



Commitment of Fidelity 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

“What recompense can I give to the Lord for all that He has given unto me?” As a priest I meditate on these words of the 116th Psalm regularly. They remind me of the Sacred Liturgy, “the joy of my youth,” that I pray most every day. They remind me that this “chore” ought to never become a chore or burden! Thanksgiving is what we owe God in justice and should desire to give God in gratitude and love. The psalm motivates me not just when I am tired or sick to pray Mass, but when I am asked to dig into my pocket for someone in need, help set up for an event, or hear one more confession after a long Sunday morning.

God has abundantly blessed me in this life in ways I know I take for granted, and so when asked to go out of my way for someone, despite my initial inclinations, I try to do as Jesus challenges in Matthew’s Gospel. “If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles.” (Mt 5:41) What I have found in doing so is that, in choosing to say yes, and even going beyond what is asked of me, I have far more ability to give than I realized. What’s more, in freely giving more, I always experience greater joy than if I gave just the bare minimum that was asked of me. I guess this is the mystery of the Cross— Jesus gave all but won more. When we do the same we draw near to Christ, which itself is reward enough.

The Gospel teaches that no one gives up anything for the Lord who is not repaid a hundredfold in this life and eternally in the life to come, because we were made to give. God is Love, in His nature self-gift, and makes us in His image to give. It shouldn’t surprise us, therefore, that cheerful givers find real joy in giving. Giving, however, also makes the world conform more perfectly to God’s plan. This mission of the Church, in which every Christian shares, is to proclaim the Good News by creating a society, a community, in our families and our parish, that offers a glimpse of the Kingdom of Heaven. The good news is that “in giving we receive,” the sacrifices we make to create an icon of the Kingdom ultimately benefit those who are blessed to be able to enjoy living in it. Like the Cross that was lovingly given to the parish this past September, its gift involved sacrifice, and yet is now enjoyed by all, including the generous donor, who enter our Church, reminding each of us of the gift of our Savior and our invitation to participate in it.

As we come to the end of this year and prepare for the year of Our Lord 2023, I invite you to spend some time in the coming weeks praying individually, with your spouse, and as a family to consider how you are being called to give thanks to the Lord. Take stock of His goodness to you and His invitation to share in His mission! Perhaps you are able to give material gifts. These are important, especially in this time of financial downturn where others may not be able to give as much or may even find themselves in need! If you can’t give as much as you did last year financially, remember

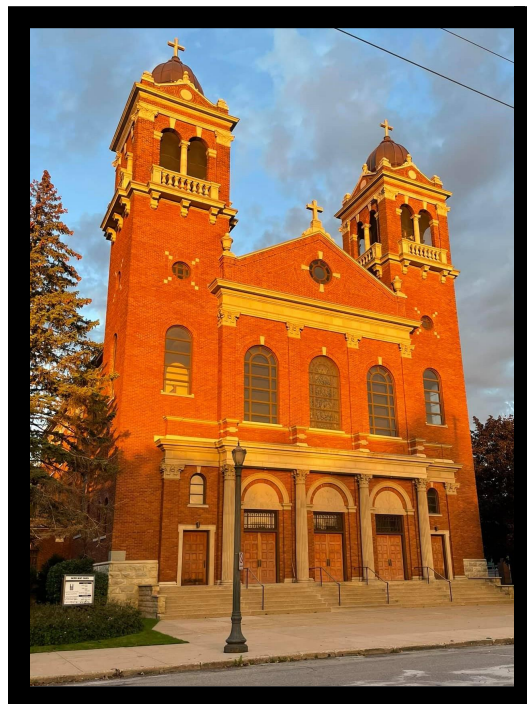
that your time and your skills are just as valuable and necessary to enacting the work of our parish. Of course, no matter what you discern you are called to give, *I guarantee that the Lord is calling you to pray more.* In fact, to pray always! What kind of community do you want? What kind of community will attract others? What kind of community truly gives fitting praise to God? If you are grateful for all we have accomplished thus far, I invite you to ponder these questions as you make your commitment of fidelity this year. It doesn't matter what or how much you give as long as you do so prayerfully and take up the call and vocation to cooperate with His mission in the spirit of the 116th Psalm!

