

How much should I give for Parish support?

I think that 2 Corinthians 9:7 is useful to this discussion: “Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Many times we hear of the 10% tithing rule. For some 10% of their income would be too much, others could substantially afford more than 10% and should not limit themselves to this. If you can give \$1, give it. If you can give \$10, give it. If you can give \$100, give it. Remember, you can also give of your time and talent in more abundance if you cannot give monetarily at this time. Volunteer in ministries at your Church or Parish level. Also, regular and consistent giving really helps local church administrators plan and budget all the necessities. Give what you feel is suitable for your current financial situation.

Remember that God always gives us back far more than what we give him. We can never be more generous than God. He returns our gifts a hundred fold even a thousand fold. Also, take note that Jesus has given more for us than we will ever be able to repay. He placed our salvation first so when we pray about our giving we should remember that he should come first.

Below is a quote from *Take Five: On-the-job Meditations with St. Ignatius*, it goes on to instruct us to: “behold Christ in His plight, nailed to the cross, and ponder;” What have I done for Christ? What am I doing for Christ? What ought I to do for Christ?

When we look at this question of how much should I give from the economic side we need to consider the following information. The average cost-of-living increase over the past decade is about 26 percent. This means that an item purchased ten years ago would have cost about 26 percent less than it costs to purchase that same item now. Research shows that the average rate of inflation over the past decade has been about 2.58 percent per year, meaning that is the average amount that costs of goods and services has increased each year within the past ten years. This has affected us all and as such we experience increases in expenses but not so much on the revenue side of the balance sheet. Church operations will continue to revolve around parishioner generosity. We are limited on what comes in based on what you decide to give.

The questions we must keep in mind are the following;

- Why can't the church do more to help the poor?
- What has happened to past programs we use to have for spiritual growth?
- Why can't our church offer more for Parishioners to develop their faith?
- Why do we have to put off needed repairs for our church?

These are all economic challenges. All these items have a cost associated and unless we can afford to pay the cost behind them we must prioritize and do what is important and needed while all other things are put on a wish list. Over the past ten years as mention previously we have seen a 26 % increase in cost of living / doing business. As a parish we have only seen a lift of 3.37 % in our giving from parishioners. So to go back to the question of “How much should I give weekly for Parish collections?” Economically we ask you give only what you can afford. But remember we can only work with what we get. So we must pray and ask ourselves what is it I can really afford?