



# GOOD SHEPHERD

## CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

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**Welcome to Good Shepherd!** We're glad you're here. In addition to the efforts you put into your personal prayer, study, and good works, we're hopeful that you'll quickly become an active member of our community. Active membership falls into four general categories: Mass Attendance, Volunteering, Participating, and Giving.

### **Mass Attendance**

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is our most important work. The Eucharist is the source and summit of our lives. More than a Sunday obligation, Mass is where we are fed by the Eucharist – the very Body and Blood of Jesus. Mass is what we “do” as Catholics. The most important indication of active parish life is Sunday Mass attendance. We look forward to having you join us on Sundays (and other days, too). Please see the current liturgical schedule for Mass times.

### **Volunteering**

The liturgical, sacramental, evangelical, catechetical, and social aspects of Good Shepherd do not happen automatically. They require the efforts of our dedicated volunteers. And we have some great volunteers. Whether reading at Mass or planning a parish picnic, singing in the choir or hosting a funeral luncheon, praying with the homebound or cleaning the church, our parishioners make life at Good Shepherd happen. We encourage all members of the family to volunteer according to their ability.

### **Participating**

Life at Good Shepherd extends beyond Sunday mornings. It includes other liturgical activities, such as Stations of the Cross and Eucharistic Adoration. It includes small groups and Bible studies and formation programs and mornings of reflection. And it includes opportunities to gather with friends for a meal or a beer or a picnic in the park. All of these activities are meant to deepen our relationships with each other and with the Lord.

### **Giving**

Providing for the material needs of the parish is first and foremost a sign of gratitude to the Lord for his many blessings – giving back to God a small portion of what he has given us. Making financial contributions to the parish is also a fulfilment of a precept of the Church: *The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to his abilities.* We need the support of the faithful to carry out our mission of making Jesus Christ known, loved, and served.

Mass attendance, volunteering, participating, and giving are four aspects of active membership at Good Shepherd. When they are in place, our parish can become more and more a place where people grow in holiness and happiness. Not only do these practices help Good Shepherd, but they also help strengthen our spiritual lives. Attending Mass and making a return gift to God of our time, talent, and treasure are essential aspects of authentic discipleship. If you have questions about any of this, please contact Father Marquard. He would be happy to meet with you.



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## NEW MEMBER REGISTRATION

Family Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Last Church of Membership \_\_\_\_\_

**First Person**

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_

Baptized Yes No Where \_\_\_\_\_

First Communion Yes No Where \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation Yes No Where \_\_\_\_\_

Married Yes No Where \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

**Second Person**

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_

Baptized Yes No Where \_\_\_\_\_

First Communion Yes No Where \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation Yes No Where \_\_\_\_\_

Married Yes No Where \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

**First Child**

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Baptized Yes No Where \_\_\_\_\_

First Communion Yes No Where \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation Yes No Where \_\_\_\_\_

**Second Child**

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Baptized Yes No Where \_\_\_\_\_

First Communion Yes No Where \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation Yes No Where \_\_\_\_\_

**Third Child**

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Baptized Yes No Where \_\_\_\_\_

First Communion Yes No Where \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation Yes No Where \_\_\_\_\_

**Fourth Child**

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Where \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Baptized Yes No Where \_\_\_\_\_

First Communion Yes No Where \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation Yes No Where \_\_\_\_\_



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## WEEKLY LITURGICAL SCHEDULE: 2018-2019

### Daily Mass

- Tuesday » 7:30 a.m.
- Wednesday » 8:30 a.m.
- Thursday » 7:30 a.m.
- Friday » 7:30 a.m.
- Saturday » 8:00 a.m. (*ad orientem*)
  - *Masses on the following Saturdays will be celebrated in the Extraordinary Form: September 1 and 8, October 6, November 3, December 1 and 8, January 5, February 2, March 2, April 6, May 5, June 1 and 8, July 6.*

### Lord's Day Mass

- Saturday » 5:00 p.m.
- Sunday » 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

### Holy Days of Obligation

- *All Saints*  
Thursday, November 1, 2018 » 7:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m., & 7:00 p.m.
- *The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary* \*  
Friday, December 7, 2018 » 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday December 8, 2018 » 8:00 a.m. (*Extraordinary Form – Latin Mass*)  
Saturday, December 8, 2018 » 10:00 a.m.