Thank you for all you have done, are doing, and will do. Deus retribuat!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Ronnie P. Floyd

Rev. Fr. Ronnie Paul Floyd, STL
Pastor



The “Parish Commitment of Fidelity” model of sustaining and growing our truly Christian community is both a gift and an expression— it is a gift to be able to consider ourselves, our neighbor, and our parish in such a deliberately prayerful and human way; so too it is an expression of the extraordinary nature of this parish, the people in it, and the way of life we are trying to foster as faithful members of the Body of Christ. We ask that you use this packet to contemplate in an act of praise and thanksgiving the gifts that God has given you and to humbly discern what He is calling you to this coming year.



Spiritual Inventory - 2023

"Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind." Phil. 2:1-2

Opening prayer:

After making the Sign of the Cross, take a few moments to enter into silence, then read the verse above. Spend a few minutes in silence, brushing away preoccupations and anxieties as they arise.

Pray together The Our Father three times, pausing after each for a few moments before praying:

"Jesus meek and humble of heart, make our hearts like unto thine."

Questions for prayer and discussion:

- ✘ How does our home, our domestic Church, embrace a family culture that helps us to live out our faith?
- ✘ How does my household observe the Lord's Day as set apart for prayer and rest?
- ✘ Are we faithful in attending Mass?
- ✘ Are we careful to prepare for the liturgy by prayer and observation of the Eucharistic fast?
- ✘ Are our words and actions reverent before, during, and after Mass?
- ✘ Are we consistently well-disposed to receive the Eucharist?
- ✘ Do we frequently access the grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation?
- ✘ Have we cultivated our desire to receive Christ in the Eucharist?
- ✘ Are there ways in which we can more actively engage in the liturgical life of the parish?
- ✘ Do we pray for the needs of our parish, diocese, bishop, and nation?
- ✘ How does my family pray with the Church outside of Mass?
- ✘ Do we ensure that we are devoting time daily to personal prayer, particularly in an expression of thanksgiving?
- ✘ Do we regularly spend time reading Scripture?
- ✘ Do we celebrate Solemnities and the patronal feasts of our family members?
- ✘ How can we make loving sacrifices or offer up personal sufferings in more intentional ways?
- ✘ Is there a particular habit of virtue or sacrifice that would challenge us to more fully rely on Christ's grace and provision?

Personal Notes: What steps will we take to conform our hearts more fully to Christ's Sacred Heart?

Sacred Heart Apostolate List

Please review and commit to joining one today!

**Our list of opportunities for involvement in the parish is not exhaustive—
if you don't see what you're looking for, please contact the parish office.**

<u>Name of Apostolate</u>	<u>Point of Contact</u>	<u>Email/Phone</u>
Advent by Candlelight	Marijo Forrester	mforrester@shgr.org
Altar Boys	Joe Scoville	shjservers@gmail.com
Auction	Amber Hiske	ahiske@shgr.org
Authenticum	Mike Tober	dre@shgr.org
Apostles of Mercy	Alan Dunst	alandmuse@sbcglobal.net
Christmas Market	Amber Hiske	ahiske@shgr.org
Church Cleaning/Grounds	Gina Armock	rarmock@shgr.org
Communications Group	Shelly Maltbie	shmaltbie@shgr.org
Cor Dei	Jim Dirkes	jvdirkes2@protonmail.com
Family First Saturday	Greg Guest	gregoryjguest@gmail.com
Faith Formation	Mike Tober	dre@shgr.org
Knights of Columbus	Jason Bargaenquast	gk13641@mikofc.org
Homebound Ministry	Sr. Mary Daniel	srmarydaniel@shgr.org
Lectors	Noelle Divozzo	ndivozzo@shgr.org
Life Issues	Jane Wilmer	jwilmer@protonmail.com
Meals for Moms	Lisa Guest	emguest87@gmail.com
Parish Choirs (9:30am & 11:30am)	Jonathan Bading	musicdirector@shgr.org
Parish Hospitality	Matthew Baker	battmaker@gmail.com
Parish Mission Trip	Mike Tober	dre@shgr.org
PILLAR Men's Group	Laurent Morrin	laurent.morin2@gmail.com
Prayer Chain	Janet Brown	queenbeemi@protonmail.com
Sacred Heart Academy PTC	Maria Regan	ptcpresident@shgr.org
Sacristans	Mary Lippelt	gibbons.maryk@gmail.com

Apostolates continued on next page...

