

# About Tithing in the Catholic Church

## History

- Tithing is mentioned in the very first book of the Bible, Genesis. You will find the practice of tithing throughout the rest of the Old Testament. The Catholic Church didn't officially begin until after the death of Christ, though. Therefore, the first time tithing was mentioned after the rise of the Catholic Church can be found in the New Testament book 1 Corinthians Chapter 9. Paul wrote that "they that serve the altar partake with the altar" and went on to say "That preaching the gospel, I may deliver the gospel without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel." The thought is that it was the duty and obligation of the congregation to financially aid the church.
- Practically every church takes up some sort of collection during the service. This is known as "tithing" in Christian churches. It is the primary means of income for churches to support their daily financial needs.
- The offertory collection is one of the oldest traditions. Years ago, parishioners gave a portion of their yield to the church. As times changed, the offering changed to coins, paper money, checks and now through electronic means called On-Line Giving.

## Benefits

- Tithing is the fulfillment of the sharing of treasure as prescribed by the concept of Stewardship. Tithing helps out the particular church that you give to and these tithes are tax deductible. More importantly, Christian believe giving their money to the church or other charities is part of being a follower of Christ. In a way, tithing can be a benefit to your soul as being a true Christian is how you can enter the kingdom of Heaven.

## Misconceptions

- Most people believe that the Catholic Church requires people to tithe 10 percent of their earnings to the church. This is not the case. While 10 percent is the recommended amount based on the bible and the meaning of the word (Tithe), the actual amount anybody gives is left up to them. The thought is that it is the job of those who go to the church to take care of the financial needs of that particular church. Therefore, parishioners should tithe what they can afford.
- If in difficult times less than 10% is given, the hope is that as things improve the percentage will also increase in thanks of the many blessings rendered upon us by God the Father above.