



Holy Trinity Catholic Church

Church: 7436 Baltimore-Annapolis Blvd
Parish Center: 126 Dorsey Road
Glen Burnie, MD 21061

October 2011

Dear friends,

At Holy Trinity, we can take joy in the ways we celebrate our love for God and neighbor – through our worship, our hospitality, our faith formation, our care for those who are ill or grieving, and our service to those in need.

Our parish 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 ministry is financed primarily 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.

Unfortunately, the level of giving to our 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 any household, or for any parish, to plan ahead.

Consequently, the parish leadership and I have decided to ask our parishioners to examine their weekly giving. We're asking you to decide if it is too much, just enough, or too little. In particular, we ask each parish household to consider contributing regularly, using envelopes, checks, or automatic bill pay. Experience shows that the use of envelopes, checks, or automatic bill pay can put us in a position to grow as a parish community.

Consequently, I am not necessarily asking for an increase in giving. Rather, I am asking each of us to consider what God has given to us and, then, to consider how we respond to that. **If, after prayerful reflection, you decide to change the amount that you give, please begin giving that new amount as soon as possible.**

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 Holy Trinity, through your personal commitment of time and prayer, and through your commitment of financial resources.

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

Yours truly in the love of the Holy Trinity,

Fr. Rich

Rev. Msgr. Richard J. Bozzelli
Pastor

CURRENT OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

In the last fiscal year (1 July 2010 through 30 June 2011), the parish had 2,887 registered households. We provided envelopes to 1,066 households, while another 48 households regularly contributed through their bank's automatic bill pay. Throughout the year, 998 households used envelopes, checks, or automatic bill pay to contribute to the parish's Offertory Collection. An analysis of that offertory shows that half of our contributing households gave \$10 or less per week. **More than half (65%) 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 2010 through 30 June 2011

Number of Households (2,887 total registered)	Amount Per Week
63	More than \$60 /week
21	\$ 51 - 60 /week
26	\$ 41 - 50 /week
47	\$ 31 - 40 /week
110	\$ 20 - 30 /week
130	\$ 11 - 19 /week
180	\$ 5 - 10 /week
420	\$ 5 or less /week
1,889	No record of offertory giving

REFLECT ON YOUR GIFTS

I am asking you to consider the gifts that God has given you. Then, compare those gifts to the amount that you offer 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 Holy Trinity and what that comparison says about the value of our ministry to you.

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 suggested levels of giving on the last page of this brochure. Then, decide what amount you will be able to offer in the coming year.

The Finance Committee and I firmly believe that, through sound planning, we can avoid financial difficulties 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.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Estimated Parish Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2012
1 July 2011 through 30 June 2012

EXPENSES

All Salaries and Benefits (<i>clergy & lay salaries, FICA, health insurance, etc.</i>)	\$ 459,623
Facilities (<i>utilities, technology, insurance, ordinary repairs, maintenance</i>)	\$ 168,100
Programs	
General Administration	\$ 7,664
Elementary, Youth & Adult Faith Formation (<i>materials, etc., excluding salaries</i>)	\$ 35,926
Liturgy	\$ 113,670
Other Programs & Supplies	\$ 11,120
Diocesan & Special Collections (<i>Campaign for Human Development, Propagation of the Faith, etc.</i>)	\$ 80,000
Archdiocesan Cathedraticum (<i>tax</i>)	\$ 149,246
Miscellaneous (<i>Catholic Review, votive candles</i>)	\$ 254,580
<u>TOTAL PARISH EXPENSES:</u>	\$ 1,279,929

INCOME

Offertory (First) Collection – <i>envelopes, checks, automatic bill pay, loose cash</i>	\$ 985,496
Religious Education Income (<i>tuition, fees</i>)	\$ 17,100
Diocesan & Special Collections	\$ 5,000
Gifts, Mass Stipends, Bequests	\$ 36,800
Other Income (<i>grants, bank interest, misc</i>)	\$ 178,500
<u>TOTAL PARISH INCOME:</u>	\$ 1,222,896

ADDITIONAL INCOME NEEDED FOR FY 2012: **\$ 57,033**

HOW MUCH SHOULD WE GIVE?

Many people ask whether there is a standard for giving. Each person or family must arrive at that conclusion independently.

Many Christians will use the standard of the biblical tithe to help them determine their giving. In that case, the Church recommends that a household give 10% of its annual pre-tax income to all charity – specifically, 5% to the parish and 5% to all other charities.

The biblical tithe is an ambitious goal that we ask all parishioners to consider. The following scale, however, is also provided to serve as a guide for those who are interested in using it:

Suggested Weekly Offering

Annual Household Income	5.0%	4.0%	3.0%	2.0%
\$20,000	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$11.00	\$8.00
\$25,000	\$25.00	\$19.00	\$14.00	\$10.00
\$30,000	\$30.00	\$23.00	\$17.00	\$12.00
\$40,000	\$40.00	\$31.00	\$23.00	\$15.00
\$50,000	\$50.00	\$38.00	\$29.00	\$19.00
\$60,000	\$60.00	\$46.00	\$35.00	\$23.00
\$70,000	\$70.00	\$54.00	\$40.00	\$27.00

Another way of considering your gift to Holy Trinity would be to reflect on the giving patterns of the parish as a whole. Examine the chart on the second page of this brochure and identify the level at which you are currently giving. Then, consider bumping yourself up to the next level on that chart.

Also, consider the parish's financial needs when reviewing your contributions to other church organizations. Sometimes we give valuable amounts to other charities when our own parish is facing a significant shortfall. Perhaps you can either match or re-direct a portion of those contributions to our parish community.

Finally, regardless of the actual amount on which you decide, please consider using envelopes, checks, or automatic bill pay, if you are not already doing so. These methods of giving (as opposed to deciding how much to give at Mass itself) tend to ensure that the parish receives the amount that you have prayerfully and thoughtfully intended to give. You might begin the process by using the envelopes provided in the back of church or by calling the parish office at 410-766-5070 ext 30.