*\* In 2018, the faithful must attend Mass between 4 p.m. Friday, December 7, and midnight Saturday, December 8, for the Immaculate Conception, and another Mass between 4 p.m. Saturday, December 8, and midnight Sunday, December 9, for the Second Sunday of Advent. Attending one Mass Saturday evening December 8 does not satisfy both obligations.*

- *The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)*  
Monday, December 24, 2018 » 4:00 p.m. ~ *Vigil Mass*  
Monday, December 24, 2018 » 10:00 p.m. ~ *Mass During the Night*  
Tuesday, December 25, 2018 » 10:00 a.m. ~ *Mass During the Day*
- *Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God*  
Monday, December 31, 2018 » 4:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, January 1, 2019 » 10:00 a.m.
- *Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord (Easter)*  
Saturday, April 20, 2019 » 8:45 p.m. ~ *The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night*  
Sunday, April 21, 2019 » 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. ~ *Mass During the Day*

### **Eucharistic Adoration**

- Wednesday » 7:30 to 8:15
- Friday » 6:30 a.m. to 7:20 a.m. with Benediction (*church*)
- Friday » 8:15 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (*parish office chapel*)

### **Sacrament of Confession**

- Wednesday » 7:30 to 8:00 a.m.
- Thursday » 8:15 to 9:00 a.m.
- Friday » 6:45 a.m. to 7:15 a.m.
- Saturday » 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. & 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### **Penance Services**

- Advent Penance Service: Tuesday, December 11 » 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- Lenten Penance Service: Tuesday, April 2 » 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

*Liturgical schedule effective as of September 18, 2018.*

*Check the bulletin, website, and church signage for specific weekly changes.*

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: 2018

The liturgical, sacramental, evangelical, catechetical, and social aspects of Good Shepherd do not happen automatically. They require the efforts of our dedicated volunteers. And we have some great volunteers. Whether reading at Mass or planning a parish picnic, singing in the choir or hosting a funeral luncheon, praying with the homebound or cleaning the church, our parishioners make life at Good Shepherd happen.

Below are several ways that you and your family can contribute. Training will be provided as necessary. Frequency of service depends on the activity and the number of volunteers. If you have questions about any of this, please contact the parish office. After reviewing this document, please have each member of your family complete a Volunteer Registration Form.

*All volunteers who have regular or unsupervised interaction with minors or vulnerable adults must complete a Volunteer Application Form prior to beginning volunteer responsibilities. These volunteers must also complete the Archdiocesan Essential Three (background check, code of conduct, and VIRTUS training). We will notify you of these requirements, should they apply.*

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### FAITH FORMATION

**Sunday School Assist** during Sunday School, held during 10:30 a.m. Masses in September through May. This requires helping the coordinator with preparations, setting up the classroom for the day's session, and leading the children (ages 3 and 4) through a series of prayers and activities. This ministry is open to all parishioners who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**Vacation Bible School Help** plan and host the annual Vacation Bible School (VBS), generally held during the third week of June. This requires helping the VBS Coordinator select and order the year's curriculum, arrange for the necessary materials, promote the event, set up classrooms, watch and lead the children during VBS, and clean up after the event. This ministry is open to all parishioners who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Younger helpers are welcome.

**Youth Group Volunteer Help** plan and host youth group events throughout the year. The Good Shepherd Youth Group encourages teens to grow in holiness and relationship with Jesus Christ. Plus, they have fun together and carry out some good works. Adult volunteers will help plan, coordinate, and chaperone various events and activities for parish youth in grades 7 through 12. This ministry is open to all adult parishioners ages 25 and up who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

## LITURGY

**Altar Server (*weekday*)** Assist at the altar during weekday Masses on a rotating basis. Duties include helping set up for the Mass, assisting at the altar during Mass, and helping clean up after Mass. This ministry is open to all parishioners from 5th grade and up, including adults. If students elect to serve in this way, we will coordinate with the school.

**Altar Server (*weekend*)** Assist at the altar during weekend Masses on a rotating basis. Duties include helping set up for the Mass, assisting at the altar during Mass, and helping clean up after Mass. This ministry is open to all parishioners from 5th grade and up.

**Extraordinary Form Altar Server** Assist at the altar during the Extraordinary Form Mass on First Saturdays. Duties include helping set up for the Mass, assisting at the altar during Mass, and helping clean up after Mass. Serving in the Extraordinary Form requires learning to respond to the Mass parts in Latin. This ministry is open to male parishioners from 5th grade and up.

**Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion** Distribute Holy Communion during weekend Masses, weekday Masses, and Masses on Holy Days of Obligation. In order to serve as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EMHC), a person must be a fully initiated (Baptism, Eucharist, Confirmation) and practicing Catholic. If married, EMHC must be in marriages recognized by the Church (either married in the Catholic Church, or, if married outside the Church, in a marriage subsequently convalidated by the Catholic Church). EMHC should also have a deep and obvious love for the Blessed Sacrament, and should be known in the community as committed to the Church's understanding of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Any person who dissents in matters of faith and morals should respectfully refrain from serving as an EMHC. This ministry is open to all qualified parishioners ages 16 and up.

**Lector (*weekday*)** Proclaim the Word of God during weekday Masses. Duties include confirming readings with the priest and proclaiming the reading(s) and responsorial psalm. This ministry is open to all parishioners from 5th grade and up. If students elect to serve in this way, we will coordinate with the school.

**Lector (*weekend*)** Proclaim the Word of God during weekend Masses. Duties include confirming the readings with the priest and proclaiming the readings and petitions. This ministry is open to all parishioners from 5th grade and up.

