

Just One Hour...



This past week, you have been given the opportunity to be a good steward of God's gifts to you. You have been asked to financially support St. Robert parish. Here are some of the frequently asked questions about financial giving to the parish that may be of help in deciding your personal response to stewardship at St. Robert.

What is stewardship?

Stewardship begins with the recognition that everything we have has been given to us by God—our time, our talents, and our financial resources. Our fall Parish Stewardship Program promotes an understanding of giving financial resources as an essential part of a Christian lifestyle. It is planning our giving. It is giving first to God. It is giving proportionately in relation to what we have received.

How much should I pledge?

That is really up to you. You know your financial situation best. We are asking that you look at your finances and try to return to God what you would be content with because the amount is given in gratitude for gifts bestowed and in willingness to assist parish ministries. If you are giving the same amount you have for years, and your income has increased, your gift should be increasing. Fr. Dennis suggests in his letter that we each “**give the first hour of our workweek wage back to God.**” Just one hour of financial treasure back to God, who has blessed us with all that we have!

Some people aim for giving back 10% of their income— 5% to the church and 5% to other charities and good causes. Others might need to start at a lower percent and work upwards.

Whatever you decide, examine your heart and give at a level that is commensurate with your ability and is in direct proportion to the gratitude for all you have been given.

Why do I need to make a written pledge?

The pledge form is designed to help you make a financial decision based on faith as to how much you are going to give to the parish on a weekly basis. It helps the parish to know the approximate amount of parish income in order to plan and meet the parish budget for the coming year. It also assists the parish office with providing you with important tax information.

What if I have financial difficulty and am unable to fulfill my pledge?

Your pledge is a statement of your intention to provide support for the parish ministries. It is not a legal document. Of course, we would hope you would fulfill your pledge, but if your financial situation changes just let the parish office know and change your pledge.

When is the letter of intent due?

As soon as possible, but **December 4, 2009** is the due date. Your prompt attention will save the parish the cost of postage and phone calls for second and third reminders.

If we haven't answered your questions, feel free to leave your name at the parish office and one of the parish stewardship committee members will get back to you as soon as possible.