<u>Name of Apostolate</u>	<u>Point of Contact</u>	<u>Email/Phone</u>
Security Team	Jim Dirkes	jvdirkes2@protonmail.com
Spiritual Direction	Sr. Mary Daniel	srmarydaniel@shgr.org
St. Ignatius Prayer Group	Annie Connette	anne.connette@gmail.com
St. Vincent Neighborhood Mission	Cynde Caimano	616-236-3154
Troops of St. George	Darren Krakowski	dakflyer@gmail.com
Ushers	Stanley Sedore	stanley.sedore@aya.yale.edu
Wild Game Dinner	Mike Tober	dre@shgr.org
Youth Ministry	Luke Mulderink	lmulderink@shgr.org



Appraisal of Gifts - 2023

"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." - Matt 11:29

Opening prayer:

After making the Sign of the Cross, take a few moments to enter into silence, then read the verse above. Then spend a few minutes praying exclusively in gratitude for God's providential love and care for you. When you begin to pause and search for what to add to the list, wait in silence for the Spirit to bring you the greater depth of insight that flows from earnest gratitude. End your time in prayer with a family litany to your personal patrons and namesakes.

Questions for prayer and discussion:

- ✦ How has God blessed our family?
- ✦ What makes each of us unique in our personality, gifts, and perspective?
- ✦ How have we built on these natural gifts by good stewardship and growth in virtue?
- ✦ What activities excite us and bring us energy?
- ✦ What activities tend to drain and discourage us?
- ✦ Are we most joyful when working with people, ideas, or physical things?
- ✦ How have we been uniquely situated to love specific people?
- ✦ In what ways do our gifts and contributions complement those of our neighbors?
- ✦ What are each of our roles in the body of Christ?
- ✦ How have we been prepared by God's providence to serve Him and the Church?

- ✘ When have we witnessed our gifts coming together in a way that they are greater than the sum of their parts?
- ✘ How can we continue to grow in knowledge of ourselves and God's will for us?
- ✘ What is one concrete way we can use our gifts to more fully serve our God and neighbor?

What gifts has God given us that He is calling us to return to Him?



Examination of Fidelity - 2023

"Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart..." 1 Peter 1:22

Opening prayer:

After prayerfully contemplating the verse above, bring to mind God's love and providential care for you. Take some time to listen to the Spirit as He guides your mind and heart.

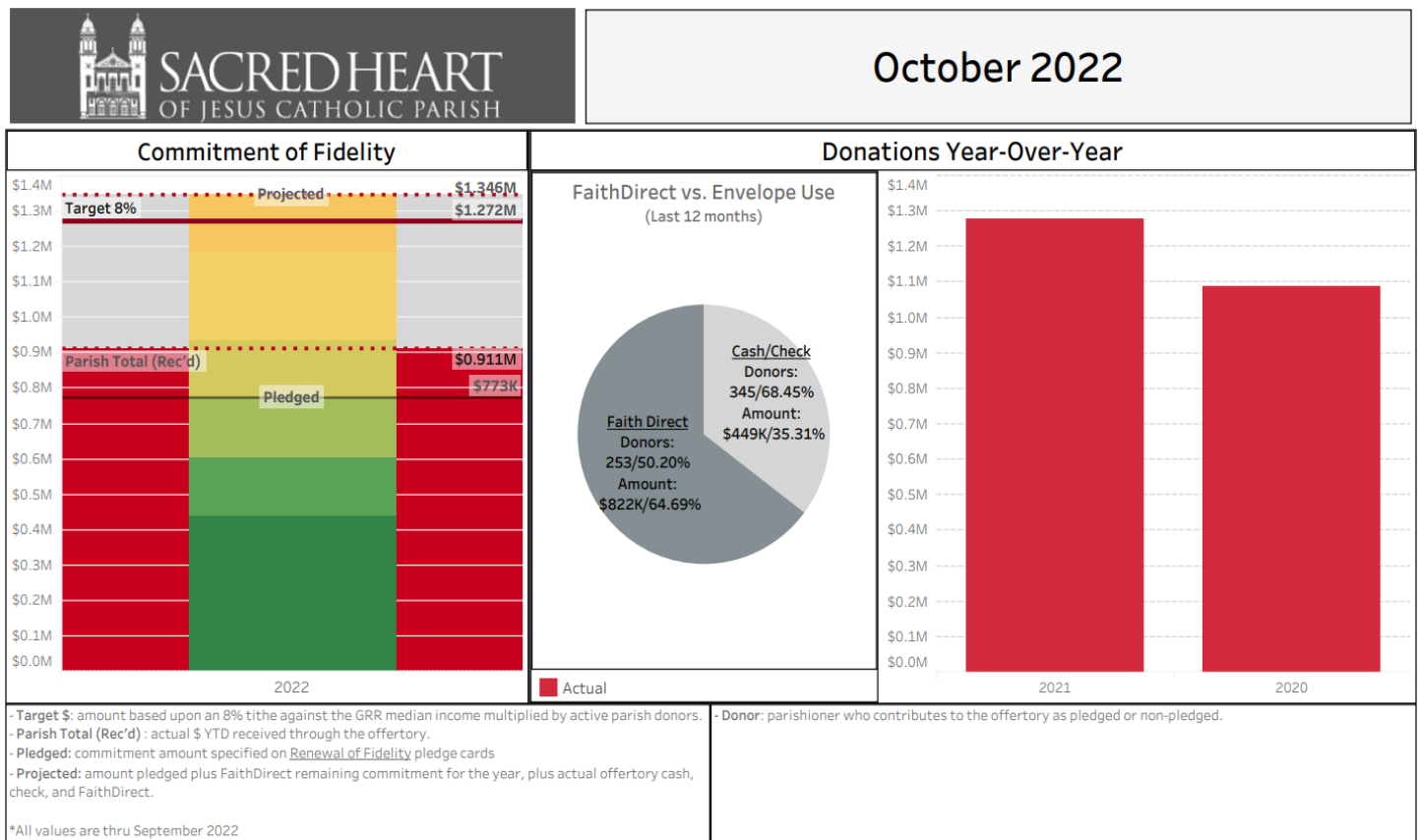
Questions for prayer and discussion:

- ✘ Is my faith animated by acts of love for my neighbors?
- ✘ Does our family serve the Body of Christ through the seven corporal works of mercy— feed the hungry; give drink to the thirsty; clothe the naked; shelter the homeless; visit the sick; visit the imprisoned/ransom the captive; bury the dead?
- ✘ Does our family serve the Body of Christ through the seven spiritual works of mercy— instruct the ignorant; counsel the doubtful; admonish the sinner; bear wrongs patiently; forgive offenses willingly; comfort the afflicted; pray for the living and the dead?
- ✘ Do I advance the mission of the parish to bring Christ and His Mercy to others?
- ✘ Do I feel equipped to do so?
- ✘ How do I currently serve in our parish?
- ✘ Do I intentionally pray for our bishop, pastor, and the work of our parish apostolates?
- ✘ Does our family provide financial support for the material needs of the Church?
- ✘ Does the support we provide for the parish come from our firstfruits? Is it dependable in frequency and amount?

- ✘ Do I take advantage of opportunities to grow in and share our faith beyond satisfying the precepts of the Church?
- ✘ Do I give of my time and resources in a way that is generous, sacrificial, and proportionate?

How can we sustain or deepen our practice of the Works of Mercy in our parish?

Please confirm your support by November 13, 2022.
Visit sacredheartgr.org/fidelity today!



Supporting and Sustaining Our Apostolates



Did You Know?

- If everyone supported the parish at 5%, we could sustain our current apostolates, invest in the infrastructure of our campus, and meet the needs of our community for the corporal works of mercy.
- If everyone supported at 8%, we could eliminate *additional* fundraising for our ministries and invest in the growth of our vibrant and increasingly anti-fragile parish.
- Currently, half of registered parishioners support our mission with gifts of at least 5% of their income.