**Sacristan (*weekend*)** Help set up for, and clean up after, Mass. Duties include assisting the priest and altar servers with Mass preparations and cleaning up after Mass. This ministry is open to all parishioners who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Younger helpers are welcome.

**Usher (*weekend*)** Greet, seat, and assist worshipers during weekend Masses. Duties include distributing bulletins and worship aids; assisting those who require help finding seating, restrooms, the cry room, and the like; arranging for families to bring forward the gifts during Mass; conducting a head count during the homily; and taking up the collection. You will be able to specify which Mass times you prefer. This ministry is open to all parishioners who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Younger helpers are welcome.

## MUSIC

**Adult Choir** Sing in the adult choir during weekend Masses and Holy Days of Obligation. Duties include attending weekly rehearsals and singing at Mass during the choir season. The adult choir generally sings at three 10:30 a.m. Masses per month from September through May. Additionally, the adult choir generally sings for Holy Days of Obligation, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Solemn Vespers on Good Shepherd Sunday. The choir sings a diverse spectrum of choral music, including chant; Renaissance polyphony; cantata and oratorio repertoire by such composers as Bach, Vivaldi, Handel, and Mendelssohn; and good deal of varied styles such as the Italian, French, Russian, and German traditions, Latvian contemporary music, and English Cathedral repertoire. Those who wish to sing in the adult choir must display willingness to commit to scheduled rehearsals and Masses, ability to match pitch, and ability to carry a tune. An advanced knowledge of music is not required. This ministry is open to all parishioners from 9th grade and up.

**Bell Choir** Play in the bell choir during weekend Masses. Duties include attending weekly rehearsals and playing for Mass during the choir season, between September and May. The bell choir generally plays at one 5:00 p.m. Mass per month. The bell choir plays some solo repertoire and also enriches the congregational singing with ornamental bell parts. This ministry is open to all parishioners from 5th grade and up.

**Cantor** Lead the congregation in song during weekend Masses. Duties include practicing with the Organist & Choirmaster, introducing the Mass of the day, leading congregational singing, and leading the responsorial psalm. Service as a cantor is dependent upon a satisfactory audition with the Organist & Choirmaster. This ministry is open to all parishioners from 5th grade and up.

**Youth Choir** Sing in the youth choir during weekend Masses. Duties include attending weekly rehearsals and singing for one weekend Mass per month during the school year. Those who participate in the youth choir learn the musical tradition of the universal Church, and they are enthusiastic about it. By singing in a choir, young people can develop a sense of professionalism and pride in what they do. This will have a positive impact on their religious education and understanding of the liturgy. This ministry is open to all parishioners in 4th through 8th grade.



## CHURCH UPKEEP

**Altar Linen Laundering** Duties include laundering and pressing the altar cloths, corporals, and purificators according to the proper procedures. This is a service that is completed at home and includes transporting the linens from and to the sacristy. This ministry is open to all parishioners who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**Altar Robe Laundering** Duties include laundering and pressing the altar server albs on a rotating basis and mending the albs as needed. This is a service that is completed at home and includes transporting the albs from and to the altar server room. This ministry is open to all parishioners who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**Church Cleaning** Duties include helping clean and prepare the church and sacristy in anticipation of the weekend Masses. Cleaning generally happens on Friday mornings after daily Mass. Duties include sweeping the floor, polishing pews, straightening pew inserts and hymnals, changing out flowers, replacing altar linens, replacing candles, replenishing holy water fonts, swapping out bulletins and other handouts, and tidying up the sacristy. This ministry is open to all parishioners from 5th grade and up. Younger helpers are welcome.

**Grounds Crew** Duties include attending to Good Shepherd's grounds as directed by the head of maintenance. Some of the duties, such as watering flowers, will be completed on a regular basis. Other duties, such as branch pickup and spreading mulch, will be scheduled by season. Signing up for this ministry will put you on a distribution list that will be alerted when particular needs arise. This ministry is open to all parishioners who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Younger helpers are welcome.

**Handy Helpers** Duties include attending to various projects around the physical plant as directed by the head of maintenance. These projects will be scheduled as needed. Examples of projects include washing windows, fixing leaky sinks, replacing door stoppers, and helping with minor renovations. Signing up for this ministry will put you on a distribution list that will be alerted when particular needs arise. This ministry is open to all parishioners who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Younger helpers are welcome.

**Vigil Lights** Duties include swapping used vigil candles with new vigil candles before weekday and weekend Masses. This ministry is open to all parishioners who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Younger helpers are welcome.

**Weekend Lights & Locks** Assist with shutting down the church on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings. This requires staying 30 minutes after the Saturday 5:00 p.m. Mass or the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass in order to lock and secure doors and to turn out lights in the church, gathering space, restrooms, kitchen, and social hall. This ministry is open to all parishioners who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Younger helpers are welcome.

