendance
- Memorials
- Community support
- Disaster relief
- Campaign kickoffs or boosters
- End of year or last-minute giving



Text-to-Give



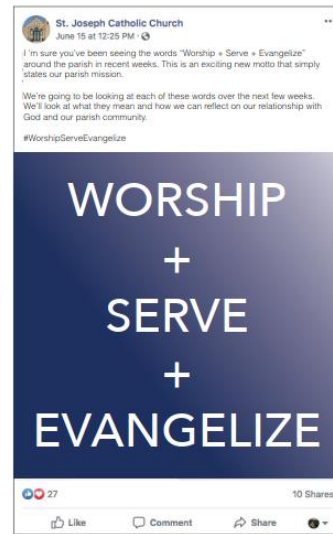
OSV Can Help to Promote your Stewardship Program

- Website
- Social Media
- Pastor Updates
- Bulletin
- Auto Calls
- Texts

PROMOTING WITH SOCIAL MEDIA



Facebook/Instagram profile photo with your program theme.



Create a #hashtag with your program theme! Use this hashtag when posting on social media to create awareness!



#WorshipServeEvangelize
Share your pictures using your #hashtag

Email/Flocknote



We hope to see everyone next weekend as Fr. Smith gives the state of the parish address. You won't want to miss this! We'll spend time in prayer and discussion as we talk about the gifts that we have received. We'll discuss ways that we can continue to grow and bring life to our mission and ministry. We look forward to seeing you!

Use Flocknote to send out notes to parishioners.

Bulletin Promotion



After the program has concluded continue to promote your program theme in your bulletin!

Consider starting a "Did you know?" section in the bulletin.

Share happenings in the church along with a photo to complete the story.

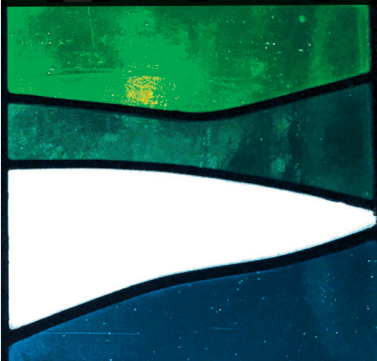


Did you know...
St. Joseph served [insert number here] amount of meals last month?

St. Joseph visited [insert number here] homebound?



2021 Hope of the Parish Witness Statement



494 MAIN STREET SOUTH | P.O. BOX 5001 | WOODBURY, CT 06798

the Shepherd's Desk

Sisters & Brothers in Christ:

Welcome Back! This summer we are emerging from a period in our young parish's life reminiscent of the Babylonian Captivity (597-539 of the B C Era), one of the greatest trials the people of Judea ever endured.

Without the familiarity of their land or their temple, the exiled Judeans were forced to contend with a foreign Babylonian religion. The Judeans relied on a foundational trust in God's faithfulness who delivered them from slavery in Egypt. Because of their faith, the Babylonian Captivity became a period of innovations to Jewish expressions and practices. The exiles developed a hope for a new Exodus. They developed a defiantly satirical response to the Babylonian creation mythology which we read in the first chapters of Genesis.

We experienced a captivity during the novel coronavirus pandemic without being deported. The wearing of masks, the maintaining of social distance, and the limitations on Mass attendance and other activities, made our captivity seem like an exile from God. Yet, like the Babylonian Captivity, our faith enabled Prince of Peace Parish to innovate and continue during our Covid Captivity.

Please enjoy the following examples of faith continuing in our parish during our Covid Captivity. These examples of innovation are statements giving witness to the hope of our parish. These innovations lay a foundation for a return to our parish in a post pandemic reality.

Your Shepherd in Christ,

Fr. JIM GREGORY

Fr. Jim Gregory



494 MAIN STREET SOUTH | P.O. BOX 5001 | WOODBURY, CT 06798

the Shepherd's Desk

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TO SERVE
THE CHURCH

Communicating your vision is key



MY PARISH AT A GLANCE

1,232

Registered Families

3,179

Individual Parishioners
(Children included)

150

Students in Religious
Education classes and
youth groups grades
one through 12

TO SERVE
THE CHURCH

Sacramental Ministry

- Baptisms22
- First Reconciliations.....15
- First Communions15
- Confirmations.....12
- Adults Welcomed (through RCIA).....4
- Weddings13
- Funerals51

If you are in need of sacramental assistance please call the parish at 318-253-7561



Upcoming Events

- Community Meals Begin.....September 2021
- CCD Classes BeginSeptember 2021
- Trunk or Treat October 2021
- All Saints Day MassNovember 2021
- Christmas Parish Potluck.....December 2021
- Christmas ProgramDecember 2021
- Men's ACTS Retreat..... March 2022
- Da Parish Crawfish BoilApril 2022



- 20 Parishioners who bring Holy Communion to the Homebound and those in Hospitals and Nursing homes

70

Adults attended a Parish Retreat

30

Parishioners who pray a weekly Rosary together

- 18 Parishioners who regularly adore the Blessed Sacrament
- 10 Men in a weekly Scripture Study

United in Prayer & Faith

- 12 Adult and Teen volunteers for Bible Camp 2021
- 120 Hours spent beautifying our Worship Space

15

Adults on the Core Team for our Youth Ministry

40

Parishioners involved in Liturgical Ministries

- 6 Teen and Adult team members for diocesan Teen ACTS retreat



United in Service

- \$200 Donated to the City of Marksville Doll and Toy Fund
- \$1,437 Given for overnight motel stays for the homeless/needy

\$3,593

Raised for the Cenla/Avoyelles Pregnancy Center

\$1,345

Given in gift card donations to Servant House by our "Caring at Christmas" program

- \$170 Given to the needy for food or rent
- 30 Families/Individuals received donations from our Food Pantry

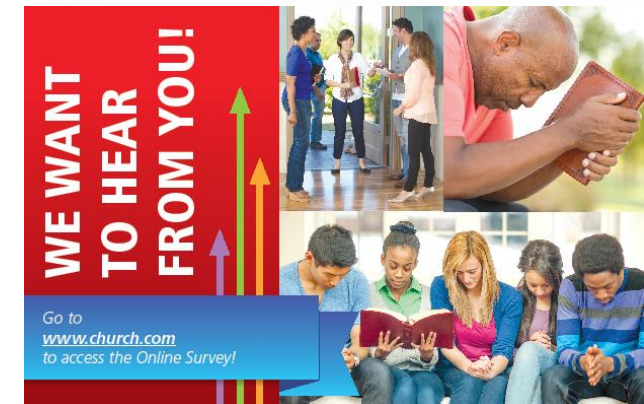
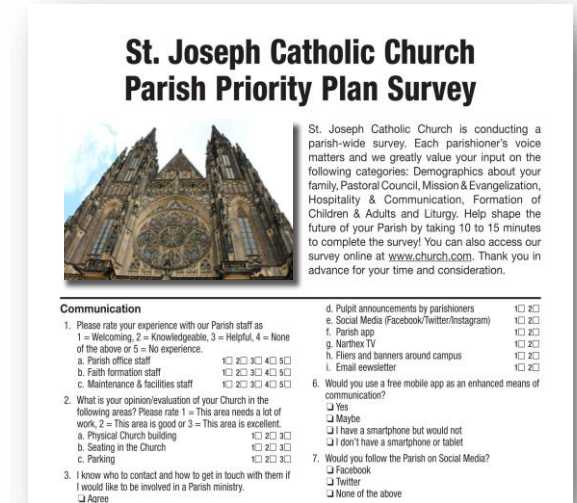
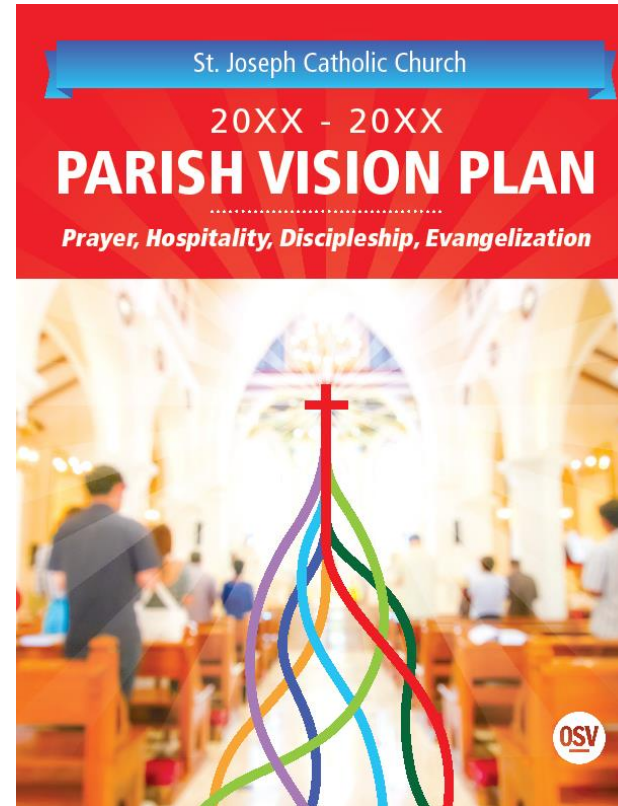


United in Generosity



Why a Plan Is Necessary

- A specific three-year **VISION** plan to focus on:
 - Prayer
 - Hospitality
 - Discipleship
 - Evangelization
- Options:
 - Virtual Workshops for Plan Creation
 - On-Site Coaching
 - Survey of Parishioners





PARISH CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS

Uses of the Capital Campaign Program

- Repairs needed to infrastructure
- Building upgrades
- Building repairs
- Minor expansion projects
- Debt reduction



Capital Campaign Program Features

- Dedicated consulting for your parish
- Analysis of parishioner database
- Training for all staff and volunteers
- 8-10 week program run by an Our Sunday Visitor consultant
- All printed and mailed letters, thank you recording and final report pledge included





Capital Needs - facilities/debt reduction

Suggested Gift Plans

We can reach our goal together if every family will set aside, over the next 36 months, at least \$1.00 a day or \$45 a month. If, however, you are not able to do this, your pledge in any amount is encouraged and will be gratefully received.

We are asking that you consider how generous God has been to you and that you respond in proportion to your own financial ability. As you consider your Christian stewardship, we ask you to prayerfully consider a sacrificial gift of a few dollars a day or week which will amount to a significant gift for the growth of

our parish.

The suggested gift plan encourages financial commitments over a three year period. The pledge card provides space for you to designate payment intervals: monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually. Payment reminders will be sent in accordance with the schedule selected. We ask you to keep in mind that it will take gifts at these levels over 36 months to reach our goal. Pledges enable you to consider a more significant contribution to the campaign rather than a one-time gift.

THREE YEAR GIFT TABLE

Total Pledge	36 Monthly Payments	12 Quarterly Payments	6 Semi-Annual Payments	3 Annual Payments
\$50,000	\$1,389	\$4,167	\$8,333	\$16,667
\$25,000	\$694	\$2,083	\$4,167	\$8,333
\$15,000	\$417	\$1,250	\$2,500	\$5,000
\$10,000	\$278	\$833	\$1,667	\$3,333
\$7,500	\$208	\$625	\$1,250	\$2,500
\$5,000	\$139	\$417	\$833	\$1,667
\$3,600	\$100	\$300	\$600	\$1,200
\$2,500	\$69	\$208	\$417	\$833
\$1,620	\$45	\$135	\$270	\$540

St. Stephen's Church offers Online Giving, an additional option for fulfilling your pledge or making a one-time gift.

Benefits to You

- There is no cost to you
- Payments can be made through an ACH transaction, your debit card or your credit card
- No need to write checks
- Earn points or miles while fulfilling your pledge
- Set up your own pledge, down payment, frequency, and payment amounts
- Contributions are scheduled; no need to make up missed contributions
- No need to remember to mail in your payment
- Change your payments or add additional payments at any time

- View your giving history or tax information at any time
 - As soon as your pledge is paid in full, the automatic payments on your campaign pledge stop
- For more information or to sign up for Online Giving, visit our website at <http://ststephenscroghan.rcdony.org/index.php> and click on the "Give Online" link.

Online Giving can also be used for your regular offertory contributions, holidays, special collections, religious education and much more.

St. Stephen's Church Father Donald Manfred, Pastor
9748 State Route 812 • Croghan, NY 13327
Phone: 315-346-6958 • <http://ststephenscroghan.rcdony.org/index.php>

A BLESSED PAST - A FAITHFUL FUTURE

St. Stephen's Church
9748 State Route 812 • Croghan, NY 13327

Words from the Pastor

Dear Friends:

In February 1876, a small band of German Franciscan priests arrived in the United States and were sent by Bishop Wadhams to Croghan to form a parish under the patronage of St. Stephen the Martyr. The bishop sent them forth with the mandate: "Here are the altar breads and wine. Go to Croghan, say Mass, and stay there!" When they arrived, they found a run-down building with no doors or windows and only blankets to keep out the snow and cold. This was the beginning of the illustrious St. Stephen's Parish! Over the years with the challenge of building a church that burned in 1902, building a school, convent, monastery to train future Franciscan brothers and priests, this parish and church have served God for over 150 years with hard work, determination and a strong abiding faith. As you well remember, the present church was greatly in need of repair and renovation and six years ago the parishioners once again faced the daunting challenge of an almost impossible task. Come into the church today and look around! A miracle you say! No, just the hard work, sacrifice and strong faith of the parishioners who once again faced the challenge and rose to the occasion with usual generosity and determination. The beautiful murals and other artwork have been restored, a ceiling ready to collapse has been secured for generations to come, a new sound system and new lighting has been installed to further enhance our liturgies and a warm, welcoming atmosphere continues to invite parishioners and friends to celebrate our faith together.

But our work is not done! The vision for the future faith life of our parish remains a challenge as we face a very large debt of \$314,000. We have made great strides in cutting the debt in half in the past five years. This is primarily due to your sacrifices and generosity. We are also grateful to Bishop LaValley for his financial support in reducing the parish assessments and a substantial gift. It is important that we continue to work together to eliminate this debt and so I am asking your help as we face a debt reduction campaign.

You will find information in this brochure to help develop a plan to reduce our debt so we may continue to grow God's kingdom here at St. Stephen's. Whether you are new to the parish or have been here from the beginning, I ask you to prayerfully reflect on how you have been blessed by God through His parish. I am inviting you to join me in fully supporting this campaign as your situation allows. The sooner we eliminate this debt, the sooner we can direct our attention to better serving our parish in reaching out to others in need.

Time will be set aside during all Masses on the weekend of December 4th and 5th for the faithful of St. Stephen's to make your pledge. Please bring your completed card, or be prepared to complete a pledge card at Mass.

Thank you for reviewing the contents of this brochure, praying about how you can support our parish and participating as we share the responsibility to maintain God's house.

Sincerely in Christ

Father Donald Manfred
Pastor



Our Challenge

In 2015, we initiated a campaign to repair, renovate, and beautify our church. Those repairs and renovations are complete, and it is now time to focus on the debt we have incurred.

Our goal is simple: to ELIMINATE our debt to the Diocese.

Our plan is to raise as much money as possible over the next three years. Eliminating our debt will save us several thousand dollars in interest payments every year and allow us to provide a safe, welcoming environment where we can gather, worship, and call our spiritual home.

Eliminating our debt will allow us to shift our focus to helping our parish programs grow and thrive.

Current Debt: \$914,000

Goal: Raise \$300,000 in the next three years and a challenge goal to raise \$500,000 over the next five years

In order for our parish to become more financially sound and to continue and GROW our many ministries and programs, all are needed to help reduce or eliminate our debt.

Looking ahead and dreaming of what we can do when we are debt free!

Outreach programs to address ministry to the elderly & homebound, the nursing homes, the poor and those alienated from the church.

Adult faith discussion groups.

Youth Ministry - e.g. formation of youth groups and providing retreat experiences and service projects to the community and parish.

Organize active committees for music, liturgy and Christian formation of youth & adults.



Your Commitment

Stocks and Bonds

There are added advantages to give securities. You not only take credit for its present value, but if held for one year also exempt from paying tax on the original investment. Talk with us for more information on making these donations.

IRA Gifts

If you are over 70 1/2 years old, you can make a charitable gift from your IRA of up to \$100,000 per year with no tax comp. of gifts must be transferred directly to your minimum required distribution. Good idea to speak with your financial advisor.

Tax Deductible Gifts

All gifts are tax deductible as provided will be provided upon request.



Frequently Asked

Q. What will happen if we go over our goal?

All gifts collected after we exceed our goal will be put towards the debt of the parish first, then towards maintenance and upkeep of our facilities.

Q. What if I never make a pledge?

Most people take advantage of time-payments for major purchases. A pledge to the parish Debt Reduction Campaign is a "time-payment plan" that makes it possible for you to meet your parish obligations without undue hardship. Pledges enable you to consider a more significant contribution to the campaign rather than a one-time gift.

Q. Is my pledge over and above my Sunday Offering?

Yes. We can only reach our goal with a little extra sacrifice. We cannot reach our goal if we reduce our weekly offerings in order to make a pledge to the Debt Reduction Campaign. The parish will continue to have normal operating expenses during the pledge period.

Q. Who will be asked to support the Campaign?

Each member of our parish family will be asked to consider a significant gift for this major effort according to his or her financial ability. We will make a special appeal to all who have been blessed by the Lord with exceptional earning ability or have been able to accumulate some assets. We hope everyone will play a conscientious role in renewing the future of the parish.

Q. What happens if I cannot fulfill my pledge?

Pledges are made in good faith and accepted as such. If hardship or illness prevents you from fulfilling your pledge, let the parish know, and other arrangements will be made.



Best Practice - Written Commitment

Capital Campaign Pledge Card

Total Pledge Amount:

- \$1,620 \$3,600 \$7,500 \$25,000
- \$2,500 \$5,000 \$10,000 \$50,000
- Other \$ _____

Frequency of Gift(s) Over 3 Years:

- Monthly Semi-Annually
- Quarterly Annually
- One-Time Only

Today's Gift:

Amount enclosed towards pledge:

\$ _____

St. Joseph Church
 Anytown, USA
 Maintaining God's House

- Please contact me about electronic giving options that are available.
- I have remembered the parish in my will.
- I will be praying for the success of the Campaign.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Envelope # (if known) _____ Date _____
(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____

For those who are pledging their gifts electronically to the parish, please submit this commitment card so your pledged gift is recorded in our system.

THREE YEAR GIFT TABLE

Total Pledge	36 Monthly Gifts	12 Quarterly Gifts	6 Semi-Annual Gifts	3 Annual Gifts
\$100,000	\$2,777	\$8,333	\$16,666	\$33,333
\$75,000	\$2,083	\$6,250	\$12,500	\$25,000
\$50,000	\$1,389	\$4,167	\$8,333	\$16,667
\$25,000	\$694	\$2,083	\$4,167	\$8,333
\$10,000	\$278	\$833	\$1,667	\$3,333
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\$3,600	\$100	\$300	\$600	\$1,200
\$2,500	\$69	\$208	\$417	\$833
\$1,620	\$45	\$135	\$270	\$540

The background of the slide is a grayscale photograph of a large, classical-style building. In the foreground, a stone balustrade with circular decorative elements runs across the frame. To the right, a set of wide stone steps leads up towards the building. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds.

Why Delay - Next Steps... Make it Happen

Questions ?



THANK YOU!



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Our Sunday Visitor

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