

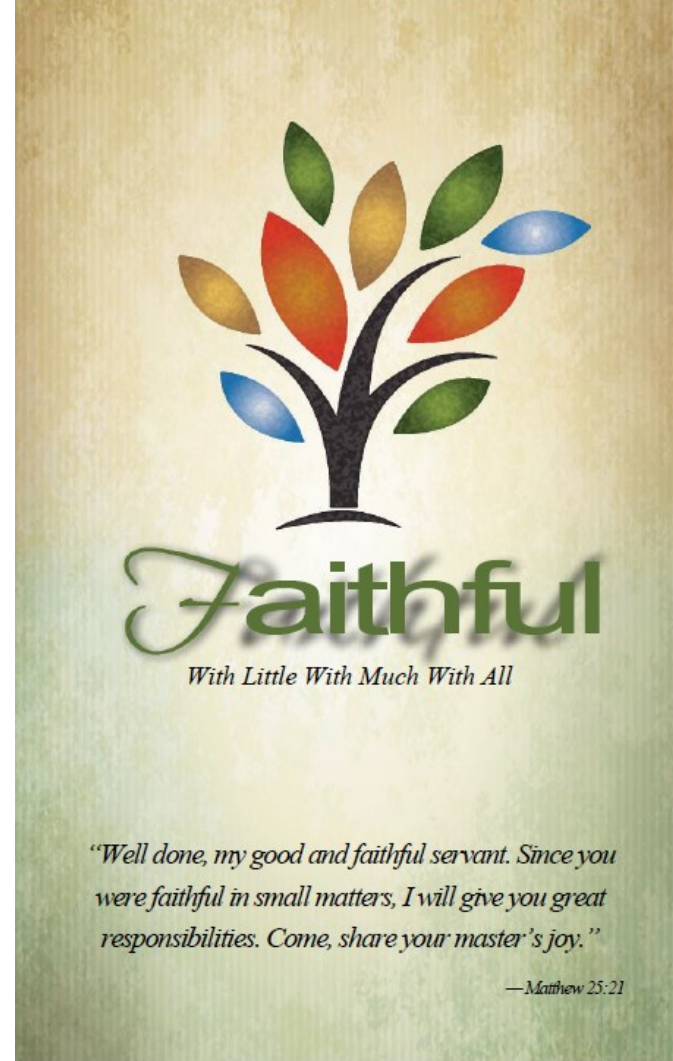


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**St. Matthias Treasure Renewal 2017**



November 1, 2016

My fellow parishioners of St. Matthias,

I am writing to you today about one of the simplest, yet most profound truths of our faith. God loves us.

God loves us without reservation, hesitation and condition. His love is boundless and everlasting. We feel this love in many ways, some spiritual and others tangible. From love, God blesses each of us with one expectation – that we share these blessings out of love for Him and each other. *This is the essence of stewardship*; feeling God’s love, reflecting it back to Him and sharing with others.

Living the life of a true steward is a spiritual process. There are however, tangible realities that challenge us. Health insurance premiums, heating and electric bills and the many other day-to-day costs of maintaining our ministries rise every year. As we struggle also to rebuild our savings account, it is important to remember that our business is to build the kingdom of God here on earth.

In their pastoral letter on stewardship, Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response, our Bishops remind us that *“The success or failure of parish programs, the vitality of parish life or its absence, the ability or inability of a parish to render needed services to its members and the community depend upon all.”*

Each one of us has an important role to play in continuing the life and ministry that thrives in our parish. I invite you to embrace stewardship as we work together to secure our parish ministries now, and in the future.

A financial pledge form is on page 7. I ask that you take some time to prayerfully reflect on your response to the blessing you have received from our generous God. If you have not given before, please consider making a start this year. If you have given financially, but have not made a pledge in past years, I ask you to consider making this commitment which will help us plan in a fiscally responsible manner.

Please bring the renewal form to Mass on commitment weekend, November 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>. If you cannot be with us at Mass, please return the form to the parish office by November 30<sup>th</sup>. Finally, I ask that you continue to pray for the grace that we all need to live as faithful stewards of the blessing we have received from our generous God.

Please detach this page and bring it to church on the weekend of November 19/20, 2016

## Treasure Commitment - St. Matthias Parish January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

With thanks to God and to support the ministries of our parish by contributing to St. Matthias Parish for the coming year, I/We intend to give:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Weekly, **or** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly

For an **annual** financial commitment of \_\_\_\_\_ for the year beginning January 1, 2017

\_\_\_\_ I would like my contribution to be electronically transferred to the parish from my checking/savings account. Please call me to provide details \_\_\_\_\_ (telephone number)

Signature (s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Print:**

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parish Envelope Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*This is a declaration of intent and is not a legal document.*