## HOSPITALITY

**Bake Sales** Help plan and host the annual spring and winter bake sales. This requires working with the bake sale coordinators to plan and host the annual events. Duties include arranging for donations, preparing announcements and invitations, setting up for the event, assisting during the event, and cleaning up after the event. This ministry is open to all parishioners who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Younger helpers are welcome.

**Funeral Lunch Food** Donate food for funeral luncheons. This requires preparing and delivering a food item for funeral luncheons. Signing up for this ministry will put you on a distribution list that will be alerted when a funeral luncheon is scheduled. This ministry is open to all parishioners who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**Funeral Lunch Hosting** Help set up for, serve food during, and clean up after funeral luncheons. Duties include setting up the social hall for the luncheon, preparing food for the luncheon, assisting during the luncheon, and cleaning up the social hall and kitchen afterward. Frequency of service is dependent upon the total number of volunteers. Volunteers can help with some or all of the duties, depending on availability. This ministry is open to all parishioners who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Younger helpers are welcome.

**Hospitality Crew** Help prepare and host events at Good Shepherd. Duties include purchasing (with reimbursement), delivering, and preparing food; helping prepare announcements and invitations; setting up the social hall; assisting during the event; and cleaning up afterward. This ministry is open to all parishioners who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Younger helpers are welcome. You will not be expected to help at all events. Current events include:

- » Adult Formation Sessions
- » All Council Nights
- » Baptism Brunch
- » Confirmation Brunch
- » Donut Sundays
- » First Fridays
- » Good Shepherd Sunday
- » NET Nights
- » Turkey Bingo

**Parish Picnic** Work with the Parish Picnic Committee to plan and host the annual parish picnic, which is held in September. Duties include securing reservations with the picnic location and caterer(s), helping prepare announcements and invitations, arranging the potluck details, setting up for the picnic and games, and cleaning up after the event. This ministry is open to all parishioners who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Younger helpers are welcome.

**Santa's Breakfast & Workshop** Work with the Santa's Workshop Committee to plan and host the annual event, which is held in December. Duties include securing items for the children's gift store, working with vendors, helping prepare announcements and invitations, arranging and preparing food for the breakfast, setting up for the event, assisting during the event, and cleaning up after the event. This ministry is open to all parishioners who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Younger helpers are welcome.

**Welcome Table** Host a welcome table after one of the weekend Masses. There you will converse with guests and visitors, helping them to the best of your ability; provide registration materials for interested parties; and document questions and requests that can be addressed by the parish or school staff later in the week. This ministry is open to all parishioners who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Younger helpers are welcome.

## OUTREACH

**Befriender Ministry** Visit parishioners who are living in their own homes, in nursing homes, and in assisted care facilities. Befrienders offer spiritual and emotional support to our homebound parishioners and other Catholics living in the area. It is preferable that our Befrienders are also Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion so that they can bring Holy Communion to the people they visit. This ministry is open to all adult parishioners ages 25 and up who have received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Younger helpers are welcome.

**Dinner at Your Door** Deliver noon-time meals to resident in Saint Louis Park. This ministry requires picking up and delivering food to those in need. Frequency of service is about three times per year. This ministry is open to all adult parishioners ages 25 and up. Younger helpers are welcome.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** Meet monthly to pray and knit prayer shawls. Prayer shawls are a physical sign of the caring community of Good Shepherd. They represent the prayers of our parish for those who receive them. All levels of knitters and crocheters are welcome. This ministry is open to all parishioners.

**PRISM Food & Supply Drives** Help provide necessities to those in need. PRISM stands for People Responding in Social Ministry. It is a local organization that works to respond to the basic needs of individuals and families who are struggling to make ends meet. They meet the basic needs of food, clothing, and housing for 5,000 low-income children, adults, and seniors each year. This ministry requires helping plan and organize food and supply drives for PRISM, bring collections to the PRISM location, and support the organization's work in other ways. This ministry is open to all parishioners.

**Respect Life Committee** Help support the cause of life. The Respect Life Committee sponsors a variety of activities and resources meant to protect and uphold all human life from conception to natural death. This ministry is open to all parishioners.

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## OTHER

Have an idea for another way that you might contribute to the life of the parish? We encourage you to volunteer in a way that brings you life as well. Perhaps your favorite hobby, line of work, or the like could be helpful to our parish. We're open. Please let us know.



**VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM: 2018-2019**

Please have each member of the family complete a separate form.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Last First Middle*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Street Address*

\_\_\_\_\_ *City State Zip*

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(use parent phone for minors)*

Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(use parent e-mail for minors)*

PLEASE CIRCLE ALL OF THE WAYS YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER.

