



October 27, 2022

Dearest Assumption Parishioners,

Short Version: Every year in October, I ask you to renew your financial pledges to the parish. This year, I am hoping we can all make *discipleship pledges*, of which finances are a part.

Long Version:

Why do we do good and avoid evil? Is it because God's love is conditional, and we must earn his love by being well-behaved? Or it is because his love is unconditional, and the only way we know how to respond to that infinite love is to act lovingly in return? The answer is obviously the second option, but it is so easy for us to functionally act like it is the first. Good moral choices feel like house rules handed down by a parent more than they feel like the loving devotion we might return to a spouse.

Parish tithing is much the same. Do we give to the parish because we feel like we have to, like it is an obligation, like a box to be checked out of duty? Or do we do so because we are blessed by God, and one of the most important ways to give thanks for our material blessings is to deliberately give a portion of those blessings away to others?

In order to place tithing in its proper context, it is my hope going forward to tie tithing to an overall *commitment to discipleship*. Just as it is important to give of our treasure *deliberately* – not just on a whim when we feel like it – it is even more important to commit our lives to Jesus *deliberately*, not just trusting the winds of a chaotic life to carry us where we need to go.

To that end, I am providing an Annual Discipleship Commitment along with our Stewardship of Treasure materials, so that just as you can pick a concrete dollar amount to give away this year, you can also choose a concrete pillar of discipleship to work on this year. Of course, tithing remains necessary – the buildings always need maintenance, and the staff requires a salary – but it is just one of the many important ways in which we respond to the self-sacrificial love of Jesus, and I am hoping this new practice emphasizes that appropriately.

The tithing worksheet should look familiar from previous years (the worksheet is yours to keep), but how does one use the Discipleship Commitment? My recommendation is to go through the bullet points in order from top to bottom until you reach a bullet point that you could improve on. Then highlight that line and commit to working on it over the next year. The commitment sheet is for you to keep, too, maybe on your refrigerator right next to the tithing worksheet. ;-)

To make your Stewardship of Treasure pledge for 2023, you can click [here](#). Or pick up a pledge card in the church and return your completed card in the collection basket or at the parish office. Thank you!

Blessings in the Lord,

Fr. Moore

Annual Discipleship Commitment

Assumption Parish, Bellingham, WA

I,

(Name)

in response to my baptismal calling and together with my fellow parishioners, choose to follow Jesus Christ and grow in holiness this year by committing myself to working on one or all of the following:

ENCOUNTER JESUS CHRIST AND ONE ANOTHER

- Attend Mass every weekend, unless prevented by sickness or travel.
- Engage in sacramental confession at least twice a year.
- Pray daily, with a goal of at least 15 minutes daily.
- Grow in faith through study, learning from at least one new source each year, for example a Christian book, parish class, FORMED program, etc.

ACCOMPANY EACH OTHER, AS ONE HUMAN FAMILY, ON THE JOURNEY OF DISCIPLESHIP

- Share with other people about my and their relationships with the Lord at least bi-weekly, be that my family, a small group, or another supportive community.
- Help shoulder the spiritual, emotional, and/or material needs of at least one fellow parishioner each year, either on my own initiative or through a parish pastoral care ministry.
- Look after the needs of my parish, by contributing each week at least one hour of time (through service to the parish) or one hour of money (at my hourly income rate).

LIVE THE UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AND JOY OF THE GOSPEL

At least once a year:

- Talk to at least one new person about Jesus.
- Practice the corporal and spiritual works of mercy as an opportunity to unite my heart to those who are struggling, either on my own initiative or through a parish outreach ministry.
- Model the self-sacrificial example of Jesus by giving of myself in a way that will not be rewarded.

CORE VALUES

In carrying this out, I also pledge to remain true to the four core values of the parish and Archdiocese, namely:

- Faith in Action – I will not only receive the infinite love of God, but also share it with others.
- Hope in Resurrection – I will choose to remain confident that Jesus always wins the victory.
- Truth in Love – I will profess the fullness of the Catholic faith in a life-giving way.
- Unity in Diversity – I will celebrate how our differences enrich our foundational communion.

Signature:

Stewardship of Treasure

Yearly Planning Guide



Assumption Parish provides this guide to help plan your yearly giving.

"Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing."

Malachi 3:10

GOOD STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE PRACTICES:

- **Planned**
A decision requiring thought & time so as not to give what is merely left at the end of a week.
- **Proportionate**
Our giving is proportionate to what God has given to us. We give in proportion to the gifts we have received.
- **Sacrificial**
We give back from our substance, rather than our abundance.
- **Grateful**
Acknowledging that God is the source of all our gifts, we freely, without reservation or condition, give back to Him by sharing these gifts.

ONLINE GIVING

At Assumption we provide online giving for your convenience. Visit our website at www.assumption.org and look for the Online Giving Button.



See other side for planning worksheet...

Stewardship of Treasure Planning Guide for 2023

STEP 1: Determine Yearly Income

My Income	=	\$ _____
Spouse Income	=	\$ _____
Other Income	=	\$ _____
TOTAL INCOME	=	\$ _____

STEP 2: Determine % of Income to Give

I plan on giving:

2.5% 5% 10%

OR

Other_%

STEP 3: Calculate Annual Dollar Amount to Give

Multiply Total Yearly Income from (STEP 1) \$ _____ **X** Percentage to Give from (STEP 2) _____%

= TOTAL YEARLY GIVING AMOUNT \$ _____

STEP 4: Determine Dollar Amount for Each Giving Opportunity

Yearly Gift

Church Offertory (amount that goes directly for support of your Parish)

Weekly	\$ _____	X 52 Weeks	=		\$ _____
				OR	OR
Monthly	\$ _____	X 12 Months	=		\$ _____

Annual Catholic Appeal

(amount that goes directly to support the ministries and services of The Archdiocese) \$ _____

Outreach envelope (Hope House, Shoulder to Shoulder, Interfaith Coalition, etc.) \$ _____

Assumption Catholic School \$ _____

Special/National Collections

- NW Catholic** January (supports Archdiocesan Magazine) \$ _____
- Prepares** February (supports families with young children) \$ _____
- Catholic Home Missions** February (supports Mission Dioceses in US) \$ _____
- CRS Rice Bowl** Lent (75% goes to CRS/25% stays in W. Washington) \$ _____
- Catholic Relief Services** March (CRS and 5 other Church agencies serving the poor worldwide) \$ _____
- Peter's Pence** June (Supports the Charitable works of the Holy Father) \$ _____
- Specific Mission Presentation** August (a specific mission society is selected) \$ _____
- Catholic Campaign for Human Development** September (addresses poverty in US) \$ _____
- World Mission Sunday** October (supports Mission Churches worldwide) \$ _____
- Priest Pension Fund** October (supports retired Archdiocesan priests) \$ _____
- Catholic Community Services** December (serves the poor in W. Washington) \$ _____
- Disaster Relief/Other** (Hurricane/Flood/Fire) \$ _____

Personal Causes:

Local/Community Charities _____ \$ _____

Worldwide Charities _____ \$ _____

TOTAL YEARLY GIVING AMOUNT (matches box in STEP 3) \$ _____