

GROWING IN GOD'S MERCIFUL LOVE

SAINT
JOHN
PAUL II
PARISH
Cedar Springs, MI



Capital Stewardship Campaign

October 2016

Reaching Sacrificial Giving from our campaign co-chairs

Dear fellow parishioners,

Sacrifice. It is not a pleasant word. It suggests suffering, pain, and loss. Sacrifice is a word rarely used by today's society, which thirsts for unlimited accumulation, pleasure, and unchecked success. It is a word virtually missing from the vocabularies of most people.

As Catholic Christians we know well the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. He came to sacrifice his life on the cross for our sins, to reunite us with God, and lead us to the peace of eternal life. We also know sacrifice means to go without. In a society driven by the desire for pleasure, success, and possessions, sacrifice is a word and attitude we would rather avoid. Sacrifice also means we are seeking to grow spiritually in our relationship with God and with our neighbor. We sacrifice so we can help, so we can give, so we can love, so we can grow spiritually. It is giving up something important, so a greater good can be achieved.

St. John Paul II Parish is embarking on an important next step in the journey to grow our parish! We must work to raise \$1 million to continue and advance our parish mission. It will require each and every one of us to pray and pledge sacrificially. Giving sacrificially is a personal act of giving generously of yourself and your resources as a response to God's immeasurable generosity to you. Sacrificial giving means a temporary change in your lifestyle in order to give generously.

With three years of serving the Lord under our belt, we want to continue to do so while providing a welcoming environment for all. Let us work together to continue in our faith and sacrifice to Him and allow St. John Paul II to flourish! It is time for all of us to pray and reflect on our gifts and blessings. Remember, no one can tell you how to define sacrifice. This is between you and the Lord. "Growing In God's Merciful Love" only asks that you pray and consider sacrifice, and then respond as the Lord leads you.

Sincerely,

Mindy Larva & Chris Pigorsh
Your Campaign Co-Chairs



Mindy Larva



Chris Pigorsh

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“Not Equal Gifts But Equal Sacrifice”

The simple and profound theme that underscores “Growing In God’s Merciful Love” comes from the Scriptures’ teaching about proportionate giving and the blessings of sacrifice. No gift impresses God in terms of dollar amounts, but rather the love and obedience with which they are given in proportion to the resources you’ve been given. God, in other words, looks at your heart.

Sacrifice means something different to everyone. For some, it may mean eliminating some current expenditures to increase giving. Others will delay a major expenditure. Some people will find ways to increase their income in order to give to the capital campaign. Some will give special gifts out of their assets, such as stocks, bonds, valuables, etc.

Remember that your experience with personal sacrifice is not a one-time check or contribution, but a profound way to explore and deepen the gift of giving based upon how God has blessed you. How you respond stands to change your daily life for 3 years, but the story doesn’t stop there. Remember, you are sacrificing belongings that will one day be useless, forgotten dust for something that lasts forever.

“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” 1 Peter 4:10

What level is sacrifice for you? What should be your 3-year commitment?

Gifts Needed	Total Gift	Optional 10% Initial Payment	Remaining Balance	Payment Options			Cumulative Total
				Monthly(36)	Quarterly(12)	Annually(3)	
Tier 1							
2	\$50,000	\$5,000	\$45,000	\$1,250	\$3,750	\$15,000	\$100,000
4	25,000	2,500	22,500	625	1,875	7,500	200,000
8	15,000	1,500	13,500	375	1,125	4,500	320,000
10	10,000	1,000	9,000	250	750	3,000	420,000
Tier 2							
20	\$8,000	\$800	\$7,200	\$200	\$600	\$2,400	\$580,000
20	6,000	600	5,400	150	450	1,800	700,000
25	4,000	400	3,600	100	300	1,200	800,000
20	3,000	300	2,700	75	225	900	860,000
Tier 3							
35	\$2,000	\$200	\$1,800	\$50	\$150	\$600	\$930,000
40	1,000	100	900	25	75	300	970,000
30	750	75	675	19	56	225	992,500
Remainder	\$500 or less	\$50 or less	\$450 or less	\$13 or less	\$38 or less	\$150 or less	\$1,000,000

Giving Sacrificially...How Do I Do That?

Many of us struggle to have a clear picture of our finances. We may feel like we don’t know where our money went at the end of the month. We find ourselves wanting to give more to the capital campaign but we don’t see a clear path. There are many expenses, called “phantom expenses”, which we never know are there because the expense is small, but really adds up. Here are a few examples of what you could sacrifice:

Daily cup of coffee. As simple as giving up a few cups a week, switching to a standard brew instead of a cappuccino or latte, or brewing your own can save a little cash that could be given to the church.

Ditch your landline or reduce a cell phone bill. Do you need to have both phone lines? Or are there a few extras that could be eliminated from your cell phone plan?

Get rid of cable. In the age of Hulu, Netflix, and free streaming TV, there’s a good chance you can get rid of that monthly expense.

Sell unused items! Whether it be clothing, technology, or other household items, sell them. This is a great way to get rid of clutter around the house and will add up to being able to give more.

Look at food costs. Food is important and definitely a big expense for many families. Takeout and dining out can be a big timesaver, but the expense is quite substantial. Reducing eating out and cooking more at home is a great way to make a sacrifice for the church (and may improve your health too).

Review memberships and subscriptions. Look at expenses, such as gyms, country clubs, warehouse club stores, etc. Monthly fees add up over the year and if you aren’t using the service regularly, you are likely throwing away money.

Buy a reusable water bottle. Plastic water bottles are not only harmful to the environment, but they are also harmful to your wallet. Purchasing one or two water bottles a day adds up to more than \$360 per year.

Downsize vacations. Consider postponing or downsizing certain aspects of your vacation or even stay closer to home or in Michigan for your leisure time.

Make an IRA charitable contribution. People 70.5 or older, can make an IRA charitable cash gift up to \$100,000 per year, per individual, which is not reportable as taxable income.

Delay purchasing new items. Many of us like to have the latest and greatest things, but consider delaying the purchase of luxury items like new technology, jewelry, clothing, vehicles, etc.

Prayer Phase Announced

The parish has now entered into the *prayer phase* of our capital stewardship campaign.

Sometimes we do not pray wholeheartedly because we sense God might change our priorities.

As we pray about our sacrificial gift: Let us pray that we keep our hearts open to the call of Jesus in our lives.

Let us pray about what it means to be a man or a woman of the Lord.

Let us pray not for what we want, but for what God gives us to do.

Let us pray that our giving reflect the wonder of God’s grace in our daily lives.

COMMON QUESTIONS

Q: When will I have an opportunity to make my 3-year commitment?

A: You must first prayerfully reflect on your blessings and what a sacrificial pledge would mean in your life. Parishioners will be given a pledge card on Commitment Weekend and asked to begin confidentially registering their commitments. Commitment weekend is October 29-30.

Q: Will my pledge be confidential?

A: Yes! A small confidential team of parish staff will record pledges. Rest assured, this information will not be shared or discussed with anyone.

Q. How do I decide what I should commit to our capital stewardship campaign?

A: Prayer and reflection! One of the campaign themes is “not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice”. Everyone is blessed differently. Everyone cannot give the same amount. But, if your gift is truly sacrificial, then the gifts are equal in the sight of God.