



# STEWARDSHIP GRATEFUL AND GENEROUS

## *My Catholic Giving Guide*

### How do we figure out how much to give?

We know that our financial resources are not infinite. Yet from the number of requests for donations that we receive in our mailboxes, our email, our text messages, and across social media, it appears that the number of worthwhile organizations seeking our financial support far exceeds our ability to help.

We are faithful people who want to help. Sometimes our decision making just needs a little practical assistance, something that gives us an objective base from which to begin.

What you see here is a worksheet designed for the purpose of helping make those decisions. The answers with which we fill in the blanks are between us and God.

Over the years I have been asked many times “How much should I give to the Church?” Answers to this question vary widely depending on your personal situation, your willingness to share the God-given gifts you watch over, and discernment gained through prayer.

But for starters, let’s say 10% is good.

While there is support from scripture that the first 10% of our income goes to the Lord, the amount is seen as a beginning point rather than an end. This worksheet uses that figure in its calculations. Feel free to modify it so it meets your particular needs.



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## A GUIDE TO GIVING IN STEWARDSHIP

God calls us to be generous with all of our gifts, including our treasure. Our faith teaches us this through the Scriptures:

*“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with first fruits ...” (Proverbs 3:9)*

*“How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good He has done for me?” (Psalm 116:12)*

In gratitude, we are called to give to God from our first fruits. That means creating a plan for giving to His Church. Throwing a last-minute donation into the collection basket time and again only leaves us frustrated. Having a plan, we can better do our part to share the gifts that God has given us.

## BEST PRACTICES

- Create and maintain a household budget
- Plan your giving annually
- Use your parish’s electronic offering (if applicable)
- Understand that tithing literally means to give 10% of your income. Suggested amounts: 5% to your parish, 1% to the diocese, and 4% to other Church needs and charities that serve the greater community.

*“Whoever sows sparingly will reap sparingly and whoever sows bountifully will reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

—2 Corinthians 9:6-7

**USE THE WORKSHEET ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE TO PLAN YOUR GIVING**

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## ANNUAL GIVING

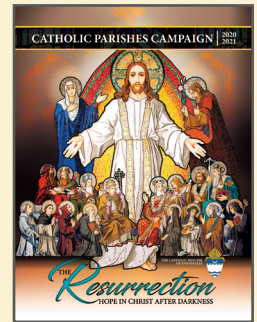


### Offertory

Whether giving weekly, monthly, or yearly, the offertory supports the parish’s mission and ministries.

### Catholic Parishes Campaign

Supports the immediate and urgent mission of the local Church, including ministries, parishes and schools.



### Second Collections

Supports the priorities of the pope and bishops through specific national and worldwide ministries.

### Parish Capital Campaign

Provides the means for parishes to carry out specific projects.



### Community Charities

Opportunities to support the mission of nonprofit organizations and other needs.



# MY CATHOLIC GIVING GUIDE WORKSHEET

T E A R O U T A N D K E E P W O R K S H E E T

1. CALCULATE ANNUAL GROSS FAMILY INCOME:	
My income	\$ _____
My spouse's income	\$ _____
Other income	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

2. DETERMINE ANNUAL PERCENTAGE TO GIVE:	
Tithing (10%)	_____ %
(or)	
Other	_____ %

3. CALCULATE ANNUAL DOLLAR GIVING AMOUNT:		
Total Annual Gross Family Income	x Annual Giving Percentage	= Annual Dollar Giving Amount
\$ _____	x _____ %	= \$ _____

4. DETERMINE DOLLAR AMOUNT FOR EACH GIVING OPPORTUNITY:	
<b>OFFERTORY</b>	
Weekly \$ _____	or Monthly \$ _____ or Annual \$ _____
<b>ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL</b>	
Annual \$ _____	
<b>PARISH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN</b>	
Annual \$ _____	
<b>SECOND COLLECTIONS / MINISTRY SUPPORT</b>	
Black & Indian Missions	\$ _____
Campaign for Human Development	\$ _____
Catholic Communications Campaign	\$ _____
Catholic Home Missions Appeal	\$ _____
Catholic Relief Services	\$ _____
Catholic University of America	\$ _____
Church in Central & Eastern Europe	\$ _____
Special Mission Appeal	\$ _____
St. Meinrad	\$ _____
Holy Land	\$ _____
Church in Latin America	\$ _____
Peter's Pence (for the Pope)	\$ _____
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ _____
The Message Subscription	\$ _____
World Mission Sunday	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
<b>COMMUNITY CHARITIES &amp; UNEXPECTED NEEDS</b>	
	\$ _____
	\$ _____
	\$ _____
	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL GIVING</b>	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

GIVING EXAMPLE		
<b>1. Calculate Annual Gross Income</b>		
My Income		\$45,000
Spouse's Income		\$10,000
Other Income		+ \$ 5,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$60,000</b>
<b>2. Determine Annual Percentage to Give:</b>		
3%	Or	10%
<b>3. Calculate Annual Giving Amount</b>		
\$60,000		\$60,000
x 3%		x 10%
\$1,800		\$6,000
<b>4. Determine Dollar Amount for Each Giving Opportunity.</b>		
\$1,800	<i>Parish Offertory</i>	\$6,000
x 50%		x 50%
\$900		\$3,000
\$900	<i>Weekly Offertory</i>	\$3,000
÷ 52		÷ 52
\$17.30		\$57.70
\$900	<i>Monthly Offertory</i>	\$3,000
÷ 12		÷ 12
\$75.00		\$250.00
\$20	<i>Annual Second Collections (15)</i>	\$50
x 15		x 15
\$300		\$750
\$200	<i>Catholic Parishes Campaign</i>	\$600
<b>Other Charities</b>		
\$75	<i>Grad School Fundraiser</i>	\$300
\$75	<i>High School Fundraiser</i>	\$300
\$50	<i>Charity 1</i>	\$250
\$50	<i>Charity 2</i>	\$200
\$60	<i>Parish Capital Campaign</i>	\$350
\$300	<i>Other Totals</i>	\$1,400