

# Good Shepherd Parish

## All Are Called: Our Annual Offertory Pledge

*It is important not to turn in on ourselves, burying our talent, our spiritual, intellectual, and material riches, everything that the Lord has given us; but rather to open ourselves, to be supportive, to be attentive to others.*

– Pope Francis

The Lord has blessed the parishioners of Good Shepherd Parish. We are grateful to our regular supporters who make it possible for us to carry out our mission to “be a living sign of Christ’s love in and for the world.”

As a result of your support, we continue to perform our important ministries, staff at minimally sufficient levels, and maintain our facilities, while meeting tight financial limits.

You will see in the attached Annual Report, our total offertory was down \$40,000 from previous years. One reason for this is the loss of some larger donors, either to death or moving. We want to call this to your attention so we can all respond to this need before it becomes a serious factor.

Since the introduction of our Annual Offertory Pledge Program three years ago, our parish has been able to meet our obligations with minimal net income variance. We still have work to do to restore our previously depleted emergency cash reserve.

### **2017 Annual Pledge Drive – October 1 – November 13, 2016**

The Annual Offertory Pledge Program allows us to more professionally manage our expenses, align program costs to projected income, and deal with unexpected expenses. While we are making good progress, there continues to be a number of deferred maintenance items that need to be addressed.

If you have pledged previously, please renew your annual pledge. If you haven’t increased your pledge amount recently, please consider doing so this year. Our expenses increase 2-4% per year. Meeting these needs is a shared responsibility of the entire Good Shepherd family. We hope *all* parishioners will join this program and pledge regular support, at whatever level your means will allow.

### **Our Parish Remains Active and Dynamic – and Growing!**

In carrying out the mission of our parish, we have been using our spiritual and material gifts to enhance the life of our parish and serve those less fortunate in the following ways:

- **Our Parish Family** – In the last year, we have been blessed to welcome 47 new families to our parish who are contributing their talents and gifts to the life of our parish.
- **Vibrant Liturgies** – We have joyful and vibrant liturgies due to the many talents of our parishioners who participate as cantors, lectors, choir members, musicians, altar servers, and Eucharistic ministers.
- **Superb Professional Staff** – We are especially pleased to welcome Bishop Robert Reed as our new pastor. We have a superb and highly qualified professional staff providing excellent leadership in pastoral care, religious education, music ministry, youth ministry, and adult faith formation.
- **Outstanding Religious Education Program** – We serve and engage the youth of the parish.
- **Youth Ministry** – Our youth ministry program has been focused on training and challenging our parish’s young people to live as committed disciples, both here and in the future. This takes many forms including our successful first annual Leadership Institute, small group ministries, middle school youth group, and our first mission trip with Catholic Heart Work Camp.

- **Stephen Ministry** – Stephen Ministry leaders are beginning another fifty-hour training session for six people. Stephen Ministers are trained to bring Christ’s healing, renewing, and saving care to people who are hurting during a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation, or separation due to military deployment. Several persons in our community are receiving the care of Stephen Ministers who were trained last year.
- **Other Service Ministries** --We are especially proud of the participation of so many parishioners in our service ministries, including feeding and clothing the homeless and poor through Family Promise Metrowest and the Boston Sock Exchange, reaching out to the bereaved, providing holiday meals to shut-ins and hospice patients, having regular food and clothing drives, and sponsoring numerous other projects throughout the year.
- **Capital Improvements** -- We addressed the long over-due roof repairs at St. Ann Church, paving improvements at St. Ann and St. Zepherin Church, and safety upgrades at both churches.

## **Answer the Call: Pledge Regular Contributions**

We ask you to prayerfully consider your financial support to our parish. We understand that every member/family is different, so each must assess how much they can support the parish. Please consider regular contributions in proportion to your ability to give and your gratitude for the work of the parish. ***Our hope is that every parish member/family considers and makes an annual pledge that allows us to better plan for our future.***

Many parishioners have taken advantage of the electronic online offertory system using an Electronic Fund Transfer set up through their bank or ParishPay.com. Of course, contributions can also be made through the weekly envelope collection. You may contribute on any schedule that is right for you (e.g., weekly, monthly, or annually).

The chart below is a guide to the percentage annual gift, based on income levels. As a guideline to help you with your pledge, we suggest **3%** of annual income, although we hope that many families will be able to consider a higher percentage.

Annual income	1% Annual	2% Annual	3% Annual	3% Wkly	5% Annual	7% Annual	9% Annual	10% Annual
\$25,000	\$250	\$500	\$750	\$15	\$1,250	\$1,750	\$2,250	\$2,500
\$65,000	\$650	\$1,300	\$1,950	\$40	\$3,250	\$4,550	\$5,850	\$6,500
\$75,000	\$750	\$1,500	\$2,250	\$45	\$3,750	\$5,250	\$6,750	\$7,500
\$100,000	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$3,000	\$60	\$5,000	\$7,000	\$9,000	\$10,000
\$130,000	\$1,300	\$2,600	\$3,900	\$75	\$6,500	\$9,100	\$11,700	\$13,000
\$150,000	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$4,500	\$85	\$7,500	\$10,500	\$13,500	\$15,000

*We seek to continue the mission of Jesus Christ by welcoming, supporting, and guiding all through prayer, sacramental celebration, service, and education. -- Good Shepherd’s Mission Statement*

We are called to be good stewards of our many blessings from the Lord. We are counting on every parish member/family to return a pledge card so that we may plan for our future and continue to serve Jesus and one another.

With gratitude to all who have furthered the mission of our parish,

The Good Shepherd Parish Development Committee:

John Boyle  
Jim Burns

Paul Crowley  
Jack Caulfield

Rick Malnight  
Cindy MacLean

Kevin and Lana Murphy