**LITURGY**

- Altar Server (weekday)
- Altar Server (weekend)
- Extraordinary Form Altar Server
- Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion
- Lector (weekday)
- Lector (weekend)
- Penance Service Volunteer
- Sacristan (weekend)
- Usher (weekend)

**CHURCH UPKEEP**

- Altar Linen Laundering
- Altar Robe Laundering
- Church Cleaning
- Grounds Crew
- Handy Helpers
- Vigil Lights
- Weekend Lights & Locks

**MUSIC**

- Adult Choir
- Bell Choir
- Cantor
- Youth Choir

*more on other side*

## HOSPITALITY

Bake Sales  
Funeral Lunch Food  
Funeral Lunch Hosting  
Hospitality Crew  
Parish Picnic  
Santa's Breakfast & Workshop  
Welcome Table

## FAITH FORMATION

Adult Formation Sessions  
Children's Liturgy of the Word  
Confirmation Small Group Leader  
Sunday School  
Vacation Bible School  
Youth Group Volunteer

## OUTREACH

Befriender Ministry  
Dinner at Your Door  
Prayer Shawl Ministry  
PRISM Food & Supply Drives  
Respect Life Committee

## OTHER

Have an idea for another way that you might contribute to the life of the parish? We encourage you to volunteer in a way that brings you life as well. Perhaps your favorite hobby, line of work, or the like could be helpful to our parish. We're open. Please describe it below.

**PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE PARISH OFFICE  
OR DROP IT IN THE COLLECTION ON SUNDAY.**

## ON TITHING FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SAINT LOUIS

**What is tithing?** Tithing is the practice, established by God in the Old Testament, of returning 10% of your blessings to God. Originally, the tithe was given to the temple or the Church in the form of produce or livestock, since this really was the only income that the people had. As our society shifted from a barter-based system of trade to a monetary exchange system, the tithe began to be paid in currency. Whether one gave monetary income or profit from the fields was really not as important as it was for the believer to understand that the tithe was what was owed to God. The tithe was not given based on the needs of the priests, of the Church, or of the poor. It was given simply in recognition and gratitude for the blessings that God had bestowed on the individual. Thus, every believer had a need to tithe to God.

*“The tithes of the herd and the flock shall be determined by ceding to the Lord as sacred every tenth animal as they are counted by the herdsman’s rod.” ~ Leviticus 27:32*

**Why don’t we read about the tithe in the New Testament?** Jesus actually called his followers to a standard of giving that went far beyond the tithe. He called us to give up **everything** and follow Him. The early Christians were able to do this. However, as the Church expanded throughout the world its followers needed to be reminded that generous giving is a hallmark of the Judeo-Christian tradition. The Church Council of Macon in 585 A.D. ordered payment of tithes. In the 8th century, Charlemagne made tithing to the Church a civil law. The Council of Trent (1545-1563) also reiterated the call to tithe.

*“Tell the rich in the present age not to be proud and not to rely on so uncertain a thing as wealth but rather on God, who richly provides us with all things for our enjoyment. Tell them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous, ready to share, thus accumulating as treasure a good foundation for the future, so as to win the life that is true life.” ~ 1 Timothy 6:17-19*

**Is tithing still necessary in the Catholic Church today?** Tithing is absolutely still necessary in the Catholic Church today. When God introduced the concept of the tithe in the Old Testament He told the Israelites this contribution was necessary from them to support the work of the Levites and the poor in the community. Today our Church still needs our support to pay the expenses and financial obligations it incurs as it operates in a commercial society. Salaries, benefits, insurance, maintenance, utilities and service fees are all expenses that never even existed when Our Lord first decreed that each of us was to give back a percentage of what we have. Additionally, we are still called to care for the poor among us.

*“Each year you shall tithe all the produce that grows in the field you have sown...so that the Levite who has no share in the heritage with you and also the alien, the orphan and the widow who belong to your community, may come and eat their fill so that the Lord your God may bless you in all that you undertake.” ~ Deuteronomy 14:22, 29*

**Why does the Church often refer to tithing as “giving back?”** Throughout sacred scripture God tells us that everything belongs to God. He made the world and all that is in it. He made us and blessed us with absolutely every gift we have. Our lives, our families, our health, our education, our unique talents and skills, our job and our income are all blessings from God, entrusted into our care for the good of all peoples. Thus, when we tithe we are really only giving back 10% of something that ultimately belongs to God anyway. The amazing thing is that our God is a generous and abundant God who lets us keep and enjoy 90% of all His blessings.

*“The Lord’s are the earth and its fullness: the world and those who dwell in it.” ~ Psalm 24:1*

**Why can’t my parish just ask for my support when it has special needs?** Many parishes do function in this way. Inevitably this leads to endless fundraising activities and still there is more that every parish needs and wants to do. There is never an end to the ministry that a parish could do, if it had the funds. Parishes that have successfully paid their own bills and maintained their own property can reach out to other communities in need and offer their assistance. However, without a constant flow of income through tithes given freely in the Offertory a parish must appeal for funding for every activity or ministry it wishes to undertake. Parishioners get tired of the constant talk about money and the demands on their time that this kind of approach takes. Our Lord warned about this kind of fundraising approach and yelled, *“Stop turning my Father’s house into a marketplace.”* Yet this is often what we have done when we resort to constant sales and fundraising activities rather than simply asking parishioners to bring their tithe to God’s altar first.

