

26 October 2009

Dear friends,

At Corpus Christi, we can take joy in the many ways we celebrate our love of God and neighbor – through our worship, our hospitality, our religious education of our children, our care and comfort to those who are ill or grieving, and our service to those in need.

Our vibrant ministry also includes our finances. All of us must address finances as we look to the future. Without sufficient funds, little can happen. This is as true for a parish as it is for an individual.

Our parish ministry is financed most significantly through our Offertory Collection – that is, the first collection at Mass. This collection supports the salaries of our staff, the maintenance of our buildings, the implementation of our programs, and everything from insurance premiums to electric bills. The first collection differs from the second in that the second collection may only be used for outreach ministry – that is, our Community Center, our Sister Parish, Fr. Charles Hall Catholic School, and other social justice services. Second collection monies cannot be used to pay the basic bills of the parish, so that, without a strong first collection, there really can be no second collection for outreach ministry.

Unfortunately, the level of giving to the first collection is declining.

The Finance Committee and I try to be as conservative as possible when preparing the budget each year. The economy can make it difficult for a household, or for a parish, to plan more than a year ahead.

Consequently, the parish leadership and I have decided to institute an annual request to our parishioners. We are asking them to examine their weekly giving and to decide if it is too much, just enough, or too little and, then, to respond accordingly. At both Masses this coming weekend, October 31 - November 1, we will ask each parish household to make a specific commitment to weekly offertory giving. The activities on that weekend, and the follow-up process to contact those who do not respond, will stress the necessity of having every parishioner contribute regularly, using envelopes, checks, or automatic bill pay. I believe that this will put us in a position where we can continue to grow as a parish community.

This annual appeal will not necessarily ask for an increase in giving. Rather, it asks each of us to consider what God has given to us and, then, to consider how we respond in turn. **If, after prayerful reflection, you decide to change the amount that you give, please begin giving that new amount by the beginning of the new calendar year, 1 January 2010.**

I hope that each of you will welcome this request as an opportunity to reflect upon how you can be part of the many important ministries we offer at Corpus Christi, through your personal commitment of time and prayer, and through your commitment of financial resources.

If you have any questions about this program or the parish budget, please call the parish office and I will be happy to answer them. Then, please respond to this request with charity and love.

Yours truly in the Body of Christ,

Fr. Rich

Rev. Richard J. Bozzelli

CURRENT OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

In the last fiscal year (1 July 2008 through 30 June 2009), the parish had 318 registered households. We provided envelopes to 131 households, while another 13 households regularly contributed through their bank's automatic bill pay. Throughout the year, 178 households used envelopes, checks, or automatic bill pay to contribute to the parish's Offertory Collection. An analysis of that offertory shows that nearly a third of our contributing households gave \$5 or less per week. **Just less than half of all registered households did not give at all, or did not give in a manner that we could track.**

The giving pattern of our parish for an average Sunday is shown in the following chart.

AVERAGE WEEKLY CONTRIBUTION BY NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS

1 July 2008 through 30 June 2009

Number of Households (318 total registered)	Amount Per Week
140	no record of offertory giving
50	\$ 5 or less /week
55	\$ 6 - 15 /week
43	\$ 16 - 25 /week
11	\$ 26 - 50 /week
14	\$ 51 - 75 /week
3	\$ 76 - 100 /week
2	More than \$ 100 /week

REFLECT ON YOUR GIFTS

I am asking you, together with every parishioner, to consider the gifts that God has given you. Then, compare those gifts to the amount that you return, as an expression of your gratitude for and participation in our important ministries.

Reflect on your spending with regard to such items as fast food, movie attendance or rental, going out to dinner, etc. Think about how these expenditures compare to your support of our ministry at Corpus Christi and what that comparison says about the value of our ministry to you. The above chart indicates that many Corpus Christi parishioners may spend more in a week on pizza than on sharing in the ministry of our parish.

