



Encouraging Generosity Through Tithing

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Agenda

- Prayer and Introduction
- Tithing in the Scripture
- Overview of Parish Community Tithe
- Understanding Personal Tithing
- Changing the Culture
- Ideas and tips for success!
- Questions

Let us pray...

God my creator, you made me all that I am and gave me all that I have. Help me show my gratitude by using these gifts to serve others in your name.

Jesus my Redeemer, you taught me the way to eternal life by your example of loving service to others. Grant me the Courage to respond to your call to Discipleship by following in your footsteps.

Holy Spirit of God, be with me as I choose each day to put you first in my life. Let me be a model of Christian Stewardship so others will come to know you through my actions.

I pray, dear Lord, that you open the minds and hearts of all the men, women and young people of our parish, that we may joyfully accept your challenge to be good stewards.

Amen

Tithing in Scripture- First

The first mention of a tithe in the Bible occurs in Genesis when Melchizedek, a king and a "priest of God Most High," offered a sacrifice of bread and wine in thanksgiving for Abraham's victory over several enemy kings. As an offering to God, Abraham gave Melchizedek "a tenth of everything."

(Genesis 14: 22-24)

Abraham refuses to let anyone but God enrich him. Portrayed with the traits of a later Israelite judge or tribal hero, Abraham acknowledges that his victory is from God alone.

(<http://usccb.org/bible/genesis/14>)

Tithing in Scripture

"Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put more than all the other contributors to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood (Mark 12: 44).

"Each year you shall tithe all the produce that grows in the field you have sown...so that the Levite who has no share in the heritage with you and also the alien, the orphan and the widow who belong to your community, may come and eat their fill so that the Lord your God may bless you in all that you undertake." - Deuteronomy 14:22, 29

"Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." - Luke 6:38

But, why one-tenth? Why not 20%?

Some archaeologists suggest that the portion one-tenth constituted the tithe because the number ten was the basis for the numerical system and thereby signified totality.

Since God governed totality, any blessing received from it was a gift of God and an appropriate act of thanksgiving one-tenth-ought to be returned to God.

Don't worry, in the New Testament we are to give it *all...*

Church History on Tithing

The Church Council in 585 A.D. ordered payment of tithes.

In the 8th century, Charlemagne made tithing to the Church a civil law.

The Council of Trent (1545-1563) reiterated the call to tithe.

As cited in the Catechism (No. 2043), the Precepts of the Church maintain that each person has the duty to support the material needs of the Church.

The Code of Canon Law also states, "The Christian faithful are obliged to assist with the needs of the Church so that the Church has what is necessary for divine worship for apostolic works and works of charity end for the decent sustenance of ministers" (No. 222).

Great.

Now, how do I tell our parishioners about this?

Parish Community Tithing

Replaces the ACSA-Annual Catholic Services Appeal and encourages the community to make a gift in support of the larger Diocesan mission and ministries.

Personal Tithing

The opportunity for individual households to discern their grateful giving toward the parish.

How can this tangible behavior of giving help orient my life toward God?

Tips for success

Grateful people give:

- Holy people live in gratitude and gather before the Eucharist
- Tithing is a spiritual practice- allows us to redistribute funds for mission instead of bad habits
- Encourage self-discipline, encourage the 1% tithe (increase time in prayer, service, or giving)
- Tithing/giving can start at ANY AGE

Changing the Culture

Through messaging, witness, and gratitude.

Message Example

Give One-Hour

Start with one-hour of work pay

Create an hour-service opportunity

Host a faith formation on generosity or FPU

Include scripture pages on generosity in bulletin, email, facebook

Turn Meaningless into Meaningful this Christmas...Easter...New Year

If you can do it, I can do it!
Utilize stories and media

Media to Share

Ascension Presents: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r46-_VjonRg&t=93s

Fr. Mike Schmitz- Generosity: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1iR2UQWn5dc>

Should Catholics Tithe? (Fr. Leo)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xA56ugkXGsk&t=151s>

Catholic Mom- Tithing/Giving -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQmEcNxPM5o>

If tithing is rooted
in gratitude...than
start thanking!

A Thankful Parish...

Makes the grateful response personal

Responds with gratitude for ALL AGES- don't forget the kiddos!

Does NOT consider the tax-letter a good form of thanks

Appreciates new contributors

Organizes a Ministry Thank You Event annually

Questions?