*“He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables and to those who sold doves he said, ‘Take these out of here and stop making my Father’s house a marketplace.’” ~ John 2:15-16*

**Is anyone exempt from the tithe?** Our Lord exempted no one from giving. In the story of the “Widow’s Mite” it is important to note that He did not reach into the Offering box and give the widow back her two small coins. When He multiplied the Loaves and Fishes He asked for all the food that anyone had. Even the Levites or priests of the Old Testament were not exempt from the tithe. Today, although many parishioners are unaware of it, priests are still usually most generous in giving back a percentage of their own small salaries to the parishes in which they serve.

*“Give the Levites these instructions: When you receive from the Israelites the tithe I have assigned you from them as your heritage, you are to make a contribution from them to the Lord, a tithe of the tithes ...” ~ Numbers 18:26*

**Tithing is such a great sacrifice? Are there any real benefits?** In addition to the fact that you are following God’s will and providing your Church with the resources it needs to carry out the work of Jesus Christ here on earth, those who embrace tithing report that this approach has numerous benefits. The satisfaction that comes from gratefully sharing your blessings is tremendous.

- » When you take a hard look at your spending and plan to make God first in your budget you quickly begin to realize the difference between what you need and what you want.
- » You begin to eliminate the endless clutter of material wants from your life and start to more fully appreciate the many blessings that you already have.
- » You realize that commercialism works to convince us that we never have enough of the right things, even though God has already blessed you with all that you need.
- » You stop being “possessed by your possessions” and begin to slow down and prioritize not only how you spend your money but also how you spend your time.

- » Once you stop trying to satisfy yourself with material possessions and spending, you may even find that you enjoy simple pleasures more fully – especially time to deepen your relationships with God, with loved ones and with your community.

Ultimately, those who tithe often feel that the practice brings more joy, more peace, more contentment and more balance to their lives.

*“Give and gifts will be given to you; a good measure, packed together, shaken down, and overflowing, will be poured into your lap. For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you.”*  
~ Luke 6:38

### **When I decide to work towards a tithe, should I be calculating it based on my gross or net income?**

When striving to give a full tithe, you should calculate the amount you give back to God based on your gross income. The reason for this is that stewardship calls us to give back to God first, before we take care of any of our own wants, needs or obligations – including our obligation to our government. After all, God should come before Uncle Sam, shouldn't He? By placing God first – above all other financial obligations – we show how much we love and trust Him. Some people may never be able to reach a full tithe. Others reach that goal and keep giving, knowing that in reality it all belongs to God.

*“Honor the Lord with your wealth, with first fruits of all your produce; then will your barns be filled with grain, with new wine your vats will overflow.”* ~ Proverbs 3:9-10

**With our current financial obligations, I don't know how it would be possible for us to convert to giving away a full 10%. Are there any other options?** Even if giving a full tithe is not immediately possible for you, it is important to work towards this goal. You can begin by committing to giving a gift that is planned, proportionate and sacrificial. Most Catholics do not even know how much they give back. When they take the time to calculate that amount they are often surprised and discomforted. We often think we are very generous yet despite the strong urging throughout sacred scripture to give back 10% the average Catholic today gives less than 1%.

The first step in working towards a tithe is to determine what percentage you are currently giving back. Then see if you can increase that percentage by at least ½ percent. If you increase your giving every year by at least ½ percent or more, you will eventually reach a full tithe. A full tithe is 10%. It is usually suggested that you give 5% to your parish and 5% combined to any other charities that touch your heart.

Of course, it might be necessary to eliminate something from your family or personal budget in order to increase your giving every year. Eliminating discretionary monthly expenses – such as a phone or cable packages, memberships, entertainment, subscriptions, etc. – is often a good place to start. Sometimes input from the entire family might be helpful in finding a way that you can tighten the budget so that more can be given upfront to God. A legalistic approach to a certain percentage really isn't as important as developing an overall grateful and generous way of life. Many who begin on this type of stewardship journey eventually find that they feel called to increase their giving even beyond the 10% level.

*“Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more.”* ~ Luke 12:48



**Is it really such a horrible thing if I decide not to work towards giving a full tithe back to God?** Although the Church and the world it serves may suffer when Christians decide to take care of their own needs and wants before giving back to God, ultimately what will suffer most will be your relationship with your God. It is God who asks for the tithe. It is God who blessed you with gifts to share. It is God who will one day ask for an accounting of how well you shared your gifts with others.

*“Dare a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me! And you say, ‘How do we rob you?’ In tithes and offerings! You are indeed accursed, for you, the whole nation, rob me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house and try me in this way, says the Lord of hosts; Shall I not open for you the floodgates of heaven to pour down blessings upon you without measure?” ~ Malachi 3:8-10*

**Tithing is such a huge step. How can I find the courage to commit to this way of life?** Tithing truly does take great faith. Simply place your trust in God. If you wait until you feel that you are financially comfortable you will never take the step. The commercialism of our society works to convince us that we never have enough. No matter how much we have, there is always something else we will want. If you are ever going to tithe, you will have to step back from your endless list of wants and believe that our generous and abundant God will always provide you with all that you need and even with enough to give back a generous share.

*“He who did not spare his own Son but handed him over for us all, how will he not also give us everything else along with him?” ~ Romans 8:32*

**Is there a simple way to know if I am truly tithing, without doing all the math?** Here is an easy formula for determining your tithe to your parish:

- Take your pre-tax income.
- Round it to the nearest thousand.
- Then take off the last three zeros. For example, a person making \$40,000 annually would take off the last three zeros and be left with \$40.
- This is the amount you should be giving every week, if you are giving 5% back to God through your parish.
- You would also want to be giving the same amount – the other 5% – to other charities that are important to you, such as schools, hospitals, social service agencies, missions, religious orders, etc.

If you're not sure the formula works check the math. 5% of \$40,000 is \$2,000. Divide by 50 weeks. (Easier and quicker than 52 weeks.) You would give \$40 a week.

You can also check on your tithing level every year as you complete your income tax. It's easy to calculate. Divide your total charitable contributions for the last year by your gross income for that year. Move the decimal point over two places and that is your percent of giving. So if your answer is .0346, you are returning 3.5% of your income to God. If you are not happy with the number, plan ways to increase your giving.

*“Then he said to the crowd, ‘Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions.’” ~ Luke 12:15*

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## ELECTRONIC GIVING

Good Shepherd offers two electronic giving options that may be convenient for you – automated giving using your checking or savings account (we’ll call this **automated giving**) and online giving using your credit or debit card (we’ll call this **online giving**). You may already use electronic giving for payment of your recurring bills. We’re asking you to consider using it for your regular contributions to Good Shepherd.

With electronic giving, your contributions are automatically deposited to the parish account on a regular schedule. This is helpful for many reasons: it eliminates frequent check writing, saving you time and effort; it reduces the volume of check and cash contributions that must be manually processed in the church office, saving our staff and volunteers time and effort and eliminating opportunities for error; it eliminates the cost of postage for those who typically mail in their checks; and it ensures your contribution makes it to us even if you can’t. Plus, it helps you to make an intentional decision about consistent giving.

### **AUTOMATED GIVING (CHECKING OR SAVINGS)**

With automated giving, you can choose to make payments semi-monthly (on the 2nd and 16th of each month) or monthly (on either the 2nd or the 16th of each month). Your contributions can be withdrawn from any financial institution and will appear on your monthly bank statement as automatic withdrawals (listed with the regular checks you write).

Automated giving must be initiated with a paper form because your signature is required. The form is available in this packet (*Authorization for Automated Giving Using Your Checking or Savings Account*). Additionally, you may call the parish office (763.544.0416) to request a form.

### **ONLINE GIVING (CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD)**

With online giving, you can use your credit or debit card to make one-time or recurring (weekly or monthly) payments on whatever date(s) you choose. To access online giving, click the green “Give Online” button on the Good Shepherd website ([www.goodshepherdgv.org](http://www.goodshepherdgv.org)). That will direct you to the Vanco giving portal, where you can create your profile and set up your payment preferences. Vanco is the company that manages online giving.

Please note that when you donate using your credit or debit card, Good Shepherd is responsible for the processing fees. These fees reduce the total amount of your donation by about three percent (3%). If you elect to give in this way, please consider increasing your donation by three percent so that we will receive the amount you desire to give. So, if you were choosing to give \$100 per month, you could make it \$103. You don’t need to do this, of course, but every little bit helps. Alternatively, you could use automated giving (above) and bypass this fee altogether.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### *What are the advantages of electronic giving?*

It saves time, saves work, eliminates postage, and simplifies your giving. You also help the parish stabilize its budget and reduce the time spent on bookkeeping.

### *Will electronic giving also cover the special collections throughout the year?*

No. Electronic giving is designed only to provide for your regular parish support. That is one reason you will still receive an envelope packet. For special collections, you should use the envelopes provided in your packet to make a contribution by check or cash.

### *If I do not write checks, how do I keep my balance straight?*

Since your contribution is made at an established time, you simply record it in your check register on the appropriate date. Automated giving contributions will show up on your bank statement as automatic withdrawals. Online giving contributions will show up on your credit or debit card statements.

### *Without a canceled check, how can I prove I made my contribution?*

We will send out regular statements. Also, each transaction will show up on your own bank or credit card statements.

### *What if I change banks or close a credit card?*

Your automated giving authorization will expire with the closing of your old account. For automated giving, you would need to submit a new authorization form for your new bank to the parish office. For online giving, you would need to update your account profile.

### *How much does it cost to use electronic giving?*

Automated giving using your checking or savings account is free to use. Online giving is also free to use, but it does cost the parish about 3% in processing fees.