Ask yourself if the portion of your income that you give to the work of God through our parish is enough, too much, or not enough. Review the sample Commitment Card on the last page of this brochure. Then, decide what amount you will indicate when you receive the card at Mass this weekend.

A Commitment Card from each household will allow our Finance Committee to predict our annual income in a reliable manner. We firmly believe that through sound planning, we can avoid financial crises and preserve our parish's well being, now and in the years to come. We pray that parishioners will review these materials carefully and respond to them generously.

CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH

Estimated Parish Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2010

1 July 2009 through 30 June 2010

(excludes outreach ministries)

EXPENSES

All Salaries and Benefits <i>(clergy & lay salaries, FICA, health insurance, etc.)</i>	\$ 189,720
Facilities <i>(utilities, insurance, ordinary repairs, maintenance)</i>	\$ 63,631
Programs	
General Administration	\$ 17,775
Religious Education <i>(Sunday School – rent, materials, etc., excluding salaries)</i>	\$ 10,325
Liturgy	\$ 9,782
Other Programs & Supplies	\$ 14,520
Diocesan & Special Collections <i>(Campaign for Human Development, Propagation of the Faith, etc.)</i>	\$ 10,404
Building Reserve Fund <i>(church, rectory, school)</i>	\$ 20,000
Archdiocesan Cathedraticum <i>(tax)</i>	\$ 35,576
Miscellaneous <i>(Catholic Review, votive candles)</i>	\$ 1,340
<u>TOTAL PARISH EXPENSES:</u>	\$ <u>373,073</u>

INCOME

Offertory (First) Collection – envelopes, checks, automatic bill pay, loose cash	\$ 206,786
Rental Income <i>(Midtown Academy – school building, MICA – parking lot)</i>	\$ 75,151
Religious Education Income <i>(Sunday School tuition, marriage prep fees)</i>	\$ 7,500
Diocesan & Special Collections	\$ 10,404
Wedding Stipends	\$ 20,250
Other Income <i>(gifts, grants, Mass stipends, diocesan subsidy, interest, misc)</i>	\$ 32,031
<u>TOTAL PARISH INCOME:</u>	\$ <u>352,122</u>
<i>ADDITIONAL INCOME NEEDED FOR FY 2010:</i>	\$ 20,951

COMMITMENT WEEKEND

At both Masses this coming weekend you will be asked to indicate the amount that you wish to give weekly. If you give monthly, quarterly, etc., please indicate the average weekly amount of that gift. A sample of the Offertory Commitment Card is shown at the bottom of this page.

Please carefully consider the gifts that God has given you and contribute part of them to help with the work of the parish. Come prepared to complete the Commitment Card that will be provided. **We will ask you to begin giving the indicated amount by 1 January 2010.**

HOW MUCH SHOULD WE GIVE?

Many people ask whether or not there is a standard for giving. Each person or family must arrive at that conclusion independently. However, the following scale is provided in order to serve as a guide for those who are interested in using it.

Suggested Weekly Offering

Annual Household Income	4.0%	3.0%	2.0%
\$20,000	\$15.00	\$11.00	\$8.00
\$25,000	\$19.00	\$14.00	\$10.00
\$30,000	\$23.00	\$17.00	\$12.00
\$40,000	\$31.00	\$23.00	\$15.00
\$50,000	\$38.00	\$29.00	\$19.00
\$60,000	\$46.00	\$35.00	\$23.00
\$70,000	\$54.00	\$40.00	\$27.00

Below is a sample card that you will receive at Mass this weekend. Please determine which member of your household will complete the card and what your commitment will be before coming to church.

Sample Offertory Commitment Card

*"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*

Corpus Christi Church is asking all parishioners to review the amount that they give to the parish offertory and to determine whether that amount is enough, too much, or not enough. My/Our new average WEEKLY commitment for the 2010 calendar year will be:

- \$100
 \$75
 \$50
 \$40
 \$35
 \$30
 \$25
 \$20
 \$15
 Other \$ _____