*Contributions are tax deductible.*

## GUIDE TO GIVING A PERCENTAGE OF YOUR INCOME

Annual Income	1%		2%		3%		4%		5%	
	Week	Month	Week	Month	Week	Month	Week	Month	Week	Month
\$10,000	\$2	\$8	\$4	\$16	\$6	\$25	\$8	\$32	\$10	\$42
\$15,000	\$3	\$12	\$6	\$24	\$9	\$37	\$12	\$48	\$15	\$62
\$20,000	\$4	\$17	\$8	\$34	\$12	\$50	\$16	\$68	\$20	\$84
\$25,000	\$5	\$21	\$10	\$42	\$15	\$62	\$20	\$85	\$25	\$105
\$30,000	\$6	\$25	\$12	\$50	\$18	\$75	\$24	\$100	\$30	\$125
\$35,000	\$7	\$29	\$14	\$58	\$21	\$87	\$28	\$115	\$35	\$145
\$40,000	\$8	\$33	\$16	\$66	\$24	\$100	\$32	\$130	\$40	\$165
\$50,000	\$10	\$42	\$20	\$84	\$30	\$125	\$40	\$170	\$50	\$210
\$60,000	\$12	\$50	\$24	\$100	\$36	\$150	\$48	\$200	\$60	\$250
\$70,000	\$14	\$58	\$28	\$116	\$42	\$175	\$56	\$230	\$70	\$290
\$80,000	\$16	\$67	\$32	\$133	\$48	\$200	\$64	\$265	\$80	\$335
\$90,000	\$18	\$75	\$36	\$150	\$54	\$225	\$72	\$300	\$90	\$375
\$100,000	\$20	\$83	\$40	\$166	\$60	\$250	\$80	\$330	\$100	\$415
\$120,000	\$24	\$100	\$48	\$200	\$72	\$300	\$96	\$400	\$120	\$500
\$140,000	\$28	\$120	\$56	\$233	\$84	\$350	\$112	\$465	\$140	\$585

**We can therefore deduce that if we started with nothing, and ended with nothing, we never really owned our time or our possessions. The ownership of all we possessed belonged to God.**

Based on "Stewardship, a Disciples Response"

Thank you for sharing your gifts. We promise to be responsible stewards of the support you give to the work of our ministries. Thank you for helping us move forward into the future, embracing the gifts of our community and living our unique mission as a parish.

St. Matthias, pray for us,



Jeff Van Dalen  
Parish Director



**Dave Kuemmel**

**The heart of the Gospel stories about stewards and servants is that these people were entrusted with treasures that did not originally belong to them, and they were left alone for a while to see just how they would behave. That's how I view all God's gifts to me - my time on this earth, and all the possessions and money I have been given. I'm on my own, and God gave me a period of time to see how I do. I just don't know how much time I have, or when the master will return.**

**Sharon Hanson**

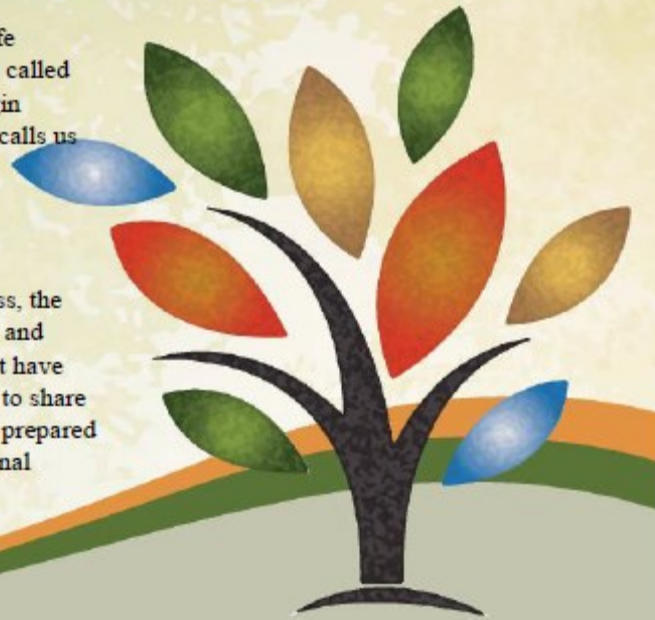
**As a lifelong member of this parish, I consider St. Matthias to be part of my family. When my husband, Larry, and I were married here, we reaffirmed our commitment to have St. Matthias as part of our family. We enjoy participating in ministries here, and we give financially to St. Matthias because we want to help take care of our family. Our gift of treasure is part of our monthly budget. It makes it easier for us to give consistently every month. Please prayerfully consider your commitment this year, and join us in taking care of the family of St. Matthias.**



Our children develop a sense of responsibility step by step. We give young children simple, small tasks, adding more responsibilities as they grow in age and ability. In time they mature, becoming well prepared and fully capable to accept the responsibilities of adult life.

The path to embracing stewardship as a way of life follows a similar trajectory. We know that we are called to share our gifts and resources, and we often begin sharing in simple, small ways. Sacrificial Giving calls us to mature in our sharing as our ability and resources grow.

Faithful stewards recognize the unique circumstances of our lives – the talents we possess, the health and ability to work hard, the opportunities and challenges along the way – as gifts from God that have allowed us to prosper. Sacrificial Giving calls us to share our financial resources as mature Catholics, well prepared and fully capable of accepting the call to intentional discipleship.



## Sacrificial Giving is . . .

### Planned

God trusts us to give thoughtful consideration to stewarding our financial resources. Giving to our parish should become integrated into other financial decisions as part of a careful, intentional, planned response to God's generosity.

### Proportionate

Every gift, regardless of size, is needed and valued. Sacrificial Giving simply calls us to be honest with ourselves, and with God, when we determine – based on our ability – what our financial commitment to our parish will be.

### Prioritized

Focus changes as individuals grow and mature. We know, however, that God's goodness to us never waivers. Faithful stewards strive to keep God at the top of their list of personal priorities.

### Powerful

Faithful stewardship can change us in ways we never imagined. Bit by bit we grow as intentional disciples, sharing more and more of our resources, making an increasingly positive impact in our parishes, our communities and our world.

*“Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.”*

— James 12:48

*“The success or failure of parish programs, the vitality of parish life, or its absence, the ability or inability of a parish to render needed services to its members and the community, depend upon all.”*

*Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*  
U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship

*“No one has ever become poor by giving.”*

— Anne Frank