### *What if I try electronic giving and do not like it?*

You can cancel your authorization for automated giving by notifying the parish office in writing. You might also want to contact your bank directly, but please make sure to inform the parish first, so that we do not continue attempting to make the transfer. You can cancel your online giving in the Vanco giving portal.

### *What if I want to change the amount of my contribution?*

You may submit a new authorization form to change the amount or schedule of your automated giving contributions at any time. With online giving, you can make the changes yourself.

## BREAKING DOWN YOUR ANNUAL GIVING

The charts below are meant to help you determine how much to give each month or week based on your annual income. They will be useful when setting up your automated or online giving. We encourage you to determine the percentage of your annual income that you are able to give this year, and then to grow that by 0.5% to 1% per year until you are able to give a full tithe of 10% or more. For more information on tithing, please see the document titled *On Tithing: From the Archdiocese of Saint Louis*.

MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION BY PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME										
Annual Income	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%	10%
\$30,000	\$25	\$50	\$75	\$100	\$125	\$150	\$175	\$200	\$225	\$250
\$40,000	\$33	\$67	\$100	\$133	\$167	\$200	\$233	\$267	\$300	\$333
\$50,000	\$42	\$83	\$125	\$167	\$208	\$250	\$292	\$333	\$375	\$417
\$60,000	\$50	\$100	\$150	\$200	\$250	\$300	\$350	\$400	\$450	\$500
\$70,000	\$58	\$117	\$175	\$233	\$292	\$350	\$408	\$467	\$525	\$583
\$80,000	\$67	\$133	\$200	\$267	\$333	\$400	\$467	\$533	\$600	\$667
\$90,000	\$75	\$150	\$225	\$300	\$375	\$450	\$525	\$600	\$675	\$750
\$100,000	\$83	\$167	\$250	\$333	\$417	\$500	\$583	\$667	\$750	\$833
\$110,000	\$92	\$183	\$275	\$367	\$458	\$550	\$642	\$733	\$825	\$917
\$120,000	\$100	\$200	\$300	\$400	\$500	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$900	\$1,000
\$130,000	\$108	\$217	\$325	\$433	\$542	\$650	\$758	\$867	\$975	\$1,083
\$140,000	\$117	\$233	\$350	\$467	\$583	\$700	\$817	\$933	\$1,050	\$1,167
\$150,000	\$125	\$250	\$375	\$500	\$625	\$750	\$875	\$1,000	\$1,125	\$1,250

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTION BY PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL ANNUAL INCOME										
Annual Income	1%	2%	3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%	10%
\$30,000	\$6	\$12	\$17	\$23	\$29	\$35	\$40	\$46	\$52	\$58
\$40,000	\$8	\$15	\$23	\$31	\$38	\$46	\$54	\$62	\$69	\$77
\$50,000	\$10	\$19	\$29	\$38	\$48	\$58	\$67	\$77	\$87	\$96
\$60,000	\$12	\$23	\$35	\$46	\$58	\$69	\$81	\$92	\$104	\$115
\$70,000	\$13	\$27	\$40	\$54	\$67	\$81	\$94	\$108	\$121	\$135
\$80,000	\$15	\$31	\$46	\$62	\$77	\$92	\$108	\$123	\$138	\$154
\$90,000	\$17	\$35	\$52	\$69	\$87	\$104	\$121	\$138	\$156	\$173
\$100,000	\$19	\$38	\$58	\$77	\$96	\$115	\$135	\$154	\$173	\$192
\$110,000	\$21	\$42	\$63	\$85	\$106	\$127	\$148	\$169	\$190	\$212
\$120,000	\$23	\$46	\$69	\$92	\$115	\$138	\$162	\$185	\$208	\$231
\$130,000	\$25	\$50	\$75	\$100	\$125	\$150	\$175	\$200	\$225	\$250
\$140,000	\$27	\$54	\$81	\$108	\$135	\$162	\$188	\$215	\$242	\$269
\$150,000	\$29	\$58	\$87	\$115	\$144	\$173	\$202	\$231	\$260	\$288

**AUTHORIZATION FOR AUTOMATED GIVING  
USING YOUR CHECKING OR SAVINGS ACCOUNT**

**ACCOUNT INFORMATION**

I authorize Good Shepherd Catholic Church to initiate entries to debit my account:


Checking Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

*OR*

Savings Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Financial Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Financial Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Financial Institution Routing Number (between these symbols  on the bottom of your check):

\_\_\_\_\_

**CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION**

Please select one of the following options for your electronic gift.

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly on the 2nd of each month

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Monthly on the 16th of each month

Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Semi-monthly on the 2nd & 16th of each month

**AUTHORIZATION**

This authority is to remain in full force and effect until Good Shepherd has received written notification from me of its termination in such time and manner as to afford Good Shepherd a reasonable opportunity to act on it. I have attached a voided check or savings deposit slip.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**SUBMITTING THE FORM**

Return this slip with voided check or savings deposit slip to:

Business Administrator  
Good Shepherd Church  
145 Jersey Avenue S  
Golden Valley, MN 55426