Have You Reflected?

The Christian faithful are obligated to assist with the needs of the Church so that the Church has what is necessary for divine worship, for the works of the apostolate and of charity, and for the decent support of ministers. (CIC 222, sec. 1)

- *All that we have, we have received as a gift from God, for "the LORD's are the earth and its fullness: the world and those who dwell in it." (Psalm 24:1)*

The fifth precept of the Church is for the faithful to provide for the material needs of the Church, each according to his own ability. (CCC 2043)

- *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)*

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Visit sacredheartgr.org/fidelity today!



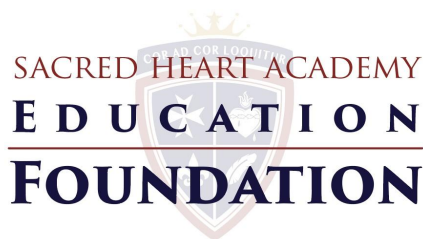
Supporting Our Mission

If your pre-tax household income is:

Then a weekly gift to the parish at different percentages is:

Hourly	Weekly	Monthly	Annually		2%	4%	6%	8%	10%
\$10	\$400	\$1,733	\$20,800	➡	\$8	\$16	\$24	\$32	\$40
\$12	\$480	\$2,085	\$25,000	➡	\$10	\$19	\$29	\$38	\$48
\$15	\$575	\$2,500	\$30,000	➡	\$12	\$23	\$35	\$46	\$58
\$17	\$675	\$2,915	\$35,000	➡	\$13	\$27	\$40	\$54	\$67
\$19	\$770	\$3,335	\$40,000	➡	\$15	\$31	\$46	\$62	\$77
\$24	\$960	\$4,165	\$50,000	➡	\$19	\$38	\$58	\$77	\$96
\$34	\$1,345	\$5,835	\$70,000	➡	\$27	\$54	\$81	\$108	\$135
\$48	\$1,925	\$8,335	\$100,000	➡	\$38	\$77	\$115	\$154	\$192
\$72	\$2,885	\$12,500	\$150,000	➡	\$58	\$115	\$173	\$231	\$288

More Ways to Support our Community



This foundation is a Type II supporting organization and its own registered 501(c)3 non-profit. Its sole purpose is to grow gifts given to the academy and support general operations, teacher salaries, and student scholarships – our greatest ongoing areas of need.

Ways to contribute:

- Write a check to the foundation
- Give the gift of appreciated stock
- Give a qualified charitable donation directly from your IRA
- Set up a Donor-Advised Fund

PATREON

Patreon is a website that employs the age-old patronage model to help organizations like Sacred Heart Academy realize their mission. For years, hard-working middle class man has built cathedrals, hospitals and universities by contributing small monthly gifts which add up significantly over time.

Your decision to become a patron of Sacred Heart Academy greatly blesses our whole community. Patrons give \$5 or more per month and in return receive access to exclusive content: faculty written essays, faculty-read audio books, suggested reading lists for all ages, the opportunity to influence future content, a grab bag of Sacred Heart Academy gear, and more. Learn more at patreon.com/shgr



Sacred Heart earns \$1,000 by collecting \$150,000 in eligible receipts from participating SpartanNash-owned retail stores and fuel centers in eight states (Family Fare, D&W Fresh Market, Forest Hills Foods.) Please save your receipts and turn them into the parish or academy office.



To use AmazonSmile, simply go to smile.amazon.com on your web browser or activate AmazonSmile in the Amazon Shopping app on your iOS or Android phone within the Settings or Programs & Features menu. On your web browser, you can add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping with AmazonSmile.

Give More, Save More

Ways to give more money to Sacred Heart and save on taxes!

Appreciated Stock Donation— donation of stock to charity that has increased in value significantly

Qualified Charitable Donation— donation directly from an IRA to a charity

Donor-Advised Fund— a special giving account set up with a sponsoring organization that lets taxpayers make large one-time gifts that can be spread out over time



If you have additional questions questions about the above avenues of giving or anything else contained in this packet, please contact Amber Hiske, Director of Strategic Advancement, by email at ahiske@shgr.org