

How this Increased Offertory Campaign Will Benefit our Parish

For decades, our parish has endeavored to serve the spiritual and temporal needs of a diverse Parish family. Clergy, religious, and laity have helped establish a legacy that each parishioner benefits from today. However, nothing remains the same forever. Just like your family home, parish buildings constructed decades ago are in constant need of repairs and upgrades. And just like your family, our parish is constantly growing and changing. Though we have accomplished much over recent years, our shortfall in regular proportionate giving has limited our funding to current ministries and a few capital upgrades, such as accessibility to the church and school. Stewardship giving is the key to enhancing our financial stability and growth.

“Stewardship is a Way of Life.” **As disciples of Jesus, we acknowledge that all we are and have are gifts from God.** Each of us must nurture these blessings, not only for ourselves, but also for strengthening his Church and ministries to others. We now begin a new chapter in our stewardship journey as a Parish. The St. Thomas More Parish family is undertaking an increased offertory initiative.

This initiative will permit St. Thomas More to take a major leap forward as we continue to prepare our ministries for service to future generations. As St. Peter exhorts each of us in his epistle, “As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another...” Please consider how your proportionate, sacrificial commitment and prudent use of his blessings will permit us to address current needs and future growth, some of which are:

- **Provide faith formation with essential resources and programming that engages all parishioners and families**
- **Satisfy our current obligations to staff, and to operational and programming costs**
- **Invest in vital maintenance and improvements, and budget for future planned maintenance**

Once again, like our founding mothers and fathers who looked to the future to provide for us, it is our responsibility to meet the challenges of today and to leave a legacy for our children and grandchildren. Let us be mindful that working as a community brings us closer together so that we will proclaim God’s message with grateful enthusiasm.

To meet these challenges, we look to each of our parishioners to prayerfully consider a proportionate increase in their regular support of our parish: a share of the generous blessings that God continues to bestow on each of us.

Determining Your Commitment

Through the Increased Offertory Campaign, each parishioner is asked to consider a specific increase in his or her giving to the parish collections. We hope those parishioners who are in a position to do so will increase their support.

There is no simple guideline that applies to everyone on how much to give; for each family any amount represents a different sacrifice. What we seek is a prayerfully considered **commitment to give of yourselves in proportion to your ability to give and to give in appreciation for the gifts you have received from God.** Thank you deeply for considering our request.



Source : https://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm

A Commitment to Stewardship

St. Thomas More Parish

Braintree



*“Honor the Lord with your wealth,
with the first fruits of all your
produce.”*

- Proverbs 3:9

Promoting A Strong Parish through Stewardship

Our parish is an active and vital part of the Catholic Church's ministry and is a wonderful gift of God to help us share and live out our faith.

As a center of our Christian life, St. Thomas More is the place where we worship, where we hear God's Word, where we experience God's love, where we are nourished to live our mission in the world, where we find fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ, where we baptize and educate our children, where we see them grow closer to God through Eucharist, Reconciliation, Confirmation and Matrimony, and where we seek consolation as we bury our beloved dead.

In spite of their difficult times, those who preceded us sacrificed to build the parish we enjoy. Now it is our time to step forward to keep our parish strong.



What Constitutes a Strong Parish?

- Parishioners have a shared sense of mission
- Parishioners are actively involved and committed to the work of God
- A vibrant worshipping community with full and active participation
- Sufficient financial support to sustain and grow

How is the Offertory Used?

For years, parishes have relied on the generosity of their parishioners to fund:

- Liturgies & Ministries
- Staff Salaries & Benefits
- Utilities, Upkeep & Maintenance
- Insurance & Education Obligations

St. Thomas More also provides for those in need, supports individuals and families in crisis, and participates in community programs.

How Will This Effort Help?

Through this Increased Offertory Campaign, we aim to invite parishioners to consider how the parish accomplishes all it does with limited resources and to **imagine the potential that exists** if every parishioner could make a faith commitment to increase and sustain his or her financial support.

What is Being Asked of us?

During this initiative, we should all examine how truly fortunate we are as members of God's family. In response and in gratitude we are asked to make financial commitments representing our 'return' to God.

For too long, pastors and parishioners have avoided the conversation about the true costs of running a parish.

Part of the reason we have avoided the conversation is that for generations, parishes have benefited from an abundance of priests and religious vocations. Parishes today must strive to hire professional staff and offer fair compensation. **It simply costs much more money now to maintain a strong and vibrant parish.**

Today, many parishes across the country are joining in a common purpose: to change the way we respond to God's blessing, and to plan for a brighter future in each of our faith communities by encouraging **growth in stewardship.**



Christ's Teachings on Giving

Almost half of the unique parables of Jesus include references to stewardship and money. Jesus preached being a good steward and the Bible interprets this as giving back to God the first fruits of our labors.

How Christians have chosen to apply 'first fruits' over the years is, of course, very different. The message is clear, however: ***Everything we have is a gift from God and we are asked to return a portion of those gifts in gratitude for all we have.*** Today, let us begin an examination of our personal blessings.

Stewardship giving is a conscious way of supporting the parish through annual planning. It means that we take some time, every year, to consider seriously what portion of our time, abilities and possessions we can give back to God out of gratitude for his blessings.

"Becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ leads naturally to the practice of stewardship. These linked realities, discipleship and stewardship, then make up the fabric of a Christian life in which each day is lived in an intimate, personal relationship with the Lord"

- U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship